UNICEF’s Strategic Plan 2014–2017 guides the organization’s work in support of the realization of the rights of every child, especially the most disadvantaged. At the core of the Strategic Plan, UNICEF’s equity strategy – emphasizing the most disadvantaged and excluded children, caregivers and families – translates UNICEF’s commitment to children’s rights into action. What follows is a report summarizing how UNICEF and its partners contributed to social inclusion in 2016 and the impact of these accomplishments on the lives of children, caregivers and families.

This report is one of nine on the results of UNICEF’s efforts this past year, one on each of the seven outcome areas of the Strategic Plan, one on gender and one on humanitarian action. It is an annex to the ‘Report on the midterm review of the Strategic Plan, 2014–2017 and annual report of the Executive Director, 2016’, UNICEF’s official accountability document for the past year. An additional results report on the UNICEF Gender Action Plan 2014–2017 has also been prepared as an official UNICEF Executive Board document.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Every child has the right to grow up free from poverty, bias and discrimination. Social inclusion interventions help countries make progress across these rights and increase the access of children and their families to the services, care, information and support they need.

Despite substantial progress made in past decades in reducing global poverty, children remain disproportionally affected: children (age 18 or under) make up one third of the global population, but make half of those living in extreme poverty, on less than US$1.90 a day.2 At the same time, millions of children continue to be deprived in crucial aspects of their lives, such as nutrition, health care, education or water and sanitation. While social safety net programmes benefit more than 1.9 billion people in 136 low- and middle-income countries, 773 million poor people (or 55 per cent of the world’s poor) remain unreached.3

In 2016, UNICEF’s global efforts on social inclusion largely built on the opportunities created by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Addis Agenda for Action on Financing for Development. In partnership with the World Bank, UNICEF produced the first-ever joint measurement of children living under US$1.90 a day. In cooperation with the Coalition to end Child Poverty, UNICEF developed ‘An Agenda for Action on Child Poverty’ and a comprehensive technical guide to address child poverty as part of the SDGs. A new Convention on the Rights of the Child General Comment on Budgeting for Children was launched. A groundbreaking General Comment no. 20 on the Implementation of the Rights of the Child during Adolescence was adopted, highlighting the importance of children’s development and evolving capacities in the second decade. The book From Evidence to Action: The story of cash transfers and impact evaluation in sub-Saharan Africa was launched, compiling the results of impact evaluations in eight African countries and highlighting the positive effects of cash transfer programmes on various child outcomes. UNICEF led the development of a ‘Joint Statement of Social Protection Actors to the World Humanitarian Summit’, calling for collective action and attention to how social protection can support humanitarian action amid conflicts, protracted crises and increased migration. Responding to growing work at country level to help governments improve public spending on children for greater equity and efficiency, UNICEF developed and rolled out a new course for UNICEF staff on Public Finance for Children.

In 2016 there was further progress on social inclusion work and results at the country level, also reflected in the substantial increase of global expense for this outcome area, from US$266.4 million in 2015 to US$330.6 million in 2016. The number of countries explicitly addressing child poverty through national policies and programmes continues to grow. Social protection advanced: an additional 24 million children were covered by cash transfers in 2016 alone, with progress also reported on reaching the most marginalized. In 47 countries, UNICEF helped strengthen policy and/or budgetary frameworks and improve resource allocation for the implementation of policies and programmes that address multidimensional child poverty and opportunities and mechanisms for children and adolescents to participate in community decision making also expanded.

UNICEF’s work and results in 2016

In 2016, UNICEF’s social inclusion programming extended to 154 countries (out of 157), supported and managed by 195 professional staff in country and regional offices and at headquarters.

During the year, UNICEF and partners continued to make progress on social inclusion for children, with progress against defined milestones showing an average achievement rate of 98 per cent across the five social inclusion technical programme areas. This summary provides an overview of these results, with the full report looking in more detail not only at progress against plans, but also beyond the summary numbers to real examples that illustrate the changes in children’s lives that resulted from this work.

Child poverty and social protection. UNICEF’s Strategic Plan goal for national governments to measure, prioritize and respond to child poverty showed steady progress in 2016, with 53 countries reporting they have a nationally owned child poverty measurement and reporting mechanism – a steady increase from 51 countries in 2015 and good progress towards the 2017 target of 60 countries. A total of 82 countries included child poverty in policy discussions with governments, including through creating and disseminating nationally owned child poverty reports (up from 75 countries in 2016 and 71 in 2014), and 19 addressed child poverty in national development plans or legislation (up from 16 countries in 2014). In 2016, 47 countries claimed to have national policy and/or budgetary frameworks addressing child poverty and disparities, a steady increase from 42 countries in 2015 and on track to achieve the 2017 target of 60 countries. As of 2016, three countries have a specific target on reduction of child poverty in their national development policy or legislation.

Social protection is a crucial response to child poverty through interventions such as cash transfers, school fee abolition, health insurance and social support services. Of the national social protection impact assessments in more than 59 countries in the past five years, 90 per cent demonstrated positive impacts on child well-being. UNICEF
estimates that the number of children covered by cash transfers in 2016 has increased to more than 179.3 million – representing an additional 24 million children covered in the last year. UNICEF’s efforts to strengthen countries’ capacities in the area of social protection monitoring and evaluation also are bearing fruit: in 2016, 57 countries reported monitoring the effectiveness of social protection on at least one child outcome (up from 54 countries in 2015 and approaching the 2017 target of 60 countries). In addition, 135 countries reported a functioning national social protection system in 2016, up from 124 in 2014. Expanding quality, affordable care for young children is another important part of the response to child poverty. In 2016 there was steady progress in that regard, with an average of 44 per cent of young children in 51 countries reported to have access to affordable quality child care.

Human rights, non-discrimination and participation. Over the past two years, UNICEF’s advocacy led to increased ratification of key treaties for children. Specific efforts to promote the rights of adolescents resulted in the adoption of a groundbreaking General Comment on the Implementation of the Rights of the Child during Adolescence. Sustained advocacy led to deepening the Member States’ commitments to deliver results for children with disabilities: 12 more countries ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In 2016, 118 countries reported having legal and paralegal services available to support children in claiming redress to violation of their rights, up from 113 in 2015, and 86 per cent of countries reported the existence of laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, ethnicity, disability and/or religious affiliation (up from 84 per cent in 2015). In 2016 there was a slight increase in the number of countries that have mechanisms for the participation of children to influence development agendas in the local, subnational or national plans, to 111 countries, up from 109 countries in 2015 and well above the 2017 target of 102 countries.

Public finance for children. Leveraging domestic public spending for children is at the heart of achieving results for children at scale. In 2016 UNICEF country offices continued their progressive efforts to help governments improve public investment in children – with attention both to the amount of money allocated and how efficiently and equivalently it is spent, so that even the most disadvantaged children benefit from services and programs essential for their survival and development. In 2016, 47 country offices reported having contributed to policy and/or budgetary frameworks that improved resource allocation for the implementation of policies and programmes that address multidimensional child poverty, compared with 42 in 2015. UNICEF provided research and evidence in support of improved and increased investments in children, built capacities of key government partners for improved planning and funds management, and fostered greater participation of children and youth in the budget process, among other actions. This progress reflects UNICEF’s increasing efforts to influence public financial management processes to support more effective investment in key dimensions of child well-being (e.g., health, education, nutrition, social protection) in national and subnational budgets.

Governance and decentralization. UNICEF’s work on decentralization and local governance aims to strengthen participatory mechanisms at local levels and strengthen urban governance for children. In 2016, 108 programme countries reported having participatory mechanisms in place to support the most disadvantaged to influence local and national development agendas. In urban governance, UNICEF works to strengthen urban municipalities to collect and utilize disaggregated data for decision making. In 2016, 56 programme countries with large urban populations produced and utilized disaggregated data on the most excluded. This represents an increase from 2014 (53 countries) and is 82 per cent of the 2017 target. Effective governance for child rights also includes an emphasis on environmental sustainability. In 2016, 51 programme countries (33 per cent) had a national policy on climate change or the environment that refers to children’s rights, reaching the 2017 target of 50 countries. Sixty-four per cent of country offices report that national policy in at least one of the key sectors (for example, water, health care or education) makes substantial reference to climate change or environmental sustainability – a steady increase compared with 59 per cent in 2015 and 49 per cent in 2014.

Social inclusion in humanitarian contexts. Social inclusion is becoming an integral part of UNICEF’s work responding to humanitarian crises. In 2016, an additional seven countries (49 total) supported governments to include emergency prevention, preparedness and response in their social protection systems. The number of countries working to integrate disaster and conflict risk in national planning and monitoring systems increased from 64 per cent in 2014 to 79 per cent in 2016, exceeding the 2017 target of 74 per cent. Accountability to local populations also improved, with 74 country offices reporting that affected populations were consulted throughout one or more phases of the humanitarian programming process (up from 67 in 2015 and 59 in 2014).

Looking ahead

UNICEF’s social inclusion work at the country and global levels in 2017 will build on global progress in galvanizing attention around the importance of explicit attention to children in work on child poverty and social protection. The SDG 1 guide A World Free from Child Poverty: A guide to the tasks to achieve the vision will be a key tool in the move from measurement towards policy action, including around both public finance and social protection. The Coalition to End Child Poverty will be strengthened to serve as the hub of knowledge and expertise on child poverty measurement and policy and programme response for practitioners in the field.
UNICEF will continue to work with partners to develop a comprehensive approach to strengthening social protection systems for greater impact on child well-being. This will include attention to strengthening social protection for emergency response, using systems when crisis hits, and building on emergency response towards sustainable long-term systems.

UNICEF’s work on public finance will continue to focus on increased effectiveness, efficiency and equitable public spending, contributing to the implementation of SDG 10.4 on fiscal and social protection policies for greater equality. An overarching framework on public finance for children will be released in 2017, and the increased number of staff will be trained on the framework in support of better and more equitable outcomes in health; education; protection; water, sanitation and hygiene; and nutrition.

UNICEF will also continue to work to strengthen national human rights institutions and promote social accountability mechanisms that recognize children and adolescents as agents of change and that include indigenous children and children with disabilities. UNICEF’s role in supporting social inclusion in fragile and humanitarian contexts will continue to grow, supporting the commitments of the World Humanitarian Summit to increase the use of cash transfers in emergency contexts, build linkages with existing social protection systems whenever possible, and help strengthen initiatives before disaster strikes to prevent and respond to crises. UNICEF will also bolster local governments’ peacebuilding and disaster risk reduction efforts.

The work advanced under the social inclusion outcome will continue in the next Strategic Plan for 2018–2021. The draft plan proposes specific results on child poverty, social protection and urban and local governance. Efforts over the period of the current plan to increase attention to public finance for children across all sectors have led to the inclusion of implementation strategies on system strengthening and leveraging domestic resources, widening the likely extent and impact of this important area of work in the future.
STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Global trends in the situation of children

UNICEF’s work on social inclusion aims to improve children’s lives by reducing child poverty and discrimination. These are important ends in themselves: children have a right to a decent standard of living and to freedom from discrimination. At the same time, efforts to reduce poverty and discrimination also contribute directly to improving access to education, health, nutrition and protection. The social inclusion outcome includes five programme areas to support these goals: child poverty and social protection; human rights, non-discrimination and participation; public finance for children (PF4C); decentralization and local governance and social inclusion in humanitarian contexts.

Larger economic and political trends around the world impact directly on children’s risk of poverty and contribute to social tensions and change, which can exacerbate discrimination. Ongoing humanitarian crises in 2016 continued to fuel large-scale displacement, with serious consequences for children and families. The protection, health, nutrition and education risks these forced movements create for children are exacerbated by families’ loss of assets and livelihoods, and children’s lack of voice in their own communities. This made it critical to devote more attention to social protection – as a way to support children and families – and to ensure that humanitarian efforts consult affected populations.

Compared with the two previous years, the overall fiscal environment tightened for many countries where UNICEF worked in 2016 (see Figure 1 below). Africa and Central Europe were particularly affected, with an increasing share of governments reducing their total expenditure, reflecting the protracted effects of low oil prices and geopolitical instability. Fuel and metal exporting countries such as Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique and Zambia have particularly felt the impact.

Austerity measures arising from budget constraints are limiting efforts to continue social development and social welfare programs – while at the same time, in certain countries higher food prices exacerbate children’s risks of food insecurity and malnutrition. This environment calls for greater attention to how equitably and efficiently resources are used for children, including in countries able to dedicate increased resources to social sectors.

FIGURE 1
Share of contracting total government expenditure (in percent of GDP), year on year change

Source: UNICEF calculation based on World Economic Outlook database (International Monetary Fund October 2016).
Key global policy developments in 2016 with potential impact on social inclusion efforts for children

With a significant number of countries affected by conflict and protracted crises, climate-related shocks, and migration, there is greater attention to how social protection can support humanitarian action. The growing consensus that emerged in 2015 on the value of cash-based responses to emergencies coalesced in 2016, and highlighted that social protection systems can be part of the solution.

Commitments made during the May 2016 World Humanitarian Summit captured this understanding. The Grand Bargain supported increased use of cash in emergency response, as well as greater efforts from countries and development partners to strengthen social protection systems to better address emergency prevention, preparedness and response, and to enhance resilience. The Summit emphasized the need to strengthen national humanitarian response capacities, including local governments’ capacities to prepare and respond, and to shift tasks and leadership from international to local actors. In line with SDG 16, the Summit highlighted the need to build communities’ resilience by allowing local people a greater measure of control and building on their positive coping strategies and capacities to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

Joint work by UNICEF and the World Bank in 2016 demonstrated that children are twice as likely as adults to live in extreme poverty. This first-ever assessment of its kind, resulting in the report Ending Extreme Poverty: A focus on children, provides crucial data on how many children are living in extremely poor households – measured as living on less than US$1.90 per person per day – and where they are located. In 2013, the latest year for which data are available, 19.5 per cent of children in developing countries were living in extreme poverty, compared with just 9.2 per cent of adults. Globally, this amounts to almost 385 million children, concentrated in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, and in rural areas and fragile states.

In 2016, the New Urban Agenda was adopted at the Habitat III conference, with commitments to provide basic services for all citizens, strengthen social integration and equity, reduce and manage disaster risk, and take measures to adapt to and mitigate climate change. The commitments highlighted the need to improve municipal financing systems.

The impact of the SDGs and the challenges ahead

The social inclusion outcome has helped increase UNICEF’s attention to the work of addressing child poverty. The inclusion of children in SDG 1 has provided further impetus to this work, as more countries work to measure child poverty and explicitly take children into account in their overall efforts to reduce poverty. SDG 1 also has increased attention to social protection and its impact on children. But while many countries have steadily expanded social protection for children and families, coverage gaps still leave many behind.

National efforts to implement the SDGs fuel demand for better use of public funds for greater and more equitable results for children. Domestic resource mobilization, public expenditure tracking and reporting are all central to SDGs’ Means of Implementation and the Addis Ababa Financing for Development Agenda. The focus on equity and disaggregation of data is expected to increase the demand for monitoring outcomes and expenditures for children, especially the disadvantaged. At the same time, the trillion dollar per annum financing requirements will make it hard to secure sufficient domestic resources to implement goals that are important for children. In response, UNICEF needs to work harder to advocate for domestic budgeting and resource mobilization.

A new SDG indicator on national human rights institutions linked to SDG 16 encourages efforts to explore their role and make them more effective. This gives UNICEF the opportunity to more sharply focus technical support to country offices, while leveraging partnerships – such as with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions – to build capacities and evidence to advance accountability for children.

Over the years, donors have been more inclined to fund initiatives in specific sectors rather than normative human rights work. The SDGs, however, offer a broad spectrum of possibilities to advance the human rights agenda, with specific tools to help member states put their human rights commitments into practice. One way to overcome funding challenges would be to develop concrete programmatic solutions relating to social accountability and national human rights institutions.

Within the United Nations architecture, there is a growing interest in more systematic youth engagement in monitoring and reporting on the SDGs, along with a deepening commitment to increase the influence and effectiveness of the United Nations Economic and Social Council Youth Forum. But there has been little agreement on the methodology, indicators and impact of adolescent and youth participation. Amid greater recognition of the lack of salient measures, in 2016 UNICEF launched research to develop a global framework to measure adolescent participation. A literature review was completed and a conceptual framework is being developed along with partners, to be supported by tools that can be used for both advocacy and measurement in 2017.
RESULTS BY PROGRAMME AREA

This chapter details the specific results achieved by UNICEF offices around the world through the five programme areas within the social inclusion outcome. In each area, UNICEF has documented steady progress against the agreed milestones, achieving 98 per cent against the targets set for 2016. This is not to say there were no challenges; in fact, there were many, and these also are mentioned in the text. The progress and challenges both helped inform the development of the next Strategic Plan, in ways that build upon the strengths of this work and can inform accelerated action in the future.

Over the past three years of implementing social Inclusion work, the value of these inputs for achieving results across the Strategic Plan has come increasingly into focus. Efforts to address household-level financial, and sometimes social barriers through both child poverty and social protection can directly improve demand for and access to better nutrition, health care, education, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Social protection evaluations routinely document impact on material well-being as well as on food security, education and health access. As illustrated in this report, public finance work not only increases investment in children overall and makes it more equitable, it also makes a difference sector by sector. Child poverty and discrimination are themselves rights violations that should be addressed for their direct impact on children’s well-being. That is the reason for existence of the social inclusion outcome – but working to address child poverty and discrimination also can and does support better results for children across all areas of UNICEF’s work. Preparing for transition into the next Strategic Plan, UNICEF aims to make maximum use of these synergies to support progress against all five social inclusion goals.

RESULTS ACHIEVED WITH THE THEMATIC FUNDS FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION IN 2016

The social inclusion thematic funds received in 2014–2016 (US$5,472,612) were distributed among 49 countries in all seven regions, with each receiving an average of US$73,000 in 2016. Funds were mostly used to advance work on social protection, child poverty and public finance, leading to the following results:

1. Strengthened social protection systems (in Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Nepal);
2. Improved child-focused budgeting and leveraged public spending for children (in Maldives and Mongolia);
3. Evidence generated on child poverty (monetary and multidimensional) to underpin public policy responses (in Colombia, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Tajikistan); and
4. Improved inclusion of the most vulnerable groups and their access to cash transfers and services (in Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

In Mongolia, thematic funds supported a national Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA) – a tool that selects the child as the unit of analysis, rather than the household, and explores its multiple dimensions. This analysis helped identify and raise awareness on multiple and overlapping child deprivations and helped set the baseline to measure the Government’s progress on SDG 1 on ending poverty in all its forms.

The analysis provided reliable evidence to inform government policies to reduce child poverty and its different overlapping deprivations. It also simulated how the government’s flagship social protection programme for children would affect household poverty in order to provide possible targeting solutions that could still benefit the most vulnerable children.
Thematic funds were also used in Mongolia to provide technical support to the social ministry on improved financing for child rights. This yielded recommendations and guidelines for more effective allocation of funds for child protection and development, expected to be applied in budget formulations for 2018. The programme budget structure for child rights was revised and submitted to the Ministry of Finance as a proposal to improve the efficiency of the budget allocated for children.

In Maldives, a high-level dialogue with the Ministry of Finance on strengthening child-friendly budgeting resulted in the launch of an investment case study analysing the impact of current budget allocations on children and considering possible impacts over the long term compared with a no-investment scenario. The study provided concrete recommendations on how the government can improve the equity, quantity and quality of public spending on children.

In Nepal, UNICEF leveraged gains from the Emergency Cash Transfer Programme to advocate for the expansion of the Child Grant. The Government committed to expanding the Child Grant across the country in June 2016, but without clarity on an approach or implementation plan. The UNICEF Social Policy team provided technical support to the Government to develop a costed National Child Grant Expansion Strategy, which took a universal approach and outlined a ten-year expansion plan that goes district by district until all under-five children are covered.

UNICEF also facilitated South-South cooperation. A team of government officials from Brazil shared their experiences with Bolsa Familia with the Nepali Government, which then decided in principle to universalize the Child Grant and rolled it out to three more districts. In Nepal, UNICEF is now working to secure a long-term financial commitment from the Government to ensure adequate resources to see the strategy through.

In Kazakhstan, UNICEF supported the assessment and simulation of the social assistance reform, revealing potential gaps in coverage of families with children living below the national subsistence minimum. UNICEF launched several initiatives to identify bottlenecks and better integrate social services and cash transfer programmes (documenting pilot conditional cash transfer schemes and assessing social work practice).

