GOAL AREA 5
Every child has an equitable chance in life

Global Annual Results Report 2018
A group of adolescent girls and boys with and without disabilities outside St Joseph's School in Eswatini. The school is a mainstream school with resource centres for children who are blind and have intellectual disabilities. In 2018, UNICEF supported Eswatini’s education sector policy and the National Disability Action Plan, both of which include a specific focus on the rights of children with disabilities. Youth and adolescents are recognized as crucially important to national development in Eswatini, where the work of UNICEF on adolescent empowerment focused on providing opportunities for adolescent girls and boys to access essential services from health-care providers, HIV prevention and life skills training in school clubs.

Thank you page: © UNICEF/UN0220796/Matas

Page 2: © UNICEF/UN0221854/Rich

Abdulrahman, 9, lives in the Mafrak, a city in Jordan after leaving behind the fighting in Syria. Abdulrahman’s family is one of the Syrian families that benefits from a cash transfer programme for refugees. An assessment by UNICEF in February 2018 showed that Syrian refugee parents living in host communities in Jordan are increasingly struggling to meet their children’s basic needs, including educating and protecting them.

Page 6: © UNICEF/UN0199078/Noorani

Adolescent girls look at social media posts while attending a Lifeskills event in Union Development & Culture Community Centre in Djibouti.


UNICEF works with the national statistical office in Côte d’Ivoire to routinize the measurement and monitoring of multidimensional child poverty. The evidence from a 2018 child poverty study served as a powerful advocacy tool for social ministries bargaining for increased public investment in the social sectors and increased investments for the most disadvantaged children of Côte d’Ivoire.

Page 23: © UNICEF/UN0226876/Chikondi

Children playing on a swing at Kubwera Kwa Yesu Children’s Corner in Mulanje, Malawi. In 2018, UNICEF research and advocacy in Malawi contributed to a significant improvement in adequacy and equity in public finance for ECD and Education.
UNICEF expresses its sincere appreciation to all resource partners who contributed to its work on Goal Area 5 in 2018, particularly those that 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 that 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, Spain, Sweden and Luxembourg for providing consistent and generous thematic funding for social protection, inclusion, governance and gender equality as well as to our other top resource partners: the European Union, the United States of America, and the governments of Canada, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
Seventy years after UNICEF was established, the organization’s mission to promote the full attainment of the rights of all children is as urgent as ever.

The UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021 is anchored in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and charts a course towards attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the realization of a future in which every child has a fair chance in life. It sets out measurable results for children, especially the most disadvantaged, including in humanitarian situations, and defines the change strategies and enablers that support their achievement.

Working together with Governments, United Nations partners, the private sector, civil society and with the full participation of children, UNICEF remains steadfast in its commitment to realize the rights of all children, everywhere, and to achieve the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a world in which no child is left behind.

The following report summarizes how UNICEF and its partners contributed to Goal Area 5 in 2018 and reviews the impact of these accomplishments on children and the communities where they live. This is one of eight reports on the results of efforts during the past year, encompassing gender equality and humanitarian action as well as each of the five Strategic Plan goal areas – ‘Every child survives and thrives’, ‘Every child learns’, ‘Every child is protected from violence and exploitation’, ‘Every child lives in a safe and clean environment’, and ‘Every child has an equitable chance in life’, and a short report on Communication for Development (C4D). It supplements the 2018 Executive Director Annual Report (EDAR), UNICEF’s official accountability document for the past year.
Contents

Executive summary ...............................2
  Key results achieved by UNICEF in 2018 .......3
  Looking ahead ........................................5

Strategic context .................................6
  Global developments in the situation of children ....7
  Supporting national efforts and global partnerships to ‘leave no one behind’ ......9
  Challenges ..........................................10
  Selected results achieved in 2018 ............12

Results: Child poverty ..........................13
  Results achieved in 2018 .......................14

Results: Public finance for children ..........23
  Results achieved in 2018 .......................24

Results: Social protection ......................32
  Results achieved in 2018 .......................34

Results: Gender equality ......................40
  Positive gender socialization .................41
  Results achieved in 2018 .......................43

Results: Children with disabilities ..........49
  Results achieved in 2018 .......................50

Results: Adolescent participation and civic engagement ..................60
  Results achieved in 2018 .......................61

High-level priorities ............................71

Abbreviations and acronyms .................90

Endnotes ..........................................92

Annex 1: Financial report .......................77
  UNICEF revenue in 2018 .......................77
  Transparency ......................................86
  Expenses for social protection, inclusion and governance in 2018 ............87
Building on the framework provided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Goal Area 5 encompasses the efforts by UNICEF to address inequity by helping to reduce poverty and deprivation and tackling discrimination and exclusion. This includes helping countries to monitor, report on and address child poverty, with special emphasis on multidimensional poverty, given its utility in detecting and addressing inequity. The organization’s work on public finance for children explicitly addresses the public finance bottlenecks to service delivery that contribute to multidimensional child poverty, and is an essential component of improving systems and leveraging resources for children. Social protection has long been defined as a human right and the goal of universality is now reflected in the SDGs. The continuation of efforts to expand coverage for children is therefore a key result for Goal 5. This includes an increased emphasis on improving the use of social protection in fragile settings and where there is a humanitarian crisis, with specific focus on using cash transfers to help bridge humanitarian and development contexts.

The new UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 gives greater prominence to work on gender equity, adolescence and disability and – in addition to relevant results in other Goal
Areas – includes specific results in Goal 5 on: addressing gender-discriminatory norms, roles and practices; supporting the participation and civic engagement of adolescents; and increasing the implementation of inclusive programmes and services to encourage participation of children with disabilities in society.

UNICEF and its inter-agency efforts to address these Goal 5 themes are a key contribution to the common chapter in the strategic plans of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), contributing especially towards eradicating poverty, achieving gender equity and empowerment of women and girls, engaging with young people, and ensuring greater availability and use of disaggregated data for sustainable development.

In 2018, UNICEF invested over US$427 million (8 per cent of its annual expenditure) to provide more girls and boys with an equitable chance in life. The global thematic funds were particularly valuable in helping achieve results for children: the flexible and multi-year nature of this support gives UNICEF the ability to invest in longer-term processes such as policy advocacy, budgeting and programme design, which have the potential to make a long-term difference to the most disadvantaged children and adolescents.

Key results achieved against the Strategic Plan goals are described in detail in this report and quantified in Annex 2.

**Key results achieved by UNICEF in 2018**

In line with SDG 1 on ending poverty, UNICEF continued its work to make child poverty a central issue in national development plans, national agendas, policies and programmes, including by encouraging governments to monitor child poverty and adopt social and economic policies that address it. This requires increasing the number of countries routinely measuring child poverty, as well as those analysing this information, identifying successful strategies to address it, and putting it into practice. There has been progress along this continuum, with 55 countries having now established multidimensional child poverty measurement and reporting processes, exceeding the 2018 milestone of 45 countries. A total of 74 countries now routinely measure and report on monetary child poverty, up from 64 in 2017, and marking good progress towards the 2021 target of 90 countries. Moving from better, nationally owned data to action is particularly challenging, though progress is on track, with 22 countries reported to be addressing child poverty through explicit policies and programmes, up from 19 countries in 2017. Country offices have focused on supporting national statistics offices and on South–South collaboration, thus increasing ownership of the issue. Greater attention is also seen in making use of child poverty data in fragile contexts, helping to ensure that the most vulnerable are reached, including in the complex environments of Iraq and Yemen, and in the response to the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic. Innovative approaches were also noted this year, including successful efforts to include children’s voices in the process of developing responsive policies, as was achieved in Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), in collaboration with UNDP.

Well-designed social protection systems have a proven positive impact on child poverty and well-being, helping families overcome financial and social barriers to accessing social services and employment. UNICEF supports countries to expand cash transfer coverage and improve social protection systems overall. In 2018, 38.4 million children benefited from UNICEF-supported social protection interventions. This includes over 71 million children reached with humanitarian cash transfers, 22 million extremely poor and vulnerable children and over 400,000 children with disabilities.

Among countries where UNICEF is engaged in this sector, 75 now report having strong or moderately strong social protection systems, up from 69 countries in 2017. This measure takes account of progress in social protection laws and policy frameworks, beneficiary registries, and coordination and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, as well as efforts to establish and extend coverage of cash transfers, fee waivers and subsidies, programmes to link people to services, and case management.

In line with commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit, UNICEF is working to strengthen links between humanitarian cash transfers and social protection. Among the 36 countries where UNICEF is actively engaged in enhancing the capacity of their social protection systems to respond in times of crisis, 9 reported having national cash transfer programmes that are ready to respond, falling short of the milestone of 12 countries but on track to achieve the 2021 target of 30 countries. Significant efforts have also been made to strengthen regional capacity in Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern and Southern Africa and South Asia. Following the drought in Ethiopia, UNICEF contributed US$11 million to support the temporary expansion of the ongoing Productive Safety Nets Programme contingency pooled fund, allowing it to reach 240,000 households with malnourished children (over 1.2 million beneficiaries) in the two most affected regions. In partnership with the World Bank, UNICEF continued to support the flagship cash programme in Yemen, which reached 9 million people in 2018.

**Leveraging domestic public resources** for children is at the heart of achieving results at scale in all sectors. UNICEF takes a hands-on approach to helping governments make...
budget decisions that increase investment in children, and ensure funds are used more equitably, efficiently, effectively and transparently for greater impact. The Strategic Plan commits UNICEF to support countries to measure the equity of public spending on health, education and social protection, and to undertake reforms that improve the share of funding benefiting the poorest 20 per cent or poorest regions. Modest progress was reported in 2019 compared with 2017, with two additional countries now measuring the share of per capita public spending in health, education and/or social protection reaching the poorest quintile (17 countries) or the poorest region (23 countries). The organization’s considerable investment in this area and uptake in the approach across sectors suggests further progress is on the horizon. Following the release of the Public Finance for Children Framework in late 2017, UNICEF expenditure in this area has more than doubled, and over 400 staff members have completed a rigorous training programme to improve their skills. An increasing number of countries are engaged in finding innovative ways to access further funding for child-related services through fiscal space analysis, which identifies new financing sources. UNICEF works increasingly to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public spending, helping to ensure that scarce resources have a better impact on child well-being. This work has also helped to both attract additional government investment – for example, in Guatemala for early childhood development and in the United Republic of Tanzania for prevention of violence against children and women – and to leverage additional donor funds and ensure both government and donor contributions are spent in ways that augment child well-being. In Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Sri Lanka.

Adolescents are all too often deprived of their right to be involved in decision-making or actions that impact their lives, and are denied opportunities to take active roles in their communities. UNICEF supports adolescent participation in civic engagement (defined as activities that aim to improve their communities, schools, environment, state or country). In 2018, approximately 6 million adolescents across 102 countries participated in or led civic engagement initiatives through UNICEF-supported programmes, including around 500,000 in conflict-affected or humanitarian contexts in 23 countries. In India alone, 4.2 million adolescents were engaged; this huge increase was the result of a joint strategy with the government to scale up these efforts focusing particularly on skills development for in-school and out-of-school adolescents, as well as linkages to efforts to reduce child marriage and improve adolescent participation and social accountability in local government, child protection and school management committees. Thirty-three countries reported having policies and legislation to support adolescent development (up from 27 in 2017 and well on track to achieve the target of 48 countries). UNICEF spent US$29.3 million promoting adolescent participation and engagement, reflecting the increased emphasis being placed on addressing the needs of adolescents.

Expanding inclusive services and strengthening the data landscape were the most significant achievements for children with disabilities, with 123 countries supporting disability-inclusive programming. Six countries fully incorporated the UNICEF/Washington Group Module on Child Functioning® into their national survey architecture and released reports with data disaggregated by disability, helping to make children with disabilities more visible, including to policymakers. Through the support of UNICEF, 66,236 children with disabilities were provided with assistive devices and products. As part of humanitarian action, 59 UNICEF country offices reported conducting specific work on children with disabilities – a significant increase from 21 country offices in 2017. This work included increasing access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); education; child protection; and cash programmes for children with disabilities in humanitarian contexts.

In 2018 – its first year of implementation – the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2018–2021 carved out a new area of work on positive gender socialization, defined as work that seeks to change discriminatory gender norms to achieve equitable outcomes across all Goal Areas. UNICEF focused on developing a strong foundation and targeting priority initiatives, such as baseline mapping, advocacy, partnerships and generating evidence to inform the development of a strategic and measurement framework.

In 2018, while 151 of 157 country offices had ongoing work to address gender norms and roles, only 28 per cent (36 out of 128) country offices were implementing programmes at scale (reaching the 2018 milestone). Twenty-five per cent (32 out of 128) of countries reported having at-scale programmes for developing the capacity of front-line workers in relation to gender equity (up from 14 per cent in 2017 and exceeding the 2018 milestone of 20 per cent of countries). Promising initiatives included promoting positive parenting, developing gender-responsive pedagogy, implementing social protection programmes to break cycles of gender discrimination and leveraging multi-channel strategies for Communication for Development (C4D).

Partnerships were instrumental for achieving results for children. Through the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty, UNICEF and partners continue to advocate for age disaggregation of various poverty measures, including the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index, which highlighted in 2018 that half of the people in the world who experience multidimensional poverty are children. In addition, UNICEF collaboration with the World Bank has seen an increase in the bank poverty number disaggregated by child populations, including the latest 2018 flagship Poverty and Shared Prosperity report. To promote the universal approach to social protection, UNICEF together with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Overseas Development Institute (ODI) advocated for universal child benefits as steps towards universal social protection. UNICEF is an active member of the Universal Social Protection 2030 partnership platform led by ILO and the World Bank and supported by the European Union, United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID).
and other bilateral donors. UNICEF, in partnership with ING Bank, supported over 100,000 adolescent girls and boys through the Power of Youth Initiative, to acquire transferable skills and put them into practice through civic engagement in China, Kosovo, Montenegro, the Philippines and Viet Nam. Another key partnership for UNICEF that was launched in 2018 was Generation Unlimited (Gen U), which brings together governments, the private sector, civil society, multilateral agencies and young people to co-create and scale up innovative solutions for expanding opportunities for young people around the world. In the framework of Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), UNICEF received funding for disability-inclusive programming in 13 countries. UNICEF also engaged with private sector companies, including through the Unstereotype Alliance – an initiative to address gender stereotypes in marketing and advertising that deeply influence the formation of gender norms among girls and boys from a young age – and aims to expand this work in the future.

Looking ahead

Results achieved by UNICEF over the first year of the Strategic Plan position the organization to continue taking this global agenda forward. UNICEF will continue to strengthen programmatic interventions to address child poverty and discrimination, promote participation and civic engagement of adolescents, and work towards changing gender norms.

Countries have only 11 years left to achieve the SDG goal of ending extreme poverty and halving poverty according to national definitions. UNICEF will continue to reinforce its efforts to link the evidence of child poverty to policies and programmes that address both monetary and multidimensional child poverty. In partnership with the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty, UNICEF will capitalize on high-level opportunities related to SDG reporting to encourage countries to measure, monitor and address child poverty. The organization will promote child-sensitive social protection and the rapid expansion of child benefits, and further expand its global work to ensure programmes are also sensitive to gender and to the needs and rights of children with disabilities. UNICEF will also expand its work on shock-responsive social protection in risk-prone countries, collaborating with strategic partners and humanitarian stakeholders to strengthen coordination and support to governments.

In the coming years UNICEF will focus more attention on children and adolescents who are displaced and affected by long-standing crises, disasters or conflict. It is critical to ensure that these girls and boys, including those with disabilities, have access to basic services and accessible and inclusive platforms to participate in preparedness initiatives, humanitarian programmes and peace processes. UNICEF will also renew its commitment to promote greater availability of data on adolescent girls and boys and disaggregation of existing data to highlight inequities.

UNICEF will continue to support girls and boys with disabilities to fully participate in society through disability-inclusive and accessible programmes and services, and access to assistive devices in development and humanitarian situations. The organization will further strengthen collection of disability-disaggregated data, enhance evidence-informed programming for children with disabilities, and promote humanitarian responses that protect and meet their needs.

The organization will keep up the momentum on gender socialization by strengthening at-scale programmes that address discriminatory gender norms, and prioritize evidence generation, advocacy and strategic partnerships. UNICEF will explore new avenues of collaboration with a broad range of partners – such as corporations, philanthropists and foundations – that are eager to leverage their resources, influence, reach or business expertise to challenge gender stereotypes and transform the lives of millions of girls and boys.

In 2018 in Armenia, a boy with a disability learns to play chess in Inclusive School No. 20 in Yerevan, the capital. UNICEF supported the Government to strengthen policies and practices to provide inclusive education for all children.
The work of UNICEF in Goal Area 5 aims to improve children's lives by reducing child poverty and discrimination – including on the basis of gender, disability and age – as a direct response to upholding children's human rights to a decent standard of living, social protection and freedom from bias. These equity and rights-based objectives are also prerequisites for improving child outcomes in education, health, nutrition and protection, as they help children to overcome barriers related to poverty, disability, gender and age, and empower children and adolescents, including those with disabilities. These efforts must take account of and respond to key economic and political trends around the world that affect child well-being. This work contributes directly to the principles of leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first outlined in the common chapter of UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) strategic plans, as well as to the key areas of collaboration of eradicating poverty, achieving gender equity and empowerment of women and girls, and ensuring greater availability and use of disaggregated data for sustainable development.
Global developments in the situation of children

In almost every country in the world, whether richer or poorer, children are more likely to be living in poverty than adults and are more vulnerable to its effects. Almost one in five children – 385 million – are living in extreme poverty on less than US$1.90 (PPP) a day, and almost one in three children – 665 million – are living in households that are multidimensionally poor. Although the highest concentration of child poverty is seen in sub-Saharan Africa where nearly two thirds of children are multidimensionally poor, child poverty is not restricted to low-income countries: most of the world’s extremely poor people live in middle-income countries, with the largest proportion in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Kenya and Nigeria. Similarly, the majority of people experiencing multidimensional poverty live in lower- or upper-middle-income countries: children experiencing multidimensional poverty number 153 million in India, 56 million in Nigeria and 47 million in Pakistan. All three countries are classified as lower-middle-income countries.

Although remarkable progress has been made in reducing child poverty in the past two decades, further progress is threatened as growing numbers of countries worldwide are affected by economic crises, recurring disasters caused by natural hazards and climate change, and protracted crises associated with fragility, conflict and violence. Children living in countries that have experienced conflict and fragility are particularly vulnerable to poverty – nearly 58 per cent of children in such countries live in extremely poor households, versus 17 per cent of children in non-fragile countries.

Social protection is a crucial response to child poverty through interventions such as cash transfers, school fee abolition, health insurance and social support services. Globally, only 35 per cent of children are covered by at least one cash-based social protection programme, with glaring disparities between regions: in Africa only 15.9 per cent of children are covered, compared with 66.2 per cent in North and South America and 87.5 per cent in Europe and Central Asia (see Figure 1).

Children are twice as likely to live in poverty as adults – the youngest children are the poorest.

Social protection can help – cash transfers related to education, food security, the use of health services and poverty have proven impact – but 65 per cent of children are not being reached by these programmes.

FIGURE 1: Percentage of children and households receiving child and family benefits by region, latest available year

Source: UNICEF and ILO (2019)
There is both growing consensus that social protection systems ought to be able to respond to emergencies and greater need to do so, as protracted conflict and climate change–related emergencies add to the complexity of crises around the world. Many countries are still in the early stages of developing flexible models of social protection that take account of such risks and are able to respond in a timely manner. Supporting these initiatives will become increasingly important in the years ahead.

By 2030 nearly half of people in poverty will live in fragile contexts.

