THEMATIC FUNDING
2018 – 2021
Thematic contributions are pooled funds categorized as Other Resources (OR) designed to support the achievement of outcomes or results in the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021 through flexible multi-year funding and achieve UNICEFs mandate to advocate for the protection of children’s rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

Contributions are received against programmes approved by the Executive Board, and thematic humanitarian action contributions are received against humanitarian appeals. The 2018-2021 Strategic Plan has 5 Goal Areas supporting the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, for which 10 programme-specific funding pools have been developed.

**3 FUNDING LEVELS**

Through Thematic Funding contributions at the global, regional and/or country level, partners support UNICEF delivered results at the highest programme level in each of those contexts for the greatest impact.

**10 THEMATIC FUND POOLS**

- **Global Level** – Most valuable funding level in which partners determine which UNICEF objectives they wish to support, and contribute to the most closely aligned Thematic Funding pool. This allows UNICEF the flexibility to allocate funds across regions to individual country programmes according to priority needs. Headquarters and Regional Offices also receive smaller amounts for cross-cutting work, advocacy and programme development in support of country allocations.

- **Regional Level** – Partners stipulate the achievement of which objectives, and region, they wish to support. Once a contribution is received, a UNICEF Regional Office allocates funding to country programmes within the region according to programmatic priorities. The Regional Office is also eligible for a smaller share of these funds.

- **Country Level** – Partners contribute to one or more themes in a specific country, for the achievement of results outlined in the UNICEF country programme, in line with the UNICEF Strategic Plan, the Country Programme and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).
The flexibility of thematic funding allows UNICEF to respond more effectively. It facilitates longer term planning, sustainability and savings in transaction costs, leaving more resources for UNICEF programmes. Moreover, as a result of the alignment in the Strategic Plan, results-based-management (RBM) is strengthened. Efficiencies are also gained through simplified contribution management processes, including monitoring and reporting on results.

**UNICEF**

**INCREASED FLEXIBILITY AND PREDICTABILITY**

- Facilitates programme implementation in a more strategic manner, with minimal earmarking to the results of the Strategic Plan, and the ability to adjust and respond to emerging issues.
- Allows flexibility to allocate resources to areas of highest needs, including critically under-funded country programme areas and humanitarian response activities.
- Maintains a four-year funding period that covers the entire Strategic Plan period with the possibility of a one-year extension to ensure full utilization of the funds, which:
  - Improves long term planning and programme sustainability.
  - Allows UNICEF to attract and retain high-quality staff through a measure of job security.
  - Reduces transaction costs, resulting in a lower cost recovery rate, so that more funding is programmed.
  - No single resource partner proposals or reports are prepared, lowering overall management costs and increasing the proportionate savings gained by an economy of scale.
  - Results are reported on in a consolidated manner, at the global, regional and country levels.
  - Revenue and expenses are tracked and reported on by pool. One, consolidated financial report is prepared for each.
  - Lowers the number of single resource partner projects and associated management and reporting requirements.
- Simplifies the management of funds since there is only one large fund instead of individual resource partner funds.
- Channels funds in a less rigid manner to respond to UNICEF’s Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action.

**PARTNER**

**ALIGNMENT WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD MULTILATERAL RESOURCE PARTNERSHIPS**

- Resources high-level results directly aligned to the Strategic Plan, as endorsed by the UNICEF Executive Board
- Supports the aims of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness through:
  - alignment of partners’ support to UNICEF’s programme based approach - anchored in programme country priorities;
  - harmonization of aid, for greater coordination and simplification, to avoid duplication of efforts;
  - managing for results more effectively, by supporting UNICEF’s work in line with its overarching Strategic Plan.
- Gives high return on investment, as lower management and reporting costs results in a larger percentage of funds going towards programming in strategic, and often times critical, areas of work.
- Allows partners to softly earmark support to specific geographical and programmatic areas of interest.
- Encourages strategic policy dialogue over detailed project implementation monitoring.
- Simplifies renewal and allocation procedure and lessens administrative monitoring burden for partners.
- Fosters greater opportunities of joint resource partner collaboration, visibility and dialogue around UNICEF objectives and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
ALLOCATING & TRACKING

YOUR CONTRIBUTION

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR THE ALLOCATION OF THEMATIC FUNDING CONTRIBUTED AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL?

An internal senior-level committee provides governance and oversight in the allocation of Thematic Funds contributed by partners at the global level. Allocation of global Thematic Funds gives highest priority to programmes at country, regional and Headquarters (HQ) levels that:

• are furthest from achieving UNICEFs Strategic Plan targets, the SDGs and other global goals;
• are in fragile post-conflict situations with under-funded key priority areas;
• have a record of timely programme implementation, achievement and reporting on results;
• are heavily reliant on Regular Resources funding (in line with its allocation which prioritizes Least Developed Countries and Lower Income Countries);
• Demonstrate opportunity to leverage partners’ contributions and national budgets;
• Focus on equity.