These results show that social inclusion work is a cost-effective way of strengthening national systems, leveraging public spending and producing lasting results for children. They also illustrate the importance of thematic funding, which – even in small amounts – can catalyse change by providing partners such as governments with expert advice on policy options that can improve the situation of children.
On 14 August 2016, two-year-old Abner and his grandmother, Maria Choc, stand in their home in San Felipe Village in the Toledo region of Belize. The family participates in the Roving Caregivers Programme, which brings services to vulnerable families in the region, especially those living in distant and hard-to-reach locations. Just 50 per cent of villages in the remote, predominately Mayan communities in the Toledo region have access to preschool or day care services for their children. With many caregivers – including Abner’s parents and grandfather – working on plantations or construction sites, young children are at risk of missing out on stimulating interaction, a key element for their development. The UNICEF-supported programme targets children up to age 3 who have no access to formal early childhood education. Programme facilitators conduct 45-minute home outreach with each of the families they serve, engaging children in age-appropriate stimulating activities through play and encouraging parents and caregivers to participate. They also encourage positive parenting behaviour and promote behaviour change to address inappropriate parenting practices. Promoting early childhood development is key to addressing poverty and giving every child a fair chance in life. In doing so, programmes contribute to tackle some of the deprivations children face early in life.

PROGRAMME AREA 1: CHILD POVERTY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Child poverty

Headline results

With child poverty established as part of the SDGs in 2015, in 2016 UNICEF took advantage of the opportunity to support United Nations Member States in measuring and addressing the challenge. UNICEF country offices reported child poverty data in 102 countries; in 53 countries child data were collected and reported by governments, up from 51 in 2015 and 48 in 2014. UNICEF published new child poverty studies or reports in collaboration with national authorities in at least 18 countries, providing crucial data on the poorest and most vulnerable children. UNICEF also supported progress on policy change and integrating child poverty into national action plans. Child poverty is part of ongoing government policy discussions in 82 countries, up from 75 in 2015 and 71 in 2014. Furthermore, national development plans or legislation in 19 countries now explicitly address child poverty, and 3 countries – Cambodia, Qatar and Rwanda – include a child poverty reduction target in their national plans. To help countries reach SDGs on reducing child poverty, in

Expanding quality, affordable care for young children is an important part of the response to poverty, because it can free parents – especially women – to take up economic activities that contribute to household well-being, while also giving children a safe and nurturing environment. In 2016, 51 UNICEF country offices worked on childcare, and in 22 countries (5 more than in 2015), more than 50 per cent of young children had access to quality, affordable care. At the global level, UNICEF and the World Bank Group launched the Early Childhood Development Action Network in 2016 to serve as a global coordination platform to engage a wide range of stakeholders to accelerate results for young children. The network adopted a common results framework and five core actions, and will compile recommendations for the legislative framework, setting quality standards and scaling up childcare services.

**Brief outline of programme area**

For children, living in poverty means being deprived in the immediate aspects of their lives, in areas such as health, nutrition, education, clean water or decent sanitation, and housing. When children are deprived in these dimensions, it can mean a life trapped in poverty. A multidimensional approach is therefore critical to respond to these multifaceted challenges. UNICEF aims for all governments to recognize child poverty as a national policy priority and protect children from its most devastating consequences.

UNICEF supports countries in measuring monetary and multidimensional child poverty and addressing it through policies, programmes and budgets – including by allocating more public funds for the poorest children and using those funds more effectively, expanding social protection systems for children and making them more sensitive to children’s needs, and linking social protection and basic services for children.

UNICEF’s child poverty work comprises four broad domains, often undertaken in sequence. These include:

1. National measurement of child poverty in all its dimensions;
2. Advocacy using child poverty measurement, where data exist but are underused;
3. Policy analysis and engagement to influence and resource policies and programmes, where child poverty is recognized but not addressed; and
4. Integrating policies and programmes by developing national action plans equipped with resources to put them into practice, to achieve the SDG on child poverty, where interventions are limited or fragmented.

**Results in 2016 in detail**

Poverty denies children their fundamental rights and sets them on a trajectory of poor health and low educational achievement. It has devastating, lifelong consequences for children and serious implications for future generations and society as a whole. While the past few decades have seen unprecedented progress in reducing global poverty, the many millions of children who are still living in poverty – in richer and poorer countries alike – face significant challenges. Globally, almost 385 million children lived in extreme poverty in 2013, and children were significantly more likely to live in poverty than adults (see Figure 2).
Children account for half of the world’s extreme poor.

In 2016, UNICEF country offices reported child poverty data from 102 countries, with national ownership of these measurements in 53 countries – up from 29 in 2013. The 2017 target is 60 countries.

To support policy change to address child poverty, UNICEF engaged in active discussions with national governments in 82 countries – up from 75 in 2015 and 71 in 2014. National development plans or legislation in 19 countries explicitly address child poverty, and the plans in three countries – Cambodia, Qatar and Rwanda – include a child poverty reduction target (see Figure 3). Fifty countries still do not either measure child poverty or include it in policy measures, discussions or legislative frameworks, down from 54 in 2015.

UNICEF continued to work with the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty, which was founded in 2014, publishing Putting Children First: A policy agenda to tackle child poverty. Co-chaired by UNICEF, the Global Coalition published a new global website featuring articles, reports and resources, and initiated research at the Institute for Development Studies in Sussex, U.K., in preparation for a conference in Africa in 2017. UNICEF and the coalition completed work on A World Free from Child Poverty: A guide to the tasks to achieve the vision. It includes interviews and case studies from more than 25 countries and provides best practices and tools for a spectrum of work on child poverty.
Measuring child poverty. Quality, routine, nationally supported measurement of child poverty builds knowledge and understanding of its scale, scope and equity dimensions, and also sets a foundation for understanding the policies and programmes that can reduce it. UNICEF provided technical advice to help countries produce and report nationally owned baseline estimates on the number of children living in monetary and multidimensional poverty, and to adapt them to the national context as part of broader SDG monitoring efforts.

UNICEF collaborated with national statistical offices to produce new child poverty studies or reports in Argentina, Armenia, Burkina Faso, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Malawi, Namibia, the Republic of Moldova, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Zimbabwe. These reports support advocacy efforts to make sure national poverty reduction plans consider children, and provide detailed and disaggregated data analysis that strengthens UNICEF’s equity-focused programming.

In Zimbabwe, UNICEF undertook a secondary analysis of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2014 data to develop its first non-monetary, multidimensional child poverty measurements in partnership with the National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) and the Ministry of Planning. UNICEF’s Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA) revealed inequities in access to services that continue to negatively affect marginalized children and communities, and provided valuable inputs for the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, focusing on dimensions that affect children (education, nutrition, health, WASH, and child protection).

UNICEF helps national statistics offices build their capacities to understand, create and analyse child poverty measures. In Sierra Leone, UNICEF, with support from the Regional Office, organized a capacity building workshop on multidimensional child poverty measures with the Ministry of Planning, civil society organizations and academia, and established a technical working group on policy options to reduce child poverty as part of the SDGs. In Mali, UNICEF trained 34 experts from 12 government departments and universities on MODA to monitor progress towards SDG Target 1.2 on reducing the proportion of children experiencing poverty in all its dimensions. In Mexico, UNICEF shared the country’s best practices to improve child well-being. UNICEF also facilitated opportunities to disseminate South-South learning by promoting Mexico’s experience on institutionalizing multidimensional poverty measurement in Algeria.

UNICEF and the World Bank’s 2016 report Ending Extreme Poverty: A focus on children demonstrated that children are twice as likely as adults to live in extreme poverty, measured as living on less than US$1.90 per person per day. In 2013, the latest year with available data, 19.5 per cent of children in developing countries were living in extreme poverty, compared to just 9.2 per cent of adults. This amounts to almost 385 million children worldwide, concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, and in rural areas and fragile states (see Figure 4).
FIGURE 4
Proportion of children and adults living on less than US$1.90 a day by country region, 2013

Note: Results for Middle East and North Africa are not reportable due to low representation of country-level data in that region.

CHILDREN LIVING IN EXTREME POVERTY

Poverty remains concentrated among children, according to a new analysis from the World Bank Group and UNICEF, reported in Ending Extreme Poverty: A focus on children. Children made up approximately one third of the study’s sample population, but half of those living in extreme poverty. Children were found more likely than adults to live in extreme poverty in each of the regions analysed, except the Middle East and North Africa.

Children living in extremely poor households are concentrated in certain regions of the world. Sub-Saharan Africa has both the highest rate of children in extreme poverty, at just under 49 per cent, and the largest share of the world’s extremely poor children, at just over 51 per cent. South Asia has the second highest share, at nearly 36 per cent.

Not all children are equally likely to live in extreme poverty. The youngest are the worst off – more than 20 per cent of all children under 5 in the developing world live in extremely poor households, compared with nearly 15 per cent of 15-17-year-olds.

Rural areas have more than 80 per cent of the world’s poorest children. Children living in fragile and conflict-affected countries also remain at particularly high risk of extreme poverty, which affects nearly 58 per cent of children in those countries.
Child poverty advocacy. UNICEF-supported child poverty studies help raise decision makers’ awareness about child poverty and its consequences and promote social and economic policies that can make a difference. Governments in 82 countries where UNICEF helped generate and disseminate new evidence on children are engaged in active discussions on child poverty. For example:

- In Ghana, UNICEF launched a Poverty and Inequality Policy Advocacy Strategy that included a report, a forum bringing together more than 150 organizations, and a campaign that raised awareness among more than 2.5 million people, including decision makers, helping to establish poverty and inequality as a visible and priority issue in advance of the presidential elections.
- In Mexico, UNICEF released new data on child poverty and produced a video on multidimensional child poverty and how public policies can fight it, and together with Mexico’s National Council for the Evaluation of the Social Development Policy (CONEVAL) produced a report examining trends in child poverty and advocating for early childhood development.
- In Kenya, UNICEF and the National Bureau of Statistics published a new study using MODA to assess child deprivation rates, providing new data and a baseline for SDG 1 and supporting national planning efforts.
- In China, UNICEF helped disseminate the findings of a child poverty report in the province of Hubei and supported public advocacy during International Poverty Eradication Day, linked to the Government’s 2020 Poverty Eradication Strategy.
- In Iraq, the findings of a UNICEF-supported government analysis of monetary child poverty will be used to advocate for children in the upcoming Poverty Reduction Strategy (2017–2021).
- In Malawi, a child poverty report by UNICEF and the Ministry of Finance will support advocacy as part of the next Growth and Development Strategy within the context of the SDGs. The Government has committed to addressing multiple deprivations in a new national plan.

UNICEF also supports policy advocacy work on child poverty in higher-income countries (see the text box on supporting children living in poverty in industrialized nations) – although this is not part of our development funding.

UNICEF and the World Bank Group are calling on governments to:

- Routinely measure child poverty;
- Strengthen child-sensitive social protection systems to protect children from the impact of poverty and improve their chances of breaking the cycle;
- Prioritize investments in education, health, clean water, sanitation and infrastructure that benefit the poorest children and keep people from falling back into poverty after setbacks; and
- Shape policy decisions so that economic growth benefits the poorest children.

Supporting policy change and integrating child poverty into national action plans

A key goal of UNICEF’s work on child poverty is the inclusion of child poverty in national development plans to underpin national policy and programmatic action. Indeed, UNICEF country offices report that in 19 countries, child poverty is explicitly addressed in current national development plans or legislation; and in 3 countries, a child poverty reduction target is included in the national plans (see Figure 3). UNICEF played a key role in placing children at the heart of national frameworks in countries that adopted national plans in 2016 or undertook consultations to develop them. For example, UNICEF’s research on social and economic vulnerabilities in Ukraine was directly linked with the development of a new National Poverty Reduction Strategy and national plan of action aimed at promoting employment, improving access to social services for the excluded, and providing social assistance for the poorest and most vulnerable.

By providing a picture of children’s vulnerabilities and needs, UNICEF’s research and advocacy on child poverty provide an entry point to strengthen social protection systems, social services and child-focused budgeting to respond to the multifaceted needs of the poorest children and families. For example:

- In China, UNICEF provided the Government with technical assistance to evaluate monetary poverty measures to assess eligibility for social assistance. The evidence is now being used to further expand the social assistance programme (Dibao) for children.
- In Georgia, a UNICEF-World Bank discussion paper modelling ways targeted social assistance might improve child welfare has sparked a public debate on child poverty and will influence the upcoming national child welfare strategy.
- In Cameroon, a new analysis of child poverty helped define a child-sensitive social protection policy.
- In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UNICEF is helping the Government reform a fragmented and outdated social protection system to improve inclusive access to integrated social protection services.

UNICEF’s analytical work contributes to national efforts to reduce child poverty through social protection and child-friendly budgeting. UNICEF’s analysis of the performance of Kyrgyzstan’s social protection system and public expenditures has resulted in more than 2,000 more children in the monthly benefit for poor families with children and a 10 per cent increase in its amount. In Rwanda, to support
the Government in reaching its poverty reduction targets, UNICEF is helping to implement child-sensitive social protection measures and advocating for adequate financing of basic services to address deprivation. In Argentina, a report on multidimensional child poverty by UNICEF and key national authorities became highly visible in national debates, leading to the establishment of a national child poverty monitoring system and supporting advocacy to expand the universal child grant to 1.5 million children previously excluded for lack of information on how to access it.

Challenges and constraints

While the inclusion of child poverty in the SDGs has been a huge step forward, a range of challenges remain. Although governments show great willingness to measure child poverty, for instance, establishing routine national approaches to doing so continues to be more difficult.

Supporting national governments to monitor child poverty and start addressing it more explicitly in national policies is relatively inexpensive and potentially an extremely cost-effective way to contribute to better child outcomes across the spectrum. However, identifying even the limited funding needed for this work can be a challenge, as available resources tend to be earmarked for more established areas of sectoral work. In 2016, thematic funding for social inclusion, while relatively small, was essential in underpinning the results achieved (see the text box in Results by Programme Area). Further analysis of the potential impact of UNICEF’s increased work on this issue might help in increasing partner investment.

Working with governments – often Ministries of Finance – to strengthen programmatic responses to child poverty demands technical skills in public policy analysis, economics and public finance. We are conducting training and recruitment to strengthen these capacities in the coming years, bringing in external expertise as needed and providing clear, cutting-edge guidance and technical support from regional and headquarters levels.

The challenges of measuring and addressing child poverty are particularly acute where children are most vulnerable, as in countries affected by conflict, insecurity and war. Survey data, crucial to monitoring children’s rights, remain limited. A World Bank report found that between 2002 and 2011, 57 countries produced one or less than one poverty estimate, and 29 had no poverty data at all. Addressing these gaps will require looking at alternative sources of information and innovative approaches to collecting data. In 2016, UNICEF started to explore the use of innovations to fill data gaps in child poverty measurement and provide real-time information (see the text box below).

AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO REACH THE MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN TAJIKISTAN

Listening to Tajikistan is a phone survey, supported by the World Bank and UNICEF, being conducted to monitor the impact of the economic slowdown on vulnerable households. It provides real-time information on risks and deprivation relating to health, nutrition and child labour.

Initiated in May 2015, the survey tracks a nationally representative sample of 800 households every month, using a short questionnaire. The latest report includes findings that:

- One third of children in Tajikistan fell ill from July to September 2016 and children in rural areas are more prone to illness than those in urban areas.
- Although the bulk of household expenditures in Tajikistan goes to food, 1 in 10 children eats only twice a day, and 3 per cent only have one meal a day.
- Almost 1 in 10 households is unable to cover medical expenditures for children.
- While living conditions seem to be better in Dushanbe, households and children there still face many challenges in accessing health services and economic opportunities, and 7 per cent of children work for additional income.

UNICEF has long been a global champion of innovations that allow for real-time monitoring of the poorest and most vulnerable, including through U-Report, a mobile platform that amplifies the voices of children and young people using text messages that is now operating in 34 countries.

Social protection

Headline results

In 2016, UNICEF continued its progress towards 2017 Strategic Plan targets, building on 2015 results to expand social protection coverage and support the capacity of governments to strengthen social protection systems. Three more country offices reported functioning social protection systems in 2016, bringing the total to 135, while 75 countries reported an intermediate capacity and 17 others reported strong capacities to deliver, implement and finance integrated social protection systems. The number of children who benefit from cash transfer programmes, one of the most common forms of social protection, increased from 155 million in 2015 to 179 million in 2016. UNICEF contributed to this expansion through advocacy, technical support and guidance. UNICEF also helped produce and disseminate evidence on the impacts of social protection on children’s outcomes, as 59 countries carried out such assessments over the past five years, with 90 per cent showing positive impacts on child well-being (with this, the 2017 target set in the Strategic Plan is achieved).

UNICEF participated in the World Humanitarian Summit and committed to expand its work on social protection in fragile and humanitarian contexts, to make countries’ systems better able to respond to shocks. In 2016, 89 UNICEF country offices (58 per cent) responded to a humanitarian situation, up 2 per cent from 2015. Of these, 49 supported their government counterparts in incorporating emergency prevention, preparedness and response in their social protection systems and programmes (up from 42 in 2015),

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On 29 March 2016, Jhuma Akhter, a 14-year-old in Khulna, Bangladesh, attends the Maitry Adolescent Club, where teenagers gather after school to learn life skills. When Jhuma was just 8 years old, she left school to work as a maidservant in an abusive home where she was never paid for her labour. After three years, she returned home and started working full time supplying water to local businesses, earning approximately US$7 a month. Then a community volunteer enrolled Jhuma’s family in a cash transfer programme available as long as Jhuma attends school. Now her mother receives two annual instalments of approximately US$150, Jhuma has returned to school, where she is in the seventh grade and dreams of becoming a doctor.

Cash transfers provide a minimum level of income to keep the poorest, most vulnerable households out of destitution. At the same time, they can provide a ladder out of poverty and strengthening families’ capacity to care for their children, and overcoming barriers to essential services including health care and quality education.
while 38 highlighted that they have used emergencies as windows of opportunity to promote more sustainable social protection systems or to improve systems already in place.

Brief outline of programme area

UNICEF is a leading partner on social protection, focusing on expanding coverage to the poorest and most vulnerable populations and enhancing outcomes for children. UNICEF actively works in more than 100 countries and is recognized for its sound technical expertise and comprehensive approach to social protection, aiming to leave no one behind. UNICEF brings particular strengths in supporting countries on social protection systems strengthening, expanding coverage of cash transfers, linking social protection programme participants to other services and information for child development, impact evaluation and analysis, and social protection in fragile and humanitarian contexts. Social protection measures like cash transfer programmes, school feeding, fee abolition, and social welfare services address child poverty in all its dimensions.

UNICEF’s work includes supporting the expansion of national cash transfer programmes, developing non-cash interventions such as social welfare services, strengthening social protection systems, and supporting social protection responses in fragile contexts and humanitarian situations. UNICEF’s strategic plan indicators, very much aligned with the SDG target 1.3, focus on expanding the coverage of social protection systems and ensuring they have positive impacts on children’s well-being.

2016 results in detail

Reaching more children with social protection. In 2016, 135 country offices reported the existence of functioning national social protection systems, up from 132 in 2015. UNICEF data indicate that approximately 179.3 million children were covered by cash transfer programmes, one of the most common forms of social protection – a 16 per cent increase from 155.2 million in 2015. UNICEF’s advocacy, technical support and guidance in countries including Egypt, Ghana, Lesotho, Thailand and Zambia, contributed to this expansion. In Thailand, UNICEF helped design and scale up the national Child Support Grant, launched less than a year ago, which will increase in value and will be extended to cover children up to 3 years old, reaching approximately 400,000 children.

UNICEF assisted countries including Ethiopia, Madagascar, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam in delivering cash transfers together with other social services, which enhances their impact. In Madagascar, for example, UNICEF provided technical assistance in the design and roll out of the country’s first national cash transfer programme, which targets 39,000 households (117,000 children), and complemented the process with a series of Communication for Development (C4D) campaigns. UNICEF also implemented a cash top up for the most excluded 5,000 households, to help approximately 11,300 children transition from primary to secondary school and improve retention rates at secondary level.