While public spending on social services grew in over half of the programme countries for which data were available, it continued to be inadequate and unequal, underlining the importance of continued attention to improving public finance for children to address multidimensional poverty. For example, the least-developed countries spend six times less on social protection than developed countries. In the education sector, expenditure is skewed towards the better-off populations (see ‘Public finance for children’). Inequity can undermine the overall value of investments in public resources, limiting their effectiveness and delaying progress in addressing children’s rights. In addition, the availability and timeliness of expenditure data remain a serious concern, with 74 per cent of all countries not producing disaggregated data on social expenditure per income quintile or region. Where available, data are rarely comprehensive and disaggregated, and are frequently published with considerable delay.

While social expenditure is increasing, equity is not: spending on health, education and social protection disproportionately benefits the wealthy.

There are 1.2 billion adolescents in the world today – 200 million more than a generation ago – and 90 per cent of these boys and girls live in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). They represent enormous potential and are a global asset: investments in this demographic group, along with supportive macroeconomic policies, will have a major impact on the future prosperity of the world. The international community can only hope to make progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by engaging and working with adolescents, supporting them in realizing their rights, and investing in their development and ability to play an active role in their own and their community’s lives. The United Nations Youth Strategy, launched in 2018, articulates this imperative and helps guide the entire United Nations in its work with young people across the three pillars of humanitarian action, human rights and sustainable development. Similarly, Generation Unlimited (Gen U) – a global partnership dedicated to ensuring that every young person is in school, learning, training or employment by 2030 - provides an important platform for leveraging commitments, action and resources to accelerate results for young people.

There are an estimated 93 million children with disabilities in the world and half of them are out of school. They face stigma and discrimination that systematically reduce their access to health, education, skills training, child protection and other services. Having a disability also increases their risk of violence, abuse and neglect, and contributes to making them invisible in their communities. In humanitarian situations, children with disabilities experience an increased risk of violence and are often deprived of humanitarian assistance. In addition, only a small proportion of children who need assistive devices in low-income countries have access to them. UNICEF plays a critical role in increasing the inclusion of children with disabilities in all services, along with other steps to protect and fulfil their rights alongside those of their peer without disabilities.

The year 2018 was a milestone year for gender equality, as the conversations around the #MeToo movement occupied public consciousness and discourse in regions and industries across the world and brought entrenched and widespread discriminatory gender norms, roles and practices into the limelight. At the same time, many societies and communities – particularly those grappling with emergencies and humanitarian situations – were untouched by these conversations and continue to be burdened by gender-discriminatory norms that lead to gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, child marriage and other harmful practices. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Social Institutions and Gender Index 2019, which uses a database of 120 countries, reported that the last five years saw progress in political commitments to eliminate gender inequality, though these did not translate into real changes for women and girls. A 2018 global study by the International Labour Organization (ILO) reported that 76 per cent of unpaid care work was performed by women. These norms contribute to women’s economic and time poverty and prevent their participation in high-quality jobs with opportunities for growth.

There were signs of optimism in 2018, as international organizations and donors recognized gender equality as a strategic and financial priority for the future. For example, the 2018 report on SDG 5 categorically highlighted the need to address structural norms and attitudes and to develop progressive frameworks to promote gender equality to achieve women’s empowerment.
Supporting national efforts and global partnerships to ‘leave no one behind’

Goal Area 5 work is strongly aligned with SDG 1, which aims to reduce poverty and expand coverage of social protection. Globally, UNICEF is part of the steering committee on Universal Social Protection 2030. It is also an active member of the Social Protection Inter-agency Coordination Board (SPIAC-B), which coordinates the support of development partners to achieve the SDGs. At country level, UNICEF also collaborates extensively with many partners, including United Nations agencies, to advance social protection floors. UNICEF collaborated with sister United Nations agencies to produce an Operational Guide on Leave No One Behind for United Nations Country Teams, responding directly to the commitments of the common chapter of the UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women strategic plans.

In line with these SDG commitments, at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2017 UNICEF committed to systematically consider cash-based programming in ways that build on and form the basis for sustainable social protection systems. These commitments underpin the organization’s work to increase the number of countries with national cash transfer programmes that are ready to respond to crises.

SDG 16.7 calls for responsive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels. UNICEF plays a normative role in encouraging parents, teachers, service providers, governments and other duty bearers to acknowledge and support adolescents, including the most marginalized, to have a say in decision-making and become actively engaged in activities aimed at improving their communities through civic engagement. In most societies, adolescents are prevented from being included in decision-making processes or community actions by deeply entrenched hierarchies based on age and gender, and the assumption that they lack the capacity to make sound decisions or be engaged. Existing legislation and policies are often contradictory and are based on historical, economic, social and cultural assumptions about what is required to ‘protect’ adolescents rather than the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Mohammad, 18, from the State of Palestine, prepares for his final exams at Suleiman Sultan School in Gaza City. He plans to study in a field that will lead to employment after school such as engineering or nursing.
To fulfil the ‘leave no one behind’ promise of the SDGs, governments around the world have pledged to implement, measure and report on the inclusion of children and adults with disabilities: the targets and indicators for 13 of the SDGs explicitly refer to people with disabilities. To help countries achieve them, UNICEF focuses on ensuring that education, health, social and child protection systems include children with disabilities. The organization also works to improve access to assistive technologies and devices for people with disabilities. In 2018, two major global partnerships were established to support these commitments: the Global Partnership for Assistive Technology (AT Scale) aims to provide assistive technology to 500 million people by 2030 with funding commitments from the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); and the Inclusive Education Initiative (IEI), funded by DFID and the Government of Norway, seeks to strengthen inclusive education programming and policy. UNICEF is a founding member of both partnerships.

In terms of the inclusion of people with disabilities, UNICEF is ‘walking the talk’, with policies and practices that support and empower employees with disabilities. In 2018, a United Nations-wide disability assessment found that UNICEF was the only agency with a human resources policy that is disability inclusive, and with a mechanism for making offices accessible. Also in 2018, 23 UNICEF offices were provided with funds through the Greening and Accessibility Fund to improve their premises to be more accessible for people with disabilities.

Challenges

UNICEF has committed to helping countries improve the equity of public expenditure on children as part of the new Strategic Plan. This is ambitious and challenging, because this type of spending is only measured sporadically and in a few countries, and because available data are often out of date. This is an area where UNICEF will need to seek further collaboration and encourage greater action both by the governments we work with and key multilateral bodies that can help make a difference, including the World Bank.

The unfolding global migration crisis has highlighted – more than ever before – the need for systems that can protect the rights of children and ensure continuing investment in measures that help develop their human capital, even when they are forced to move. Supporting parents/carers to meet the needs of children in such contexts requires close collaboration with local authorities in host countries, which may be indifferent or may not have an enabling policy and/or programme environment for addressing these issues. This is an evolving area of work for UNICEF that will require pushing the boundaries of traditional humanitarian response and programming for social protection. UNICEF will continue to work with other United Nations, multilateral and bilateral agencies to generate evidence to influence policy and programmes in origin, transit and host countries.

In countries facing protracted crises, bridging humanitarian and development approaches is becoming increasingly important. The potential to do this through the work UNICEF does on social protection is particularly high: the organization works on this issue in over 100 countries and is committed to using cash transfers as a first-line response in emergencies, using national systems whenever possible, in line with agreements made at the World Humanitarian Summit. Meeting this challenge will require common understanding and approaches among development and humanitarian actors. These crises also highlight the need for tailored and comprehensive attention to the rights of adolescents and their potential to contribute to both preparedness and peace-building. Similarly, the specific needs and risks of both boys and girls, including those with disabilities, require more attention in fragile and humanitarian contexts.

A key challenge for social protection is the lack of sufficient domestic financing for social protection in many least-developed countries and LMICs more generally, and the rationalization of spending, particularly in relation to subsidy reforms.

The lack of specific data on children with disabilities and adolescent girls and boys continues to limit progress, as it keeps children with disabilities and adolescents invisible. The UNICEF/Washington Group module on Child Functioning and provision of technical assistance to countries are key to overcoming this challenge, as are efforts to promote a greater focus on disaggregating data for the adolescent age range. There is also a lack of data on discriminatory gender norms and roles. Gender socialization is a dynamic and constantly evolving process, so measuring its impact is particularly difficult. Several academic institutions have recently developed methodologies to measure gender norms, but progress is still limited in measuring gender socialization. A lack of visible progress compounds the risk that resources will not be devoted to this area of work.

Figure 2 contains the theory of change for achieving the results in Goal Area 5 through five areas of work: gender, adolescents, multidimensional poverty, social protection and children with disabilities. As this is a cross-cutting goal, achieving the targets in each of the areas of work contributes to the achievement of results in all other goal areas of the UNICEF Strategic Plan.
FIGURE 2: Goal Area 5 in the theory of change

Outcome 5

**Girls and boys are provided with an equitable chance in life**

**Outputs**

- Countries have developed national plans to reduce multidimensional child poverty
- Countries have strengthened national social protection systems to address the needs of most disadvantaged children
- Countries have institutionalized measures to involve adolescents in decisions affecting their lives and communities
- Countries have scaled up programmes to overcome gender discriminatory roles, expectations and practices
- Countries have implemented inclusive programmes and services to promote the participation of children with disabilities in society

**Areas of work**

1. Gender
2. Adolescents
3. Multidimensional Poverty
4. Social Protection
5. Children with Disability

**Change Strategies**

- Programming excellence
- Stronger advocacy
- Leveraging resources
- Private sector engagement
- Awareness raising
- Addressing social norms
- UN coordination and collaboration
- Fostering innovation
- Data and evidence
- Community mobilization and civil society engagement
- Parenting education and involvement
- Social monitoring

**Assumptions**

- National capacity for engagement
- National commitment on inclusivity and equity
- Availability of data and evidence of good practices
- National promotion of participatory processes
- Access in humanitarian contexts
- Availability of funding for UNICEF’s engagement

**Enablers**

(a) internal governance
(b) management
(c) people
(d) knowledge and information systems
Selected results achieved in 2018

**East Asia and the Pacific**

1 **Malaysia**  
Analyses of urban child poverty in Malaysia garnered media attention in 2018 and helped support the adoption of a Multidimensional Poverty Index and to direct government and national attention to children’s well-being and malnutrition. Furthermore, advocacy by UNICEF contributed to the introduction of the ‘zero reject policy’ for undocumented children and children with disabilities, which aims to ensure that all children have access to education.

2 **Cambodia**  
In Cambodia, UNICEF successfully advocated and supported the government to increase budget allocations to nutrition by 30 per cent for 2018, and helped ensure cost savings on the procurement of ready-to-use therapeutic foods and their timely distribution to the most affected areas.

**Europe and Central Asia**

3 **Georgia**  
In Georgia, UNICEF-supported child poverty analysis and advocacy led to five-fold increase in child benefit values.

4 **Kyrgyzstan**  
UNICEF supported the development of a gender-responsive curriculum and training of 120 teachers to nurture gender-equal attitudes and perceptions among 2,000 children.

UNICEF also supported efforts for a change in legislation regarding the age of consent for seeking medical services to allow adolescents to access the services they require.

**Eastern and Southern Africa**

5 **Ethiopia**  
Following the drought in Ethiopia, UNICEF contributed US$11 million to temporarily expand the coverage of the social protection programme to 240,000 households with malnourished children (approximately 1.3 million beneficiaries) in the most affected regions.

UNICEF successfully advocated for an increase in public funding by 13 per cent for health and 28 per cent for water and sanitation, as well as additional allocation of funds for early childhood education.

6 **Uganda**  
In Uganda, 3,000 primary school children with hearing impairments were provided with hearing aids through a UNICEF-supported partnership between the Ministry of Education and Sport and the Starkey Hearing Aid Foundation.

**Latin America and the Caribbean**

7 **Guatemala**  
In Guatemala, UNICEF conducted a budget analysis and used it to support the Ministry of Finance to prioritize expenditure on children aged 0–3. The programme, called Acompáñame a Crecer, has a specific line in the national budget, with US$2 million allocation in 2019 and US$4 million for 2020, benefiting 20,000 children in the first year and 60,000 in the second.

**Middle East and North Africa**

8 **Jordan**  
UNICEF Jordan’s multisectoral disability-inclusive humanitarian programme has provided cash assistance to 6,961 boys and girls with disabilities; 84 schools in refugee camps and host communities provide inclusive education. Accessible water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities, accessible play areas, assistive devices and transport allowances are some features of the inclusive education programme.

9 **India**  
UNICEF India engaged 4.2 million adolescents in 2018 – a result of the joint strategy with the government to scale up efforts. Approaches used to encourage adolescent civic engagement range from promoting positive norms through community dialogue, mobilization of key influencers and radio campaigns, providing adolescents with information and building their life skills, and providing engagement opportunities via adolescent groups, school committees and mass media.

In Bihar, India, UNICEF supported design and implementation of a cash transfer programme to 100,000 girls up to age 21, as an incentive to continue their education and impede the high prevalence of child marriage.

**South Asia**

10 **Bangladesh**  
In Bangladesh, UNICEF ensured that 50,000 adolescents were informed about the End Child Marriage Helpline 109 and how to access it. The helpline received reports of 870 suspected cases, and 150 child marriages were stopped as a result of community interventions that included adolescents. Sixty transitional learning centres in the Rohingya refugee camps are identifying, enrolling and providing targeted support to children with disabilities through a partnership with CBM, an international non-governmental organization specializing in disability.

The Mothers@Work initiative in Bangladesh is establishing mother- and baby-friendly workplaces, including private breastfeeding rooms on-site and counselling services, in five ready-made garment factories, reaching over 150,000 working mothers and 7,500 children under 2 years of age.

**West and Central Africa**

11 **Niger**  
UNICEF Niger supported 63 adolescent-friendly platforms in 26 municipalities, included formation of 44 youth peace brigades promoting a culture of peace and mediating community conflicts, and 19 youth dialogue structures helping adolescent girls and boys participate in municipal decision-making. In total, more than 1,600 adolescents were active through the platforms and they reached over 11,000 other adolescents by leading civic engagement activities.

12 **Burkina Faso**  
UNICEF implemented social and behaviour change communication interventions in six regions to address the underlying gender norms leading to child marriage and female genital mutilation. Nearly 594 community leaders and 354 ‘change agents’ in 60 villages were trained and communication packages reached 1.3 million people.

13 **Mali**  
In Mali, UNICEF helped in expanding non-contributory health insurance for poor households, increasing the number of beneficiaries from to 3,376 to 20,538 households over the year, including 15,289 children.
Results: Child poverty

For children, living in poverty is a denial of their fundamental rights to good nutrition, health, water, education, protection and shelter – diminishing their life chances and ability to realize their potential. This lack of investment in human capital has devastating, life-long consequences and serious implications for future generations and societies. Assessing child poverty – not only in monetary dimensions, but also multidimensional poverty – is critical for responding to the multifaceted challenges children face. Early interventions and investment in children and families living in poverty is central to breaking intergenerational poverty. Measuring multidimensional child poverty complements measurement of income-based poverty by capturing the deprivations each child faces at the same time across a range of critical rights.

In almost every country in the world – rich and poor – children are more likely than adults to live in poverty, and their life stage makes them more vulnerable to its effects. Almost one in five children – 385 million – are living in extreme poverty on less than PPP US$1.90 a day, and almost one in three children – 665 million – are living in households that are multidimensionally poor. Child poverty is not restricted to low-income countries: the majority of people experiencing extreme and multidimensional poverty live in lower- or upper-middle-income countries. Children who live in situations of multidimensional poverty number 153 million in India, 56 million in Nigeria and 47 million in Pakistan. All three countries are classified as lower-middle-income.
UNICEF positions child poverty as a central issue in national development plans, national agendas, policies and programmes. This includes encouraging governments to measure and monitor child poverty and to address, reduce and ultimately end child poverty through social and economic policies.

This approach includes:

- National measurement of child poverty in all its dimensions
- Advocacy using child poverty measurement, where data exist but are under-utilized
- Policy analysis and engagement to influence policies and programmes, where child poverty is recognized but not addressed
- Integration of policies and programmes by national development action plans, backed by resources to put them into practice, along with the achievement of SDG 1 on child poverty, where interventions are limited or fragmented.

In addition, UNICEF brings much-needed global attention and urgency to the need to end extreme child poverty as outlined in SDG 1, in partnership with the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty, which is chaired by UNICEF.

Results achieved in 2018

Since 2014, UNICEF has played an instrumental role in bringing increasing levels of global and national attention to child poverty. Robust estimates of child poverty, both monetary and multidimensional, are critical for designing policies and informing programming and budgeting for social protection aimed at reducing child poverty and deprivations. The organization’s advocacy and support to national governments on measuring and monitoring child poverty is yielding results: by the end of 2018, some 55 countries had established mechanisms for measuring and reporting on multidimensional child poverty (up from 42 in 2017, and exceeding the 2018 milestone of 45 countries); 74 countries had routine measurement and reporting of monetary child poverty (up from 63 in 2017, and making good progress towards the 2021 target of 90 countries) (see Figure 3). UNICEF specifically supports countries to address child poverty through expanding social protection programmes and improving the equity of public expenditure, so that disadvantaged children are better covered by government investments in health, education and social protection. As of 2018, child poverty was being addressed by specific policies and programmes in 22 countries, up from 19 countries in 2017, and on track to achieve the 2021 target of 32 countries (see Figure 4).

FIGURE 3: Number of countries measuring child poverty
UNICEF collaborated with national governments and statistical offices from all regions to produce 21 child poverty studies in 2018 (see Figure 5),24 many of which were driven by government demand to provide baselines for SDG indicators and targets related to child poverty. These studies provide a comprehensive overview of the situation of children living in poverty, going beyond analysing monetary poverty to exploring how children are deprived, often simultaneously, in critical dimensions such as nutrition, health, education, water and sanitation.

The analyses consistently highlight how children are hardest hit by poverty: in Mongolia, for example, while the national poverty rate is 28.9 per cent, the child poverty rate is 38.5 per cent. The reports also highlight high rates of multidimensional child poverty. For instance, the 2018 Lesotho child poverty study shows that 65 per cent of children experience multidimensional poverty, and that this is significantly higher in rural than urban areas (72 per cent and 43 per cent, respectively). In Cambodia, on the other hand, nearly half of children face multidimensional poverty.

FIGURE 4: Impact on countries of measuring child poverty

UNICEF

FIGURE 5: Selected child poverty studies produced in 2018

Angola
Childhood in
A Multidimensional Analysis of Child Poverty
Índice de Pobreza Multidimensional de Níñ@s, Niñ@s y Adolescentes Panamá 2018

Child Poverty in Cambodia

Children Without
A study of urban child poverty and deprivation in low-cost flats in Kuala Lumpur

Child Poverty in Malawi

Child Poverty in the Arab States: Analytical Report of Eleven Countries

Child Poverty in Rwanda: A Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA) July, 2018


UNICEF

UNICEF Global Annual Results Report 2018 | UNICEF

Global Annual Results Report 2018 | UNICEF
UNICEF country offices provided specific support for measuring and addressing child poverty. In 2018, some 94 country offices supported advocacy efforts to prioritize child poverty on national agendas, and 66 countries convened stakeholders around the importance of child poverty, among other efforts (see Figure 7).