Global Humanitarian Thematic Funds, contributed by partners for the achievement of the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action are allocated based on humanitarian needs, and priorities identified in the Humanitarian Action for Children appeals.

WHAT IS THE DURATION OF THEMATIC FUNDING?

UNICEF maintains a four-year funding period that covers the entire Strategic Plan period with the possibility of a one-year extension to ensure full utilization of the funds.

UNICEF recognizes that a four-year pool may compromise some resource partner regulations and procedures for disbursing funds, and will therefore make every effort to support an internal system to allow for utilization and reporting of funds received from these partners in order to satisfy their requirements.

HOW WILL EXPENDITURES AND RESULTS BE TRACKED?

A Statement of Account is issued for each one of the ten thematic pools, including Gender Equality and Humanitarian Action. The statement of account (signed aggregate financial income and expenditure report) is issued by the Comptroller in June of the following calendar year, giving the consolidated amount received per resource partner for each thematic area and the total expenditure by country per thematic pool, irrespective of whether the contribution was received at the global, regional or country level.

WHAT IS CROSS-THEMATIC USE OF FUNDS?

Implementing offices may decide to use Thematic Funds in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational costs. Without such cross-thematic and operational usage, outcome area results would often be compromised or not achieved. This is also in-line with the shared commitments of the Grand Bargain. The utilization of funds in a cross-thematic manner or for operational costs will be included in the reporting.

HOW DOES UNICEF MONITOR AND EVALUATE PROGRESS ACHIEVED WITH THEMATIC FUNDING SUPPORT?

• With the use of UNICEF Strategic Plan indicators, Country Programme related indicators, statistics and monitoring as well as other reliable data collection mechanisms are good sources for measuring progress within the thematic pools.
• With the use of results-based programming and management tools such as ‘performance management dash-boards’, where global and real-time data-sets support the monitoring of available resources and programme implementation.
• With the use of evaluations at global, regional and/or country level which also help examine results achieved in each Goal Area of UNICEF’s work.
# REPORTING & PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

## ON IMPACT

### THE 8 THEMATIC POOLS AND GENDER EQUALITY THEMATIC CONTRIBUTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partners Will Receive</th>
<th>Report Components</th>
<th>Annual Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>Results and cross-sectoral results achieved against expected targets and indicators. Key partnerships and inter-agency collaboration, including UN Coherence. Implementation constraints and lessons learned. Approved budget, revenue available for programming. Financial implementation, including expenditures by key results area. Signed financial statement by pool, with aggregated revenue by resource partner and expenditure by office. Acknowledgment and visibility of contributing partners. Alignment to International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and Grand Bargain reporting standards.</td>
<td>Mid-May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td></td>
<td>End of March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country</td>
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### HUMANITARIAN ACTION THEMATIC CONTRIBUTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partners Will Receive</th>
<th>Report Components</th>
<th>Annual Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>Annual Results Report (ARR), aggregating results UNICEF has achieved against the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal, and highlighting integrated-results achieved across Goal Areas the Strategic Plan.</td>
<td>Mid-May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td></td>
<td>End of March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country</td>
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UNICEF Headquarters, with inputs from country and regional offices.

UNICEF regional offices that have received region specific Thematic Funding.

UNICEF country offices that have received country specific Thematic Funding.

UNICEF regional offices that have received humanitarian funding (thematic or other) against the appeal.

UNICEF country offices that have received humanitarian funding (thematic or other) against the appeal.
UNICEF Goal Area 1 will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals in both humanitarian and development contexts:

- **Goal 2** - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- **Goal 3** - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- **Goal 5** - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

UNICEF Goal Area 2 will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

- **Goal 4** - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- **Goal 5** - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

UNICEF Goal Area 3 seeks to address the high levels of violence and exploitation faced by children.

- **Goal 4** - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- **Goal 5** - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- **Goal 8** - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- **Goal 16** - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

**AREAS OF WORK**

- Maternal and newborn health
- Immunization
- Childhood illnesses
- Prevention of stunting and other forms of malnutrition
- Treatment of severe acute malnutrition
- Treatment and care of children living with HIV
- HIV prevention
- Early childhood development
- Adolescent health and nutrition

**THEMATIC POOLS**

1. Health
2. HIV & AIDS
3. Nutrition
4. Education
5. Child Protection
Goal Area 4 addresses the risks faced by children due to the physical environment in which they live.

Goal Area 5 addresses inequitable social and economic conditions in which many children live.

The two cross-cutting priorities focus on:
1. faster, more effective, at-scale humanitarian response in line with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action and the Gender Action Plan;

UNICEF Goal Area 4 will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

Goal 6 - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Goal 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Goal 16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

UNICEF Goal Area 5 will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals in both humanitarian and development contexts:

Goal 1 - End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 10 - Reduce inequality within and among countries

The Goal Areas represent areas that hold the greatest burden of child deprivation. They are also those within which UNICEF can contribute to Sustainable Development Goal targets and the fulfillment of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
December 2017

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