UNICEF also worked in several countries, including Maldives, Morocco, Philippines, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Zambia to improve the reach of flagship social protection programmes to children with disabilities. In Maldives, UNICEF helped review and adjust the Social Protection Management Information System to collect disability information and expand the reach of the country’s disability allowance. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and in Zambia, UNICEF supported the review of the disability assessment process so that children and family members with disabilities can get priority access to cash transfer programmes.

Efforts were also made to address gender issues in cash transfer programmes. In Mali, UNICEF used cash transfer payment times to convey C4D messages on child marriage and female genital mutilation to all beneficiaries of the Jigisemejri programme. In Zimbabwe, UNICEF used the country’s Harmonized Social Cash Transfer to raise awareness on HIV prevention, especially among children, adolescents and pregnant women, and promoted the referral of beneficiaries to HIV-related care and support services.

Several countries undertook analytical work to support expanded social protection coverage. In Argentina, UNICEF research and advocacy secured a commitment from government to expand the Universal Child Allowance programme to cover 1.5 million children currently unable to access it. In Belize, UNICEF led a comprehensive assessment on the social protection system to identify coverage gaps and fragmentation as a way to improve efficiency.

Strengthening countries’ capacities. In line with SDG target 1.3, many countries are developing and strengthening their social protection systems to better reach the poorest and most vulnerable populations. UNICEF helps countries develop national policy and legislation, improve central administrative tools, increase national financing and human resource capacity, and make systems better prepared and more flexible in response to shocks. In 2016, 75 countries were reported to have an intermediate capacity to deliver, implement and finance integrated social protection systems, up from 65 in 2014 and 70 in 2015. Substantial work remains, as only 18 countries reported having strong capacity.

In 2016, UNICEF provided support and technical guidance on policy development to Cambodia, Gambia, Guinea, Mali and Zimbabwe, all of which approved social protection policies, and to Antigua and Barbuda, Ghana, Kenya, Montserrat, Saint Lucia and Zambia, which developed drafts. UNICEF also helped countries, including Cambodia, Mali and Sierra Leone, shape governance structures for social protection to better coordinate actions and ensure adequate coverage of children and their families.
Malawi’s work on social protection deserves a closer look given its impressive progress resulting in the expansion of coverage and in more comprehensive social protection responses. UNICEF has been a key partner in this process over time.

Malawi first started working on social protection, with UNICEF support, more than a decade ago, piloting the Social Cash Transfer Programme in 2006. Gradually, the initiative has become Malawi’s flagship programme, with extensive coverage throughout the country, benefiting 450,000 children as of 2016. In an effort to maximize the impacts of the programme, the country launched an initiative to better link beneficiaries to other social services and enhance outcomes for children and their families.

To support Malawi’s progress in establishing a comprehensive social protection system, UNICEF has worked to strengthen the capacities of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development – which oversees social protection – to better coordinate responses. The Ministry of Finance, with technical assistance from UNICEF and other partners, reviewed the priorities and performance of Malawi’s current social protection system and has been using the recommendations to lead a multistakeholder process to revise the existing social protection framework. Through the successor of Malawi’s National Social Support Programme, expected to be launched in mid-2017, the Government is making a strong commitment to design and implement a social protection system that covers more people, provides complementary support to respond to the multiple and compounding needs of the poor and vulnerable, and is sensitive to shocks.

UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare and the Local Development Fund, the main implementers of the Social Cash Transfer Programme, to support the scale-up of the programme from 18 districts to all 28 by providing capacity building to the Ministry at both national and district levels, and supporting the planning of the scale-up as well as implementation in the districts (for targeting, etc.).

UNICEF has led a wide range of evidence-generation initiatives, with strong engagement from government officials, contributing to their learning and ownership and ensuring that the research informs further scale-up of the Social Cash Transfer Programme, including an impact evaluation and a study analysing the processes of the programme. Evidence from these studies shows positive results in poverty reduction, improved food security and sexual and reproductive health behaviours among adolescents (but no improvement in nutrition). The process evaluation further identifies where the programme is performing well (such as targeting) and areas where improvements are needed (such as case management).

UNICEF worked with the Government of Malawi to develop a successful pilot referral and linkages initiative, which helps beneficiaries access other services, including village savings and loan schemes. The initiative is expected to be expanded and to incorporate new nutrition services for children and services for adolescents.

UNICEF has helped countries, including Albania, Angola, Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Kenya, Mali and Sierra Leone, develop central administrative tools such as single registries and targeting, payment, monitoring and grievance mechanisms to support management and coordination of social protection responses.

In Kenya, UNICEF helped the Government implement the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Programme, which benefits 360,000 households, and develop the Single Registry for social programmes, officially launched in 2016 to cover beneficiaries of the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Programme, the Old Age and Disability cash transfer, and the Hunger Safety Net. For many years, information from each programme was managed by separate systems, resulting in complex paperwork, poor access to information, delayed payments and other inefficiencies. The Single Registry brings together data from all these programmes in one place. It currently holds information on more than 900,000 households across different programmes managed by different institutions.

UNICEF has also helped countries expand their financing and human resource capacity to deliver social protection programmes and services. In countries such as Cambodia, Egypt, Indonesia, Thailand and Zambia, work to expand the allocation of government resources to flagship programmes included advocacy efforts and technical guidance to develop policy and financial options. In Zambia, UNICEF coordinated advocacy efforts to support a budget increase for the
Social Cash Transfer Programme that allowed it to expand from 185,000 households to 239,000. An overall social sector brief produced with the Ministry of Finance to inform Zambia’s 2017 National Budget enabled an overall increase in social sector spending from 29.6 per cent to 32 per cent.

In Burkina Faso, Indonesia, and Lesotho, UNICEF supported training modules and capacity building for high level officials, also engaging representatives from other sectors such as health and education. In Armenia, Burundi, Niger, the State of Palestine, Viet Nam, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Zambia, UNICEF efforts focused on strengthening social welfare services to better link the people in need to existing support. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, for example, UNICEF trained social workers in more than 30 support centres to work with refugees.

UNICEF’s ongoing support to national capacity and South-South learning also includes strategic partnerships at the regional and global levels. Together with the World Bank, UNICEF facilitates the Africa Community of Practice on Cash Transfers, engaging 35 African countries over the past five years. While it mostly focuses on exchanging lessons and best practices on the scale up of cash transfer programmes, it increasingly also considers how cash transfer programmes allow social protection systems to better respond to the needs of the poorest.

Assessing and improving results for children and families. UNICEF is strongly committed to measuring impacts of social protection programmes on children and ensuring that this evidence leads to better results. In 2016, 59 countries reported social protection impact assessments of national programmes in the past five years, up from 60 in 2015; 90 per cent demonstrated positive impacts on child well-being. UNICEF supported Egypt, Sierra Leone and the United Republic of Tanzania in developing new impact evaluations of their flagship cash transfer programmes.

A key achievement in this area in 2016 was the publication and launch of the book *From Evidence to Action: The story of cash transfer programmes and impact evaluation in sub-Saharan Africa*. The book presents the main findings from impact evaluations and efforts to expand the evidence base on unconditional cash transfers in eight countries. It highlights the various impacts that cash transfer programmes have generated in these countries, especially on child outcomes such as school enrolment, food security, and nutrition, among others (see the text box for more details). This work was a collaborative effort by UNICEF and other partners under the Transfer Project research initiative, established in 2008. Launch events for the book allowed UNICEF to engage governments and other partners on using the results to advocate for more resources for national programmes. The results helped identify areas where more research is needed, such as the effects of cash transfers delivered along with other services (‘cash plus’ approaches), and the impacts of other forms of social protection, such as social welfare services.
Over the past 10 years, Africa has seen progressive expansion of social protection, especially flagship cash transfer programmes aimed toward national coverage. But until recently, there was little evidence on the impacts of such programmes, and most evidence came from other regions.

In 2008, the Transfer Project was created by UNICEF, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the University of North Carolina, Save the Children UK, national governments, and international and national researchers to expand the evidence on the effects of cash transfer programmes in Africa. The initiative carried out high-quality, innovative impact evaluations through a combination of methods in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. They are summarized in the book From Evidence to Action: The story of cash transfer programmes and impact evaluation in sub-Saharan Africa published in 2016.

The book contributes to a large global body of evidence that highlights the positive effects of cash transfer programmes on various child outcomes, including food security, secondary school enrolment, child well-being and smooth transition to adulthood.

For example, in terms of food security, evaluations found that most countries presented important results. In some cases, such as in Kenya, Malawi and Zambia, beneficiaries of cash transfer programmes presented a significant increase in food expenditure.

In terms of nutrition and child well-being, there were numerous positive findings in various countries. In South Africa, for example, the evaluation showed that its Child Support Grant delivered to children in the first two years of life increases the likelihood of a child’s growth being monitored through clinic visits by 7.7 percentage points. The evaluation also found that early receipt of the grant had also a positive and significant impact on height-for-age scores of children whose mothers had more than eight grades of schooling.

Evaluations found that in all countries where the research took place, impacts on school enrolment range from 5 to 12 percentage points. These effect sizes compare favourably to well-known Latin American programmes such as those in Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico.

Lastly, the book captures how evidence was used to inform policy dialogue towards expanding programme coverage and ensuring sustainable government financing. In Ghana, Kenya and Zambia, the evidence was used to increase allocation of resources to scale up programmes and expand coverage. Evidence also showed what worked well and what needed improvement, and debunked common myths, such as that cash transfers foster dependency or increased fertility or promote spending on tobacco and alcohol.

Initial efforts to evaluate cash plus approaches are under way in Ghana and the United Republic of Tanzania. In Ghana, UNICEF commissioned and oversaw the quantitative and qualitative baseline survey for the evaluation of Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty Programme 1000, Ghana’s social cash transfer programme targeting extremely poor households with pregnant women and children under 2 years of age. The highly inclusive and participatory evaluation process created strong buy-in from all partners, essential to ensuring that the evaluation will inform effective social protection interventions in Ghana. The endline data collection for the randomized control trial of five C4D behaviour change interventions was conducted in late 2016, and policy recommendations from the findings are expected in 2017.

UNICEF completed the Social Protection module for the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), to improve information on household- and child-level social protection coverage. The module was tested in Viet Nam and Zimbabwe during 2015, then field-tested in Belize and finalized in 2016, so it will be ready for the new cycle of surveys beginning in 2017.

Leaving no one behind: Social protection in humanitarian and fragile contexts. The World Humanitarian Summit in mid-2016 raised the need for greater collective action and attention to how social protection can support humanitarian action amid conflicts, protracted crises and increased migration. This was highlighted in a joint statement to the Summit issued by UNICEF and partners, including the World Bank, the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the
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Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), and the World Food Programme (WFP). The main commitments that emerged from the World Humanitarian Summit, captured in the Grand Bargain, include greater efforts to strengthen social protection systems to contribute to emergency prevention, preparedness and response, and to enhance resilience.

UNICEF’s work to make social protection systems better prepared and able to respond to shocks has included advocacy, technical support, and assistance on the ground to implement key responses. In 2016, 55 per cent of UNICEF country offices that responded to a humanitarian situation reported supporting their government counterparts in incorporating emergency prevention, preparedness and response in their social protection systems and programmes, while 43 per cent highlighted that they used the responses as windows of opportunity to promote building more sustainable social protection systems or to improve the system already in place. In Ecuador, UNICEF provided technical support to the Government after a devastating earthquake in 2016, and helped to automate the information management of the three national cash transfers programmes covering mothers and children living in extreme poverty, people with disabilities, and elderly people. This will allow authorities to better manage and monitor social protection programmes and services.

Throughout the year, UNICEF helped countries respond to the drastic effects of climate change. El Niño has prolonged a drought in the south of Madagascar, deepening poverty and further curtailing poor families’ access to food, water, and basic services. To respond quickly and prevent negative coping mechanisms that could lead to deeper malnutrition and deprivation among children, UNICEF advocated with government and partners to expand cash transfers and supported the design and roll-out of an Emergency Cash Transfer Programme covering 52,000 families (mothers with children under five). A nutritional assessment was used to target districts with the highest rates of malnutrition. A livelihoods grant complemented the cash intervention to enable families to jump start productive activities. UNICEF provided technical assistance, covered 4,000 beneficiaries, and helped develop a C4D component.

As part of UNICEF’s support to countries affected by the migrant crises, UNICEF and government partners in Turkey launched the Emergency Social Safety Net in late 2016, to eventually cover approximately 1 million refugees. UNICEF will also help extend the existing national cash transfer programme for education to 230,000 refugee children. UNICEF and partners also launched winter assistance support targeted to 96,000 refugee children between December 2016 and March 2017. (See more details in the chapter below on Social Inclusion in Humanitarian Contexts.)

Challenges and constraints

Amid strong commitments to the SDGs and many countries’ steady progress in expanding social protection, several challenges need to be taken into account. Governments need to increase capacities at the national and subnational levels to better coordinate actions and avoid fragmentation and duplication of efforts. Countries need support in areas such as programme design and implementation, as well as training of local officers and social welfare workers to enable substantial scale-up.

There is also a massive gap in coverage in fragile and humanitarian contexts. Some 535 million children live in countries affected by emergencies – one out of every four children in the world today. Greater technical, operational and financial support are needed to develop effective and sustainable social protection responses that can address their needs. To address these challenges, UNICEF’s efforts have focused on leveraging its existing capacity, relationships and support into greater progress and results for children. This includes efforts exploring new forms of partnership and collaboration on the ground with other key institutions working in social protection, such as the World Bank, the European Union, DFID and GIZ, among others, and other agencies within the United Nations system, such as FAO, WFP and the International Labour Organization.

In 2017, UNICEF is also undertaking a mapping to assess the readiness of national social protection systems in humanitarian, fragile and risk-prone contexts to respond to the needs of people in crisis.

In responding to these external issues, UNICEF faces some internal challenges. Social protection is the largest area within social inclusion, including with regard to programming expenditure, and requires more sophisticated relationships and support into greater progress and results. We need to increase technical and managerial capacity within our global, regional and country offices to effectively engage with government counterparts and development partners on social protection. In humanitarian contexts, UNICEF is frequently a partner of choice at the country level, but demand for UNICEF support is in danger of exceeding the organization’s financial and human resource capacity. To address these challenges, our teams at country level have been expanding where possible, and there is greater collaboration and support within social inclusion counterparts at global, regional and country levels.
On 25 May 2016, students at the Quang Son Daycare Centre in Ninh Thuan Province in Viet Nam. The daycare centre serves children with disabilities as well as children who are ethnic minorities. UNICEF works to strengthen national human rights institutions and promote social accountability mechanisms that recognize children and adolescents as agents of change and that include indigenous children and children with disabilities.

PROGRAMME AREA 2: HUMAN RIGHTS, NON-DISCRIMINATION AND PARTICIPATION

Headline results
UNICEF’s active engagement with treaty bodies continues to improve country and regional perspectives and engagement on programming and monitoring for children and adolescents. Efforts to promote the rights of adolescents resulted in the adoption of the General Comment 20, while sustained advocacy helped deepen states’ commitment to deliver results for children with disabilities. Twelve more countries ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

UNICEF continued to promote platforms and mechanisms to engage children and adolescents. In 2016, 111 country offices reported results in this area, well above the projected 2016 milestone of 97 and the 2017 target of 102. A total of 118 countries provided legal and paralegal services to support children in claiming redress for violations of their rights, up from 113 in 2015.

The adoption of the SDGs provided an opportunity to bring more attention to the need to strengthen accountability mechanisms at different levels and ensure that they work for and with children – as an important step towards effective results on the ground. At the global level, UNICEF generated evidence highlighting the strong linkage between all SDG targets against the articles of the CRC to strengthen the programmatic approach to their implementation. UNICEF also supported strategic engagement with international human rights at the global level, strengthened capacities of national human rights institutions to ensure improved monitoring of child rights on the ground, and helped identify successful social accountability initiatives at local levels.

In 2014–2015, UNICEF’s continued efforts to address discrimination through social change at the community level led to strategic positioning and technical leadership for social mobilization and community engagement as part of the Zika response. Work to address social norms, stigma and discrimination is also advancing, including through a
advancing children’s rights. In 2016: assistance for their ratification is an important part of UNICEF’s work, continued advocacy and technical support to reporting processes, and strengthening rights instruments that are key for children, and non-State actors to access information, and provide for meaningful participation for children and adolescents.

Brief outline of programme area

The human rights, non-discrimination and participation programme area includes UNICEF’s support for the practical implementation of human rights norms and standards related to social inclusion, which includes addressing the structural causes of exclusion and poverty. Ensuring that rights are protected and fulfilled requires addressing the implementation gap between international standards and measures taken at a national level that lead to inequitable results – including by addressing governance, policy formulation and service provision. This includes UNICEF’s support to strengthen national mechanisms to improve Member States’ accountability, empower State and non-State actors to access information, and provide for meaningful participation for children and adolescents.

2016 Results in detail

Advocacy for ratification of international human rights instruments that are key for children, support to reporting processes, and strengthening national frameworks

With the Convention on the Rights of the Child (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) at the core of UNICEF’s work, continued advocacy and technical assistance for their ratification is an important part of advancing children’s rights. In 2016:

- Four Member States ratified the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in the Armed Conflict, bringing the total number of ratifications to 166;
- Two Member States ratified the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography, bringing the total number of States Parties to 173;
- Seven Member States ratified the Optional Protocol on Communication Procedure, bringing the total to 30;
- The CRPD gained 12 States Parties, ending the year with 172 signatories;
- The CRC and CEDAW did not gain additional ratification.

In Sri Lanka, UNICEF participated in national consultations to ensure that children’s rights were incorporated in the National Action Plan of the CRPD, which the country then ratified. UNICEF produced a documentary film featuring children with intellectual disabilities and the barriers that limit opportunities to realize their right to education. It also provided financial and technical support to targeted schools across four provinces. This helped ensure that all school-age children attained their right to education, using catchment area mapping and innovative approaches to reduce school dropouts, including for the most vulnerable. A survey to assess the results of the initiative will be conducted in 2017.

UNICEF continues to actively assist States parties in fulfilling their CRC obligations, including reporting on progress. UNICEF supported States parties in preparing and submitting their periodic reports, and provided information and views to the Committee on the Rights of the Child for 21 of 22 programme countries reviewed in 2016. For example, UNICEF helped the Sudan finalize its Sixth and Seventh CRC Progress Reports, with participation of relevant government institutions, civil society organizations, and children at national and state levels.

UNICEF also supported government and NGO reporting on the CRPD, and relayed UNICEF concerns and priorities to the CRPD Committee for 4 out of 10 programme countries reviewed. In the State of Palestine, the drafting of the State Party Report on CRPD represented a major milestone. UNICEF is strengthening national capacity for child rights monitoring and State party reporting there through technical support to the Ministry of Social Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Save the Children.

In most programme countries undergoing the Universal Periodic Review process, UNICEF contributed to joint United Nations Country Team efforts to support government reporting and provide UN information to the review. In Angola, for example, UNICEF assisted in preparing the Universal Periodic Review report through the UN Partnership Framework Rule of Law Group, helping to provide accurate, real-time data on birth and death registration. Following the review process, UNICEF also plays a leading role in helping governments implement treaty body recommendations by incorporating child rights in the drafting of constitutions, legislation and administrative guidance. At the request of the Government of Chile, for example, UNICEF played a key role in the development of a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the 2015 Concluding Observations and Recommendations of Human Rights Mechanisms.

UNICEF is supporting countries in undertaking legal reforms as follow-up to CRC concluding observations (88 countries, or 64 per cent), CEDAW (77 countries, or 62 per cent) and CRPD (38 countries, or 47 per cent). Country-level activity related to legal reforms as follow up to CRC concluding observations decreased from 78 per cent, 71 per cent and 48 per cent of countries, respectively, in 2015. This may be because some countries have already promulgated and implemented legal reforms as a result of recommendations from several review cycles.
In 2016, in Sri Lanka UNICEF engaged in all public consultations on the Constitutional review process and used partnerships to leverage support for child rights, such as through joint proposals submitted with the United Nations Country Team, Child Protection Working Group and National Human Rights Commission. The final proposal of the Constitution, under review by the Reform Body, reflects provisions on child rights.

In Djibouti, UNICEF supported the dissemination of the Child Protection Code adopted at the end of 2015 so that professionals, children and families can better understand, prevent and respond to child rights violations. Article 26 of the Code obligates all those in contact with a child to report to the competent authorities all situations that could constitute a threat to the child’s health or physical or moral integrity. Since January 2016, health professionals and security forces have reported four cases of violence against children.