UNICEF support, advocacy and partnerships have contributed to a greater focus on children in international monitoring and reporting on poverty. In both 2017 and 2018, the Oxford Policy and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), which is a member of the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty, disaggregated data on children in their high-profile global Multidimensional Poverty Index, showing that half of the people in the world who are experiencing multidimensional poverty are children.25 Likewise, in their flagship Poverty and Shared Prosperity report in 2018, the World Bank highlighted that extreme poverty disproportionately affects young children.26

FIGURE 6: Number of countries measuring and addressing child poverty (CP), by region, 2018

FIGURE 7: UNICEF support to countries for measuring and/or addressing child poverty

EAP, East Asia and the Pacific; ECA, Europe and Central Asia; ESA, Eastern and Southern Africa; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA, Middle East and North Africa; SA, South Asia; WCA, West and Central Africa.
These global statistics on child poverty provide powerful support for the organization’s continuing work to ensure that ending child poverty is among the highest global, regional and national priorities. To further this agenda, the social policy section increased its social media presence in 2018. With 13,000 followers and an average monthly reach of 36,000, Twitter is one of the primary communication channels for the Social Policy team to reach and engage with the public, policymakers, donors and other stakeholders (see Figure 8). Despite social policy issues not being easily marketable to a wide audience, @UNICEFSocPolicy is among the most followed UNICEF headquarters Twitter accounts.

The push of the SDGs – routine child poverty measurement

UNICEF supported the analysis of multidimensional child poverty in a number of countries, including Cambodia, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mali and Rwanda. This led to establishment of baseline estimates for SDG indicator 1.2.2 on the proportion of children living in poverty in all its dimensions in these countries. Quality, routine, nationally supported measurement of child poverty builds knowledge and understanding of its scale, scope and equity dimensions, and sets a foundation for creating policies and programmes to reduce it.

“Poverty is the condition whereby people own nothing and have no income to meet basic needs, like clothing, housing, food, education, access to good health-care facilities.”

Participant in a focus group with boys aged 14–17 in Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania.

In many countries these SDG-related efforts have led to the establishment of national systems to monitor monetary and multidimensional child poverty, where child poverty is now reported in standard and routine government survey publications. In Djibouti, Jamaica, Rwanda and Uganda, for example, analysis of child poverty and deprivation is now integrated into national poverty survey reports. New survey tools under development suggest that both Fiji and Kiribati will join this group in 2019. In 2018, Saint Lucia dedicated a chapter on child poverty in its Saint Lucia Report of Living Conditions, and Angola established a national system to measure and report on multidimensional child poverty, under the leadership of the National Institute of Statistics. The Government of Malawi initiated a process to institutionalize the measurement of monetary and multidimensional child poverty and included an indicator on multidimensional child poverty in the monitoring and evaluation framework for the third Malawi Growth and Development Strategy. In the Philippines, UNICEF worked with the Philippine Statistics Authority to develop the first National Child Poverty Database.

Building capacity to address child poverty

Efforts to increase the ability of countries to measure child poverty intensified in 2018, encouraging a greater sense of national ownership. Sixty-one UNICEF offices reported that they supported national efforts to measure monetary and/or multidimensional child poverty, including in Angola, the Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Panama and Yemen. This support took different forms, for example:

- The Tonga Statistics Department delivered a five-day capacity-building workshop in 2018, which brought together 14 government officials from statistics offices in Fiji, Kiribati and Tonga. During this workshop the officials undertook the management, processing and analysis of poverty data, developed qualitative tools, and established reliable and valid measurements of poverty.
- In Indonesia, UNICEF worked with the Central Bureau of Statistics and Bandung Islamic University, under the leadership of the Ministry of National Development Planning, to improve analysis of child well-being, resulting in development of a child well-being index for selected districts. Multiple workshops were held in 2018 to support these efforts.
- In Montenegro, UNICEF supported the Montenegro National Statistical Office to analyse child poverty data collected through the European Union Survey of Income and Living Conditions.
- In Kenya, a collaboration with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics for the analysis of child poverty contributed to a greater sense of ownership of study results and improved national capacities for analysis of child poverty.
South–South collaboration

UNICEF helped strengthen the capacity to address child poverty in 2018 through South–South collaboration. In Mauritania, with the support of UNICEF, the National Statistical Office carried out a study trip to Tunis to learn about Tunisia’s experience with establishing consensus criteria for analysing multidimensional poverty. UNICEF Argentina and UNICEF Armenia organized a study visit of officials from the Government of Argentina to learn about Armenia’s experience of institutionalizing the measurement of child poverty. Likewise, Armenia learned more about Argentina’s efforts to measure expenditures for children. UNICEF Mexico facilitated cooperation between Consejo Nacional de Evaluación de la Política de Desarrollo Social (CONEVAL) – a global leader on multidimensional poverty analysis and policy design – and the Government of Jamaica, to identify ways to expand and improve Jamaica’s measurement of child poverty and to institutionalize the evaluation of social programmes.

Child poverty partnerships and collaborations

In 2018 a number of UNICEF country offices partnered with the World Bank to build national capacity and produce government-owned monetary child poverty estimates, including in Kosovo, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria and Lebanon. With the support of UNICEF and the World Bank, the Government of Tajikistan produced its first report on child poverty since 2009, while in Montenegro – again supported by UNICEF and the World Bank – child poverty data were presented for the first time since 2013. In Armenia, where every third child is poor, UNICEF initiated a partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the World Bank and the Armenian Association of Social Workers. The aim was to engage on the issue of child poverty with over 350 participants from the government, civil society, the private sector, associations of social workers abroad, international development, academia and youth organizations.

In Uzbekistan, UNICEF again partnered with the World Bank to support the use of a household survey entitled ‘Listening to the Citizens of Uzbekistan’, which enabled the country to do its first quantitative assessment of child-focused social protection programmes, including simulations of various child benefit reform options. This increased the government’s capacity for evidence-based reform of child-focused social allowances, with the aim of making them more effective in addressing child poverty.

China accounted for much of the world’s success in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and is currently striving to meet the SDGs. It has demonstrated high-level political commitment to lift 70 million people out of extreme poverty by 2020 and is on track to achieve this national goal. The focus for UNICEF in China remained to expand awareness and understanding of child poverty and the multiple deprivations children experience in urban and rural areas; to build the evidence base through supporting analysis of child poverty with existing data; and to ensure that such analyses inform the government’s post-2020 poverty reduction and development agendas. UNICEF helped enhance the capacities of national and local government officials to recognize child poverty and commit to measuring and responding to it through its partnership with the International Poverty Reduction Center in China, an organization affiliated with the State Council’s Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development.

Child poverty in fragile contexts

Children living in countries that have experienced conflict and fragility are particularly vulnerable to poverty – nearly 58 per cent of children in such countries live in extremely poor households, compared to 17 per cent of children in non-fragile countries.28 This is particularly worrisome as growing numbers of countries worldwide are affected by both recurring disasters caused by natural hazards and protracted
crises associated with fragility, conflict and violence. Two billion people now live in such countries and it is estimated that by 2020 between 43 per cent and 60 per cent of people living in extreme poverty will be in countries affected by fragility, violence and conflict. Even in these precarious situations UNICEF works hard to measure and highlight the plight of children living in poverty. Some examples include the following.

- During the conflict in Yemen, UNICEF supported simulations that showed that the monetary child poverty rate had increased from an already high rate of 53.4 per cent in 2014 to 84.5 per cent in 2016. These initial analyses laid the foundation for comprehensive analysis of child poverty in Yemen from a multidimensional perspective. This improved knowledge on child poverty, vulnerabilities and disparities, and informed the development of equity-based public policies and donor responses to child deprivation.

- In Iraq, UNICEF partnered with the Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to conduct analyses of multidimensional child poverty in Mosul City, covering the three poorest neighbourhoods with high numbers of households comprising internally displaced people. This was a groundbreaking attempt to capture multidimensional child poverty in humanitarian settings. The findings were used to redefine targeting methods for social assistance – to look beyond basic needs by incorporating multidimensional aspects of poverty. In addition, UNICEF and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) supported the Ministry of Planning to develop a national and child-specific Multidimensional Poverty Index, involving analysis from the recent UNICEF-supported Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey. UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning, World Food Programme (WFP) and Zain Telecommunication, are also developing an innovative model for measuring child poverty using mobile data, satellite imagery and crop productivity mapping, to produce regular monitoring mechanisms, such as poverty maps.

- A longitudinal assessment of Syrian refugee children in host communities in Jordan highlighted that more than 81 per cent of those aged 0–5 years and 50 per cent of children aged 6–17 years are both monetarily and multidimensionally poor. In the first six months of 2018, UNICEF Jordan provided monthly cash support to 55,000 vulnerable children, regardless of nationality and selected based on a multidimensional child-focused assessment, with the objective of supporting enrolment and retention in public schools.

Advocacy to address child poverty

UNICEF helped generate fresh evidence on child poverty in 2018, providing valuable content for the organization and other stakeholders to advocate for appropriate programmes and policies. For example, the organization provided support to Côte d’Ivoire to analyse child poverty, which served as a powerful advocacy tool for social ministries bargaining for increased public investment in social sectors, and brought increased attention to the most deprived regions in the country. In Trinidad and Tobago, analysis was accompanied by a book of photographs on child poverty that captured the voices of children from the research, providing a powerful and innovative advocacy tool.

In Morocco, UNICEF supported the analysis of multidimensional child poverty, which was disseminated in 2018 at the national and subnational levels. This reinforced the need for child-sensitive policy responses and sparked discussions in Parliament, where specific questions were addressed to the government on how public policies will reduce child poverty and deprivation.

Likewise, in Algeria, the results from analyses were used in discussions with the government to stimulate interest and argue in favour of child-sensitive social protection. A linked simulation exercise showed that Algeria could achieve the SDG target of halving poverty in all its forms for children. UNICEF highlighted that achieving this target will require important policy shifts in social protection and other sectors.

During the recent election campaigns in Brazil, UNICEF launched the advocacy campaign ‘More than Promises’ (Mais Que Promessas), built around six key problems faced by children and adolescents. Based on UNICEF-supported multidimensional child poverty analysis, it proposed actions to be taken by candidates for national and state governments. The launch yielded massive media coverage of child poverty issues. Based on this visibility, UNICEF reached out to all candidates for the Presidency and for Governor posts in priority states, and as a result, 22 candidates – including 5 running for the Presidency – signed a commitment to prioritize children and adolescents, and spoke to the media and other audiences about it. UNICEF also advocated with the Ministry of Planning, which resulted in the Ministry’s intention to include the multidimensional child poverty methodology in the upcoming 2019–2023 Brazilian Development Plan and align it with the SDGs.

National planning processes – and influencing policies/programmes

The advocacy work of UNICEF aims to establish and include child poverty as a priority issue in national development plans, which underpin policy and programmatic action.

In 2018, many countries firmly placed child poverty on their national agendas. In Zambia, child poverty is now
Case Study 1: Malaysia: Bringing to light the realities of children living in urban poverty

Analyses of urban child poverty in Malaysia garnered media attention in 2018 and helped support the adoption of a Multidimensional Poverty Index and to direct government and national attention to children’s well-being and malnutrition.

Malaysia is a high-income country with low levels of poverty of less than 1 per cent. The country has been urbanizing rapidly in the last 10 years, increasing the risk of urban poverty. Worldwide, urban child poverty is often hidden by statistics, which routinely show higher poverty rates in rural areas, and Malaysia is no exception. Finding effective ways to identify and support children living in poverty in cities is a critical first step in responding to the phenomenon of urbanization and to supporting child well-being.

In 2018, UNICEF Malaysia commissioned a first-of-its-kind urban study called *Children Without: A study of urban child poverty and deprivation in low-cost flats* to further understand and highlight child poverty in urban settings. The study revealed that despite the very low national poverty rate in Malaysia, child poverty is high in urban communities and child malnutrition is twice as high as the average in Kuala Lumpur. The study also explored children’s perceptions of poverty, the integration of children living in poverty in cities into the broader society, and the opportunities that await them. The study provided evidence to support targeted policies and interventions to ensure that no child is left behind.

The study results received intense national media attention and were presented to the government and the legislature/parliament, where it drew attention from Members of Parliament from both sides of the house. Capitalizing on the new national political landscape, particularly a new government manifesto and 100-days pledge, and drawing on the positive momentum of public opinion, UNICEF Malaysia used the study results to strategically target key ministers in the new government and in the Council of Eminent Persons in charge of socioeconomic reforms.

The study was bolstered by consultations and the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders in the study launch, including the private sector, top academics and economists, Members of Parliament and civil society. This amplified the call for the government to address urban child poverty and malnutrition.
reported and monitored under the government’s national development plan. In Kenya, the data on child poverty informed the 2017–2018 county plans, the national plan and some sector policies. In Cambodia, analysis of multidimensional child poverty is being used to inform the ongoing national strategic development and sector planning process for 2019–2020. In addition, UNICEF supported the generation of evidence on child poverty, which was used to inform strategic documents such as social protection strategies and national development planning processes in Benin, Burkina Faso, the Congo, Guinea, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mali, Paraguay, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Viet Nam.

In Eswatini, child poverty measures have been used to inform policies and programmes in key sectors, including the social assistance policy, social ‘cash plus’ programmes, orphans and vulnerable children education grant, and child health programmes. In Trinidad and Tobago, regional consultations were conducted under the Joint UNICEF–UNDP Programme on Multidimensional Poverty to capture community input on poverty – including the voices of children – to inform the development of the National Poverty Reduction Strategy, which was drafted in 2018.

In North Macedonia, in partnership with the World Bank, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy to draft new legislation regulating cash benefits, social support/care services, and the social welfare workforce. The legal reform was followed up with operational support, including contributions from UNICEF to the overhaul of the country’s cash benefit scheme. This involved generating evidence that was used by the government to direct resources away from an underperforming demographic programme towards an enhanced child and educational benefit. As a result, the number of children benefiting from the main poverty-targeted benefit will increase from approximately 3,500 children to 70,000, a nearly 20-fold increase. In Namibia, child grants were further expanded from 235,791 in 2016 to 317,127 children in 2017. This was mainly attributed to the introduction of the Vulnerable Child Grant, targeting children living in a household where both caregivers are unemployed. The grant was initiated in 2015 after research conducted by UNICEF found that significant vulnerable child populations were excluded from the current system.

Challenges and constraints

More governments than ever are now measuring, monitoring and addressing child poverty, yet gaps remain. For example, despite an estimate of more than 20 million children living below national poverty lines in the European and Central Asia Region, fewer than half of governments in the Region regularly monitor child poverty.

While it should be celebrated that governments are increasingly placing child poverty firmly within national development plans, ending child poverty requires going a step further and implementing these plans and programmes. As noted by UNICEF South Africa, while measurements of child poverty are mentioned in the South Africa National Development Plan – 2030, there has been mixed success in the Plan’s use for departmental planning processes, and stronger links are needed between national planning documents and strategic planning in sectoral departments.

It is also critical to keep in mind that, despite remarkable progress in poverty reduction globally in the past two decades, child poverty has increased in many parts of the world, particularly in regions plagued by conflict or unstable governance.

These challenges may lead to certain countries not achieving the SDG of ending extreme poverty.29

Supporting national governments to monitor and address child poverty has proven relatively cost-effective way for UNICEF to trigger changes in investment for better outcomes for children. UNICEF will forge ahead in 2019 and beyond, to continue encouraging governments to prioritize efforts to end child poverty in line with the SDG objectives to end poverty and leave no child behind.
Case Study 2: Georgia: Analyses supported by UNICEF Georgia led to five-fold increase in child benefit values

UNICEF Georgia continues to be a leader in high-quality analysis of child poverty and advocacy and action to improve child well-being. In 2015, UNICEF supported research that revealed higher poverty rates among children. Advocacy to disseminate the findings led the government to introduce a remarkable child benefit scheme to its social security system, which aimed to reach approximately 260,000 children from the poorest households.

In 2018, UNICEF Georgia produced new analyses showing that child poverty had once again increased, hitting large households with children particularly hard. It revealed that households with children, and especially those with three or more children, continued to be significantly more likely to live in poverty than households without children. Nearly one third (27.6 per cent) of all children in Georgia live below the absolute poverty threshold compared to just over one fifth (21.7 per cent) of the general population, and every fifth child lives in a household surviving on less than the subsistence minimum. In addition, half of all families living under the general poverty line were chronically poor (below the absolute poverty line). The analysis further showed that if the Targeted Social Assistance and child benefits were removed, extreme poverty among children in Georgia would rise from 6.8 per cent to 12.9 per cent – meaning around 90,000 more children would be in poverty.

This analysis led to a renewed public debate and intensive discussions in government on poverty. The highly publicized debate and the UNICEF-supported findings that child poverty had increased led the government to introduce a five-fold increase in the value of child benefits, from 10 to 50 GEL, in January 2019.

Natia, a mother in Tbilisi, Georgia, was once the breadwinner for herself and her husband. But when her son, Tsotne, was born with a severe disability, her financial situation faltered. She has found much needed help through a government programme to address extreme poverty. Credit: UNICEF photo
The Public Finance for Children (PF4C) programme of UNICEF seeks to influence and support the mobilization, allocation and use of domestic financial resources to achieve greater, more equitable and sustainable results for children. If government budgets are insufficient, concentrated on better-off groups, or used ineffectively, the poorest children are left behind. PF4C work supports efforts to ensure that:

(a) Sufficient resources are allocated for child-related policies and services
(b) Spending is efficient, timely and effective
(c) Resources are equitably distributed, with greater attention to disadvantaged groups and areas
(d) Children, adolescents and their families are empowered to participate in the budget process, for more transparent and accountable spending.

UNICEF PF4C work is underpinned by the commitments that countries have under Article 4 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as by the ‘leave no child behind’ principle in the Strategic Plan.

As shown by the country-level examples in this report, the practical work undertaken in this programme area contributed substantially to sector achievements in health, education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), nutrition, social protection and others. The outputs of PF4C work typically forms the basis for any sector-related policy decisions and are essential for accelerating sector-based outcomes.
Results achieved in 2018

In the Strategic Plan, UNICEF committed to support countries to measure the equity of public spending. In 2018, 17 countries reported having national mechanisms in place to measure the share of public spending in health, education and/or social protection of the poorest quintile (up from 15 countries in 2017 and on track to achieve the target of 28 countries). Twenty-three countries reported having data on public expenditure benefiting children in households living in the poorest region (up from 21 countries in 2017 and on track to achieve the target of 43 countries) (see Figures 9 and 10).

In 2018, UNICEF PF4C activities increased considerably at both the regional and country levels, as measured by the number of PF4C outputs (including studies, research and programmatic activities) and the amount of invested resources into PF4C programming (from US$6.3 million in 2017 to US$13.7 million in 2018). These figures only capture expenses under Goal Area 5 outputs, and do not include the sizeable PF4C-related expenditure in the sectors and other cross-sectoral outputs.

Several factors have contributed to this progress. PF4C work programming has become more systematic following the launch of the PF4C Global Programme Framework in December 2017, and the organization’s internal understanding of the value of the PF4C work has improved significantly following substantial investments in enhancing internal capacity on this issue. Through the flagship Global Learning Programme on Public Finance for Children, over the past three years, more than 350 staff have learned how to identify and respond to public financial management challenges that constrain results for children, and many are now applying this knowledge in programming.

FIGURE 9: Countries with national measurement of the share of public spending in health, education and/or social protection benefiting children in households living in the poorest regions.

EAP, East Asia and the Pacific; ECA, Europe and Central Asia; ESA, Eastern and Southern Africa; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA, Middle East and North Africa; SA, South Asia; WCA, West and Central Africa.
FIGURE 10: Countries with national measurement of the share of public spending in health, education and/or social protection benefiting children in households living in the poorest quintile

EAP, East Asia and the Pacific; ECA, Europe and Central Asia; ESA, Eastern and Southern Africa; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA, Middle East and North Africa; SA, South Asia; WCA, West and Central Africa.

FIGURE 11: Number of UNICEF country offices seeking to improve various aspects of public budgets for children

Making children visible in national budgets

Greater public awareness around how public funds are allocated and used can help support better decisions, more public oversight, and ultimately better services and outcomes for children. UNICEF supports partners in their efforts to make child-related spending easier to calculate and report, and to leverage this data to improve how much and how equitably funds are invested in children. UNICEF supports work to improve budget transparency and accountability in 50 countries. (See Figure 11)

In India, as a result of technical support from UNICEF, the Ministry of Finance made it mandatory for all ministries to report annually on allocations and expenditure for child-specific schemes, significantly improving visibility of children in the budget. At the same time, 10 states in India committed to adopting the child budget allocations from the 2019–2020 budget, in order to analyse and prioritize child-related allocations and expenditures. This will also help to measure and track child-focused expenditures at subnational level, making it easier to link budgets to child outcomes. In Argentina, UNICEF supported the inclusion of formal mechanisms to identify child-focused allocations in the budget process, which will be used by the government
to include an annex on public investment in children within the 2020 National Budget Message to be submitted to the National Congress. UNICEF also supported the development of tracking mechanisms for expenditure on early childhood development (ECD), which the government has committed to using in the design of the ECD national strategy and advocating for at the G20 summit, promoting the prioritization of investing in ECD. These initiatives greatly increased the visibility of child-focused public investments in the budget, and are expected to result in greater prioritization, increased allocation and equitable distribution of resources for children.

In Armenia, UNICEF supported the government in conducting an analysis of child-focused expenditure and developed budget briefs for the education, social protection and child protection sectors, which increased visibility of child-focused spending. The data were also used by UNICEF to support sector ministries to prepare programme-based budgets, enhancing the quality of sector-budget submissions to the Ministry of Finance and positively influencing the 2019 Budget Law by increasing contributions for ECD.

**Increasing public financing for children**

The PF4C work considers how much and how well public funds are being used for children. In situations where resources cannot cover the cost of basic services for all children, it becomes essential to focus on increasing overall social sector expenditure. UNICEF uses evidence-based, affordable solutions to identify potential areas for flexibility in fiscal spending so that funds can be directed towards social spending without jeopardizing fiscal sustainability and the stability of current and future budgets. UNICEF works to ensure adequate expenditure on children in 75 countries.

In Ethiopia, UNICEF engaged in multiple PF4C actions jointly with the government to support the process of fiscal reforms aimed at expanding the tax base and increasing resources for domestic financing of social spending. In 2018, UNICEF Ethiopia supported the Ministry of Finance to undertake a study to identify options for mobilizing resources, in light of the declining level of foreign assistance. This effort built upon an earlier study conducted by UNICEF Ethiopia and the Ministry of Finance in 2017, which recommended prioritizing social sector budgets to improve the coverage and quality of public services. Subsequent advocacy based on this evidence resulted in an increase in public funding – 13 per cent for health and 28 per cent for water and sanitation in the federal budget 2018–2019, compared to the previous year’s budget, as well as additional allocation of funds for ECD.

In Guyana, UNICEF took a sequenced approach to influence budget expenditures for children. In 2017 it conducted a child-focused public expenditure analysis and strengthened the capacities of key stakeholders on child-sensitive budgeting through a tailored learning programme. Throughout 2018, UNICEF Guyana focused on integrating the learning programme into sector ministries and successfully advocated for greater commitment from the government towards sustainable investments in children. Budget allocations for all social sectors have increased significantly in 2019.
In another multi-year effort, UNICEF Burkina Faso leveraged findings from the Tax Burden and Fiscal Revenue Analysis (2016) and the expenditure trend analysis (2013–2018) to successfully advocate for increased budget allocations to the education sector (by 33 per cent) and the health and nutrition sector (by 13.85 per cent) between 2018 and 2019.

In Cameroon, coupled with high-level advocacy and partnership with the World Bank, efforts to develop capacity and provide technical assistance in the area of public finance for children has contributed to an increase in the budget for the education sector from 10 per cent of the state budget in 2016 to 13 per cent in 2019, which was one percentage point more than the national development targets set for 2020. For the health sector, the budget has increased from 3.9 per cent in 2018 to 4.3 per cent as a share of the total budget in 2019.

UNICEF Romania successfully advocated for sustainable, adequate financing in the education sector, with the government committing to increase the national education budget by 15 per cent yearly to progressively reach 6 per cent of GDP, expected in 2022. Similarly, in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, UNICEF led a process of child-focused budget analysis and creation of budget briefs for the health and education sectors. This resulted in an increase in the total allocation for health, as a proportion of the total government budget, from 6 per cent (in 2016) to 8.45 per cent (in 2018), and for education from 12.6 per cent (2016) to 14.02 per cent (2018).

Making public spending for children more efficient and effective

In many instances there are considerable differences between allocations and actual expenditures on social services. Ensuring that scarce resources are used in the most efficient and effective way possible guarantees that services are delivered to everyone in need and at the lowest possible cost. This, in turn, may yield savings that can be reallocated for developing other programmes or to increase coverage of existing ones. As resources are invariably scarce, they should be spent on programmes and policies that are effective, impactful and generate the highest positive social returns for the most vulnerable people. Analysis of public finance can help countries determine which interventions are most worth the investment.

In Nepal, UNICEF has continued to strengthen the efficiency and transparency of the Child Grant programme by deploying technology-based solutions. The Department of Civil Registration, with support from UNICEF, implemented a technology known as RapidPro, which provides real-time monitoring in three pilot districts and has connected people to short message service (SMS) based information related to payment dates. It also enables them to provide feedback – using SMS and interactive voice response – about their experience in collecting and using the grants. More than 30,000 families and caregivers have access to the technology, benefiting 68,902 children under the age of 5. These data are essential in making budget decisions in real time that affect the implementation of programme budgets.

In North Macedonia, UNICEF analysed public expenditures for children in social protection and education to identify spending patterns and bottlenecks. In partnership with the World Bank, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy to draft new legislation regulating cash benefits, social support/care services, and the social welfare workforce. As part of this reform, UNICEF contributed to the overhaul of the country’s cash benefit scheme. Based on evidence generated by UNICEF, the government reprioritized funding from underperforming programmes to an enhanced child and educational benefit that improved coverage and adequacy. As reported in a previous section, the number of children expected to benefit from the main poverty-targeted scheme will increase as much as 20-fold. The introduction of a wide network of social support and care services in the communities where children in need live – such as personal assistants for children with disabilities, respite care, assisted living, foster care and counselling – is also planned.

This year, UNICEF Mexico completed a study and costing exercise of the Child Protection Authorities (Procuradurías de Protección de Niñez), an institution created by the General Law on Children’s Rights with responsibility for children’s special protection and rights restitution plans. The study found that Child Protection Authorities only receive 27 per cent of the funding required to deliver an optimal level of service. UNICEF Mexico leveraged this study in a series of advocacy actions with key government stakeholders. As a result, policymakers from the State of Chihuahua allocated additional funds of US$640,000 to their state Child Protection Authorities.

Making public social spending more equitable

One of the primary objectives of the organization’s PF4C work is to ensure that public financial resources are spent on services for those that need them the most. Even where total budgets seem sufficient, funding is often concentrated in services that benefit the rich more than the poor: urban hospitals rather than rural health centres, or universities rather than primary education. UNICEF supports initiatives to improve equity in the use of public resources in 41 countries.

A first step to improving equity in public expenditure is to measure it. UNICEF is helping more countries measure equity in public expenditure. Currently, such measures are most common in the education sector, and – as can be seen in Figure 12 – the results are quite revealing. In Uganda, public finance for children was improved by institutionalizing and launching the online Equity Atlas on the websites of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Policy Research Centre. UNICEF partnered with both institutions to conduct four regional trainings for district planning and budgeting officers.
(in all districts in Uganda) on the use of the Equity Atlas as a tool for improving local government budgeting practice. In addition, children’s rights–focused and equity analysis reports were produced from the census database and disseminated and are expected to positively affect budget allocations in 2019.

In Panama, UNICEF supported the development and institutionalization of a Multidimensional Poverty Index. In March 2018, analysis of child poverty levels in the country showed that 32.8 per cent of children are poor and that, on average, they suffer from four to five different types of deprivations, particularly lack of parental care, inadequate housing and limited access to education. UNICEF then provided technical support to an inter-ministerial committee chaired by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, to analyse social public expenditures on children and use the findings to call for more equitable spending priorities in 2019.

In Malawi, UNICEF successfully advocated for an increase in the 2018/19 ECD budget (8.5 per cent in nominal terms compared to the previous year), increasing access to community-based childcare centres for an additional 1.6 million children. Additionally, through evidence-based advocacy and technical assistance, the share of education spending increased from 18 per cent to 23.7 per cent from 2017 to 2018, resulting in waiving of secondary education school fees for poor students. Finally, to promote gender equity, UNICEF Malawi also helped set up and jointly co-fund, along with the government, the National Girls Trust Fund, providing 14,000 scholarships to vulnerable children.

In Nepal, UNICEF advocacy to improve human development indicators in the poorest districts and technical support and evidence generation that included the development of a costed strategy and implementation plan resulted in a commitment to expand the national Child Grant programme, to reach every child under the age of 5 in six additional districts (Bajura, Doti, Jajarkot, Kailali, Mahottari and Sarlahi).

This means an additional 300,000 children will benefit through an increase in public expenditure for children amounting to US$13.2 million annually. The cash is given to mothers (or primary carers) and this is expected to have empowering effects, especially in enhancing the financial inclusion of women.

In Pakistan, UNICEF coordinated with the Ministry of Finance to undertake a major child-sensitive analysis of the social sector budget, taking a gender lens approach. This analysed trends, proposed allocations and assessed whether current allocations meet legal, regulatory and policy requirements. A budgetary analysis and mapping of inequities in WASH at subdistrict and district levels revealed correlations between limited resource allocations and poor services on the one hand, and high rates of diarrhoea and stunting on the other. The analysis supported advocacy for increased allocations and the integration of WASH in other initiatives. At the provincial level, UNICEF aided the development of manuals to improve planning and budgeting, and lobbied for increased allocations to districts with poor WASH indicators.

### Noteworthy and innovative PF4C approaches

UNICEF develops tailored solutions to challenges related to PF4C that fit specific country contexts, thanks to its global coverage through country and field offices, strong partnerships with governments and key stakeholders at all levels, and flexible programme tools and approaches. Solutions range from specific service models that reflect a country’s level of preparedness and which require financial resources for scaling up, to interventions that provide direct support to budget management and programme implementation.
In Cambodia, UNICEF continued to be the fund manager for the Capacity Development Partnership Fund Phase III, a four-year programme (2018–2021) with an estimated US$27 million budget. This multi-donor partnership directly supports the implementation of the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport Capacity Development Master Plan, which aims to achieve the objectives of the Education Strategic Plan. The successful performance and management of the Fund against the agreed indicators of improving access to and quality of education attracted new financing partners in 2018 – USAID and the Global Partnership for Education – and renewed funding commitments from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the European Union and UNICEF.

In Guatemala, UNICEF conducted a budget analysis and used it to support the Ministry of Finance to prioritize expenditure on children aged 0–3. More specifically, UNICEF for the first time for any sector, helped develop a logical framework and a biannual budget for an ECD programme called Acompáñame a Crecer and worked with the Ministry of Finance to include a specific line in the national budget. This resulted in an initial budget allocation for this programme of US$2 million in 2019 and US$4 million for 2020, benefiting 20,000 children in the first year and 60,000 in the second.

In the United Republic of Tanzania, UNICEF supported the development of a streamlined coordination mechanism for the implementation of the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC), with accountabilities consolidated in two high-level multisectoral committees and eight thematic working groups. With technical and advocacy support from UNICEF, the NPA-VAWC priorities were included in the 2018/19 National Guidelines for Planning and Budgeting. The number of key ministries committing funds to the NPA-VAWC increased from three in 2017 to eight in 2018, with a total commitment of over US$2 million from the government’s own resources for implementation of the plan, which is 6 per cent of the estimated costs for year 2. UNICEF will continue to advocate for more government funding, especially given the over-reliance on donor funds.

**Working in partnership**

UNICEF has been able to deliver important results for children by working in partnership with other organizations and stakeholders that share its vision and goals. The role it has played has been crucial in leveraging additional resources for children in donor-funded programmes, as well as in ensuring that findings are provided for impactful programmes that address child-specific priorities.

For example, in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, UNICEF has partnered with the government and the European Union to support the latter’s programme, Education Budget Support 2018–2021. The aim is to facilitate achievement of the national targets set out in the Education Sector Development Plan. UNICEF specifically ensures that funding for the education budget support goes beyond just providing education services, but also improves the quality and equity of education outcomes for children and strengthens the overall education system, including at the subnational level.

In the Central African Republic, UNICEF has partnered closely with the World Bank to develop and advocate for the inclusion of performance indicators on nutrition and community health in the Health System Support and Strengthening project funded by the World Bank, which covers 372 health centres in 15 health districts (out of a total of 35). The performance indicators are essential for measuring the effectiveness of invested funds and making budget adjustments and reallocations that ensure spending leads to results.

In Sri Lanka, UNICEF partnered with the International Finance Corporation and 10 private sector companies to develop a business case for employer-supported childcare. This round of the initiative covered the garment and banking industries, and there are plans to expand in 2019 to include other sectors, such as tourism and hospitality.

**Looking ahead**

Improvements in public finance for children are rarely achieved in the short term. The road from generating evidence to seeing changes in policies and budgets is long and subject to internal and external constraints that can delay progress. The fiscal environment is subject to global and domestic market forces that may shift the attention of policymakers away from children. Nevertheless, there is great value in laying the groundwork, given the potential for major returns.

In Montenegro, UNICEF and UNDP provided joint technical assistance to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare to develop a road map for expanding community-based services, including a costing analysis. The aim was to accelerate reform of the childcare system, in particular to ensure the transition to family and community-based care for children with disabilities. The analysis – which will be finalized in early 2019 – will provide evidence for introducing and scaling up new services, and for advocating for budgetary allocations for the reform.

In Morocco, UNICEF initiated a costing of a harmonized cash transfer programme for the most vulnerable people, to improve efficiency and effectiveness by reducing fragmentation and overlap of existing programmes. The new programme is expected to be adopted in 2019. In Afghanistan, at the advice of the President, the 2018 Multidimensional Poverty Index is to be used as part of the national budget planning process in 2019. UNICEF has partnered with the Ministry of Economy to build capacity to support this, expecting to see resources allocated to areas that the Index indicates are facing persistent challenges.
In Thailand, UNICEF strengthened the capacities of partners in 77 provinces to improve local planning and budgeting to implement the national ECD strategy. Of these, 55 provincial teams have developed their ECD plans and budgets, all of which have been approved. During the process, it became evident that the medium-term expenditure framework does not reflect the strategy, hampering the ability of provinces to apply and secure multi-year financing for their ECD plans. As a result, UNICEF partnered with Oxford Policy Management to help bridge this gap, using results-based management in national strategic planning and budgeting, which should ensure sustainable financing of local ECD plans.

Public financing for children in fragile and humanitarian contexts

Natural disasters, political instability, conflicts, epidemics and other factors may lead to, or exacerbate, existing macroeconomic imbalances or challenges in managing public finance. This can seriously disrupt the capacity of national governments to provide life-saving commodities and essential services for affected populations. Fragility impedes the ability of states to raise revenue through taxes and borrowing, thus increasing their reliance on donor funding for health, education and poverty reduction. UNICEF, with its mandate and global presence, is well-placed to respond to and address the unique public financing challenges in fragile and humanitarian contexts, specifically by helping to provide relief to affected populations in times of crisis, with the long-term view of (re)building national systems.

For example, UNICEF Syrian Arab Republic introduced an emergency social protection response to enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable families affected by the protracted crisis. The most vulnerable families were helped to respond to economic shocks, social vulnerabilities and the loss of livelihoods with regular and predictable cash transfers. UNICEF used the services of a third-party financial institution for the distribution of the cash. It also set up a strong monitoring system to ensure the programme’s transparency and effectiveness and continuity of the programme in the post-conflict stage, through integration into the rebuilt national social protection system. Adopting an integrated approach to social protection, the Cash Transfer Programme for Children with Disabilities complemented regular and unconditional cash transfers with professional case management services. In 2018, the programme reached 10,480 children with severe disabilities in rural Damascus, Latakia, Tartus, Homs, Al-Hasakah and Aleppo governorates.

In Yemen, the ongoing conflict has affected service delivery in all sectors critical for children’s survival and development. The conflict also caused the nation’s Social Welfare Fund to suspend operations. This is the flagship national social protection programme, designed to provide quarterly unconditional cash transfers to 1.5 million beneficiaries. Suspension removed vital assistance for poor and vulnerable people. With generous financial and technical support from the World Bank’s International Development Association, and co-financed by the United States Department of State Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, UNICEF implements the Yemen Emergency Cash Transfer project to prevent the collapse of the social welfare and economic systems. The project builds on the Social Welfare Fund with a longer-term objective of reviving and strengthening national mechanisms for social protection. UNICEF has been working with a view to getting systems back up and running and ensuring longer-term sustainability. Since its inception in 2017, three cash payment cycles have been implemented, reaching an average of 1.4 million beneficiaries and having an impact on almost 9 million people – a third of the country’s population.

Challenges and constraints

Despite significant progress in 2018, a number of often inter-related challenges and constraints are delaying further advancements. For example, spending on social services is almost universally constrained by limits to governments’ flexibility in spending choices. Many governments – occasionally under pressure from donors and international financial institutions – value fiscal stability and sustainability, which limits options for greater social investments. In many of these countries, national budget priorities fail to take into account the needs of the most vulnerable people. As a result, social services are not adequately funded, which perpetuates social inequalities and has long-term consequences for children. This situation is especially prevalent in countries where the budget priorities are developed without meaningful public participation.

As the examples in this chapter demonstrate, UNICEF has addressed these challenges in many countries through a variety of interventions. Globally, UNICEF continued to engage in policy dialogue with donors and international financial institutions to ensure that country programmes and funding mechanisms take into consideration how the most vulnerable groups may be affected. By investing considerable resources towards generating evidence and advocacy, UNICEF was able to influence decisions to prioritize children in the budgets of countries around the world, placing a strong emphasis not just on the social but also the economic returns on investing in better education, health care, social protection and other services.

To address the ever-present challenge of budget transparency, UNICEF has, for a long time, supported initiatives that aim to increase transparency, participation and accountability of the budget process. UNICEF initiated an dialogue for global collaboration with the International Budget Partnership to advance the joint vision of improved budget transparency and credibility. This involves a number of joint initiatives that aim to provide evidence of the links between budget transparency and outcomes for children, and to strengthen government commitments to making data available and using them for analysis and policymaking.
Case Study 3: Cambodia: Increasing public spending to reduce malnutrition

UNICEF Cambodia made enormous progress in reducing the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition. Using evidence-based advocacy with key stakeholders, the Country Office was able to secure a triple victory for nutrition by:

- Increasing the volume and effectiveness of public spending on nutrition-related programmes
- Generating savings for the government related to procurement of ready-to-use therapeutic food
- Halving the prevalence of malnutrition among the poorest households in the country’s most affected district, Kratie.

The UNICEF Cambodia Country Office conducted an analysis of nutrition-focused expenditure, which showed that less than 0.01 per cent of the budget of the Ministry of Health goes to addressing malnutrition. At the same time, nutrition-related data showed that in 2014, 33 per cent of children under 5 years old were stunted and 25 per cent were seriously underweight. A closer look behind the reasons for this underinvestment revealed a lack of awareness of the gravity of the problem at the Ministry of Economy and Finance, poor capacity for programme budgeting at the Ministry of Health and an absence of nutrition-specific outcomes in the budget circular prepared by the Ministry of Health.