At the global level, UNICEF provides technical support to treaty bodies in developing General Comments, which are authoritative interpretations of the provisions of the Conventions intended to guide State parties. In 2016, the CRC Committee adopted a groundbreaking General Comment no. 20 on the Implementation of the Rights of the Child during Adolescence, which highlights the importance of taking into account children’s development and evolving capacities in the second decade and provides Member States with detailed guidance on the measures necessary to ensure that adolescents’ rights are realized, in line with the SDGs.

A launch event was held for the CRC Committee’s General Comment on Public Budgeting to realize the rights of the child, which also was adopted in 2016. UNICEF is providing continuous support for the drafting process of the General Comments on the rights of children in street situations and the Joint General Comment on the rights of children in the context of migration. With support from UNICEF, the Committee on the Rights of People with Disabilities adopted General Comments on the Rights to Inclusive Education and on Women and Girls with Disabilities.

**Strengthened accountability measures for children**

Strengthening accountability mechanisms for children’s rights – especially national human rights institutions – continues to be a central part of UNICEF’s work. In the context of the SDGs, UNICEF is stepping up efforts to synchronize CRC and SDG monitoring, including by generating evidence and guidance to strengthen national participatory monitoring and accountability interventions.

In 2016, more than 40 country offices engaged with human rights institutions, helping to support their creation, strengthen their mandates, or improve their capacity. In Zimbabwe, for example, UNICEF helped the Human Rights Commission develop training materials on child-sensitive detention monitoring, with training to be implemented in 2017 as part of institutionalizing an approach that considers deprivation of liberty as a last resort. UNICEF headquarters organized a global seminar on the role of national human rights institutions in advancing accountability for child rights, which identified strategic opportunities for national human rights institutions to support SDG monitoring and yielded recommendations that will inform guidance material for UNICEF country offices. This will include working towards greater visibility of the CRC within regional networks and developing mechanisms to facilitate South-South collaboration.

UNICEF country offices also report on mechanisms for public engagement to influence development agendas in local, subnational or national plans. To support effective participation of student government bodies in education management in Honduras, UNICEF and partners supported participatory action research on children’s perceptions about the education system, participation in decision making and the role of student government bodies. In Uganda, social accountability pilots created space for citizens to voice social issues of concern to government officials, resulting in the development of by-laws and local ordinances. Partnership agreements are being finalized with two national civil society coalitions – the National NGO Forum and the Uganda Youth Coalition, which represent more than 1,000 civil society organizations – to scale these social accountability initiatives to additional districts in 2017.

UNICEF supported various adolescent-led initiatives to strengthen accountability among governmental partners on child rights. In partnership with ING Bank, UNICEF supported adolescent empowerment through skill-building and civic engagement in Indonesia, Kosovo,14 Montenegro, Nepal, the Philippines and Zambia – directly benefiting an estimated 95,000 adolescents and indirectly benefiting 10.5 million. The most disadvantaged adolescents – those living in rural areas, school dropouts, adolescents at risk for HIV, and indigenous adolescents – acquired information and skills that allow them to better express themselves, negotiate, communicate, and advocate for their rights. Approaches were tailored to each country’s context, creating opportunities for adolescents to influence policies and services. UNICEF country offices in Indonesia, Kosovo and Nepal, among others, built up the capacities of adolescent networks and advocacy groups to raise adolescents’ voices and influence local policies.
RapidPro is UNICEF’s open source software platform that enables the building and scaling of mobile-based applications from anywhere in the world. By automating personalized messages over ‘Short Message Service (SMS)’, voice, social media and Internet-based channels, with responses analysed in real time, RapidPro powers the way governments and development partners connect, engage and collaborate with people on their own mobile phones. In this way, UNICEF and its partners can retrieve and analyse data in areas such as education, health, and child protection in development and humanitarian contexts.

The ability to access credible and up-to-date information about the situation of children is critical for improving their lives and protecting their rights. RapidPro helps workers reach the children who are most in need with accurate and timely information. It also enables easier access to vital information, so that life-saving data and information can be delivered where and when they are needed most.

Powered by RapidPro, U-Report is a messaging service designed to allow young people to voice their opinions on issues they care about, report on what is happening in their community and be proponents of citizen-led development. The service is free for users, who, once opting in, receive weekly polls and alerts designed to ensure that they and their communities receive access to essential information. Responses are aggregated and the data are available in real time. Based on data at the time of writing, a young person signs up to become a U-Reporter every 30 seconds. In the past 12 months, more than 1 million people have used U-Report.

To support General Comment 20, 11 countries tested an Adolescent Country Tracker. This results-based framework is designed to track the progress of adolescent well-being, strengthen accountability for adolescents across the SDGs, and support resource mobilisation. The framework explores the lives of girls and boys across five domains of critical importance for adolescents: health and well-being; education and learning; protection; transition to work; and participation and engagement. A select number of indicators allow for disaggregation for early (10–14 years old) and late (15–19 years old) adolescence. Feedback provided by the country offices indicates that the tool provides a useful snapshot of the priority issues of adolescents and helps mobilize stakeholders to address them. After field testing supported by consultations with United Nations agencies and international organizations, the framework will be finalized and launched in 2017.

In the absence of global indicators to measure the impact of adolescent participation, UNICEF has launched a research initiative. A literature review was completed and a conceptual framework is being developed with partners and will be supported by tools that can be used for advocacy and measurement in 2017.

Continued action at the global level on human rights, non-discrimination and participation
UNICEF’s strategic, global-level contributions and partnerships support various aspects of social inclusion.

Better data are needed to implement evidence-based programming and policy work to advance the inclusion of children with disabilities. UNICEF and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics and developed and launched a data collection tool to assess child disability and produce internationally comparable data for surveys and censuses. The tool will support work of the National Statistics Offices, government agencies and ministries, disabled peoples’ organizations, UNICEF country offices, and others working in the field of disability data and advocacy. Trainings and regional workshops included civil society and disabled peoples’ organizations. In Belize, UNICEF supported the participation of the Belize Association for Persons with Disability in a workshop on the measurement of child disability to help Belize fulfil its commitments under the CRPD. UNICEF and the Washington Group are establishing a mechanism for technical assistance for interested statistical offices, covering the design of the questionnaire and methodology, the training of interviewers, supervision of fieldwork, and support for the analysis and presentation of data.

Along with poverty and shocks, harmful social norms and practices fuel social exclusion. The Global Programme on Child Marriage has begun to tackle social norms at a strategic level by facilitating at scale C4D initiatives to engage communities in identifying and supporting solutions. In Bangladesh, high-level advocacy with the Government led to an agreement to roll out 5,000 new adolescent clubs, funded from the revenue budget and based on models of adolescent empowerment developed and supported by UNICEF. Nearly 150,000 girls were reached in 2016. In Ethiopia, 14 major faith-based organizations signed a formal commitment and began working with UNICEF to engage their respective constituencies in systematic dialogue and promotion efforts to end child marriage.

At the United Nations level, UNICEF engaged in several partnerships to advance the implementation of the CRPD. A Multi-Partner Trust Fund established in June 2011
supports member agencies of the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to undertake joint projects on disability mainstreaming at the country level. In 2016, the Disability Section at UNICEF headquarters facilitated the second phase funding to seven UNICEF country offices to continue joint projects. UNICEF ensured a continued focus on children with disabilities in the partnership’s strategic and operational framework. The Inter-Agency Support Group on the CRPD is a United Nations mechanism to support implementation of the CRPD. Within the mechanism, UNICEF’s key role is to share information and support development of joint strategies to raise the profile of children and adults with disabilities, particularly in relation to the 2030 development agenda.

UNICEF houses the secretariat of the Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities, which provides new opportunities for cooperation and a rich platform for resources around major issues of the 2030 development agenda. Over five years, the partnership has expanded to include more than 280 organizations. UNICEF also has actively supported regional partnerships for persons with disabilities. Disabled Persons Organizations Alliances have been established in seven Western Balkan countries, aiming to protect children with disabilities from violence and foster greater inclusion in society. The European Disability Forum supports the capacity building of disabled peoples’ organizations for advocacy and action based on the CRPD.

MOZAMBIQUE CASE STUDY ON C4D AND CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (NATIONAL CAMPAIGN 2013–2015)

In Mozambique, one of the world’s poorest countries, people with disabilities are among the poorest and most vulnerable.

The 2008 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) indicated that approximately 14 per cent of children 2–9 years old had a disability, while more than half of adolescents and youth with disabilities (15-19 years old) were illiterate; 68.1 per cent of children with disabilities did not have their birth registered, and most lived in rural areas.

Although there is an enabling policy environment and framework in place, addressing the rights of children and adults with disabilities in Mozambique remains a challenge. There are few inclusive social services – for example, there are only two special education schools in the capital, two inclusive education resource centres in the provinces and some ad-hoc initiatives by civil society. Stigma, discrimination and prejudice against children with disabilities are widespread.

In 2013, UNICEF and government partners launched a two-year nationwide multimedia campaign to raise awareness on disability issues, promote inclusion and acceptance at school and in society, showcase examples of positive attitudes and acceptance, and advocate for policies and practice to support and protect children with disabilities.

Children and adolescents broadcast weekly peer-to-peer radio programmes on the rights of children with disabilities, addressing stigma and discrimination. Participatory Child Rights Media Network radio and television programmes, including the Child-to-Child Media Network and Youth-to-Youth Network Clubs, provided platforms for children and adolescents to engage with their peers, discuss topics related to disability and produce age- and disability-appropriate radio and television programming. The campaign strengthened the clubs by raising awareness among adolescents and young people and equipping them to produce and present radio and television programmes for and by children and youth, including children with disabilities.

A total of 2.5 million people were reached with TV and radio spots and thematic Short Message Service (SMS), while social media efforts generated discussion of challenges affecting children with disabilities. At the end of the six-month campaign, 90 per cent of those interviewed believed that it contributed to changing attitudes and reducing stigma against children and adults with disabilities, while 80 per cent believed that children with disabilities should be in inclusive classrooms – a main message of the campaign. The campaign contributed to including inclusive education as a key objective of the new five-year Government Plan, 2015–2019.
UNICEF country offices continued their efforts to help governments improve public investment in children — with attention both to the amount of money allocated and to how efficiently and equitably it is spent; and to ensure that even the most disadvantaged benefit from services and programmes essential for their survival and development.

In 2016, 47 country offices (compared with 42 in 2015) contributed to policy and/or budgetary frameworks that improved resource allocation to implement policies and programmes addressing multidimensional child poverty.

UNICEF stepped up its efforts to influence public financial management processes and support more effective investment in key dimensions of child well-being (e.g., health, education, nutrition, social protection) in national and subnational budgets.

UNICEF country offices reported that improved domestic public spending for children (see Figure 5) led to:

- Increased budget allocations for expansion of 33 child-related services and programmes in 24 countries (see Namibia example, below);
- More efficient spending, with allocated funds reaching service levels in a timely manner and spent as intended in 10 countries (see Uganda example, below);
- Better spending results for children through more cost-effective service models in seven countries (see Kyrgyzstan example, below);
- In eight countries, more inclusive and equitably funded services and programs resulting from financial implementation of programs benefiting the poor and disadvantaged (see Thailand example, below) and fiscal decentralization reforms (see the text box on China, below); and
- More transparent and accountable budget processes in 31 countries, through budget briefs to raise awareness on public spending trends, performance and gaps in key sectors, support for governments’ measurement and reporting of child-focused budget information and participatory budgeting initiatives (see the examples of Mexico and Zambia, below).
Continued economic slowdown during the year led to a tightening fiscal environment or security-related shocks in several countries. UNICEF’s intensified budget monitoring, evidence-based advocacy and support to decision makers, including Ministries of Finance and Parliament, helped mitigate the adverse effects of budget cuts (as in Mozambique and Ukraine) or pre-empt them (as in East Caribbean countries, Mexico, Peru and South Africa).

A greater number of countries were estimated to have increased or protected health and education spending in per capita real terms and as a share of total government spending, compared with the year before (see Figure 7, below). At the global level, UNICEF and NGO partners supported the Committee on the Rights of the Child in the issuing of General Comment 19 on Public Budgeting for the Realization of Child Rights, providing specific guidelines to governments.

FIGURE 5
Results of public finance for children programmatic actions, 2013–2016 (in number of final PF4C outputs reported as achieved)*

Source: Based on UNICEF’s Results Monitoring Assessment Module database.
* Only those outputs related to social inclusion outcomes are captured.

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Brief outline of the programme area
UNICEF’s PF4C programme area seeks to influence and support the mobilization, allocation and utilization of domestic public financial resources for greater, more equitable and sustainable results for children. UNICEF’s strategic approach to making public budgets work better for children focuses on generating evidence, supporting budget processes and frameworks and monitoring budget implementation.

Along with continued child-focused budget analyses and support to government budgetary decision makers, UNICEF has increased its efforts on the ‘demand side’ of budget accountability to support open budget initiatives, community score cards and participatory budgeting. This programme area also contributes to emerging efforts supporting resource mobilization through analysis of private sector investments in children and the development of financing mechanisms such as public-private partnerships.

The PF4C programme area is expected to be further institutionalized as part of the equity goal and a technical leadership role in the leveraging domestic resources implementation strategy in the Strategic Plan 2018–2021.

2016 results in detail
Results achieved in UNICEF’s PF4C programme gained further scope and depth in 2016 and became better integrated and monitored in country programmes using the results based management approach (see Figure 6). This trend reflected the recognition that equitable scale up of quality services depends on governments taking a child-centred approach to their decisions on public funding, and then using these funds efficiently and effectively.
Examples of results achieved include improved budget allocations for scaling up child-related programmes through evidence-based advocacy in strategic moments; technical support to social ministries’ budget submissions; and promoting child-friendly local governance.

- In Zambia, UNICEF’s advocacy and technical support led the Government to increase the budget allocation to social protection by 83 per cent, which helped implement the scale-up of the Social Cash Transfer programme from 185,000 to 239,000 beneficiary households. UNICEF provided data collection tools to monitor changes in coverage and budget expenditure.
- In Myanmar, support to the Department of Social Welfare on the 2017/18 budget submission and advocacy with the Ministry of Planning and Finance led to a budget ceiling increase, part of which will fund the recruitment and training of child protection social workers.
- In Mongolia, UNICEF’s support for the Child-Friendly Communities model, which promotes child well-being and engagements with their communities, led to a steady flow of child-related budgetary investments. The provincial government in Khuvsgul Province dedicated US$ 1.5 million from the Local Development Fund to fund community kindergartens and provide alternative forms of education, increasing access to quality early childhood and primary education services for herders’ children in remote areas.
- In Nepal, strategic engagement and advocacy – informed by the success of the child grant implementation initiative in Karnali and the 2015 earthquake response – led to a government commitment in the 2017 budget to gradually expand the child grant to cover all children.

UNICEF also supported more efficient spending for improved service delivery by supporting the capacity of ministries of finance to track the flow of budgetary resources, working with line ministries to improve utilization, and introducing monitoring systems that provide facility-level data on service delivery and budget allocations.

- In Cambodia, UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Economy and Finance to improve the budget formulation and execution capacities of four social ministries; addressed problems with low spending for social sectors at the local level; and improved the allocation formula for greater and more equitable investments in children. UNICEF partnered with the European Union to finance the development of a Financial Management Information System for the education sector and train key local-level staff on financial management and programme-based budgeting.
In Thailand, UNICEF helped link the management information system of the child grant scheme with other relevant ministries, including with the Ministry of Finance’s payment system, to improve the timeliness of the budget release for the child grant scheme and better track flows to intended populations.

In Uganda, UNICEF helped the Ministry of Finance establish a decentralized budget tracking framework for three priority sectors (health, education and social welfare), to identify and remove budget bottlenecks through improved district planning and budgeting (see the text box below for details).

In Kenya, UNICEF’s budget analysis and public expenditure reviews for health and WASH (performed jointly with the World Bank and UN Women) identified challenges with execution and inefficiencies related to the development budget. In response, UNICEF operationalized a Social Intelligence Reporting system to enable counties to use real-time data on actual service delivery and budget allocations at the facility level for better decision making. Data are collected at the service delivery level (schools, hospitals and other social service delivery places, and it is fed to policy planners for prioritization and determining resource allocation.

In Zimbabwe, UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Finance to track 2016 national budget allocations and disbursements. This informed policy and public advocacy and led to improved non-wage disbursements by the national treasury to the social sectors. UNICEF also addressed inadequate allocations to the social sector by engaging line Ministries (Health, Education and Public Service and Social Welfare) during the 2017 national budgeting process.

UNICEF support also helped achieve more effective spending for improved child outcomes through the modelling of cost effective interventions, the costing of plans to scale them up, and the use of evidence to advocate for reprioritization of government resources.

In Kyrgyzstan, UNICEF’s support led to an increased share of central government funding going to alternative care (paid on an as-needed basis) as opposed to residential institutions (run continuously).

In Rwanda, UNICEF continued to address bottlenecks in the social protection system by piloting and costing child-sensitive social protection measures in the draft financing strategy. These efforts led to their inclusion in the 2016–2017 and 2017–2018 government budgets.

UNICEF efforts also resulted in more equitable spending by integrating key programs for children into fiscal frameworks and mechanisms.

In Albania, UNICEF helped develop a financial mechanism that integrated the priorities of the National Social Protection Strategy and the new Law on Local Self-Governance into the Medium-Term Budget Framework. This enabled local governments to plan and request appropriate budgets, commensurate with their newly assigned social protection functions.

In China, UNICEF’s technical assistance and policy dialogue led to improved fiscal decentralization measures, including increasing financing for certain essential social services and reforming tax rebates. These measures contributed to more equitable social services for children and families (see the text box below).

UNICEF supported generation of child- and equity-focused data and evidence, capturing existing data in budget briefs to stimulate public and policy dialogue around sector and expenditure performance, and promoting citizen-based monitoring, resulting in more transparent and accountable spending.

UNICEF supported analyses of child-focused public spending to inform decision making and improve reporting under the CRC in two countries in East Asia and Pacific, two in South Asia, and seven in Latin America; several more are also under way in East Africa.

The UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office spearheaded a region-wide initiative to develop budget briefs, many jointly carried out with government partners. The analyses of trends and geographic patterns in budget allocations and of expenditures on key social services facilitated dialogue on how to improve public spending performance. Under the leadership of the regional office, there was also an increase in UNICEF’s support to open budget initiatives (e.g., in Madagascar and Mozambique).

In the Comoros, UNICEF advocated at the central level to make budgetary information available to the public, while collaborating with the World Bank to support citizen participation in preparing the 2017 budget.

In Zambia, UNICEF supported government and civil society partners in revising and piloting budget tracking and service-level monitoring tools, allowing real time monitoring of service delivery. A new complaints mechanism increased transparency, accountability and quality of social service delivery.
UNICEF also stepped up evidence-based advocacy and support to national financial decision makers to protect or enhance essential services and programs in countries facing challenging economic, fiscal and security environments.

- In Ukraine, where continuing conflict in the eastern part of the country is delaying social service reforms, UNICEF worked with the Ministries of Social Policy and Finance to address key structural problems, such as outdated and ineffective financing mechanisms.
- In Mozambique, UNICEF’s advocacy and engagement with government, donors and civil society – including through sectoral budget briefs and a transparency initiative with Parliament – saved social sectors from severe budget cuts necessitated by the financial crisis.

Emerging areas of work within PF4C focus on its potential to enhance resilience in certain contexts, to make services more inclusive through additional budget allocations to address gender and disability-related needs and to address the needs of adolescents.

- In Indonesia, UNICEF worked to increase the share of government budget allocations to disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change-related initiatives and emergency preparedness responses in the total government budget.
- In Kyrgyzstan, UNICEF strengthened the capacity of national and local planning and budgeting for child-sensitive risk management, including through a budget allocation for emergency response and DRR planning.
- In the Republic of Moldova, UNICEF’s support led to a greater number of schools applying an education per capital funding formula that provides for the additional cost of responding to the needs of children with disabilities.
- In Tajikistan, UNICEF helped establish a normative framework and budget for adolescents, in particular the most marginalized, to promote their rights to information, quality services and participation. Three programmes specifically targeting adolescents were fully funded from the government budget.