To address these gaps, UNICEF completed a study of the impact of underinvestment in nutrition on health and cognitive development, and a cost–benefit analysis of investing in ready-to-use-therapeutic food to address malnutrition. The combination of findings was presented at strategic meetings with government stakeholders and resulted in the inclusion of nutrition interventions in the budget circular in 2017. UNICEF then supported the Ministry of Health to prepare the budget submission and simultaneously worked with the Ministry of Economy and Finance to address cost savings in relation to the procurement of ready-to-use therapeutic foods. As a result, in 2017, both ministries increased the budget allocations to nutrition by 30 per cent for 2018, allowing for procurement of ready-to-use therapeutic foods from local producers and their timely distribution to the most affected areas (such as Kratie), where malnutrition rates more than halved from 2014 to 2017 – from 27 per cent to 13 per cent – among the poorest households.
UNICEF is one of the world’s leading agencies in terms of global outreach – with a presence in more than 100 countries – and with regard to operational, analytical and programmatic capacity in the area of social protection. The organization’s engagement on social protection falls under the following areas.

- Generating evidence on child poverty and vulnerability, and how they interact with social protection programmes that aim to reduce poverty.
- Initiating and supporting national dialogue to refine a broad vision of social protection that translates into frameworks, laws and policies, including financing of social protection and coordination mechanisms.
- Providing technical support to introduce or expand social protection programmes, including social transfers, cash-plus approaches; strengthening the social workforce and social care; linking cash transfer beneficiaries with health insurance programmes; and promoting the employability of adolescents.
- Supporting administrative systems that increase the efficiency and effectiveness of social protection programmes, including registries, monitoring and evaluation systems, payment mechanisms, and grievance and redress mechanisms.

- Supporting enhancements to make social protection systems responsive to shocks, including climate change, natural disasters, conflict and displacement. Supporting the development of shock-responsive social protection systems in countries that are prone to crisis and supporting the scale-up of these systems in response to a crisis, to meet the needs of children. Where systems are weak or not appropriate to respond to the needs of populations affected by a crisis, this involves developing parallel systems for delivering humanitarian cash transfers, by aligning as much as possible with the existing/planned social protection system.

In 2018, some 38.4 million children benefited from social protection interventions supported by UNICEF. This included more than 7.1 million children who benefited from humanitarian cash transfers, 22 million who were extremely poor and vulnerable, and over 400,000 children with disabilities (see Figure 13).

In 2018, some 75 countries reported having strong or moderately strong social protection systems (up from 69 countries in 2017). This reflects progress in laws and policy frameworks related to social protection, beneficiary registries, coordination and monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms. It also takes into account efforts to establish and extend coverage of social protection programmes that contribute to child well-being, including cash transfers, fee waivers and subsidies, programmes to link people to services, and case management. Additionally, 9 countries reported having national cash transfer programmes that are ready to respond to a crisis; this falls short of the milestone of 12 countries but is on track to achieve the 2021 target of 30 countries.

In 2018, along with its key partners — DFID, the European Union, the German Corporation for International Cooperation, ILO, Irish Aid, Swedish International Development Cooperation (Sida), WFP, the World Bank Group and other bilateral and multilateral donors and partners — UNICEF supported a variety of important measures to improve child well-being in policies and programmes worldwide. For example, it helped 87 countries generate evidence about child poverty and deprivation and informed the development of social protection strategies that cater for children’s needs in 93 countries. In 67 countries, the organization’s work with its partners contributed to improvements in governance and coordination of social protection systems. In 55 countries, it led to the design of social protection programmes that are child-sensitive, while in 43 countries it helped link social protection programmes to other services, including referral mechanisms. In 53 countries, UNICEF support and partnerships helped to strengthen the social workforce and improve case management. Thirty-six countries benefited from social protection systems that became more shock-responsive.

FIGURE 13: Number of boys and girls reached by cash transfer programmes through UNICEF-supported programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>38.4 million children</th>
<th>414,701 children with disabilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7,089,754 children in humanitarian settings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22,556,877 children living under the national poverty line</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results achieved in 2018

Evidence generation to inform social protection laws, strategies and reforms

In 2018, UNICEF continued its work to increase evidence that can inform the development of social protection policies in 87 countries, including Algeria and the Islamic Republic of Iran. In Algeria, UNICEF helped stimulate government interest in child-sensitive social protection that can address multidimensional child poverty. During discussions with the government, the organization presented evidence that was generated using the National Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (N-MODA) approach. UNICEF used population projections to develop a business case for investment in social protection that would benefit children experiencing multidimensional poverty. It also facilitated the government’s participation in the International Conference on Universal Child Grants to advocate and lobby for investment in children.

In 2018, UNICEF also supported the development of social protection strategies in 93 countries. In Timor-Leste, the organization contributed to the development and finalization of the Assessment-Based National Dialogue, taking an active role in the thematic group on child welfare, which comprises the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, ILO, UNICEF and other social sector line ministries. This process supported the recommendation of increasing investment in children, especially during their early years. In 2019, the Government of Timor-Leste aims to finalize the National Social Protection Strategy, based on the results and recommendations of the Assessment-Based National Dialogue. UNICEF will continue to engage in this process through close communication with relevant ministries and other United Nations agencies.

Similarly, in Botswana, with the support from the World Bank and UNICEF, the government developed the second draft of its National Social Protection Strategic Framework. UNICEF participated in discussions and advocated for making children’s needs a priority through improvements in coverage of children and expanding the scope to infants and young children. The Framework is in the final draft stage and yet to be approved by the government. In addition, UNICEF will continue to advocate for rapid expansion of child benefits that take a life-cycle approach.

In Cambodia, UNICEF supported the establishment of a new coordination mechanism between development partners and the government that aims to strengthen social protection policies and implementation of programmes. The coordination will be led by a newly established body, the General Secretariat of the National Social Protection Council.

Anwar, 14 years, and Dina, 15 years, with their invention – a lamp powered by a power bank to help children in Za’atari Refugee Camp to do their homework when there is no electricity. The girls presented their idea, developed in the UNICEF Innovations Lab, at Start-Up Za’atari, an event hosted by UNICEF and The One Foundation.
Case Study 4: Mali: Expanding non-contributory health insurance for poor households

Mali faces a number of major challenges to human development. For instance, less than one quarter of children under 5 who have suspected pneumonia are taken to a health provider. This demonstrates the lack of access that poor families and their children have to essential health care. To address this challenge, UNICEF supported the Government of Mali in 2015 to launch the programme Régime d’Assistance Médicale (RAMED) in the Mopti and Sikasso regions. This is a national non-contributory health insurance programme, funded by the government, which provides access to a wide range of free health-care services. This includes: consultations, examinations, outpatient care (such as laboratory testing and medical analysis), hospitalization and medicines. Eligibility for the programme is granted to the poorest, who have no other assistance, and other specific groups such as the homeless, residents of charitable institutions, orphanages or institutions for rehabilitation, prison inmates, and any public or private non-profit institution hosting children or adults without families.

In 2018, the number of beneficiaries accessing RAMED increased sharply to 20,538 households, from only 3,376 in 2017. This included 15,289 children in Mopti and Sikasso, the two regions where the programme has been supported by UNICEF. This result has been made possible through intensification of interventions in these regions, as well as activities such as setting up village committees and social surveys to identify beneficiaries. In 2018, UNICEF supported expansion of RAMED to Kayes. It also supported a national data collection system to identify beneficiaries, which involved, for example, supplying tablets, smartphones and vehicles. Support also took the form of building government capacity at the national and subregional levels, to provide technical, logistical and financial support to subregional and local government divisions in charge of social protection. UNICEF supports coordination between health facilities and the National Health Assistance Agency to deliver free health care to the selected beneficiaries, and communication on eligibility criteria and processes for accessing free health care.

In 2018, UNICEF worked to develop a single registry between RAMED and the World Bank’s Safety Net Project (Jigisemejiri), to foster better integration and avoid duplication among different actors and government departments. The pilot phase of the single registry was launched with initial data on 2,000 beneficiaries. UNICEF is providing technical support for establishing data management systems and training of relevant personnel, and actively supporting technical and steering committees.

Financing for social protection

In 2018 UNICEF assisted 42 countries to expand their capacity for financing and human resources to deliver social protection programmes and services. In Cambodia, China, Myanmar and Viet Nam, UNICEF produced budget briefs to help governments and civil society partners understand how funds are currently used, to support improvements in public financial management systems, and to advocate for transparent budgeting processes. For example, in Myanmar, UNICEF helped strengthen public financial management within the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement, with particular focus on strategic planning. This contributed to an increase in its budget allocation to 0.41 per cent of total government budget for fiscal year 2018/2019. In particular, UNICEF helped develop a strategic framework for the Department of Social Welfare and a strategic note for the Department of Rehabilitation to improve spending efficiency. This introduced a tracking tool for expenditures in the Department of Disaster Management. UNICEF is currently working on phase III of this project.

Similarly, in Cambodia, the Prime Minister announced the implementation of the national cash transfer programme for pregnant women and children under age 2 who are living in poverty, starting in mid-2019. For this purpose, the Ministry of Economy and Finance allocated US$5 million, thanks to concerted efforts by UNICEF in preparing a costing analysis and presenting the positive results of an evaluation of a cash transfer pilot project in Siem Reap.

Strengthening integrated social protection systems

In 2018, UNICEF supported 54 countries by designing and strengthening social protection programmes, including cash transfers and non-contributory health insurance, and efforts to improve the capacity of the social workforce and case management. This work spanned a range of countries – from middle-income countries such as Cambodia and Viet Nam – to conflict-affected areas such as Iraq and the
Social transfers

Cash transfers are the social protection intervention most frequently supported by UNICEF at country level. In Viet Nam, UNICEF supported the implementation of the Master Plan on Social Transfer Reform and Development 2017–2025, towards 2030. It helped the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs develop an operational action plan in collaboration with other stakeholders. UNICEF also gave technical assistance so that the action plan could be developed using a Theory of Change approach. This involved conducting intensive consultations between government and non-government stakeholders and using the findings from several UNICEF research pieces. As a result, the policy now includes a higher value of benefits for beneficiaries, and there is a proposal to develop a social security law. In addition, the organization’s efforts have led to the proposal of a multi-tiered child benefit system to increase the investment in children and ensure universal coverage of social protection.

Non-contributory health insurance

Work on health insurance is relatively new for UNICEF but is one of the four pillars of social protection. In Mali, UNICEF supported the government to launch a programme that provides health insurance to poor households. The programme provides free consultations, outpatient access, medication and other health services. More information about this programme is available in Case Study 4.

Strengthening the social workforce and case management

UNICEF increasingly works to improve the social welfare workforce and case management, building on its strengths in this area of work. These efforts focus on strengthening the social workforce so it can provide child-focused support to those who need it and to develop referral pathways for specialized services in more complicated cases. In 2018, UNICEF provided this type of support to 53 countries, including Azerbaijan, Ghana, Iraq, Lebanon, Mozambique, the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey. Following an introductory programme in 2017 that covered the basics of social work, UNICEF and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in Azerbaijan agreed to deliver an in-depth training module on case management in social work in 2018. A total of 110 staff from the State Social Protection Fund were trained on how to conduct a core assessment of cases, collect assessment information through interviews, and how to show empathy in social work situations.

In Mozambique, UNICEF was part of a Child Grant Technical Working Group, which proposed a case management model for administering a child grant for children 0–2 years old. UNICEF also developed a research framework, including instruments to measure the impact of the grant in relation to gender, mental health and (child) protection. In addition, the organization created a draft version of a tool for prioritizing vulnerability, which is designed to help screen at-risk beneficiaries who need case management services; it will be tested in January 2019.

Integrated administrative systems

In countries where social protection systems exist but are weak and fragmented, UNICEF helped identify gaps in implementation against set objectives. In 2018, UNICEF provided support to 39 countries to develop social registries, including Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau and Malawi, and to 42 countries to develop systems for monitoring and evaluation. For example, support to the Government of Malawi helped ensure the roll-out of a unified beneficiary registry, through which data for the poorest population will be collected. This data will be used to reduce errors in exclusion and inclusion in all social transfer programmes. UNICEF also provided technical and financial support for mapping and linking the different geographic units used by humanitarian assistance programmes with social protection systems. This will allow social protection beneficiaries in shock-affected areas to be easily identified so they can receive humanitarian support.

Shock-responsive social protection

The work UNICEF does on shock-responsive social protection aims to support partners to strengthen social protection systems for emergency response, make use of existing systems when crisis hits, and build on emergency response towards sustainable long-term systems. The overall aim is to increase the number of countries with national cash transfer programmes that are ready to respond to crisis from 6 countries to 30 countries by the end of 2021. The overall purpose is to maintain investments in developing children’s human capital even in times of crisis, such as climate-linked disasters and/or conflict and forced displacement. In 2018, UNICEF supported governments in 36 countries to develop shock-responsive social protection systems.

Examples of shock-responsive social protection that UNICEF provides include:

- Supporting governments to prepare to scale up existing social protection systems in case of a crisis,
using domestic revenue or donor assistance that is received directly by the government.
• Supporting the scale-up of national cash transfer programmes in times of crisis through the provision of technical assistance and/or the transfer of UNICEF funds.
• Developing shock-responsive social protection systems where they do not exist, are not in use or are weak, which involves using the humanitarian cash transfers to develop nascent social protection systems.
• Maintaining and reinforcing social protection systems where they may be out of use.

This year, assessments were conducted in seven countries (Armenia, Fiji, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) to identify aspects of existing social protection systems that need to be reinforced to ensure they are ready to respond to a crisis. In Sri Lanka, UNICEF partnered with Oxfam to collect and analyse information on vulnerabilities to weather-related shocks from one of the most disaster-prone locations in the country. The aim was to enable the Government of Sri Lanka to improve its means of identifying households in need of assistance after a disaster. This information is expected to contribute to the development of a social registry information system in the country that will facilitate effective horizontal expansion of the existing social protection system.

In 2018, humanitarian cash transfer programmes were implemented in 26 countries, reaching more than 2.4 million households and 7.1 million children. Of these, 23 per cent benefited from existing social protection programmes that governments scaled up with technical assistance and, in some cases, direct funding from UNICEF. Some 77 per cent of the children reached lived in contexts where national systems could not be fully used and so were reached through parallel systems. In Yemen, representing 64 per cent of the children UNICEF reached, the parallel system was supported using components of the existing social protection system (see Figure 14).

In Yemen, UNICEF continued its support to more than 1.4 million beneficiaries nationwide. This year, the organization made special efforts to support beneficiaries after tropical cyclone Luban in October. This involved integrating the monitoring of risks in the cash payment cycle and opening an additional payment site to support people displaced by the cyclone. Additionally, steps were taken to improve the operational systems of the Yemen Emergency Cash Transfer programme to increase transparency and accountability for beneficiaries. A dedicated case management team and call centre were set up to support verification and address grievances. Direct management of these functions mirrors the process followed by Yemen’s Social Welfare Fund prior to the escalation of conflict. This approach is intended to increase the efficiency of the system in a way that aligns with the pre-crisis Social Welfare Fund system and ensures a smooth handover to relevant authorities when the conditions are right in Yemen.

UNICEF is an active member of the inter-agency informal group on shock-responsive social protection. This year,

Case Study 5: Ethiopia: Support for scaling up the productive safety nets programme

In 2011, UNICEF began supporting the Government of Ethiopia’s ongoing Productive Safety Nets Programme (PSNP). Since 2014, this has involved providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for designing and implementing the National Social Protection Policy. Part of this extensive support is the design and implementation of pilot projects based on the ‘cash plus’ approach, focusing on nutrition-sensitive social protection, an integrated systems approach, and the enforcement of provisions of the PSNP related to gender and social development. It also involves using the results to influence the design of the PSNP at the federal level. Since late 2017, this effort has become even stronger thanks to an additional pilot project called the Integrated Safety Net Programme. With financial support from SIDA, the new programme aims to create linkages with community-based health insurance initiatives in both rural and urban areas. It also aims to promote a contingency budget that would support the scale-up of the PSNP and the Urban Productive Safety Nets Project in times of shock so that they temporarily include households with malnourished children.

In 2018, UNICEF contributed US$11 million to the contingency pooled fund for the PSNP. Following the drought in Ethiopia, this contingency budget was used to support the temporary expansion of the programme to include 240,000 households with malnourished children (approximately 1.3 million beneficiaries) in the two most affected regions – Oromia and Somali. These resources were also used to support existing beneficiaries of the programme by increasing its duration. In addition to the contribution UNICEF made to the contingency budget, the organization provided technical assistance to the government to scale up the programme in response to the drought.
along with DFID and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, UNICEF co-chaired the sub-group on linking humanitarian cash transfers with social protection within the broader cash workstream of the Grand Bargain, which aims to link humanitarian cash transfers with social protection efforts. This will allow UNICEF to facilitate dialogue between humanitarian and development stakeholders on practical ways to link humanitarian cash transfers with social protection.

In 2018, UNICEF conducted a survey to assess the readiness of national cash transfer systems to respond to shocks, and to map its engagement in 52 countries. The results confirmed that existing social protection systems are being used by governments to deliver cash transfers in emergencies, even in contexts with no prior preparedness. UNICEF is already working on system preparedness with governments in many countries; however, there remains scope to strengthen these efforts further. The results of this mapping along with the emergency preparedness exercise have provided strategic direction to UNICEF and its partners working in this area.

UNICEF organized eight webinars and three regional learning workshops as part of its efforts to enhance organizational preparedness to design and implement

---

### FIGURE 14: UNICEF humanitarian cash transfer (HCT) programmes

#### HCT beneficiaries reached by type of assistance

- 23%: Supporting scale up of national cash transfer programmes in emergencies
- 12%: Using components of existing SP system but delivering HCT through a parallel system
- 65%: Designing and delivering HCT by setting up a parallel system

Total number of children reached through HCT: 7,089,754

#### HCT beneficiaries by country (top 15 recipient countries)

- Yemen: 453,9400
- Ethiopia: 600000
- DRC: 460,920
- Turkey: 404,657
- Mali: 393,629
- Jordan: 175,985
- Lebanon: 170,272
- Myanmar: 68,442
- Egypt: 47,200
- Somalia: 45,039
- Syria: 37,336
- Bangladesh: 31,291
- Madagascar: 28,453
- Malawi: 19,028
- Haiti: 14,669

---
Challenges and constraints

Amid strong commitments to the SDGs and many countries’ steady progress in expanding social protection, the appropriate level of domestic financing of social protection often lags behind due to weak political commitment and a lack of government capacity. In addition, the existence of a variety of programmes, often coupled with ineffective subsidies, results in a lack of coordination, thus increasing fragmentation and inefficiencies. Governments are also constrained by the inability to design and implement programmes that address child-specific deprivations.

Many countries still need basic technical assistance to scale up integrated social protection systems. This includes support for developing or improving monitoring schemes, coordination mechanisms, single registries, and targeting and payment structures. While UNICEF is actively working in many countries to provide this support, further activities could help develop the full potential of social protection systems, including promoting ‘cash plus’ approaches and case management.

Around 65.6 million people were forcibly displaced by the end of 2016. This is increasing pressure on social protection systems in crisis-affected countries, as well as in host countries that have responded to the largest humanitarian emergency in 70 years. Many countries facing these challenges are middle-income and, in some cases, least-developed countries, which need increased funding and external technical support from donor communities.

In responding to these external issues, UNICEF also faces some internal challenges. Social protection is the largest area within social inclusion, including in terms of programme expenditure, and requires sophisticated and tailored expert support and engagement. The organization is in need of greater technical and managerial capacity and resources to engage even more effectively with government counterparts and development partners. With social protection now a stand-alone result area in Goal 5 of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, the demand from countries for more technical support and guidance will only increase, calling for greater support capacity at global and regional levels.