UNICEF headquarters worked to make PF4C efforts in the field more systematic and effective by providing tools for results-based programming, technical guidance and data analysis. A new global PF4C course enhanced staff knowledge of public financial management. Approximately 80 programme and management staff received the training.

Continued support to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Human Rights Council and follow-up to the Addis Agenda for Action on Financing for Development contributed to creating an enabling political environment for PF4C initiatives. UNICEF is also developing a methodology for measuring child-focused public expenditure. The methodology is currently being tested in less developed public financial management settings, and planning is under way for testing in Ethiopia, the United Republic of Tanzania and an Indian state in the spring of 2017, with technical support from the World Bank’s Boost Initiative.
Monitoring global progress

Global monitoring of changes in the size and quality of public financial flows to child-related services and programmes remains a challenge. There are significant time lags in countries’ reporting of financial information; for instance, some 90 countries have not reported any education spending information for the past three years. There is no established global database for some areas, such as nutrition, child protection and WASH. PF4C programmes are often implemented over multi-year periods, meaning that the latest aggregate fiscal indicators are more likely to capture UNICEF’s past efforts rather than its ongoing engagement.

The overall fiscal environment tightened in 2016 for low- and middle-income countries. In this context, UNICEF has stepped up efforts to safeguard public spending on essential sectors such as health and education. The findings from UNICEF’s monitoring suggest that efforts by UNICEF and its partners to influence governments to make child-related policies a budgetary priority and safeguard essential social spending are yielding results (see Figure 8). During 2015–2016, some 75 programme countries increased health and education spending (see Figure 7). Social assistance spending shows a similar trend, with 27 countries estimated to have increased such spending, compared with 23 countries in the previous year.

UNICEF IN CHINA: INFLUENCING FISCAL DECENTRALIZATION REFORMS TO PROMOTE MORE EQUITABLE FINANCING AND SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

In China, the way funds were transferred from the central level to local governments was unclear. The process left local governments, particularly those in the least developed regions, without the fiscal capacity to deliver on their social spending commitments. This created a system that resulted in inequities and was marked by local lobbying for central or provincial grants.

Ultimately, not enough public resources were reaching the most vulnerable families and children. In poorly resourced provinces, some child welfare policies were not implemented at all, or were not implemented fully – denying vulnerable children access to essential services.

UNICEF built on its long-standing collaboration with the Ministry of Finance through the Budget for Children Project to engage in debates on fiscal decentralization reform. This included assessing the grant system and fiscal formulas to understand the adequacy, effectiveness and equity of allocations, and then using that evidence to advocate for systematic changes and governance reforms.

Key findings highlighted the need to:

• Direct priority social spending to those most in need through transfers – for instance, to ensure that rural migrant children receive compulsory education in public schools in major cities;
• Reform the allocation criteria for social sector grants such as the rural community sanitation transfer programme, which showed regressive allocation patterns as the poorest families could not afford the co-payments and were therefore excluded from the benefits; and
• Review the performance of local governors in delivering social services.

The core messages of UNICEF’s policy advice and advocacy were reflected in the new fiscal decentralization reforms outlined by the Government in 2016 in China State Council Circular No. 2016-49. These included centralizing and increasing financing for certain essential social services and reforming tax rebates – all of which contribute to more equitable social services for children and families.

Achieving these results requires engagement over a number of years, with significant political risks. Multi-year flexible financial resources – that is, regular and thematic resources given at the global level – will be key to continuing this work until it yields an improved budgetary framework with adequate resources for the most vulnerable children.
Another way to gauge the contribution of UNICEF’s PF4C efforts is to see if more countries have increased a greater share of social spending on areas such as education and health than for total government expenditure. As can be seen in Figure 8, more countries have protected, become more efficient at managing or increased resources towards health and education in real per capita terms, even when the total government spending has been shrinking, notably in Eastern and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS), East Asia and Latin America. The Middle East and North African region continued to face refugee and political instability challenges, which have diverted both government and UNICEF resources to humanitarian and security-related priorities.

**Challenges and constraints**

Global trends in public spending on social sectors were affected by ongoing adverse events, including the collapse of commodity prices. A review of UNICEF’s Results Assessment Module analysis shows that while some UNICEF country offices had constrained progress in PF4C-related results indicators, a greater number achieved progress despite the fiscal challenges.

Conversely, where country offices flagged limited or reduced fiscal space as a reason for constrained progress in sector programme results, PF4C activities have not been considered, suggesting a missed opportunity: PF4C efforts could have potentially contributed to protecting child-focused services from budget cuts or improved the efficiency of existing spending.

Other important external challenges range from limited access to budget information or key finance decision makers to weak financial management information systems. Internal challenges include unpredictable financial support and evaluation-related gaps. Despite these challenges, programming has become more systematic and the level of staff technical knowledge has improved.

*Values for some countries were estimated based on existing trends in a given country. Source: UNICEF calculation based on IMF WEO, UNESCO, WHO and WDI.*
UNICEF IN UGANDA: LINKING BUDGETARY OUTPUTS AND CHILD-RELATED OUTCOMES TO IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY FOR CHILDREN

Uganda’s social sectors have traditionally relied heavily on donor funding. Declining budget support in recent years has made it critical to achieve better value for money with existing public resources and ensure that they address key child deprivations.

In 2014, in Uganda UNICEF initiated a close partnership with the Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Economic Policy Research Centre to develop a framework to monitor the effective delivery of national programmes affecting children. The initiative tracked decentralized allocations across three priority sectors, including education, health and water. This new approach, ‘Rethinking PF4C: Monitoring for results’, closely examined budget trends at the regional level and captured the impact of public investments on social outcomes such as school completion rates, antenatal care visits and improved water source functionality.

Analysis of the information collected shows that poor outcomes are not necessarily the result of insufficient inputs. As a result of these findings, the Government reviewed the allocation criteria for local government grants. More equitable resource allocations resulting from the revised formulae are expected to make the provision of decentralized services more balanced.

These efforts to track service delivery performance and impact are helping to reshape the future of equity-based financing. Recently, the government launched the Social Service Delivery Equity Atlas, which provides user-friendly access to analysis of budget trends at the regional level, the impact of public investments on social outcomes, and an indication of where public resources are reducing socio-economic inequalities among children and improving children’s lives – and where they are not.

Uganda’s National Social Service Delivery Equity Atlas can be downloaded here: www.unicef.org/uganda/resources_18862.html.
PROGRAMME AREA 4: GOVERNANCE AND DECENTRALIZATION

Headline results

UNICEF’s engagement in decentralization and local governance (DLG) plays a crucial role in achieving results for children, according to a Stocktake finalized in 2016. DLG can lead to more equitable resource distribution among local governments, increased local government expenditure for children and expanded basic social services. In 2016, 65 UNICEF country offices reported DLG initiatives, up from 51 in 2011. Most of the work pertained to local government planning, budget and management. UNICEF country offices used various approaches, undertaking social accountability initiatives and supporting participatory planning and budgeting processes at the local government level, including through information and communication technology (ICT) innovation such as U-Report and Rapid Pro. In 2016, participatory mechanisms that allow the most disadvantaged to influence local and national development agendas were in place in 108 programme countries (70 per cent), up from 89 (59 per cent) in 2014, and against the 2017 target of 134 countries.

To strengthen inclusive urban governance, in 2016, an additional five country offices supported child-friendly cities initiatives. Fifty six programme countries with large urban populations helped municipalities collect and use disaggregated data, up from 55 in 2015 and gradually approaching the 2017 target of 68 countries.

In 2016, 51 programme countries (33 per cent) had a national policy on climate change or the environment that refers to children, exceeding the 2017 target of 50 countries. National policy in 99 countries (64 per cent) made substantial reference to climate change or environmental sustainability in at least one key sector, such as water, health care or education – a steady increase compared with 59 per cent in 2015 and 49 per cent in 2014.

Brief outline of programme area

UNICEF’s work on governance and decentralization consists of three components: (1) DLG; (2) engaging with parliaments and the private sector; and (3) environmental sustainability.

In many countries, local governments, including urban municipalities, are responsible for a wide range of service delivery functions, making their decisions central to the coverage and quality of services and the overall well-being of children. UNICEF’s engagement in DLG is therefore an important part of achieving children’s rights at the
local level. In this area, UNICEF’s focus is threefold: (1) ensuring that local government development plans reflect the priorities of traditionally excluded groups, including adolescents and youth, women, people with disabilities and indigenous people, through inclusive participation in local decision making; (2) strengthening local government services for children, including through improved coordination, stronger data systems and enhanced technical capacity; and (3) ensuring that local government budgets are equitable and allocate funds to benefit children most in need.

At the national level, parliamentarians play a significant role in supporting public accountability and promoting and monitoring child rights. As part of its broader governance work, UNICEF seeks to engage with parliaments on child rights legislation and budget decisions and strengthen their oversight role. Because decisions on how to regulate and cooperate with the private sector affect the environment in which children live as well as the quality and costs of essential services, UNICEF also engages with the private sector and helps governments formulate and implement national child rights business principles.

Effective governance for child rights at both the national and local levels also includes an emphasis on environmental sustainability. UNICEF engages in national policy dialogue and supports implementation of environmental policies, for instance seeking to mainstream environmental sustainability within local government planning processes.

2016 results in detail

Making decentralization and local governance work for children

In 2016, UNICEF DLG engagement continued to build momentum: 65 country offices reported DLG initiatives, compared with 57 in 2015 and 51 in 2011. UNICEF also finalized a Stocktaking exercise on its DLG engagement over a five-year period (2011–2015), finding strong programming across regions and income levels, including in fragile contexts. UNICEF offices in CEE/CIS, East Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, South Asia, and West and Central Africa particularly emphasize DLG, with more than 70 per cent of country offices involved in some type of DLG initiative (see the text box, below).

Inclusive participation in decision making

DLG work supports public engagement in local government processes to ensure that local development plans and budgets reflect the needs and priorities of the most disadvantaged, including children. In 2016, 108 UNICEF country offices reported mechanisms for public engagement to influence development agendas in local, subnational or national plans.

Some country offices supported innovative accountability mechanisms for children’s rights with local governments.

A new global Stocktake, based on analysis of 2011–2015 country office annual reports and input from 68 countries sheds light on UNICEF’s engagement with local governments and decentralization processes.

DLG work is most often undertaken by social policy, education, health and child protection sections, with links to communication for development, disaster risk reduction and peacebuilding programming. This engagement allows country offices to reach out to the most vulnerable children, families and communities. Some offices consider it a prerequisite to achieving country programme objectives.

UNICEF can build on key strengths when engaging in DLG: Strong national and subnational presence has allowed UNICEF to bring an on-the-ground perspective to national policy dialogue, including on decentralization. Local governments, which frequently are committed to providing strong services and meeting the needs of families and communities, make natural UNICEF partners. UNICEF is well placed to collaborate with development partners, bringing a child-centric and equity perspective.

To maximize the impact of DLG work and achieve greater equity for children, a more strategic and systematic approach is needed. The Stocktake recommends strengthening analysis of the national DLG context; better linking programme areas as well as decentralization and local governance programming; pursuing strategic partnerships; and improving results-based programming, with a focus on demonstrating how DLG engagement translates into concrete results for children.

For the full Stocktake visit: https://unicef.sharepoint.com/teams/Communities/SIP/Documents/DLG-Stocktake.pdf.

In Burkina Faso, UNICEF continued its citizen-led social accountability initiative in 70 municipalities, contributing to improved social service access for the most vulnerable groups and enabling children’s and women’s participation. The initiative focused on strengthening the capacity of community-based organizations to participate in local government planning processes and monitor budgets and expenditures in education, health, and water and sanitation. An evaluation revealed increased capacity
Country offices support local government planning processes to ensure they reflect the needs of children and their caregivers. In Bangladesh, UNICEF's Local Capacity Building and Community Empowerment Programme supported bottom-up community-based planning in local government planning and budgeting exercises, helping to develop and implement child-focused initiatives such as building additional classrooms, upgrading playgrounds, and raising awareness on child marriage. In Colombia, UNICEF entered into an agreement with the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare and Save the Children to support child-friendly municipal and departmental development plans and promote child and adolescent participation. In 21 territories with large indigenous and Afro-descendent communities, UNICEF provided technical support to ensure that plans reflect ethnic and environmental issues.

Stronger local government service delivery
In Haiti, UNICEF continued to support the Kore Fanmi multi-sectoral community project in three municipalities to strengthen the reach of municipal social services, inform communities about existing services and influence behaviours. Community health workers and supervisors helped reach more than 60,000 beneficiaries with health service referrals, birth registration, hygiene awareness, toilet construction, and disaster prevention messaging. In Lesotho, UNICEF’s one stop shop (OSS) initiative, which brings together multiple services, was scaled-up to cover one community council in each district, and 30,000 children received birth certificates during OSS Services Day events. In Cambodia, UNICEF strengthened the capacity of local government authorities to analyse, plan, implement and monitor social service delivery in six provinces, contributing to doubling the number of commune-managed community preschools, with an overall increase in early childhood education enrolment from 5 to 15 per cent, and an increase in birth registration within 30 days after birth from 70 per cent to 90 per cent.

Equitable local government budgets
Many UNICEF country offices focused on leveraging local government funds for children and strengthening local government budgeting processes. In Argentina, UNICEF involved more than 34,000 adolescents in participatory municipal budgeting and helped make it a priority on the agenda of the National Secretariat of Municipal Affairs. In Mongolia, UNICEF promoted children's and communities' roles in local budgeting processes, which contributed to local authorities' decisions to increase budget allocations for children – up 5 per cent over the previous year in Nalaikh Province and up 1 per cent in Khuvsgul Province – despite the difficult financial crisis.

ICT plays a potential big role in facilitating public engagement in local development planning and budgeting processes. In Zimbabwe, RapidPro was used as a tool for citizen engagement in local government budget processes in towns of Bulawayo and Ruwa. Drawn from the local authority databases, 65,000 residents were identified to make inputs into the budgeting processes. Despite the 40 per cent response rate, the absolute number of respondents represented a marked improvement on past budget consultations. Similarly, UNICEF Zimbabwe also used U-Report to improve communication between residents and local authorities around WASH: Residents reported disruptions in service delivery with response teams immediately receiving SMS notifications. The system has reduced distances communities travel to report faults, reduced response times, improved accountability and, is contributing to improved relations between local government councils and residents. However, the explicit linking of ICT innovation such as RapidPro and U-Report in facilitating participation in local government decision-making and accountability, is an area that could be further explored by UNICEF country offices.

UNICEF’s work on gender equality in local governance and decentralization includes strengthening women's and girls’ participation in local development planning processes, capacity development and training for female local government representatives and strengthening gender-sensitive plans, budgets and services. To address gender parity in primary and secondary education in the Niger, UNICEF supported evidence-based girls’ education action plans in 23 municipalities. Enrolment increased by up to 8 per cent, and 46 per cent of new pupils were girls.

In 2016, local government planning, budget and management – which frequently requires intensive engagement and support across jurisdictions – accounted for just over US$11.9 million of UNICEF’s global spending, compared with US$12.9 million in 2015. Several country offices engaged in strategic partnerships with United Nations agencies, other development partners, and national stakeholders such as civil service academies and local government associations – a cost-effective and sustainable way to support local government processes that could be further expanded. UNICEF also works through joint United Nations programmes.

Strengthening urban governance to support inclusive child rights
Through child-friendly city initiatives, 21 local governments commit to children's rights, including through child participation, a child-friendly legal framework, a citywide children's rights strategy, a children's rights unit and child rights awareness-raising and advocacy.22 In 2015 and 2016 in Belize, UNICEF helped set up a Child Advisory Body under the Sustainable and Child-Friendly Municipalities Initiative within all nine municipalities to engage children and adolescents in municipal planning and annual review processes and strengthen their capacity to hold duty bearers to account. More than 2,500 children, including out-of-school children and children with disabilities, participated directly or indirectly. In total, 15 country offices reported
work on child-friendly cities or communities, including five new countries in 2016 (Albania, Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Timor-Leste and the Gulf Area Office), accounting for just over US$1 million in UNICEF global spending on social inclusion.

Engaging parliaments to promote child rights

At the national level, parliamentarians and ombudsmen have significant roles in supporting public accountability and promoting and monitoring child rights. UNICEF increasingly engages parliamentarians, particularly in middle income countries in CEE/CIS and Latin America and the Caribbean, focusing on child participation, legislative changes, resource allocation and strengthening capacities of specific parliamentary committees or around recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

UNICEF’s advocacy with parliamentarians resulted in Georgia’s adoption of laws to improve legal safeguards of children living and working on the streets and victims of domestic violence. In Peru, advocacy led to the formation of a Parliamentary subgroup focusing on children, which endorsed recommendations made by UNICEF and allies from the Committee for Concerted Action in the Fight against Poverty (MCLCP) to improve resource allocation for children in the national budget in 2017. Some recommendations, most of them related to health, were approved by Congress.

UNICEF country offices also provide capacity development and training for parliamentarians. In Belarus, UNICEF provided explanatory statements to the Standing Commission of the Parliament on General Comment 4 and informed on CRC General Comment 19 on public budgeting. In Kazakhstan, UNICEF – together with the Parliament, the Ministry of Education and Science and the National Commissioner for Child Rights – organized an event dedicated to the implementation of outstanding recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in its fourth periodic report.

Country offices also supported South-South cooperation between national parliaments. For example, in Albania, UNICEF’s advocacy and technical expertise helped the South East European Cooperation Process Parliamentary Assembly General Committee on Social Development, Education, Research and Science draft its report and influenced a resolution on ‘Protecting the Rights of Children on the Move’.

Engaging with the private sector to strengthen Child Rights Business Principles

In 2016, 31 countries (up from 30 in 2015 and 26 in 2014) reported that their governments addressed the Children’s Rights and Business Principles (CRBP) in their dealings with the private sector. Only 16 (10 per cent) reported that the country’s Chamber of Commerce addressed CRBP in its charter and guidance to the private sector. Nineteen country offices reported engagement around CRBP with particularly strong engagement in upper-middle-income countries in CEE/CIS, East Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. While further efforts are needed, particularly to go beyond supporting public-private partnerships, several country offices have already demonstrated what can be accomplished.

In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, UNICEF continued to work on an Integrated Corporate Engagement (ICE) strategy, initiated in 2015 in partnership with business associations to promote the CRBP. In 2016, the National Chamber of Industries joined the group, and more than 30 companies participated in an event on how to include the CRPB in Corporate Social Responsibility strategies.

In Croatia, UNICEF developed an ambitious agenda to engage the corporate sector, using the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the CRBP as a normative framework and taking the European Union Directive on Non-Financial Reporting as an opportunity to support businesses in integrating human and child rights into their policies and practices.

In Mongolia, UNICEF expanded its engagement in CRBP networks with local businesses and provided training for the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Business Council of Mongolia. A partnership with the country’s largest mobile/information technology service provider covered online child protection issues and included dissemination of SMS messages provided by UNICEF.

In Madagascar, UNICEF worked to support responsible business behaviour with respect to children’s rights in the workplace, marketplace and community, specifically in the tourism, extractive and ICT sectors, and advocated to bring the private sector on board for the SDG implementation agenda. More than 300 private-sector organizations, civil society and the public sector participated in an SDG and CRBP Forum. With key participants and other partners, UNICEF developed the first corporate social responsibility guidelines for private-sector companies in Madagascar.

Ensuring children’s rights through environmental sustainability

Building on momentum generated by the Paris Climate Agreement and the UNICEF report Unless We Act Now on how climate change affects children, the UNICEF Executive Director dedicated his first Executive Board speech of 2016 to climate change. He subsequently instructed all country offices to address climate change in their country programmes by 2020 through advocacy and accountability, climate change adaptation through resilient development, climate change mitigation or low carbon development and greening of UNICEF.

In 2016, 51 programme countries (33 per cent) had a national policy on climate change or the environment that refers to children. This was down from 53 (35 per cent) in 2015 – but the number of countries where national policy in at least one key sector (for example, water, health care
Many UNICEF offices stepped up their engagement on climate change and environmental sustainability to bring about improved results for children. In Bangladesh, a study on the impact of climate change on children fed into the first UNICEF strategy to support the government on climate change adaptation and environmental sustainability, including through resilient services. In Madagascar, UNICEF partnered with UNDP and accessed funding from the Global Environment Facility to help strengthen the resilience of water supply systems to improve children’s nutrition and health. Bangladesh, Fiji, Malawi and Myanmar are exploring how environmental sustainability management in the health sector could bring about improved results beyond the cold chain. In Zimbabwe, UNICEF conducted a situational analysis of the energy status of institutions that support children in five districts, which highlights widespread energy poverty in Zimbabwe and its negative impact on children’s development, looking at schools and health clinics.