UNICEF is a key partner in global efforts to link social protection and humanitarian action because of its strong presence in countries before, during and after crisis, existing strong relationships with governments on strengthening social protection systems, and its technical advantage in working across sectors to uphold children’s rights. The role of UNICEF in co-leading the Grand Bargain sub-group (on linking humanitarian cash transfers with social protection efforts) is a significant development. Despite these clear advantages and opportunities, its ability to scale up rapidly is constrained by insufficient financial resources and staff, and other limitations.

Regional events/community of practice

The organization’s ongoing support for improving national capacities and South–South learning includes developing strategic partnerships at the regional and global levels. UNICEF contributed to the operationalization of a regional social protection platform in West and Central Africa, with the participation of key regional partners: Action Against Hunger, Cash Learning Partnership, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, ILO, Oxfam, Save the Children, WFP and the World Bank. The virtual platform has enabled regional social protection agencies to share information more easily. UNICEF also facilitated a Transfer Project workshop in Rome to showcase the results of rigorous impact evaluations across the continent.

In Eastern and Southern Africa, UNICEF co-leads the Community of Practice on Cash Transfers in Africa, which is the main South–South platform for social protection practitioners in the region. This involves encouraging stakeholders to share experiences and lessons learned in social protection, to help partner organizations function more effectively. And in the Middle East and North Africa region, UNICEF established a partnership with the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth to provide a mechanism for high-level technical support, analysis and policy advice to countries on child-sensitive social protection.

UNICEF continued to engage with regional and global policymakers on shock-responsive social protection. In East Asia, UNICEF liaised with the Regional Cash Working Group and Cash Learning Partnership to develop a framework for national working groups to engage in shock-responsive social protection. This influenced the inclusion of a discussion on shock-responsive social protection in the working group that focuses on the Indonesia response. Additionally, UNICEF contributed significantly to the Joint United Nations project on shock-responsive social protection in countries that are members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), including contributing to ASEAN guidelines on disaster-responsive social protection. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the organization signed a memorandum of understanding with WFP to work on preparing for and responding to emergencies with cash-based transfers through government social protection programmes. This spelled out five core programming areas for collaboration between the two agencies to support governments on the issue.

humanitarian cash transfers, including supporting governments to scale up flagship cash transfer programmes for crisis response. These activities reached approximately 200 staff working on emergencies and social policy in different country and regional offices. These efforts complemented the development of guidance on humanitarian cash transfers, which included recommending operational options, such as supporting a scale-up of national social protection systems and setting up parallel systems to deliver humanitarian cash transfers.
Addressing gender-discriminatory roles, behaviours and practices is a priority of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, and the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2018–2021. Harmful gender roles and stereotypes are learned early in life and become ingrained during adolescence, when gender norms are internalized by both girls and boys. This becomes the basis for gender-related challenges among young people, such as bullying, abuse, harassment, and violence. Subsequently, harmful gender norms continue to drive people’s behaviours throughout their adult lives and are transferred from one generation to the next (see Figure 15).

Gender socialization is not inherently negative, but it shapes beliefs and practices about what girls and boys can and should do. This can create stereotypes, which most often disadvantage girls and women, but also limit the possibilities for boys and men. For example, gender roles and identities influence how young girls and boys participate in the economy through the jobs they undertake. Girls tend to concentrate on ‘soft’ roles, as they are steered away from fields such as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or positions of senior leadership. Women in many cultures are valued mainly as wives and mothers, so they are more likely to be assigned to unpaid responsibilities such as childcare and discouraged from participating in the labour force. At the same time, boys are raised to be aggressive and tough, which encourages them to take on positions of leadership while deterring them from caregiving and caregiving professions. These gendered dynamics have negative consequences for society as a whole, resulting in missed economic gains, limited respect for care work, and a loss of creative potential and innovative leadership.
Gender socialization begins at birth and intensifies during adolescence.

---

**Positive gender socialization**

International development, humanitarian and global health organizations increasingly recognize that discriminatory gender norms are one of the greatest barriers to ensuring the rights of individuals, including children, adolescents and their caregivers, and achieving development outcomes. For example, progress on ensuring that 60 million out-of-school children gain access to early learning, primary or secondary education (UNICEF Goal Area 2) is held back by discriminatory gender norms that assign greater importance to boys’ education than to girls’. In conflict situations, boys are likely to be recruited and used by armed forces because of gender norms regarding masculine aggression and ‘strength’. These norms impede efforts to secure the release of recruited children (UNICEF Goal Area 3). Addressing discriminatory gender norms and promoting positive gender socialization cuts across all programmatic areas and is essential to achieving results for all girls and boys.

In 2018, UNICEF carved out an explicit area of work on ‘positive gender socialization’, defined as work that seeks to change discriminatory gender norms to achieve equitable outcomes across all Goal Areas, as one of its flagship initiatives (see Figure 16). Positive gender socialization directly contributes to SDG 5 through addressing the gender norms and structural barriers that negatively affect children’s well-being and future. Positive gender socialization also contributes to the common chapter commitment on gender led by UNICEF.

Research shows that positive gender socialization is most effective during childhood and adolescence, though it is not impossible to achieve results among adults. ‘Agents of socialization’ are present in all aspects of a child’s life – school, home, playground, places of faith, media and peer groups. The approach of UNICEF in positive gender socialization is to work with agents of socialization across the life-course of a child and create an enabling environment at the individual, household and community levels.
Addressing discriminatory gender norms and promoting positive gender socialization cuts across all UNICEF programmatic goal areas and is essential to achieving results for all girls and boys.

### UNICEF Strategic Plan Goal Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal Area</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOAL AREA 1</td>
<td>Every child survives and thrives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOAL AREA 2</td>
<td>Every child learns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOAL AREA 3</td>
<td>Every child is protected from violence and exploitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOAL AREA 4</td>
<td>Every child lives in a safe and clean environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOAL AREA 5</td>
<td>Every child has an equitable chance in life</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Discriminatory gender norms as barriers to achieve UNICEF results

- Gender-biased sex selection
- Stigma around menstruation
- Child marriage
- Lack of gender consideration in WASH programming
- Masculine and feminine ideals and expectations

### Promoting positive gender socialization is key to achieving UNICEF results for all girls and boys

- Experimental research on gender norms
- Curriculum development, infrastructure
- Community engagement dialogue
- Involvement of women and girls in WASH committee
- Media campaigns featuring male change champions
Results achieved in 2018

The first year of implementation of the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2018–2021, focused on establishing a global framework and identifying key interventions for integrating gender socialization across the Goal Areas. This led to the development of key knowledge products on gender socialization, including a concept note and mapping reports of existing UNICEF programming on the topic. These products were complemented by webinars and workshops aimed at developing a common conceptualization of positive gender socialization as it relates to the goals of the organization.

In 2018, some 151 out of 157 country offices were implementing programmes that address gender-discriminatory roles and norms across all Goal Areas. These programmes were most common in Goal Areas 2 and 3, as shown in Figure 17. Programmatic strategies related to Communication for Development (C4D) and community engagement emerged as the most common and effective ways to address gender norms and roles, followed by research, communication and advocacy. Across Goal Areas, priority was given to interventions at the policy, system and community levels rather than the household and individual levels.

Despite the number of countries undertaking work on gender socialization, only 43 out of 157 country offices found evidence of change in gender-discriminatory norms and roles as a result of the organization’s work. Furthermore, only 36 out of 128 country offices had implemented gender socialization programming at scale across regions, as shown in Figure 18. These results indicate that while there are multiple activities addressing gender roles and norms across the majority of UNICEF country offices, most programming is at an early stage and requires scale-up to achieve transformative results. These 2018 results provide us with a strong baseline and critical findings that will guide future strategic direction and programmatic design.

Legal and policy frameworks

Efforts by UNICEF to strengthen policy frameworks and plans that aim to remove gender discrimination were a prominent feature of its work in 2018. The organization supported 73 countries to develop national gender strategies or policies, 25 countries to develop national-level vision documents, 17 countries to develop national women’s machinery, 15 countries to link women’s machinery to sectoral line ministries and 10 countries to legislate on family and parental leave policies.

Examples of success include the organization’s advocacy efforts in Bangladesh and Viet Nam, which strengthened support for mothers in the workplace, as described in Case Study 6 on “Supporting Mothers@Work.” UNICEF also provided technical support to governments, such as to the Government of the Republic of Moldova, to develop and cost the cross-sectoral National Action Plan on Positive Parenting 2018–2022. UNICEF helped ensure that the Plan’s development process was highly participative and captured the views of government institutions, civil society, academia, adolescents and future parents.

FIGURE 17: Number of country offices addressing gender-discriminatory roles and norms through programmes across goal areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal Area 1</th>
<th>Goal Area 2</th>
<th>Goal Area 3</th>
<th>Goal Area 4</th>
<th>Goal Area 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>ECA</td>
<td>EAP</td>
<td>WCA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EAP, East Asia and the Pacific; ECA, Europe and Central Asia; ESA, Eastern and Southern Africa; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA, Middle East and North Africa; SA, South Asia; WCA, West and Central Africa.
Case Study 6: Bangladesh, Nepal and Viet Nam: Supporting Mothers@Work

Around the world, more women than ever before are part of the labour force and playing a critical role in lifting their families and countries out of poverty. But their well-being – and the well-being of their children – continues to be put at risk by outdated policies, such as not being granted enough time off work to bond with a newborn and lack of space and privacy to breastfeed while at work.

UNICEF is stepping in to help governments and employers fully support working mothers and ensure their children thrive. The Mothers@Work initiative in Bangladesh, for example, is establishing mother- and baby-friendly workplaces in the garment industry, which employs an estimated 4 million people, 85 per cent of them women of reproductive age.

One such mother is Sheuly Akter, who returned to work at the Vision RMG factory in Dhaka, Bangladesh, when her son Hussein was just 4 months old. Thanks to Mothers@Work, Sheuly’s niece can bring Hussein to the factory to be breastfed during the workday. Not only is there a private breastfeeding room on-site, but a counsellor is also present to help Sheuly through any difficulties she experiences as a new mother.

In 2018, working with the International Labour Organization (ILO), Mothers@Work rapidly expanded from supporting 5 ready-made garment factories to supporting 80, and reaching over 150,000 working mothers and 7,500 children under 2 years of age. One result is that the exclusive breastfeeding rate increased from 17 to 72 per cent among new mothers like Sheuly.

In Viet Nam, UNICEF is also advocating for maternity protection, breastfeeding in the workplace and other family-friendly workplace policies in 11 factories with a total of 115,000 workers, most of them women. In Nepal, advocacy by UNICEF led to a safer motherhood bill that will help ensure women receive 98 days of paid maternity leave, which can be extended up to one year without pay.

Through these efforts, UNICEF is creating a more equitable world where both girls and boys can reach their full potential – in childhood and beyond.
Positive parenting and caregiving

UNICEF programmes on gender-responsive parenting holistically addressed gender bias in the context of caregiving by targeting multiple objectives. The programmes aimed to prevent parents from perpetuating gender discriminatory practices at home, such as encouraging boys to play sports with friends while assigning domestic chores to girls. They addressed ideas of toxic masculinity by encouraging positive behaviours and attitudes among boys, including regular attendance in school and participation in community-building activities. Moreover, the programmes sought greater equality in unpaid care work by encouraging fathers to take part in childcare. UNICEF celebrated Father’s Day in 2018 around the world by launching parenting sites that brought fathers together to share positive experiences of parenthood and called on governments and companies to introduce policies that enable parents to carve out time for nurturing their children. Case Study 7 on ‘Super Dads’ describes several positive parenting strategies that had an impact in Latin America in 2018.

Care work by community health workers is another important channel for influencing children and their parents during the early years. UNICEF has developed and scaled up modules on gender equality for front-line workers. For example, the Europe and Central Asia Regional Office developed a gender-specific module to build knowledge and skills on critical issues related to gender among home-visiting health workers, which is expected to be rolled out to all countries in the region. In 2018, 25 per cent (32 of 128) countries established programmes at scale for developing the capacity of front-line workers on gender equality issues, which was a significant improvement from only 14 per cent (18 of 128 countries) in 2017.

Curriculum development and adolescent engagement

School curriculum and pedagogy are important channels of gender socialization for children and adolescents and therefore a growing area of focus for UNICEF. Programmes in this area aim to develop and disseminate gender-responsive pedagogy to schools; provide training to children, particularly adolescent girls, on critical areas like technology, entrepreneurship and life skills; and create a supportive, gender-equal environment in schools. Moreover, the adolescent participation and civic engagement strategy of UNICEF highlights the direct link between skills training and efforts to encourage civic engagement, particularly when human-centred design approaches are used to target social issues related to gender discrimination. Increased adolescent participation is identified as a critical instrument to affect change in gender norms that are specific to a community’s sociocultural context. In 2018, to address gender discriminatory norms UNICEF worked with 76 countries through curriculum development and 101 countries through the channel of adolescent engagement.

In Kyrgyzstan, 120 teachers received training and learning materials to nurture attitudes and perceptions that are free of negative and restrictive gender stereotypes among 2,000 children. They also learned how to engage and support children’s learning without discrimination based on their gender identities, using teaching aids such as three new Keremet Koch cartoon episodes. In Kosovo, UNICEF supported the UPSHIFT programme, through which 792 adolescent girls and 308 adolescent boys were mentored to develop digital solutions for a social problem that involved working as a team and were based on human-centred design principles. This helped to build their technological and entrepreneurial skills, while developing solutions for social barriers related to gender discrimination. In Jamaica, UNICEF collaborated with the Peace Management Initiative to train 460 at-risk adolescent boys in the Violence Interruption Programme, to build their self-worth, improve their self-image and challenge ideas of masculinity and its associations with violence.

Transforming intergenerational gender norms through social protection

Social protection programmes are often aimed at women and girls and help alleviate financial burdens on families. They increase girls’ inclusion and access to health and education services, while positively shifting traditional, discriminatory attitudes about the value of girls. As part of the vast menu of social protection interventions provided, UNICEF has also supported national governments, particularly in South Asia and the Middle East, in the design and implementation of interventions with the specific focus of eliminating discrimination against girls and alleviating economic barriers experienced by families through mechanisms such as targeted cash transfers, scholarships and voucher schemes.

In Bihar, India, where there are clear linkages between the high prevalence of child marriage and low participation of girls in education, UNICEF supported the design of an at-scale government cash transfer programme (Kanyan Uttan Yojana) that provided universal cash grants to all girls from birth to age 21 as an incentive to continue their education. Launched in August 2018, 100,000 cash transfers were transmitted electronically to joint parent-child bank accounts; the programme intends to reach 16 million girls annually. Across India, the Ending Child Marriage movement gained momentum in 12 more states, getting national political commitment and pursuing approaches such as cash transfers and increasing access to education and engagement with communities, especially with adolescent girls and boys.
Case Study 7: ‘Super Dads’ for the best start in life

Juan Carlos, a 42-year-old father of two living in Havana, Cuba, wanted to be an engaged father from the start. But when he went on antenatal check-up visits with his partner, Maria, he felt like an outsider. “It is assumed that [the mother] is the one that knows best and that’s annoying but also very comfortable for us, that they take the initiative and deal with it all.”

Then Juan Carlos came across ‘Father from the Beginning’, a package of communications materials created by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health with UNICEF support. Through print brochures, social media posts, television ads and dramatized soap opera episodes, the campaign creates awareness among mothers and fathers about the rights, responsibilities and benefits of equally shared parenting. This is how Juan Carlos learned about free childbirth classes he could attend with Maria, and how they found out that Juan Carlos could be by Maria’s side in the delivery room when she gave birth. Once it is fully implemented, the campaign will reach the parents of over 460,000 children in Cuba.

When fathers participate equally in the domestic and care responsibilities, children are more likely to receive the nutritious diet they need, to reach developmental milestones, and to be protected from violence. Daughters and sons who see their fathers in equal and respectful relationships with their mothers and other women come to understand that men and women are equal. However, social norms and structural barriers hinder men’s equal participation in parenting, preventing children from fully benefiting from having this crucial positive figure in their development.

‘Father from the Beginning’ is just one way UNICEF country offices are challenging these norms and barriers. For Father’s Day 2018, UNICEF Panama promoted the global campaign ‘Super Dads’ by featuring national football players from the FIFA World Cup team who talked about the importance of male involvement in child development and positive discipline. In the Dominican Republic, UNICEF highlighted the ‘Super Dads’ campaign by joining forces with 27 high-profile companies to spread messages about the important role of fathers in early childhood development, reaching almost 7 million people. UNICEF also worked with these companies to advance child-friendly policies. As a result, one large bank now extends paternity leave to ten days instead of the two days stipulated by Dominican law.
Communication for Development (C4D) strategies

C4D strategies are an important way to address gender norms and behaviours, enabling children to live safely and healthily and to reach their full potential. As gender norms are fundamentally social and behavioural, C4D strategies can be important methods to enable behaviour change at individual and community levels. In many cases, C4D has been used in tandem with other strategies like curriculum development and evidence generation, to make the most of approaches across multiple sectors to achieve gender equality. More recently, digital tools such as U-Report (an open-source mobile platform) and social media have emerged as valuable tools for triggering curiosity and initiating nationwide dialogues. UNICEF also employs traditional channels, from peer-to-peer influence and community dialogue, to mass media such as radio and television, according to the sociocultural context of each country. In 2018, UNICEF worked in 115 countries to address discriminatory gender norms through C4D strategies.

In Burkina Faso, UNICEF implemented communications interventions aimed at social and behavioural change in six regions, to address the underlying gender norms leading to child marriage and female genital mutilation. Nearly 594 community leaders and 354 ‘change agents’ in 60 villages were trained on communication and children’s rights, enabling them to conduct home visits and group discussions. In addition, field radio programmes and interpersonal activities, including theatres, radio games, video screenings and peer-to-peer educational talks, conveyed information and knowledge to 83,748 individuals. More than 900 community actors received training to implement communication activities. These media and community engagements reached over 1.3 million people, informing them about the harmful consequences of child marriage and female genital mutilation. In India, UNICEF reached 1.9 million parents and community members through social and behavioural change communication on the prevalence and implications of child marriage. Parents and community members were engaged through group meetings and intergenerational dialogue. Marginalized communities were mobilized using street plays and film screenings. The C4D strategy also reached 5 million adolescent girls and boys through social and behavioural change communication. Strategies included providing space, voice and audiences to adolescent boys and girls, engaging them with peer education, life-skills training, inter-gender dialogue, discussion about rights, folklore, school promotion and more. The cultivation of media partnerships and mobilization of social influencers helped to amplify the voices of adolescent girls and boys and ensure that their stories of change were heard.

Case Study 8: Changing gender norms through marketing and media

“Girls and women are demure and need protection. They are nurturers and should be solely responsible for childcare.”

“Boys and men shouldn’t show any weakness. They have to provide for their families.”

Too often, these are the ideas that young children absorb from the media and advertising that surround them. These gender stereotypes keep both girls and boys out of school, expose them to violence, and prevent them from getting the services and care they need to live healthy lives and realize their potential.

Fortunately, more progressive stories about what girls and boys can do are emerging, and UNICEF is playing an active role in promoting them. According to Andres Franco, Deputy Director, Private Sector Engagement at UNICEF:

“We can’t afford to work with our business partners or lead on shared-value partnerships without meaningful engagements on gender in marketing.”

With that in mind, in 2018 UNICEF joined the Unstereotype Alliance, an initiative launched by UN Women and private sector partners to challenge harmful gender stereotypes that are perpetuated through advertising and media content.

Through joint collaboration between UNICEF, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and Cannes Lions, the Young Lions Health Award recognized communications and marketing campaigns that highlight gender stereotypes that women and girls face when accessing health care. The winning idea called on producers of children’s content from around the world to craft stories and messages that will change how future generations see women, men, boys and girls. As Gerardo Saavedra, one of the creators, explained, “That is the power of communication – to use creativity to build a better, more equal world.”
Research and evidence generation

UNICEF undertook an extensive mapping of existing programmes that address gender norms and gender socialization. This helped to establish an overall framework on gender socialization and to develop guidance, action plans and measurement tools to shape future programmatic work.