UNICEF’s global advocacy report, *Clear the Air for Children: The impact of air pollution on children*, launched at the 22nd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22) in Morocco, brought attention internally and externally to the importance of clean air for children. An increased number of country offices (including Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, India, Kazakhstan and Mongolia) are now working on the issue.

In addition to launching the report, UNICEF in Morocco, along with its partners, organized learning sessions in middle schools to raise adolescents’ awareness on climate change, help them understand COP22 challenges and empower them to advocate with decision makers and mobilize their communities. A total of 129 students in eight schools developed small, innovative projects and local solutions to reduce climate impact and participated in the Conference of the Youth (COY12). A collaboration with Philips Lighting increased energy efficiency at a residential school, and the cost savings enabled investment in the quality of the building (see the text box, below).

All UNICEF offices reported on their 2015 environmental footprint. UNICEF purchased carbon credits to make itself climate neutral for 2015, while numerous offices took action to reduce their footprint, for example through energy audits, LED lighting and solar power systems.

**Challenges and constraints**

As the Stocktake identified, to maximize the impact of DLG work and achieve greater equity for children, UNICEF could benefit from a more strategic and systematic approach to DLG engagement. To address this issue, UNICEF headquarters has developed a series of guidance documents to assist country offices. This includes the planned strategic framework for DLG (2017), and technical guidance notes on intergovernmental fiscal transfers (finalized in 2016), Child Participation in Local Governance (expected in 2017), and gender and local governance (expected in 2017).

Bottlenecks in developing partnerships in this area are sometimes caused by misconceptions about the role that UNICEF can play in DLG. UNICEF is not always recognized as a partner in this area of work. UNICEF has been actively engaging in global partnerships – such as the DeLoG development partner network, an informal network of 29 bilateral and multilateral development partners in the field of DLG – to address this issue and raise awareness of the strong and important role that UNICEF can play in DLG from the social sector and child rights perspectives.

While UNICEF stepped up its work in the urban context, particularly through a new draft global framework, this work and the local governance and decentralization work should be sufficiently aligned.

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**A MORE ENLIGHTENED SCHOOL FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE**

A new project to provide energy-efficient lighting for the Mansour Dahbi School in Morocco launched during COP22 was carried out by the Philips Foundation, Philips Lighting, the Ministry of Education and Training and UNICEF.

Nearly 650 students, including 200 girls enrolled in the boarding school – many from the region’s poorest rural villages – are benefitting from the latest LED lighting products, which combine better lighting quality with low power consumption – achieving up to 80 per cent energy savings compared with conventional lighting systems. The project improved the environment for students and personnel by enhancing the lighting of indoor and outdoor spaces for better security and safety and support to children’s learning.

The students themselves documented their satisfaction with the improvement, producing the film *A Brighter Future*. “Before, we couldn’t go out to the school yard, not even to the toilets, because they were dimly lit at night,” said Fatiha, 13, who wants to become a doctor. “Now it’s different. I feel like my future has been illuminated. Thanks to the energy efficient light, I can do my homework at night and play with my friends after school.”
PROGRAMME AREA 5: SOCIAL INCLUSION IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

Headline results
The integration of disaster and conflict risk in national planning and monitoring systems is steadily increasing, with 79 per cent of programme countries in 2016 demonstrating progress, up from 74 per cent in 2015 and 64 per cent in 2014. At subnational level, 58 per cent of countries (89 countries) reported integration of disaster and conflict risk in local systems, up from 52 per cent in 2015 and 43 per cent in 2014.

Accountability issues are equally important in humanitarian, fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Of the 89 reporting offices, 70 per cent provided information to affected populations to help them make informed decisions, compared with 66 per cent in 2015. In 2016, 83 per cent (compared to 79 per cent in 2015) reported that affected populations were consulted throughout one or more phases of humanitarian programming – e.g., planning needs assessment and response, project design or response planning, project implementation, distribution and service delivery and monitoring.

Efforts to link social protection and humanitarian action were also strengthened in 2016. UNICEF supported fragile and conflict-prone countries in adopting social protection responses to address the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable populations and expanded its support to integrate internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees into existing social protection systems. UNICEF supported efforts to address emergency prevention, preparedness and response in 49 countries’ social protection systems, up from 35 in 2014 and 42 in 2015. UNICEF programming for humanitarian action contributed to building sustainable social protection systems in 38 countries, compared with 24 in 2014 and 35 in 2015. UNICEF was an active participant at the World Humanitarian Summit and the Grand Bargain, collaborating with partners to engage with stakeholders and develop new global commitments.

Brief outline of programme area
Social Inclusion in Humanitarian Settings encompasses efforts related to each of the social inclusion programme areas in fragile, humanitarian and risk-prone contexts. Interventions included:

1. Working with national and local governments to improve preparedness, prevention and response to shocks and cumulative stresses, taking account of the most marginalized children and families;
2. Peacebuilding efforts that promote young people’s engagement and empowerment to reduce future conflict;

3. Keeping vulnerable groups visible during emergencies by facilitating direct consultation with affected populations as part of humanitarian performance monitoring and accountability; and

4. Strengthening social protection responses in fragile and humanitarian contexts, including before crises happen, in ways that promote humanitarian outcomes, increase resilience and contribute to longer-term development of social protection systems.

2016 results in detail

Improving preparedness, prevention and response
UNICEF supported governments to meet their commitments to disaster risk reduction (DRR) and mitigation, in line with the Sendai Framework and the wider 2030 Agenda. This included strengthening national level policies and capacities, enhancing sector-specific DRR capacities and plans, and supporting the development of subnational and local government DRR plans.

In China, UNICEF continued its DRR Model Pilot Programme with the objectives of improving the knowledge and capacity of public authorities, service providers and communities; building cross-sectoral linkages to increase preparedness and strengthening resilience in disaster-prone areas. A partnership with the central coordinating body for emergency response and DRR was strengthened. UNICEF also helped establish an integrated provincial resource centre to strengthen capacities of local emergency responders, provide technical support for emergency preparedness and response and support field monitoring.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNICEF helped develop a manual on the role of social protection systems in emergency preparedness and response, which was piloted in four high-risk municipalities. With key local actors, four Centres for Social Work conducted vulnerability risk assessments and developed local Social Protection Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plans, which helped raise awareness on the role of social protection in DRR.

In Myanmar, UNICEF continued to support the capacity building and training of government staff on inclusive disaster risk reduction planning, warehouse management and promoting inclusive and child-focused public awareness of eight common hazards. Through its seat on the government’s Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR) Task Force, UNICEF influenced the drafting of an action plan for the National Disaster Management Committee. UNICEF also organized a consultation on the DRR Youth Volunteer (DRRYV) Programme Strategy and supported its development in nine townships.

UNICEF headquarters led a participatory process to develop and issue an organizational procedure and guidance on preparedness and emergency response, and facilitated regional trainings in Kenya and Panama. The new guidance and procedure are in line with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Preparedness Framework and Emergency Response Plan, as well as UNICEF’s risk-informed programming and other procedures and guidelines under development.

At the local government level, UNICEF headquarters supported operational research in three countries (Kenya, Nepal and the Philippines) to identify key bottlenecks to child-sensitive DRR, and helped develop a technical guidance note on Child-Sensitive Disaster Risk Reduction within a Decentralization and Local Governance Context. Drafting was informed by a consultation/learning event with 10 country offices and two regional offices. The guidance note will be finalized in 2017.

DRR Emergency Preparedness Platform software developed in 2016 will be finalized in 2017. UNICEF created a global risk-tracking table to complement country office risk analysis, and exceeded its 2016 target for updates in the Early Warning Early Action platform, with 94 per cent of country offices updating their risk analysis.

UNICEF headquarters took the lead on inter-agency and national preparedness capacity development activities by leading the partnership with the WFP, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on the DFID-supported Ready to Respond preparedness programme and the Global Humanitarian Capacity Building Programme, which also includes the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

In 2016, inclusive items such as a magnifying glass added to the end of a ruler, a teaching clock, posters with braille and a bell inside inflatable balls were added to education kits used in emergencies, enabling more children to learn and play. UNICEF also developed an Adolescent Kit for Expression and Innovation to engage adolescents aged 10–17 who are affected by conflict.

UNICEF headquarters completed new Guidance on Risk Informed Programming that provides a methodology for UNICEF country offices, programme sectors, government and other partners to participate and contribute to the design and implementation of programmes grounded in a deep understanding of the risk landscape. The guidance includes a module on Risk-Informed Social Inclusion and is being piloted in Bosnia and Herzegovina, India, Malawi and Sudan in the first quarter of 2017.
Building peace and strengthening resilience

UNICEF approaches peacebuilding through three pathways: strengthening state-society relations through the delivery of social services; improving community relations and social cohesion through platforms for dialogue and mutual understanding; and developing individual peace capacities by strengthening services that respond to individual psychosocial needs and well-being.

In Kyrgyzstan, UNICEF supported peacebuilding efforts by engaging adolescents in conflict-prone communities in empowerment initiatives and increasing their capacity to reduce conflicts and cope with challenges. In collaboration with UNDP and the UN Peacebuilding Fund, UNICEF piloted active youth engagement in local council elections in communities deemed at risk of electoral violence. More than 3,000 adolescents participated in trainings in civic journalism and debates that explored issues related to local council elections, messaging for a peaceful electoral process, and inclusion of youth issues on candidates’ electoral agendas. Youth published 12 articles in local print media and 10 photo-stories, and more than 44 articles were shared on social media.

UNICEF continued to support a cross-border peacebuilding programme between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan that is funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund and the Governments of Japan and the United Kingdom. The programme focuses on a cluster of communities on the border between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, also known as the Fergana Valley. Children and youth in this area live with a history of conflict and repeated interethnic tension characterized by sporadic violence and fatalities in cross-border clashes. Given the complex interplay of structural factors and emerging conditions, interventions focusing on children, adolescents and youth are vital to addressing conflict, security and stability needs in the region.

By engaging UNICEF country offices, the United Nations Country Teams, governments and civil society organizations on both sides, the programme aims to strengthen resilience of the target communities to violence by creating an enabling environment and opportunities for children and young people to engage in positive activities and civic life. It aims to help young people become less susceptible to extremist and nationalist narratives that fuel conflict, and be more tolerant of other ethnic groups. Activities have focused on (1) building capacity of local and national-level authorities for more inclusive participation and engagement of children and youth to prevent violence, conflict and extremism; (2) providing a protective environment and access to justice for vulnerable children, adolescent and youth, including provision of education and rehabilitation services to those in contact with the law; and (3) supporting children and adolescent girls and boys from diverse ethnic communities to engage in a range of peacebuilding activities at the community level and have access to innovative learning opportunities.

In the Philippines, UNICEF and local partners including universities, cultural centres and artists trained adolescents to use the arts to conduct peace advocacy and dialogue in their communities. They shared their projects on social media and in the press, reaching approximately 485,874 people. Thirty out-of-school youth were supported to enter an alternative learning school for peace and arts.

To help UNICEF staff understand, situate and operationalize conflict analysis into programme planning and implementation – towards a more systematic approach to conflict-sensitive programming – UNICEF headquarters developed a new ‘Guide to Conflict Analysis’, as part of a training package on conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding. It can be used as a stand-alone resource, or as part of the broader guidance on risk-informed programming. To date, training workshops have been held in Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and in the Regional Offices of South Asia, Eastern and Southern Africa, and West and Central Africa. At least 15 UNICEF country offices have requested support from headquarters to conduct the training in 2017.

Local governments frequently play an important role in peacebuilding, either in strengthening state-society relations or bringing different groups together and fostering social cohesion. UNICEF headquarters initiated and developed a guidance note on Peacebuilding through Local Governance, which summarizes key research and includes practical experience and good practices from Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, the Niger and Pakistan.

In 2016, there was increased commitment to improve UNICEF programming and operational support in fragile contexts, with all regional offices now engaged. The analytical report, Enhanced Programme and Operational Support in Fragile Contexts, and 18 case studies were finalized in November 2016. A partnership between UNICEF and the World Bank in fragile contexts – a key component of the draft Strategic Partnership Framework between the two organizations – seeks to identify a small group of ‘fragile’ countries where collaboration can boost the overall impact of work.

UNICEF phased out and conducted a final evaluation of the Peacebuilding Education and Advocacy programme, which featured 14 country-specific conflict analyses, assessing the key conflict dynamics in each country, and focusing on the education sector’s role in peacebuilding. The programme enhanced individual and institutional capacities to resolve conflicts peacefully, incorporated conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding into education policies and developed evidence and learning about the role of social services in peacebuilding.

Strengthening humanitarian performance monitoring and accountability to affected populations

In line with the World Humanitarian Summit commitments, UNICEF has continued to strengthen its approach to performance management for humanitarian response,
recognizing the strong connections between accountability to at-risk and affected people and the convergence of a range of communication and community engagement approaches. This process involved creating broad Communications for Development, supporting mechanisms for participation, establishing feedback and complaint mechanisms that feed into evidence-based advocacy and coordinating community engagement and participation, all with an emphasis on inclusion of the most vulnerable.

As cluster lead agency, UNICEF supported the integration of common accountability approaches, working with global clusters on guidance and tools and piloting them in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Jordan.

Country office efforts were focused primarily on supporting participation in coordinated needs assessment and feedback mechanisms as part of programme monitoring. These mechanisms helped strengthen humanitarian C4D preparedness and response capacities by expanding U-Report to give people, including children, a direct link to their governments. Currently, 56 country offices (63 per cent) are reporting that they have consistently enabled affected populations to participate in humanitarian response processes and decisions, up from 47 in 2015 and 42 in 2014.

In Pakistan, for example, to improve accountability to beneficiaries and enhance transparency, UNICEF continued to pilot RapidPro to generate real-time beneficiary feedback on the usefulness and effectiveness of family hygiene kits. The feedback will improve the contents of future hygiene kits and give beneficiaries a voice in projects affecting them. Real-time information was received from nearly 2,500 recipients out of 20,000 who were provided kits, representing a 12.4 per cent response rate. In Sri Lanka, as part of the post-disaster needs assessment, UNICEF and Save the Children consulted some 800 children affected by the 2016 floods and landslides in a safe and enabling environment so they could share their voices and opinions on the impact of the disaster and emergency and recovery efforts. The resulting report will inform key advocacy on the need for age-disaggregated data prior to and during an emergency.

UNICEF made significant progress in updating emergency preparedness and response learning modules designed to equip country offices and regional surge rosters and teams with the fundamentals of humanitarian action and provide a process for updating risk analysis, country-specific scenario planning, response, general preparedness and specific contingency planning. A reference document provides an overview of emergency preparedness and response basics for all country offices, particularly for non-Level 2-Level 3 emergencies. A humanitarian leadership induction package was developed as part of a revised orientation programme for new representatives, and guidance and support to senior managers in high threat and complex environments is currently in process.

Linking social protection and humanitarian action

UNICEF expanded its work on social protection in humanitarian and fragile contexts, ensuring that staff were better prepared and able to respond to diverse types of situations. UNICEF supported humanitarian action programming that helped build sustainable social protection systems in 38 countries, up from 24 in 2014 and 35 in 2015. In countries affected by the migrant crisis, including Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, UNICEF worked to ensure social protection included the entire population in need, including internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees (see the text box, below).

UNICEF helped fragile and conflict-prone countries, including Afghanistan, Somalia and Yemen, adapt social protection responses to address the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable populations. In Afghanistan, UNICEF worked with the Government to design and roll out a cash transfer pilot targeted to the poorest families with children under 10, currently benefiting approximately 9,000 children. An impact evaluation of the pilot highlighted the impact of various cash transfer delivery modalities. UNICEF, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, is assessing the use of cash and existing social protection programmes as a response to emergencies.

Other work focused on adapting social protection programmes to better respond to climate-related shocks. UNICEF supported countries including Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi and Swaziland in their response to the effects of El Niño. In Madagascar, UNICEF advocated with the Government and partners for the expansion of cash transfer interventions to respond to the drought, including an Emergency Cash Transfer Programme covering 52,000 families and livelihoods grants. In Lesotho, UNICEF supported an emergency top-up to the Child Grant Programme, providing 26,000 households with financial support. UNICEF advised the Government on using the National Information System for Social Assistance to identify beneficiaries for the emergency response. The humanitarian situation was an opportunity to expand coverage of the Child Grant Programme and strengthen Lesotho’s key social protection tools.

UNICEF helped 49 countries incorporate emergency prevention, preparedness and response in their social protection systems and programmes. In Nepal, after the devastating earthquakes of the previous year, UNICEF worked throughout 2016 to improve the cash transfer programme, revise disaster risk prevention protocols, and update early recovery guidelines. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, after heavy flooding throughout 2014 and 2015, UNICEF strengthened the capacities of relevant authorities to prepare and respond to these and future emergencies, and helped develop a manual on the role of social protection systems in emergency preparedness and response, piloted in four high-risk municipalities.
UNICEF worked to strengthen its own capacities to better respond to humanitarian situations by facilitating team-building opportunities for social protection and emergency teams. In Kiev, Ukraine, UNICEF organized a workshop with social protection and emergency teams from more than 15 country offices to discuss shared experiences and improve joint work. As a result, a set of social protection considerations was integrated into the Core Commitments for Children, which guide UNICEF’s operation in emergencies.

At the global level, UNICEF, together with the World Bank, DFID, FAO, ECHO and WFP, contributed to a joint statement at the World Humanitarian Summit highlighting the potential role of social protection systems to address humanitarian situations. Under the Grand Bargain that resulted from the World Humanitarian Summit, agencies committed to strengthening the capacity of social protection systems to effectively address emergency prevention, preparedness and response and enhance resilience.

UNICEF led partners in framing and planning a conference on social protection in fragile and humanitarian contexts that will take place in Brussels in mid-2017.

Challenges and constraints

Significant challenges arise for work in fragile and humanitarian contexts, where crises are complex and unfold at a fast pace. Especially when crises are protracted and conflict-related, greater financial, operational and technical support are needed to effectively address countries’ needs. Humanitarian and development actors need to coordinate better in humanitarian response efforts. Positive strides have been made by UNICEF and partners at the local level, but complementary responses will require greater collaboration.

UNICEF is a key partner in the global efforts to link social protection and humanitarian action, given its strong country presence, technical capacity and comprehensive approach to reach the poorest and most vulnerable populations. Even with such comparative advantages, however, UNICEF needs to expand its own capacities at the global, regional and country levels to meet growing demands, both for staff specialized in this area of work and for training of existing staff.
CROSS-CUTTING WORK

Much of the work of the social inclusion outcome is by nature cross cutting, supporting and interacting with UNICEF’s work in health, education, nutrition, WASH, HIV and protection. This includes stand-alone efforts to strengthen human rights, address discrimination or promote participation of young people, as described in the second programme area above. Nevertheless, there also ways in which these cross-cutting issues help strengthen work in the other four programme areas of social inclusion. These efforts are described below.

Applying a C4D lens to social inclusion programming helps tackle harmful social norms and practices that may contribute to traditional and harmful social practices, social exclusion and discrimination. For example, C4D approaches including community dialogue, social mobilisation and advocacy were employed to engage communities in identifying and supporting solutions to accelerate efforts to end child marriage, promote girls’ education and reduce marginalization of minorities. C4D interventions can also be employed to enhance the impacts of social protection, and especially the implementation of cash transfer programmes. UNICEF assisted countries to combine the delivery of cash transfers together with other social services (for example, in Ethiopia, Madagascar, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam). Cash transfer payment times are often utilized as an opportunity to convey the potential benefits such interventions hold for the recipient households. For example, in Mali C4D interventions were applied to raise awareness and enhance community dialogue to eradicate child marriage and female genital mutilation, and in Zimbabwe they were used to raise awareness on HIV prevention among children and pregnant women.

The promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is central to UNICEF’s mandate and its focus on equity. In 2016, gender mainstreaming in social inclusion focused on increasing public financing, improving the quality of public social protection systems (including cash transfers), and strengthening women’s voices and participation in decision making for improved access to and control of public resources.

The expansion of cash transfers to women is a critical effort for fostering gender-responsive social inclusion. Evidence suggests that the transfer of cash to women in the household contributes to greater investments for children and the diversification of household economic activities. Evaluation results in Kenya, South Africa and Zimbabwe show important benefits for girls, especially in the form of delayed sexual debut and pregnancies, generally by helping girls to stay in school and reducing the need to engage in transactional sex to pay for their daily needs. Such findings inform policy dialogue and spur further action on other gender-responsive national social protection plans, linking women receiving cash to low interest micro-credit services and associated vocational training. For example, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNICEF supported nearly 20,000 women to gain access to microfinance.

In 2016, UNICEF continued to engage in promoting the meaningful participation of adolescents at community and national levels to influence development agendas that affect them. At country level, initiatives mostly focused on creating and promoting platforms for engaging children and adolescents on issues of their concern (for example, in Belize) and measures to strengthen accountability among governmental partners on child rights (for instance, in Indonesia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Nepal, the Philippines and Zambia).

The different components of early childhood development have a proven impact on reducing child poverty and improving life chances. Expanding quality, affordable childcare for young children is an important part of the response to poverty, because it can free parents – especially women – to take up economic activities that contribute to household well-being, while also giving children a safe and nurturing environment. Forty-three per cent of UNICEF country offices that worked on childcare in 2016 reported that more than half of young children had access to quality, affordable care (an increase of 5 per cent from 2015). To accelerate results for young children in countries and engage a wide range of stakeholders, the Early Childhood Development Network was developed and launched by UNICEF and the World Bank Group in 2016. The network adopted a common Result Framework and 5 Core Actions and will compile recommendations for the legislative framework, setting quality standards and scaling up childcare services.

Attention to resilience and social inclusion in emergencies is reinforced in social inclusion programming, both to prevent recurrences and to protect vulnerable populations in humanitarian situations. In 2016 UNICEF continued to work with national and local governments to improve preparedness, prevention and response to shocks and cumulative stresses (for example, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, China and Myanmar). This included strengthening national-level policies and capacities, enhancing sector specific disaster risk reduction capacities and plans, and supporting the development of subnational and local government disaster risk reduction plans.

UNICEF also continually invests in peacebuilding by strengthening state-society relations through the delivery of social services; improving community relations and social cohesion through platforms for dialogue and mutual understanding; and developing individual peace capacities by strengthening services that respond to individual psychosocial needs and well-being (for example, in Kyrgyzstan, the Philippines and Tajikistan).
FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development envisions a world that invests in its children, recognizing the need to mobilize financial resources and commitment from partners for the achievement of its goals.

In 2016, UNICEF received US$55 million dedicated to social inclusion, exactly the same as the previous year. This steady level of funding for social inclusion comes against a backdrop of a stabilization of funding for UNICEF after sharp increases from 2012 to 2014 (see Figure 9). UNICEF received close to US$4.9 billion in 2016, compared with US$5 billion in 2015 and almost US$5.2 billion in 2014. Of the 2016 total, US$1.3 billion (27 per cent) were regular resources. This represented a 12 per cent increase in regular resources from 2015. The increase was due to growth in contributions from individual giving (US$629 million compared with US$530 million in 2015), as well as a sizeable one-time donation increase from the Government of Sweden, which contributed US$117 million, 87 per cent more than the previous year. This contribution was second only to the Government of the United States, which contributed US$132.5 million.26

FIGURE 9
Regular resources share by resource category, 2007–2016*

* Total regular resources includes other revenue from interest, procurement services and other sources.

*All revenue data as of 3 April 2017.
Contributions made by donors earmarked to a specific programme or thematic area, including multi-year funding, decreased by 7 per cent compared with 2015 to US$3.6 billion in 2016. Contributions to the nine thematic funding pools dropped to US$326 million, a 16 per cent decrease from the previous year. Of these thematic funds, US$145.4 million was softly earmarked for humanitarian action appeals, a 29 per cent decrease from 2015, despite growing humanitarian needs. The Social Inclusion thematic funding pool received US$5.9 million in 2016. Thematic funding is a crucial complement to regular resources, often used to address inequities that the allocation of regular resources is not able to address. Thematic funding is also used to build the capacity of countries, partners and UNICEF, as well as to mitigate the impact of emergencies, bridging development and humanitarian work.

**Regular resources**: Un-earmarked funds that are foundational to deliver results across the Strategic Plan.

**Other resources**: Earmarked contributions for programmes; supplementary to the RR and made for a specific purpose, such as an emergency response or a specific programme in a country/region.

**Other resources – regular**: Funds for specific, nonemergency programme purposes and strategic priorities.

**Other resources – emergency**: Earmarked funds for specific humanitarian action and post-crisis recovery activities.

**FIGURE 10**
Other resources revenue, 2009–2016: Thematic versus non-thematic (US$)
The top three resource partners for social inclusion included the European Commission, and the Governments of Germany and Sweden (see Table 1). The European Commission’s contribution was largely earmarked for social protection work in Angola, while that of Germany was completely earmarked for the reintegration of internally displaced persons in Ukraine (see Table 2).

### TABLE 1
Top 20 resource partners to social inclusion, 2016*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Resource partners</th>
<th>Total (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>14,181,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>8,801,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>7,287,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Joint Programmes managed by UNICEF as an Administrative Agent</td>
<td>5,198,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>3,648,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>2,557,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2,551,709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs)**</td>
<td>1,806,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>One UN Fund***</td>
<td>1,518,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>1,228,181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>Resource Partners</td>
<td>Grant Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>Social Protection, Angola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Towards Greater Social Cohesion and Integration of IDPs, Ukraine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>United Nations Joint Programme</td>
<td>Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Social Inclusion, Global Thematic Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Investing in Physical Infrastructure and Capacity Building, Lebanon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>Social Protection, Lesotho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Support to Resilience (PEAR Plus 3), Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs)**</td>
<td>Humanitarian Fund, Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Joint Programmes managed by UNICEF as an Administrative Agent</td>
<td>Support to Social Protection, Zambia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Scaling Up Birth Registration, United Republic of Tanzania</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Figures include financial adjustments.

**Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs): CBPFs are multi-donor humanitarian financing instruments established by the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC). They are managed by OCHA at the country level under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC). Donor contributions to each CBPF are un-earmarked and allocated by the HC through an in-country consultative process. As of 2016, CBPFs operate in 18 countries.

***Cross-sectoral fund for Nutrition and Social Inclusion (SC120390).
The value of thematic funding

Regular resources are UNICEF’s most flexible source of financing, and provide needed continuity in what are often inequitable and fragile contexts. They also help to build preparedness and resilience to future shocks. Thematic resources act as an ideal complement to regular resources. They are allocated on a needs basis and allow for long-term planning and sustainability of programmes. A funding pool has been established for each of the Strategic Plan 2014–2017 outcome areas as well as for humanitarian action and gender. Resource partners can contribute thematic funding at the global, regional or country level. Overall, these are the second-most efficient and effective contributions to the organization’s funding, and have been invaluable for maintaining critical education programmes, particularly in conflict-affected contexts.

UNICEF combines contributions from all resource partners to the same outcome area into one pooled-fund account with the same duration, which simplifies financial management and reporting for UNICEF and reduces administrative costs (for instance, a single report is provided for all resource partners). These lower costs allow for a lower cost recovery rate to be applied to thematic funds, meaning that a large share of the funding can be applied directly for programme activities. For more information on thematic funding and how it works, please visit: www.unicef.org/publicpartnerships/66662_66851.html.

PARTNER TESTIMONIAL

Support to social protection and cash transfers is increasingly important in Swedish development cooperation as a way of strengthening social safety and resilience among individuals, communities and societies. With its focus on children’s rights and needs, UNICEF is a strategic partner to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) in this work. UNICEF possesses extensive technical competence and plays an important role in strengthening national institutions involved in social protection systems. In addition, Sida and other actors have greatly benefited from the valuable research and evidence on social protection generated and disseminated by the Innocenti Research Centre.

Sida has as a main priority an increased respect for Human Rights, including the Rights of the Child. As the United Nations agency with an operational mandate to implement the CRC, UNICEF is uniquely positioned to use the resources of Sweden not only in long-term development cooperation, but also for its engagement in humanitarian action for children.

Thematic funding enhances effectiveness, as it enables UNICEF to reach the most excluded and vulnerable children, as well as strengthens the ability to support long-term strategic activities. Through its flexibility, thematic funding also promotes innovation, sustainability and better coordination, and reduces transaction costs. Over the years, Sida’s support to UNICEF has increasingly been channelled as thematic funding, reflecting Sida’s confidence in UNICEF as an effective actor and strong advocate for the implementation of children’s rights.

Lennart Båge
Assistant Director General of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
In 2016, UNICEF received US$5.9 million in thematic contributions for social inclusion (see Figure 12). This represented 11 per cent of total resources earmarked for social inclusion. Some 45 per cent – US$22.7 million – of this total was given most flexibly as global thematic funding (see Figure 13). From the perspective of maximizing impact and results in the lives of disadvantaged children, there is no doubt that growing flexible resources for social inclusion programming, such as strengthening pro-child social protection, would produce high rates of return.

FIGURE 12
Thematic revenue share by outcome area and humanitarian action, 2016: US$326.3 million

FIGURE 13
Other resources for social inclusion by funding modality and partner group, 2016: US$55 million*

* Figures include financial adjustments.
Eighty-five per cent of thematic contributions received for social inclusion came from government partners (see Table 3). The Government of Norway was the largest thematic resource partner, providing more than 45 per cent of all thematic funding, its contribution entirely at the global level. The Government of Sweden, which provided 38 per cent of all thematic funds, earmarked its contributions to the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Mali and Zimbabwe.

Among the National Committees, only the Dutch Committee for UNICEF supported social inclusion, earmarking its contribution for Turkey. A much larger share of support was provided by UNICEF offices in Malaysia and Thailand, which were able to mobilize Private Sector Fundraising support at the country and regional levels. The former supported programming in China and Malaysia, while the latter supported work across East Asia and the Pacific and Fiji (see Table 3).

UNICEF is seeking to broaden and diversify its funding base, including thematic contributions. The number of partners and offices contributing thematic funding to social inclusion dropped from six in 2015 to five in 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource Partner Type</th>
<th>Resource Partner</th>
<th>Total (US$)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governments 85%</td>
<td>Norway (SC1499070008)</td>
<td>2,676,463</td>
<td>45.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sweden (SC1499070003, SC1499070013, SC1499070017)</td>
<td>2,332,156</td>
<td>39.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Committees 4%</td>
<td>Netherlands Committee for UNICEF (SC1499070015)</td>
<td>249,248</td>
<td>4.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Offices 11%</td>
<td>UNICEF Malaysia (SC1499070006, SC1499070011, SC1499070016, SC1499070018, SC1499070019)</td>
<td>450,000</td>
<td>7.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Thailand (SC1499070020, SC1499070021)</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>3.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,907,867</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Figures include financial adjustments. Grant numbers are provided for IATI compliance.

Global thematic funds remain the most flexible source of funding to UNICEF after regular resources. The allocation and spending of thematic contributions can be monitored on UNICEF’s transparency portal open.unicef.org; the results achieved with these funds against Executive Board-approved targets and indicators at the country, regional and global levels are consolidated and reported on across the suite of Annual Results Reports. Specific reporting for country and regional thematic contributions are provided separately for partners providing flexible multi-year thematic funding at those levels.
In 2016, total global expenses for social inclusion programming were US$330.6 million, including funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational and other costs. This represents a substantial increase from the 2015 expenses of US$266.4 million, and constitutes 6 per cent of UNICEF’s total annual expenses for all outcome areas (see Table 4 and Figure 14).

FIGURE 14
Expense by outcome area, gender equality and humanitarian action, 2016: US$5,094 million
TABLE 4
Expenses trend for social inclusion by funding source, 2014–2016 (US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Other Resources - Emergency</th>
<th>Other Resources - Regular</th>
<th>Regular Resources</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>21,112,189</td>
<td>96,414,231</td>
<td>125,071,950</td>
<td>242,598,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>63,365,554</td>
<td>84,179,498</td>
<td>118,870,107</td>
<td>266,415,159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>119,744,556</td>
<td>83,305,045</td>
<td>127,572,671</td>
<td>330,622,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>204,222,299</td>
<td>263,898,773</td>
<td>371,514,729</td>
<td>839,635,801</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2016, regular resources accounted for 38 per cent of total expenses, reflecting both the centrality of social inclusion interventions to UNICEF’s country-level work and the challenges faced in raising other funding for this outcome area, in comparison to more traditional sectors. It is important to note, however, that the amount of social inclusion expenses from the ‘other resources – emergency’ category doubled in comparison with 2015 and constituted 36 per cent (almost US$120 million) of the social inclusion expenses in 2016, pointing to the growing use of social protection and cash transfer responses in humanitarian crises.

FIGURE 15
Expenses trend for social inclusion by funding source, 2014–2016: US$839.6 million
TABLE 5  
Expenses for social inclusion by region and funding source, 2016 (US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Other Resources - Emergency</th>
<th>Other Resources - Regular</th>
<th>Regular Resources</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CEE/CIS</td>
<td>3,414,129</td>
<td>8,715,822</td>
<td>5,081,127</td>
<td>17,211,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAPR</td>
<td>140,813</td>
<td>8,725,961</td>
<td>10,638,344</td>
<td>19,505,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESAR</td>
<td>7,752,608</td>
<td>20,487,931</td>
<td>28,164,907</td>
<td>56,405,446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HQ</td>
<td>1,956,150</td>
<td>14,235,148</td>
<td>19,125,808</td>
<td>35,317,106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LACR</td>
<td>1,143,190</td>
<td>12,587,140</td>
<td>11,581,687</td>
<td>25,312,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>74,808,664</td>
<td>3,321,850</td>
<td>6,535,141</td>
<td>84,665,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROSA</td>
<td>25,833,150</td>
<td>4,712,863</td>
<td>19,027,180</td>
<td>49,573,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCAR</td>
<td>4,695,853</td>
<td>10,518,329</td>
<td>27,418,477</td>
<td>42,632,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>119,744,556</td>
<td>83,305,045</td>
<td>127,572,671</td>
<td>330,622,272</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The regional breakdown of social inclusion spending is presented in Table 5 and Figure 16.

In 2016, a large proportion of social inclusion expenses was concentrated in the Middle East and North Africa: US$84.6 million (compared with US$52.8 in 2015 and US$20.2 million in 2014). Of this amount, US$75 million was spent on social protection in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic. Eastern and Southern Africa and West and Central Africa maintained a high proportion of expenses on social inclusion interventions, focusing on social protection and child poverty work (US$29.3 million in Eastern and Southern Africa and US$20.6 million in West and Central Africa). There was a substantive increase in social inclusion expenses in South Asia, from US$28.7 million in 2015 to US$49.5 million in 2016, reflecting the implementation of the emergency cash transfer programme in Nepal (see Table 5, above).

FIGURE 16  
Expenses by region for social inclusion, 2016: US$330.6 million
Expense patterns for social inclusion vary across regions, yet across all regions the highest proportion of resources was allocated to social protection and child poverty work: 88 per cent in the Middle East and North Africa, 57 per cent in South Asia, 55 per cent in CEE/CIS, 53 per cent in Eastern and Southern Africa, 48 per cent in West and Central Africa, 47 per cent in East Asia and the Pacific, and 36 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean. Most headquarters expenses attributed to the social inclusion outcome were related to work on civil society and social movements (55 per cent) and analytical work on vulnerable groups (22 per cent), which is in essence cross-cutting and cross-sectoral.

In 2015, UNICEF supported social inclusion programming in 154 countries across all regions. Countries with the highest expenses related to the social inclusion outcome area are listed in Table 6.

### TABLE 6
Top 20 expenses for social inclusion by country, 2016 (US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Other Resources - Emergency</th>
<th>Other Resources - Regular</th>
<th>Regular Resources</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nepal - 2970</td>
<td>25,282,324</td>
<td>1,468,443</td>
<td>1,906,758</td>
<td>28,657,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria - 4140</td>
<td>27,021,889</td>
<td>23,990</td>
<td>274,122</td>
<td>27,320,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan - 2340</td>
<td>22,140,910</td>
<td>549,060</td>
<td>271,611</td>
<td>22,961,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen - 4920</td>
<td>8,179,376</td>
<td>1,210,125</td>
<td>1,551,554</td>
<td>10,941,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon - 2490</td>
<td>10,798,984</td>
<td>136,054</td>
<td>5,222</td>
<td>10,940,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh - 5070</td>
<td>1,256</td>
<td>1,155,071</td>
<td>8,540,923</td>
<td>9,697,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India - 2040</td>
<td>-24</td>
<td>1,792,554</td>
<td>7,244,450</td>
<td>9,036,980</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE 7
Expenses for social inclusion by programme area and funding source, 2014–2016 (US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Area</th>
<th>Other Resources - Emergency</th>
<th>Other Resources - Regular</th>
<th>Regular Resources</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07-01 Social exclusion # data and evidence</td>
<td>7,455,295</td>
<td>18,989,281</td>
<td>38,090,385</td>
<td>64,534,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>874,251</td>
<td>4,185,355</td>
<td>8,800,839</td>
<td>13,860,444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>5,121,474</td>
<td>4,185,355</td>
<td>12,997,722</td>
<td>24,610,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>5,592,480</td>
<td>261,041</td>
<td>5,854,410</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07-02 Social protection and child poverty</td>
<td>168,828,001</td>
<td>104,338,060</td>
<td>38,090,385</td>
<td>381,348,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>13,799,020</td>
<td>32,142,716</td>
<td>34,468,835</td>
<td>80,410,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>51,089,516</td>
<td>35,463,854</td>
<td>34,626,394</td>
<td>121,179,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>103,939,465</td>
<td>39,087,294</td>
<td>179,758,249</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07-03 Public finance and local governance</td>
<td>3,857,993</td>
<td>18,929,743</td>
<td>58,192,566</td>
<td>80,980,301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>986,241</td>
<td>6,439,703</td>
<td>18,791,077</td>
<td>26,217,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>265,792</td>
<td>7,699,080</td>
<td>18,559,965</td>
<td>26,524,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2,605,960</td>
<td>4,790,960</td>
<td>20,841,523</td>
<td>28,238,444</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### FIGURE 18
Expenses for social inclusion by programme area, 2016: US$330.6 million

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Other Resources - Emergency</th>
<th>Other Resources - Regular</th>
<th>Regular Resources</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07-04 Policy advocacy - urban, civil society, parliament, environment</td>
<td>5,459,877</td>
<td>72,305,733</td>
<td>84,680,914</td>
<td>162,446,524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1,544,680</td>
<td>28,040,970</td>
<td>27,449,107</td>
<td>57,034,757</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,408,627</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2,506,570</td>
<td>21,551,963</td>
<td>28,964,557</td>
<td>53,023,089</td>
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<td>07-05 Human rights institutions</td>
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<td>27,190,545</td>
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<td>70,396,631</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1,308,978</td>
<td>11,700,806</td>
<td>13,189,805</td>
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<td>2,306,757</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>7,010,500</td>
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<td>24,313,986</td>
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<tr>
<td>07-06 Economic and social policy general</td>
<td>7,994,898</td>
<td>22,145,412</td>
<td>49,788,490</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2,599,019</td>
<td>13,904,682</td>
<td>22,372,287</td>
<td>38,875,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>3,173,387</td>
<td>4,237,449</td>
<td>14,417,321</td>
<td>21,828,158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2,222,491</td>
<td>4,003,281</td>
<td>12,998,881</td>
<td>19,224,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>204,222,299</td>
<td>263,898,773</td>
<td>371,514,729</td>
<td>839,635,801</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The child poverty and social protection programme area maintained the highest proportion of expenses within the social inclusion outcome (see Figure 18) and grew from 33 per cent in 2014 to 54 per cent in 2016. This was due to an overall increase in emergency-related expenses for social protection. For example, emergency-related direct benefits payments expanded from US$3.2 million in 2014 to US$33 million in 2015 and reached US$51.2 million in 2016. Other components of child poverty and social protection work also grew in 2016, including measurement of child poverty, support to protection programmes and systems, and costing, financing and accountability aspects of social protection work.