In 2018, some 115 country offices undertook research and evidence generation on gender socialization to understand the nature and dynamics of gender norms that drive a variety of behaviours. For instance, in Cuba, detailed research on parenting attitudes in early childhood, particularly those of fathers, provided pioneering and overwhelming evidence of gender bias. In Armenia, UNICEF, in partnership with the University of Zurich, ArmStat and the Women’s Resource Center, conducted an experimental research study on antenatal sex selection aimed at measuring social norms related to son preference and the value of the girl child. This was complemented by a study on media consumption behaviours among couples of reproductive age. Country offices also conducted programme evaluations, such as in Liberia, where quantitative and qualitative methods were used to analyse the Gender Equitable Education Programme and its effectiveness in achieving gender-equitable results. The recommendations from these studies will contribute to the next phase of programme design.

Partnerships and advocacy

In 2018, UNICEF engaged with private sector companies and National Committees particularly on the topic of marketing and advertising, which deeply influences gender norms among girls and boys from a young age. UNICEF also joined with the Unstereotype Alliance, a private sector initiative convened by UN Women to address harmful gender-based stereotypes in marketing and promote gender-progressive portrayals of people. UNICEF also joined forces with Cannes Lions, as described in Case Study 8.

Challenges and constraints

As UNICEF moves to amplify and give specific focus to this nascent area of work, there is an opportunity for greater collaboration between Gender and C4D. Due to the cross-cutting nature of both functions within UNICEF, it is important to define the differences and complementarities in the two areas of work, and to clarify the implications for programme design. While gender mainstreaming constitutes the full range of strategies that seek to achieve gender equality across Goal Areas, it is also critical that gender mainstreaming is fully achieved through C4D, which is the cross-sectoral social and behaviour change strategy embedded in each Goal Area and in the life-cycle strategies such as parenting and social norms. Much of gender socialization work is related to dimensions that can be influenced through C4D strategies; these include discriminatory attitudes, beliefs, values and expectations that result in behaviours, practices and traditions that oppress and discriminate against marginalized groups, particularly girls and women. Social norms – one of the four behavioural result areas of C4D – are deeply entrenched and widely held beliefs about what is appropriate based on social roles and expectations that govern behaviour. Gender-based social norms are one category of social norms that are influenced through the process of gender socialization, thus reinforcing power dynamics inherent in society’s valuation of male and female gender roles. Gender-focused C4D strategies should be leveraged to influence gender-equitable attitudes, beliefs, values and expectations across all programming areas. Future efforts will include Gender and C4D teams in UNICEF undertaking deeper analyses of gender-based social norms, strengthening C4D platforms and strategies to address gender-based social norms in a cross-cutting manner, and jointly developing C4D and Gender framework and action plans that will be rolled out in 2019 to support country implementation in this area of work.

Another challenge is the limited resources available for this area of work and for taking programmatic efforts to scale. Positive gender socialization is a dynamic and constantly evolving process, which makes measuring its impact particularly difficult, further aggravating efforts to ensure sustainable funding for this work. Several organizations and institutions, including UNICEF, have invested in seminal research on measuring changes in gender norms. This includes the organization’s research partnership with Johns Hopkins University and the Communities Care initiative in Somalia and South Sudan to measure and track the gender norms that drive violence against women and children. In 2019 UNICEF will also explore non-traditional approaches, such as leveraging social media as a potential tool in measuring change – the organization seeks to expand financial and technical partnerships to address these critical challenges.
Globally, there are at least 93 million children with disabilities. They are one of the most excluded and marginalized groups of children, and they are subject to widespread violations of their rights. Stigma and discrimination often reduce their access to services, such as health, education and vocational services. As a consequence, they are less active, less involved and often invisible in their communities. Advancing their rights to participate fully in life exemplifies the commitment UNICEF has to equity. Programming for children with disabilities brings to life the principle of ‘Leave No Child Behind’ and enhances the overall quality of the organization’s programming.

In its Strategic Plan, UNICEF has – for the first time – consolidated its work for children with disabilities into a distinct results area, which still has strong linkages to all other results areas. Now there are results specific to work on disabilities and results that make the inclusion and participation of children with disabilities more visible through data disaggregation. The Strategic Plan uses four disability-specific indicators – one in Goal Area 2 (Every child learns) and three in Goal Area 5 (Every child has an equitable chance in life) – and requires disaggregation of data by disability in 22 indicators across all Goal Areas.

Results: Children with disabilities
This stronger and more coherent results framework in the UNICEF Strategic Plan resonates well with global commitments. To date, 177 countries have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The SDGs have 11 explicit references to persons with disabilities, and disaggregation of data by disability is a core requirement for reporting on the SDGs. This annual results report is the first to use the new results structure. In addition to the Strategic Plan indicators, it draws on further evidence from programme and financial data to enrich the analysis.

Results achieved in 2018

In 2018, UNICEF supported children with disabilities in 123 countries, reaching 1.4 million of them globally through development and humanitarian action (see Figure 19).

UNICEF works with countries to implement inclusive programmes and services that promote the participation of children with disabilities in society. This entails working on targeted interventions, such as strengthening data on disability and provision of assistive devices; and cross-cutting to strengthen the inclusion of children with disabilities across all Goal Areas of the Strategic Plan. The results covered in this chapter include those related to targeted interventions and to areas such as inclusive education, inclusive and accessible WASH, and inclusion of children with disabilities in child protection. Further information can also be found in the Annual Results Reports for other goal areas.

Strengthening disability data

Measuring outcome- and impact-level results for children with disabilities is a prerequisite for understanding progress towards the SDGs. These results can be measured through national surveys such as the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS). The UNICEF/Washington Group Module on Child Functioning, finalized in 2016, allows countries to identify children with functional difficulties and collect data on indicators of child well-being that can be disaggregated by disability. The use of the module in national surveys is therefore a key milestone and an essential part of the contribution UNICEF has made to countries in the monitoring of the SDGs for children with disabilities. Importantly, at the global level, it contributes to efforts to ensure that data are harmonized and comparable.

In 2018, six countries released national survey reports that included data collected through the UNICEF/Washington Group Module on Child Functioning (the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Ghana, Iraq, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Sierra Leone and Viet Nam). For example, in Viet Nam, UNICEF supported the General Statistics Office to conduct a national survey on people with disabilities. It was one of the first national disability surveys in the world to fully incorporate the Washington Group extended set of disability questions for adults as
well as the UNICEF/Washington Group Child Functioning Module. It provided full disaggregation, with key data on access to basic services and social assistance, and on social attitudes towards disability in the country. The survey results are being used to inform and advocate for disability as the Government of Viet Nam develops its 10-year National Socio-Economic Development Strategy and 5-year National Socio-Economic Development Plan, including the Master Plan on People with Disabilities (2021–2030). Other countries have applied the model in related work, including in a household budget survey in Azerbaijan, a dedicated disability survey in Belarus, and in the Burkina Faso census. These data are being used to understand the barriers that children with disabilities face in their communities, as well as to inform approaches to strengthen the accessibility and inclusiveness of programmes and services.

Supporting assistive devices and products to facilitate inclusion

Supporting children with disabilities by providing assistive devices and products is an important part of the organization’s work at the country level. Assistive devices like eyeglasses, hearing aids, wheelchairs and prosthetics help children to become more mobile and to communicate more easily. This allows them to participate more fully in family and community life. Too often, assistive devices and products have been a missing link in the chain of prerequisites that enable children with disabilities to lead a life in which they can enjoy and exercise their rights. However, only between 5 and 15 per cent of those who need assistive devices and products in low-income countries have access to them.

UNICEF has a unique model of integrating supplies into programming, which has helped to improve access to appropriate and good-quality assistive devices and products. In 2018, for the first time, UNICEF made procurement and provisioning of these products a priority result, which was a way to leverage the organization’s comparative advantage in this field. Throughout 2018, 66,236 children with disabilities were provided with assistive devices and products. Although slightly below the planned milestone of 71,500, this work had tangible positive effects on the lives of children with disabilities.

For example, in Montenegro, the provision of assistive devices meant that teaching and learning plans for children with disabilities could be implemented in schools, supporting their full inclusion. In Uganda, 3,000 children with hearing impairments were provided with hearing aids. In Yemen, in an ongoing conflict situation, UNICEF provided assistive devices to children with physical injuries and disabilities as part of wider efforts to support their rehabilitation. An innovative approach to enabling children with disabilities to go to school was carried on in 2018 in Eritrea, by providing donkeys to support children’s transport to school.

Focusing on children with disabilities in humanitarian crises

Children and adults with disabilities are among the most marginalized people in any community affected by crisis. During disasters and conflict, children with disabilities face disproportionate risk and are more likely to be left behind, abandoned or neglected.

In 2018, some 59 UNICEF country offices reported conducting specific work on children with disabilities in humanitarian responses, a significant increase from 21 country offices in 2017. Of these 59 countries, 20 had appeals related to humanitarian action for children, and reported that their humanitarian responses systematically included children with disabilities – a two-thirds increase from 2017, when only 12 countries reported such results.

FIGURE 20: Child-friendly spaces and children with disabilities, Kenya

53% of the children with disabilities accessing child-friendly spaces in Kenya were girls.
At the country level, UNICEF increased access to humanitarian programmes and services for children with disabilities across WASH, education, child protection and cash programmes. The number of countries reporting work on disability-inclusive child protection humanitarian programmes increased from 34 in 2017 to 43 in 2018, and for WASH increased from 37 in 2017 to 46 in 2018. For example, in Kenya, more than 6,000 children with disabilities – 53 per cent of whom were girls – accessed inclusive and accessible child-friendly spaces in refugee camps.

In Afghanistan, all 66 schools built in the Central Highlands in 2018 include accessibility features like ramps and accessible toilets. In Iraq, inclusive WASH services for people with disabilities are part of all UNICEF interventions at camp level, with accessible models for latrines and showers. In Jordan’s Azraq refugee camp, sanitation facilities were fitted with 321 ramps for wheelchair access. In the Niger, in hard-to-access areas served through the Rapid Response Mechanism, separate lines were organized for vulnerable women, including women with disabilities, to receive services.

Bridging the humanitarian–development divide has become a key priority for the work of UNICEF in countries facing emergencies. Across the wide spectrum of countries chronically or cyclically affected by crises, investment was made in 2018 in disaster preparedness specifically related to people with disabilities. This included preparedness training of educators, school principals, teachers and other front-line workers in Indonesia and four countries in Central America (Belize, Costa Rica, Panama and Uruguay).

To address the critical gap in knowledge and capacity in the area of disability-inclusive humanitarian action, UNICEF rolled out a set of guidance on Including children with disabilities in humanitarian action, which aims to strengthen the inclusion of children, adolescents, women and families with disabilities in all phases of humanitarian action.

Case Study 9: Syrian Arab Republic: Inclusive humanitarian response and bridging the humanitarian–development divide

Reaching children with disabilities in humanitarian situations is challenging, not least because a lack of data about this population means they are invisible to those planning and delivering the emergency response. In the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF has worked consistently to ensure that all elements of the humanitarian response are inclusive of people with disabilities. In addition, children with disabilities are included in the Humanitarian Performance Monitoring indicators for tracking the response, providing vital data on those who are receiving services. Community assessment questionnaires and community mobilization efforts specifically request information on children and disabilities, including information about their learning or school grade level, to enable them to be placed on learning pathways.

Mine contamination was the leading cause of child casualties across the country in 2018, with unexploded ordnance accounting for 434 deaths and injuries during the year. UNICEF specifically provides education to children on the risks of explosive weapons, including children with disabilities. In 2018, these efforts reached 639,511 children, of whom 6,255 had disabilities. Children affected by the war are also given psychosocial support, which benefited 192,752 children in 2018, of whom 3,852 had disabilities.

FIGURE 21: Children with disabilities reached in the Syrian Arab Republic

- 3,852 children with disabilities provided with psychosocial support
- 278,168 person with disabilities received sufficient clean water
- 11,468 women and girls with disabilities accessed menstrual hygiene management services
- 10,500 children with disabilities received cash assistance and case management
UNICEF reached large numbers of people with water and sanitation services in its humanitarian response. The water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) response in the Syrian Arab Republic is designed to include people with disabilities. Of the nearly 3.1 million people who received sufficient water of appropriate quality, 278,168 had disabilities. Of the more than 1 million who were given access to sanitation facilities, 91,459 had disabilities. Girls with disabilities are known to be more disadvantaged than boys with disabilities, particularly in humanitarian situations. UNICEF Syrian Arab Republic provided menstrual hygiene management services to 205,500 girls and women in humanitarian settings in 2018, and 11,468 had disabilities.

Among the people who have benefited from the organization’s humanitarian response in the Syrian Arab Republic, nearly 1 in 10 were children or adults with disabilities. This includes people supplied with sufficient clean water, sanitation facilities and WASH facilities for children in schools. Around 1 in 20 of the girls and women provided with menstrual hygiene management services had a disability.

In 2018, UNICEF also successfully supported children across the humanitarian–development nexus. The cash transfer programme for families of children with disabilities was expanded from just two governorates to six. It was delivered through an integrated approach, whereby the scheme was complemented by case management services in close coordination with child protection interventions to enhance the inclusion of children with disabilities in the available services. Some 10,500 children with disabilities were reached with cash assistance and case management in 2018; and more than 19,400 have been reached with these services since the programme began in 2016. Post-distribution monitoring surveys in 2018 have found a 65 per cent increase in health expenditure and 88 per cent increase in education expenditure for households with children with disabilities after receiving the cash assistance. In addition, over 90 per cent of families were satisfied or very satisfied with the case management services for their children.

Hanaa, 8 (right), who was paralysed by an exploding bomb and lost the use of her legs, sits in a wheelchair next to her sister Khadija, 5, in East Aleppo city in the Syrian Arab Republic. For months after her injury, Hanaa did not want to leave her home, “I was scared and I couldn’t even play with my sisters,” she said. Volunteers from a UNICEF-supported child-friendly space in Aleppo brought her to the space where she can play, sing and draw.
Furthering inclusive education and early childhood development

UNICEF made significant progress promoting inclusive education where children with disabilities can learn together with their peers in regular schools. Last year, over US$10 million was spent on strengthening systems for inclusive education, with a further US$1.5 million specifically on accessible learning materials for children with disabilities.

Ninety-three countries reported progress with supporting education policy and sector plans for children with disabilities. In Montenegro, for example, a new strategy for inclusive education sets out plans for further increasing the number of children with disabilities in mainstream schools, ensuring that they learn and progress along with their peers. In the United Republic of Tanzania, a new education sector plan seeks to make schools inclusive for students with disabilities.

Sixty-one countries reported significant progress in making schools more accessible, including through the construction of accessible sanitation facilities. For instance, UNICEF supported the revision of school standards under the Global Partnership for Education, leading to the construction of over 2,500 classrooms since 2015. As a result, in the Sudan more than half of all schools now have accessible classrooms and toilets. Investment in 2018 also included supplying specialized education materials in several countries.

One of the key strategies to build more capacity related to children with disabilities is investment in workforce capacity, to increase the quality, effectiveness and scale of inclusive programmes and services. For instance, in Zimbabwe, more than 80,000 primary school teachers (68 per cent of them female) were trained on teaching methodology for children with disabilities, and textbooks were produced in Braille for learners with visual impairments. In Cambodia, 354 education officers (one quarter of them women) and 519 teachers (more than one third women) were trained in inclusive primary education to support children with disabilities.

In Azerbaijan, C4D approaches – namely, a knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) study on children with disabilities – have generated evidence on the barriers to awareness, knowledge and positive attitudes, behaviours and social norms related to inclusive education. This has informed the development of a new social change strategy that aims to change attitudes towards children with disabilities in the education system and in society.

“I have very big dreams,” said Emmanuel, 18, a student in Ghana who has a vision disability. “I want to be a journalist but I also want to study law. I know that I have the capabilities and I just love writing and reading. I’m inspired by many leading journalists in the country. One day, I will be like one of them.” © UNICEF/UN028350/Quarmyne
The strategy is expected to increase public awareness of the rights of children with disabilities, address stigma and discrimination, and build a more supportive environment for inclusive education.

UNICEF is working to ensure that all children can enjoy their right to the best start in life, in particular young children with developmental delays and disabilities. Addressing the specific needs of these children as early as possible is therefore part of the organization’s approach to ECD. This is achieved through promoting children’s ability and participation and fostering innovation to address the barriers that children with developmental delays and disabilities and their families face in their daily lives.

Staff working in the social sector are often the first to encounter children with disabilities, and their capacity to identify these children and take appropriate action is crucial. Seven countries reported specifically training health workers in skills relevant to identify and support children with disabilities in 2018. These countries and an additional four others worked with service providers delivering ECD interventions, with a focus on primary health care as a central platform for identifying children with developmental delays and disabilities to refer to early intervention and connect to inclusive ECD and other services. Twelve countries reported that they delivered skills training on supporting children with disabilities to people working in primary and secondary education.

UNICEF supported efforts to improve accessibility in ECD facilities, and to improve the capacity of these facilities to address the needs of children with disabilities. This was done through training, providing learning materials, construction and advocacy. In the Philippines, for example, UNICEF support led to the enhancement of the system for prevention, early identification, referral and intervention of developmental delays and disabilities in early childhood.

A UNICEF Executive Directive mandates the consideration of accessibility in all new programme-related constructions, including WASH facilities. A dedicated commitment to making WASH facilities more accessible to people with disabilities has continued in 2018.

For instance, in Ethiopia, the provision of WASH facilities in schools and health-care facilities took into consideration the needs of people with disabilities and provided access ramps and hand rails. In Nigeria, WASH facilities are now designed to be disability accessible, giving over 90,000 people with disabilities access to clean water and 114,000 access to UNICEF-supported sanitation facilities. Mozambique launched the WASH in Health Centres initiative, which follows the ongoing work of supporting WASH in schools, and develops gender-sensitive, disability-friendly WASH standards and norms for health centres. For more information, see Annual Results Report 2018 – Goal Area 4.

### Leave no child behind – girls with disabilities

While programming for children with disabilities embodies the principle of ‘leave no child behind’, among children with disabilities, some are more disadvantaged than others. The goal of UNICEF is to prioritize those most in need, as further support for ensuring equity. Girls with disabilities are disproportionately vulnerable to discrimination and exclusion, facing many barriers to the full realization of their rights. They are particularly vulnerable to double discrimination on the basis of both their disability and their gender. UNICEF is working to address barriers faced by girls with disabilities, for example, by providing menstrual hygiene management services to girls and women with disabilities in humanitarian situations. See Annual Results Report 2018 – Goal Area 4 for more information.

### Ensuring the protection of children with disabilities

Child protection programmes in many countries already include a focus on children with disabilities. However, disability-related stigma often leads to further exclusion and increased risk of violence, abuse and neglect, which is not always taken into consideration in the context of child protection. UNICEF has supported 34 countries on efforts to include children with disabilities in child protection programmes. In Lebanon, for example, UNICEF supported work to train and encourage child protection partners to include children with disabilities in community activities. At the procedural level, a new chapter to the standard operating procedures on case management was added for children with disabilities.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, particular emphasis was placed on specialized foster care for children with disabilities and on supervision to prevent burnout of foster parents. Similarly, in North Macedonia, UNICEF supported reforms to strengthen the design and quality of the country’s foster care system for children with disabilities, preventive measures for early intervention, family support, and legal aid and assistance to families. Progress in the de-institutionalization of children with disabilities has been reported in 2018 from Georgia and Belarus. In Kosovo, a new multidisciplinary community-based rehabilitation model was adopted and implemented in 12 municipalities.