Similarly, expenses for emergency-related interventions in public finance and local governance programme areas increased from US$265,000 to US$2.6 million, primarily reflecting work on open government, open budget and other transparency initiatives in Jordan (US$1.4 million). Expenses from emergency-related funds in the human rights programme area also increased, from US$2.3 million to US$7 million – reflecting interventions for children and adolescent participation, primarily in Lebanon (US$4.8 million) and Jordan (US$1.4 million). Expenses in other programme areas also slightly increased, with the exception of the general economic and social policy programme area, which dropped from 8 per cent to 6 per cent.

**FIGURE 19**
Expenses for social inclusion by programme area, 2016: US$330.6 million

The specific programme areas for the social inclusion outcome were only agreed upon in 2014. Therefore, the coding used by country offices to categorize expenses does not fully align with the final programme areas. To more precisely identify the type and cost of interventions in each social inclusion programme area, UNICEF conducted an analysis of expenses for specific actual areas of intervention during 2015–2016. The main findings of this analysis are presented in Figure 20 and Table 8. The highlights include:

- The estimated cost of social protection interventions in 2016 was US$113.7 million (compared with US$80.4 million in 2015). This primarily covered direct benefits payments for cash or in-kind transfers (US$54.7 million, 94 per cent of which was spent in humanitarian settings – US$19.5 million in the Syrian Arab Republic and US$17.5 million in Jordan). Other countries with major humanitarian intervention in the area of social inclusion included Iraq, Lebanon and Somalia. In 2016, US$16.4 million was invested to support social protection programmes and systems, with particular focus on Eastern and Southern Africa (US$8.7 million) and West and Central Africa (US$4 million). Another important dimension of UNICEF’s work focused on
supporting countries to improve national policies, strategies, planning and legislation on social protection (US$7.2 million).

- Globally, US$27 million was spent on child poverty work (compared with US$76 million in 2015), including efforts to improve the measurement and identification of child poverty, support to improving national policies and legislation, and work towards achieving global and regional goals. This substantial increase of expenses on child poverty work reflects UNICEF’s intensified efforts to help countries achieve SDG 1.

- Global expenses on public finance work reached US$8.3 million (a slight increase from US$7.7 million in 2015) and mostly covered support to strengthen budget planning and implementation, monitor and track public expenditure, and advance transparency of budgeting, open government initiatives and economic analysis of social services and essential prices.

- Expenses in governance and decentralization interventions totalled US$19.8 million in 2016 (a slight decrease from US$21.1 million in 2015) and included support to local government budget planning and management, advancing transparency and accountability initiatives at subnational levels, as well as work on urban planning and systems and child-friendly cities initiatives.

- Total spending on human rights, non-discrimination and participation work (US$18.9 million) increased over the past year (from US$14.4 million), and covered work on promoting child rights, child-centred policies and services in disability-friendly formats, and participation of children and adolescents as well as marginalized and excluded groups (see Figure 20 and Table 8).

**FIGURE 20**

Expenses for specific social inclusion interventions (combined analysis), 2016:

US$188 million*

- Social protection - $113 million 61%
- Governance, including environment, parliaments - $19 million 11%
- Public finance for children - $8 million 4%
- Child poverty - $27 million 14%
- Human rights institutions, child and adolescent participation - $18 million 10%

* The global expenses data in Figure 20 exclude funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational and other costs.
While no separate coding is available for the fifth programme area – social inclusion in humanitarian settings – a helpful approximation of spending in this area can be gleaned from the data on funding sources. With other resources – emergency funds being the source of 36 per cent (or US$120 million) of the total social inclusion expenses, this suggests that a similar proportion of expenses could be classified in this programme area. Such work is currently mainstreamed across the other programme area categories.
UNICEF’s social inclusion work at the country and global levels in 2017 will build on heightened attention to children in work on child poverty and social protection. The SDG 1 guide developed by UNICEF and partners will be a key tool in the move from measurement to policy action, including in public finance and social protection.

UNICEF’s unified vision of the role of public finance in supporting better and more equitable outcomes in health, education, protection, WASH and nutrition will be supported by an increased number of trained staff and an overarching framework to be launched in 2017.

UNICEF will continue to work to strengthen national human rights institutions and promote social accountability mechanisms that recognize children and adolescents as agents of change and include indigenous children and children with disabilities. UNICEF’s role in social inclusion in fragile and humanitarian contexts will continue to grow to help meet the commitments of the World Humanitarian Summit to increase the use of cash transfers in emergency contexts, build linkages with existing social protection systems whenever possible and work before disaster strikes to strengthen initiatives that help prevent and respond to crises. UNICEF will also bolster local governments’ peacebuilding and disaster risk reduction efforts.

The work advanced under the social inclusion outcome will continue in the next Strategic Plan for 2018–2021. The draft plan proposes specific results on child poverty, social protection, human rights and urban and local governance. Efforts over the period of the current plan to increase attention to public finance for children across all sectors led to the inclusion of implementation strategies on system strengthening and leveraging domestic resources, widening the likely extent and impact of this important area of work in the future.

Child poverty and social protection

Moving into the next Strategic Plan period, UNICEF’s work in child poverty will seek to take full advantage of the opportunities presented by the SDGs to produce changes on the ground for children. Starting from our already strong foundation, we need to disseminate the global guide on child poverty to support countries in their work to move through national milestones of addressing child poverty. Building a vibrant community of practice to connect the work and experiences of practitioners will be crucial. Some areas of guidance need to be strengthened, including the use of child poverty analysis to inform social protection programming, and linking work on multidimensional poverty and public finance for children. Undertaking this work in partnership will continue to be an important focus. UNICEF will continue to work to strengthen the Child Poverty Coalition to provide a functioning clearinghouse for information, best practice and expertise on child poverty measurement and policy and programme response for colleagues and practitioners in the field.

We will continue our work to expand social protection coverage and enhance outcomes for children, in line with SDG target 1.3. We will complete the ‘social protection package’, which highlights UNICEF’s work and the value we add, and strengthen our collaboration with the World Bank and other development partners. This will support work of colleagues on the ground in expanding and deepening cash transfers for children, strengthening social protection systems and building approaches in the emerging area of social protection in humanitarian contexts. An important new area globally and at the country level will be expanding ‘cash plus’ modalities, which deliver cash transfers with other services and programmes. These measures will have even greater impact when adopted more widely. UNICEF will thus continue efforts to strengthen global partnerships so that influential Social Protection Inter-Agency Coordination Board partners, including the World Bank and key bilateral agencies, incorporate key elements of child sensitivity in their social protection approaches and design when working with governments and in their global communications, in order to leverage better results for children.

Human rights, non-discrimination and participation

Human rights, participation and non-discrimination are three core pillars of UNICEF’s work to achieve greater equity for children. The new development agenda prioritizes deeper understanding of accountability for and with children, and the role it plays in advancing their rights. To put this into practice at the country level, UNICEF will prioritize engagement with treaty bodies and human rights mechanisms, and will further develop partnerships to reinforce the capacity of national human rights institutions to monitor the situation of child rights on the ground and provide accessible remedies in case of violations. To strengthen our engagement with national human rights institutions, we will develop and roll out a guidance manual and expand the network of partners to advance the child rights agenda.

We will expand our ongoing work on social accountability by working better together across sectors and mapping examples of good practices. UNICEF will finalize the Adolescent and Youth Engagement Strategy. To reinforce our efforts to measure participation, we will develop and
test a conceptual framework supported by indicators and data collection tools, including a new MICS reporting template.

Public finance for children

Moving towards the next Strategic Plan, UNICEF’s work on PF4C will be increasingly linked with initiatives to reduce multidimensional child poverty. Efforts to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and equity of public spending contribute directly to reducing the multiple deprivations poor children face in education, health, WASH, nutrition and protection. Achieving sustained results in all areas of UNICEF’s work requires increased attention to the improved use of domestic resources – a strategy highlighted in the draft plan for 2018-2021, and supported by ongoing collaboration between sector and social policy teams across the organization.

In 2017, UNICEF’s country-level work on PF4C will continue to focus on evidence generation to support better use of public budgets, as well as on providing hands-on support to both sector and line ministries needed to apply this knowledge in practice. Continued emphasis will be placed on supporting communities and civil society to understand public spending and participate in the decision-making process, supporting greater accountability. At least 12 additional countries are expected to begin measuring and reporting on child-focused public spending, including on how funds are distributed towards disadvantaged populations and locations, and using that information for budgetary changes. Global efforts will aim to support regional and country offices and UNICEF National Committees with tools, guidance, evidence and technical assistance. Additional efforts will be made related to partnerships with global public financial management actors, to further enhance UNICEF’s contribution to effectiveness, efficiency and equitable public spending, in support of SDG implementation (directly SDG 10.4), with special emphasis on countries transitioning into middle-income status.

Decentralization and local governance

In 2017, UNICEF will further strengthen its strategic engagement in DLG. While in past years this work focused on social policy capacities, in 2017 it will shift to highlight the role of DLG in strengthening systems in various sectors. Work related to peacebuilding and disaster risk reduction will continue, while collaborations with sectors such as health and WASH will broaden. We will forge stronger connections with the New Urban Agenda, focusing on local government and municipal finance systems. We will work to finalize the DLG strategic framework and various technical guidance notes, initiate new guidance topics with sectors, and provide direct technical support to countries.

Country offices operating in decentralized or decentralizing environments can expect to increasingly base their engagement on a strong analysis of contexts and political economy. They will more often partner with key stakeholders, including ministries of local government, local government associations, development partners and United Nations agencies. Further emphasis will be placed on strengthening the capacity of UNICEF programme staff and management to engage effectively in work around decentralization and local governance, enhanced through global, regional and country office-level training and guidance, with demonstrable impact on quality programming and results.

Social inclusion in humanitarian settings

Priorities in social protection in humanitarian settings include development and dissemination of guidance on social protection systems in humanitarian and fragile contexts. We will provide technical support to countries and strengthen strategic partnerships and advocacy efforts to enhance the links between social protection and humanitarian action. A key goal is to develop a comprehensive approach with partners on strengthening social protection systems in emergency response, using systems when crisis hits, and building on emergency response towards sustainable long-term systems. In 2017, UNICEF’s ongoing efforts to map the current status of national social protection systems will be further expanded to include attention to their readiness to address humanitarian situations. This information will be used both to inform their use when needed and to identify where further strengthening efforts are needed.

We also will work to forge stronger links across sectors and between development and humanitarian programming. In 2016, UNICEF headquarters commissioned two research consultancies to look at the role of local governments in disaster risk reduction and peacebuilding. The resulting technical documents will be finalized in 2017. To encourage programme outcomes to more deeply consider risk, UNICEF headquarters has been supporting the development of Guidance on Risk-Informed Programming, including in social inclusion. Such guidance is scheduled to be piloted in three countries in 2017.
EXPRESSION OF THANKS

UNICEF expresses its sincere appreciation to all resource partners who contributed to its work on social inclusion in 2015, particularly those who were able to provide thematic funding. The flexibility of such funding provides for long-term planning and the sustainability of programmes, and allows UNICEF to offer strategic, technical, operational and programming support to countries in all regions for both upstream and decentralized work. Reflecting the trust resource partners have in the capacity and ability of UNICEF to deliver quality support under all circumstances, such funding contributes to positive change in the lives of marginalized children and communities, and has made possible the results described in this report.

Special thanks go to the Governments of Norway and Sweden for providing consistent and generous thematic funding for social inclusion, as well as to our top resource partners: the European Union, the Governments of Germany, Canada and Italy and the Dutch Committee for UNICEF.
## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C4D</td>
<td>Communication for Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEE/CIS</td>
<td>Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRBP</td>
<td>Children’s Rights and Business Principles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRPD</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLG</td>
<td>decentralization and local governance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAP</td>
<td>East Asia and the Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESA</td>
<td>Eastern and Southern Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>information and communication technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICS</td>
<td>Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MODA</td>
<td>Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>non-governmental organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PF4C</td>
<td>public finance for children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>South Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMS</td>
<td>Short Message Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCA</td>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ENDNOTES

1. All references to Kosovo in this report should be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).


5. UNICEF has a long-standing tradition of working with national governments and statistics offices measuring child poverty in all its dimensions. These efforts are now expanding as more and more countries are starting to measure child poverty as part of their commitments towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

6. This number is very likely an underestimate, as some countries, including India, Nigeria, Pakistan and Rwanda, didn’t report specific coverage numbers.

7. Evidence presented in the text box is drawn from the country chapters of the book.

8. Primary enrolment is already high in most countries, so the focus was on secondary school enrolment.

9. Brunei Darussalam, Guinea, Pakistan and Samoa.

10. Samoa and the United Arab Emirates.

11. France, Georgia, Italy, Luxemburg, Peru, Samoa and Ukraine.

12. Antigua and Barbuda, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, the Central African Republic, Comoros, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Finland, Iceland, Micronesia, the Netherlands, Samoa and Sri Lanka.


14. All references to Kosovo in this report should be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).


20. Applying a similar methodology to last year’s reporting, the values for education and health spending were extrapolated in 2015 and 2016 based on available data from earlier years; the baseline was also updated.


23. Participation is reported under Programme area 2.

24. Six from Eastern and Southern Africa, five from the Middle East and North Africa, four from West and Central Africa, two from South Asia and one from East Asia and the Pacific.


27. The global expenses data in this paragraph exclude funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational and other costs.
Visualizing achievements

Each achievement is expressed as a percentage and visualized through colour coding:

- **Green**
  - **Indicator level**: Achievement of the indicator is at or above 100% of the milestone
  - **Outputs and outcome area level**: Average achievement of indicators in the output or outcome area is at or above 100%

- **Amber**
  - **Indicator level**: Achievement of the indicator is between 60% and 99% of the milestone
  - **Outputs and outcome area level**: Average achievement of indicators in the output or outcome area is between 60% and 99%

- **Red**
  - **Indicator level**: Achievement of the indicator is less than 60% of the milestone
  - **Outputs and outcome area level**: Average achievement of indicators in the output or outcome area is less than 60%

**Social Inclusion**

Average achievement rate: **98%**
### Impact Indicator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7a. Countries in which social protection systems have a positive impact on children’s well-being</th>
<th>Baseline*</th>
<th>2017 Target</th>
<th>2016 Update**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>35</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 7b. Countries that have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |
|---|---|---|---|
| CRC – 190 | CRC – 197 | CRC - 196 |
| CRC OP1 – 153 | CRC OP1 – 175 | CRC OP1 - 166 |
| CRC OP2 – 165 | CRC OP2 – 165 | CRC OP2 - 173 |
| CRC OP3 – 10 | CRC OP3 – 24 | CRC OP3 - 32 |
| CEDAW – 186 | CEDAW – 193 | CEDAW - 189 |
| CRPD – 141 | CRPD – 169 | CRPD - 172 |

| 7c. Number of children living in extreme poverty |
|---|---|---|---|

### Outcome Indicator

| 7.1 Countries that expand the number of children covered by social protection systems |
|---|---|---|
| 37 (2014) | 52 | 46 out of 105 UNICEF programme countries with data for 2015 and 2016 |

| 7.2 Countries with improved capacity to develop, implement and finance integrated social protection systems |
|---|---|---|
| 32 | 50 | 13 out of 152 UNICEF programme countries with data for 2015 and 2016 |

| 7.3 Countries in which social spending on a per capita basis is being maintained or is increasing |
|---|---|---|
| 24 | 50 | 75 |

*2013 unless otherwise indicated. **or data from the most recent year available.
Output a

Enhanced support for disadvantaged and marginalized children and families to use social protection systems and participate in decision-making processes affecting them

Average output achievement

101%

P7.a.1

Countries with functional mechanisms for the participation of children to influence development agendas in the local, subnational or national plans that affect the most disadvantaged and marginalized

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014 Baseline</th>
<th>2015 Result</th>
<th>2016 Result</th>
<th>2016 Milestone</th>
<th>2017 Target</th>
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</thead>
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<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>EAPR</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCAR</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDCs</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Achievement 114%

P7.a.2

Countries with functioning mechanisms for public engagement to influence development agendas in the local, subnational or national plans that affect the most disadvantaged and marginalized

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014 Baseline</th>
<th>2015 Result</th>
<th>2016 Result</th>
<th>2016 Milestone</th>
<th>2017 Target</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>CEE/CIS</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCAR</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>16</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDCs</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Achievement 87%
Output b
Increased national capacity to provide access to inclusive systems that protect children and adolescents from poverty and promote social inclusion

Average output achievement
111%

P7.b.1
Countries that track the effectiveness of social protection on at least one child outcome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
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<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Achievement 104%

P7.b.2
Countries with large urban populations (1 million or more) that produce and use disaggregated data on the most excluded (e.g., urban poor/slums)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>63</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Achievement 89%
P7.b.3

Young children who have access to affordable (free or subsidized or reasonably priced and accessible to low-income families) quality child care

- **2014 Baseline**: 25%
- **2015 Result**: 41%
- **2016 Result**: 44%
- **2016 Milestone**: 28%
- **2017 Target**: 30%

**Achievement 157%**

P7.b.4

Countries that routinely monitor and report on child poverty

- **2013 Baseline**: 29
- **2014 Result**: 48
- **2015 Result**: 51
- **2016 Result**: 53
- **2016 Milestone**: 56
- **2017 Target**: 60

**Achievement 95%**
Output c

Strengthened political commitment, accountability and national capacity to legislate, plan and budget for inclusive social policies and social protection measures, including in risk-prone and fragile contexts

Average output achievement 105%

P7.c.1

Countries with policy and/or budgetary frameworks that explicitly address child poverty and disparities

Achievement 94%

P7.c.2

Countries that incorporate children’s rights in the policy discourse on environmental sustainability, including climate change

Achievement 116%
**Output d**

Improved country capacity and national systems to promote resilience and strengthen the response to humanitarian situations

---

**P7.d.1**

UNICEF country offices that have undertaken minimum preparedness actions in the past 12 months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014 Baseline</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 Result</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Result</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Milestone</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Target</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Achievement 109%

---

**P7.d.2**

Countries in humanitarian situations with systems to monitor UNICEF humanitarian results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014 Baseline</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 Result</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Result</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Milestone</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Target</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Achievement 90%

---
**P7.d.3 (a)**

Countries with planning and monitoring systems that explicitly address risks at the national level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014 Baseline</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 Result</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Result</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Milestone</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Target</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Achievement 114%

**P7.d.3 (b)**

Countries with planning and monitoring systems that explicitly address risks at the subnational level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014 Baseline</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 Result</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Result</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Milestone</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Target</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Achievement 123%
Output e

**P7.e.1 (a)**

Countries that have revised domestic legislation and administrative guidance in line with the concluding observations of the CRC Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013 Baseline</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 Result</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 Result</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Result</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Milestone</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Target</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Achievement 68%

**P7.e.1 (b)**

Countries that have revised domestic legislation and administrative guidance in line with the concluding observations of the CEDAW Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013 Baseline</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 Result</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 Result</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Result</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Milestone</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Target</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Achievement 77%
P7.e.1 (c)
Countries that have revised domestic legislation and administrative guidance in line with the concluding observations of the CRPD Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achievement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>58%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P7.e.2
Countries with a national social protection strategy or plan that includes elements focused on gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014 Baseline</th>
<th>2015 Result</th>
<th>2016 Result</th>
<th>2016 Milestone</th>
<th>2017 Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achievement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>173%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: 2015 data is not yet available. To be reported in 2017.
P7.e.3

Countries that have legal and paralegal services available to support children in claiming redress for violations of their rights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CEE/CIS</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAPR</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESAR</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LACR</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCAR</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDCs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Achievement 89%
Output f

Enhanced global and regional capacity to accelerate progress towards social inclusion

Average output achievement 55%

P7.f.1

Peer-reviewed journal or research publications by UNICEF on social protection, social inclusion, social policy, child poverty and human rights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014 Baseline</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 Result</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Result</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Milestone</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Target</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Achievement 78%  

P7.f.3

Countries with national household surveys with disaggregated data on child-related indicators collected within the preceding five years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013 Baseline</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 Result</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 Result</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Result</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Milestone</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Target</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Achievement 74%
P7.f.2

Key global and regional social protection, social inclusion, social policy, child poverty and human rights initiatives in which UNICEF is the co-chair or provides coordination support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013 Baseline</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 Result</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 Result</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Result</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Milestone</td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Target</td>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Achievement 13%**

**Global partnership and initiative**
- Global Coalition to End Child Poverty

**Regional partnership and initiative**
- Global Movement for Children - Latin America and the Caribbean chapter (El Movimiento Mundial por la Infancia de Latinoamérica y el Caribe) (LACRO)