In humanitarian responses, child protection actions have specifically supported children with disabilities. Twenty-two countries in 2018 reported providing psychosocial support to children with disabilities. The Syrian Arab Republic and countries hosting Syrian refugees feature most prominently in this area. For more information, see the Annual Results Report 2018 – Goal Area 3.
Reducing stigma towards children with disabilities

Children with disabilities can face stigma and discrimination from within their communities, from institutions (such as schools and health-care facilities) and even from within their own family. This can prevent them from accessing services and educational opportunities, limit their involvement in decisions that affect their lives, and reduce their participation in society. UNICEF is working to reduce stigma towards children with disabilities and to transform social norms around disability.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, a three-month communications campaign aimed at the general public sought to reduce stigma against girls and boys with disabilities and to make their abilities more visible to society. UNICEF Oman launched an extensive communications campaign, using a variety of media channels to deliver targeted messages, including on integrated ECD, exclusive breastfeeding, child nutrition, positive discipline and inclusion of children with disabilities. In Georgia, the Communication for Social Change campaign #SeeEveryColour aimed to change attitudes towards children with disabilities and strengthen community and local government mechanisms to support inclusion of these children. Supported by USAID and the European Union, the campaign reached more than 1.4 million people. Along with activities delivered by other stakeholders, the campaign contributed to a 13 per cent reduction in stigma against children with disabilities. In Malaysia, advocacy by UNICEF contributed to the introduction of the ‘zero reject policy’ for undocumented children and children with disabilities, which aims to ensure that all children have access to education.

In addition, UNICEF colleagues specializing in C4D, Disability and U-Report are working together to change perceptions and behaviour among youth, including through text-based games and persona bots. U-Report has created a bot based on a real-world scenario of a young girl with a disability. The bot is designed to engage users in a conversation from an educational point of view on behaviour that discriminates against children with disabilities.

Strengthening social protection mechanisms for children with disabilities

Children with disabilities are one of the most excluded, invisible groups in society and are likely to be among the poorest. UNICEF is making progress to ensure that children with disabilities are not left behind, by strengthening social protection systems to include these children.

Cash transfer programmes increasingly include considerations for children with disabilities in 11 countries in 2018 – an increase from 7 in 2017. As a result, some countries reach significant numbers of children with disabilities through these social protection initiatives. In 2018, over 400,000 children with disabilities across five countries were reached with UNICEF-supported cash transfer programmes (see Figure 22).

In Egypt, UNICEF has been generating evidence and building capacity to strengthen the largest cash transfer programme in the region, reaching more than 5 million children, including over 350,000 children with disabilities. In Jordan, in the Hajati cash transfer programme, female-headed households and families with members with disabilities receive a higher weighting for their eligibility for inclusion in the programme.
Supporting national laws and policies

UNICEF in 2018 provided support to legislative and policy processes for children with disabilities in several countries. For example, substantial progress was made with regard to strengthening policies on de-institutionalization and inclusive education in Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia.

Rwanda finalized its Disability Inclusion Policy, an implementation strategy, and Standards of Care for Children with Disabilities in Institutions. Eswatini finalized and launched its National Disability Action Plan 2018–2022, supported by UNICEF and UNDP. It aims to promote and protect the rights and fundamental freedoms of people with disabilities, including empowering them to exercise their rights and enjoy equal participation in their communities, without discrimination of any kind. In Oman, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education to develop an Inclusion Policy and road map for inclusion to be adopted for all public schools.

At the regional level, the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025, with support from UNICEF, aims to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities. Its adoption marks a milestone for the realization of the rights of children with disabilities in the region.

Enabling and leveraging inter-agency work and partnerships

Partnerships are crucial to UNICEF in its work with children with disabilities, as they increase the organization’s reach, support its advocacy efforts and strengthen the investment base for relevant actions.

In July 2018, at the Global Disability Summit in London organized by DFID, the Government of Kenya and the International Disability Alliance, UNICEF was assigned as a preferred partner for two key global partnerships. The Global Partnership for Assistive Devices (AT Scale), launched at the Summit, aims to provide assistive devices to 500 million people by 2030 with US$20 million seed funding committed by DFID, USAID and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). UNICEF is a founding member of the partnership and in 2018 played a key role in conceptualizing its structure and objectives.

The Inclusive Education Initiative (IEI), with $15 million seed funding from DFID and Norad, aims to strengthen inclusive education programming and policy. The IEI facility will be based at the World Bank with UNICEF as a key partner and implementer.

UNICEF is also a founding member of the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD). In 2018, 13 UNICEF country offices received funding for disability-inclusive programming, working in partnership with other United Nations agencies across sectors. For the first time, Bhutan received funds from UNPRPD for a joint UNICEF, UNDP and World Health Organization (WHO) project to support government implementation of the CRPD. UNICEF is an active member of the Global Action on Disability Network, a global donor coordination mechanism to promote disability-inclusive development. Besides advising on strategic areas on which to focus joint efforts and global advocacy, UNICEF is particularly engaged in the areas of inclusive education, inclusive humanitarian action and social protection.

There were also significant private sector partnerships, such as in Belarus, where a partnership with a local bank made funds available for children with disabilities through individual ATM and electronic banking donations. In 2018, 40 bank branches joined the campaign, with 8,000 donors. In addition, UNICEF Malaysia successfully engaged the largest property developer (Sime Darby Property) to build the first inclusive playground in the country, with a public pledge made to ensure that all playgrounds built by the company will be user-friendly for children with disabilities.

Advocating for children with disabilities

A major result in 2018 was UNICEF facilitating agreement between the committees for the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the CRPD, to align both conventions with regard to the rights of children with disabilities.
UNICEF promoted dialogue between the two committees, which led to the establishment of a joint working group on children with disabilities to consider drafting a joint statement on children with disabilities. UNICEF secured funds and will serve as the Secretariat for this process of alignment. Alternative care for children with disabilities to prevent and reduce their institutionalization was identified as a critical area to be reviewed by the committees.

UNICEF also played a leading role in the organization of the first-ever Security Council Open Arria Formula meeting, focused on situations of persons with disabilities in armed conflict. Among the issues discussed at the meeting was the importance of participation of children and adults with disabilities in humanitarian action; legal obligations of governments and humanitarian actors to persons with disabilities; and policies and practices required to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are met in situations of armed conflict. The meeting also saw the launch of a UNICEF discussion paper on ‘Children with Disabilities in Situations of Armed Conflict’.47

Increasing knowledge about children with disabilities

In many countries, insufficient data exist on children with disabilities, leading to poor visibility and poor understanding of the barriers faced by children with disabilities in terms of accessing services. While numerous countries in 2018 reported limitations in disability data (such as insufficient data collection, data gaps, and limited research or analysis), 65 countries reported progress in generating additional data or analysing existing data to better understand the situation of children with disabilities. A number of situation analyses specifically focusing on children with disabilities were conducted. In Kosovo, the Disability Forum and eight non-governmental organizations (NGOs) launched the Situation Analysis of Children with Disabilities, which reported that the number of people with disabilities in Kosovo is unknown – let alone the number of children with disabilities – and called for the disability agenda to be made a priority.

In Albania, a comprehensive Situation Analysis of Children with Disabilities revealed a number of staggering violations of children’s rights and described the difficulties children face on a daily basis. In Papua New Guinea, a Situation Analysis of Children with Disabilities led to revision of the Inclusive Education Policy. A similar process took place in the Philippines, where the analysis also highlighted the lack of data on children with disabilities, and the challenges they face trying to access basic social services. Jamaica and Bangladesh also conducted similar analyses.

Disability-specific data in Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) contributed to better programming for inclusive education. In the United Republic of Tanzania, the Washington Group questions were integrated into the EMIS tool used to collect data on the enrolment of children with various types of disabilities.

In India, the EMIS system has been reinforced with student data that can be disaggregated by gender, school management, geography and disability. A data visualization tool was also developed using school, demography and learning data to support education officials to implement equitable quality education.

Challenges and constraints

Even with progress to date on strengthening disability data, gaps have continued to create challenges for policy and programming development for children with disabilities in some countries. In 2018, UNICEF offices in nine countries – Ethiopia, Lesotho, Montenegro, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Timor-Leste and Zambia – all reported a lack of disaggregated data on children with disabilities, and its limiting effect on programming. This data gap extends to national administrative data systems as well as periodic national surveys and censuses.

The integration of the UNICEF/Washington Group Module on Child Functioning in a growing number of national administrative data and surveys is promising and starting to reduce the data gap. The number of countries that conducted disability-specific situation analyses in 2018 is also helping to address this issue. Nevertheless, concerted efforts are still needed to ensure that high-quality disability data are available and reliable in both development and humanitarian contexts.

In 2018, 123 countries delivered activities and programmes that supported children with disabilities, yet there is a need to increase national and organizational capacity to provide programmes and services to this population. There is limited capacity for disability-inclusive programming in terms of number of staff and level of technical expertise, including both dedicated technical disability expertise and capacity in thematic areas to consider the needs of children with disabilities and adapt mainstream programmes and systems accordingly.

To accelerate and scale up disability inclusion within UNICEF, the organization will finalize and roll out its Global Programme Guidance on Disability Inclusive Programming in 2019. However, to institutionalize the knowledge and skills, as well as to support and monitor quality implementation of inclusive programmes, more capacity is needed in regional offices, only half of which have dedicated posts to support disability inclusion. At national level, UNICEF will continue to support training of community health workers, education managers and teachers, community leaders, social workers and other relevant members of the workforce. It will also include a disability module in existing training curricula for community interventions in health, WASH, nutrition and other sectors, in development and humanitarian contexts. In addition, UNICEF will identify and convene international and national NGOs, organizations of persons with disabilities, donors and the private sector, to support inclusive programming and service delivery.
Case Study 10: Bosnia and Herzegovina: Enhancing the inclusion of children with disabilities in education

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNICEF has supported inclusive education in recent years, with significant results. This work has demonstrated how modelling can lead to policy change and shifts in public opinion.

UNICEF developed a modular approach to trainings in Europe and Central Asia, based on established criteria and positive practices and experiences related to inclusive education. Ten primary schools were selected to develop inclusive practices focused on the care of children in the education system. The work in 2018 improved the abilities of 714 school staff and 461 teachers to implement teaching strategies that encourage inclusive education, benefiting over 7,000 students, including 427 children with disabilities.

The experience in the model schools also had an impact on teacher training. It led to the publication of a manual and the inclusion of a module on inclusive education as part of the mandatory professional development programme for teaching staff from all faculties at Sarajevo University. In addition, UNICEF promoted change in how disabilities are categorized and encouraged a shift from the medical to the social model – in other words, from the view that disability is a medical condition requiring specialized treatment to ‘fix’ the problem, to the view that it is a social construct caused by unaccommodating social environments and thus should be addressed by removing barriers that restrict participation.

To increase public awareness and inclusion of children with disabilities, 2018 saw a number of media and public events that promoted practical steps for children with disabilities to achieve their full potential. Forty ‘champions’ were selected as part of the social mobilization campaign, ‘Champions of Inclusion’. They included individuals, schools and communities that were recognized by Lucy Meyer, an 18-year-old Special Olympics gold medallist and spokesperson for the Special Olympics and UNICEF–United States partnership.

Finally, a survey of knowledge, attitudes and practice (KAP) in 2018 found that the majority (83 per cent) of people in Bosnia and Herzegovina would accept a child with a disability to be their own child’s best friend.

A girl with a disability plays in a park in Bosnia and Herzegovina. UNICEF promotes the need for improving access to social protection, inclusive services, education of children with disabilities, sensitizing society and creating a more inclusive environment.
Ensuring equitable life chances for all children requires adults to listen to and understand children's current needs and their aspirations for the future. Children must be involved in decision-making and actions that impact their lives and be supported to take active roles in their communities. While this is true of young children, participation and civic engagement have even greater significance as they reach adolescence – a period when children typically move beyond the boundaries of their immediate family and begin to engage with wider social networks, encounter stronger cultural influences, and build closer relationships with peers and other adults. Adolescence is also a life stage when children learn new skills rapidly and become more active in exercising their rights, seeking to influence the decisions that affect them and getting more involved in community-level activities.

UNICEF supports meaningful and systematic participation of adolescent girls and boys across all programmatic sectors and promotes efforts to ensure adolescents are consulted on the policies and services relating to them, as well as supported to influence decisions and become engaged.
on matters that affect them and their communities. To do this effectively requires the ability of children to voice their views and to have access to safe spaces; it also requires the fostering of responsive audiences (see Figure 23). This in turn requires that necessary investments are made in addressing social norms, implementing laws and policies that create an enabling environment, building skills and capacities of both adolescents and adults, and creating sustainable mechanisms and opportunities for participation. UNICEF also supports efforts that encourage adolescents to participate in civic engagement (defined as activities that aim to improve their communities, schools, environment, state or country), including the development of a combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make such improvements.

Global interest in adolescents’ participation and civic engagement has intensified in recent years, with a shift from focusing on political models of civic participation (which were often tokenistic, since adolescents cannot vote) to frameworks that support more holistic approaches. Newer approaches regard adolescents not as risks, but as assets. Adolescent girls and boys are seen as valued individuals who can contribute to both the identification and resolution of community challenges. The current Strategic Plan acknowledges the importance of adolescents as participants and change agents, and for the first time includes a specific result that captures the organization’s commitment and support to adolescent participation and civic engagement.

**Results achieved in 2018**

In 2018, around 6 million adolescents across 102 countries participated in or led civic engagement initiatives through UNICEF-supported programmes. Of these, around 500,000 were adolescents in conflict-affected or humanitarian contexts in 23 countries. This global figure of 6 million adolescent participants in 2018 compares with just 2.3 million across 71 countries in 2017 (see Figure 24). The India programme alone engaged 4.2 million adolescents in 2018 this year – a huge increase prompted by a joint strategy with the government to scale up efforts (see Case Study 11). While other countries may not have achieved the same phenomenal growth as India, the global total of adolescents engaged in the rest of the world was still nearly 2 million this year, which is in line with the target set for 2021, and a reflection of the emphasis placed by UNICEF and its partners on both promoting and tracking adolescent participation and engagement.
Adolescent civic engagement in practice

When adolescents are civically engaged, they contribute individually or collectively to improving their school, community, city or country. Examples of civic engagement in both development and humanitarian contexts over 2018 included a wide range of activities. As groups or individuals, adolescents provided information and mobilized peers and community members, influenced decisions made in schools, participated in or led community projects and activities, petitioned stakeholders, negotiated rights with authorities, participated in policy reform processes, and volunteered their time for individual and collective activities. Digital engagement was not considered for this reporting when it was a ‘one off’ or one-time occurrence, such as adolescents responding to a poll or questionnaire. Only when such digital engagement led to face-to-face interactions or repeated engagement and investments of time by adolescents were they counted as civic engagement.

Partnerships that supported adolescent civic engagement

UNICEF collaborated closely with a wide range of partners to support adolescent civic engagement, including local and national governments, civil society organizations, multilateral organizations, the private sector and media companies. Partnerships included working with Youth Media groups in Bangladesh, Côte d’Ivoire and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic; collaborating with municipal governments in Honduras and the Niger; working with youth groups in Jordan and the Philippines, School Management Committees in India and the Niger, youth parliamentarians in Timor-Leste, and National Associations of Scouts in Guinea and Indonesia. A strategic partnership that was renewed in 2018 was the flagship Power for Youth, supported by ING Bank, which enabled UNICEF to help over 100,000 adolescent girls and boys to build transferable skills and put them into practice through civic engagement in China, Kosovo, Montenegro, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

UNICEF support for enabling policies, skills development, addressing social norms and providing opportunities for adolescent civic engagement

Adolescent girls and boys need access to the ‘voice’, ‘space’ and ‘audience’ that allows them to influence decisions and matters that are important to their lives and to boost their ability to become civically engaged (see Figure 23). UNICEF supported work that made necessary investments in four strategic areas: (1) influencing legislation and policies that create an enabling environment; (2) building skills and capacities of both adolescents and adults; (3) addressing social norms that hinder participation; and (4) creating sustainable mechanisms and opportunities for participation.

FIGURE 24: Increase in the number of adolescents participating in UNICEF-supported initiatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of adolescents who participated in or led civic engagement initiatives through UNICEF supported programmes in development and humanitarian contexts</td>
<td>2,311,943</td>
<td>6,013,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of countries (out of 157) with appropriate national policies and legislation supporting development of adolescents</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of country offices (out of 128) routinely engaging adolescents in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of UNICEF country programmes</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Case Study 11: India: Addressing child marriage through adolescent participation, engagement and empowerment

India has the largest population of adolescents in the world – 120 million girls and 133 million boys (almost 21 per cent of the world’s total). Adolescents experience multiple layers of vulnerabilities in India based on their gender, age, caste, socioeconomic status and geography. Enrolment of girls and boys in upper secondary school is drastically lower than in primary school, particularly for adolescent girls; and one in three of the world’s child brides live in India. Despite progress on preventing child marriage in recent years, including legislative changes, one in four girls still marry before age 18 – an issue the government and UNICEF are committed to addressing. Evidence collated by UNICEF India over the past five years suggests that five interventions are particularly important in accelerating the empowerment of adolescent girls and boys and contributing to ending child marriage (see Figure 25).

Adolescent girls in a school setting having fun participating in a ‘learning through play’ activity about adolescent empowerment (Ramchandrapur Village in Mirzapur District near Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, India).
UNICEF India has helped build strong political commitment and community support for adolescent empowerment across 13 states. Skills development is key to this effort as adolescents need to have the opportunity to learn and then put into practice skills for personal empowerment and active citizenship in particular. In 2018, four million girls and boys gained access to foundational and life-skills training through school clubs (such as Meena Manch in primary schools and Raju Manch in secondary schools), career fairs, mentorship programmes, and accelerated learning programmes for adolescents who had dropped out of school. UNICEF also worked with key constituencies to build their capacities to engage adolescents and their parents and community influencers in promoting adolescent participation and civic engagement. Creating the right environment and accountability structures are also key to promoting adolescent empowerment in India. UNICEF strengthened participation, capacity and social accountability mechanisms within local government and law enforcement structures, Child Protection Committees and School Management Committees. UNICEF also assisted three state governments to develop cash transfer programmes that incentivize girls’ education, and which reached over 20 million girls. This was in the form of annual scholarships for adolescents aged 13-18 years old and one-time payments for 18-19 year-olds, provided they are enrolled in an educational institution and are unmarried.
Influencing legislation and policies

Existing legislation and policies often do not recognize the specific needs and rights of adolescents, and budget allocations are inadequate to provide the range of health, education and social services that adolescents need to survive, grow and develop. Socioeconomic and political environments that restrict the systematic participation of adolescents also make it difficult for children to be active citizens and gain the mix of skills they require to make safe and empowered transitions into adulthood. UNICEF plays an important role in facilitating dialogue with governments concerning legislation, policy formulation and budget allocations that are responsive to adolescent needs and support the intentional engagement of adolescents in their formulation.

In 2018, thirty-three countries reported having appropriate policies and legislation in place that support the development of adolescents, surpassing the target of 21 for the year (see Figure 24). Appropriateness of the policies was measured using a set of nine quality criteria.48 This assessment indicated that the lack of secure budgets and monitoring frameworks are weaknesses of many policies, while gender responsiveness and participation mechanisms are usually well integrated. In Lebanon, UNICEF collaborated with UNFPA and the government to use an iterative, consultative process to formulate an Action Plan for the National Youth Policy. It includes a strong gender focus, baseline and end-line targets, as well as a robust monitoring and evaluation plan. In the Niger, UNICEF supported the government to conduct a national study on the aspirations of youth and the effectiveness of existing youth policies. This was a multi-stakeholder process of consultations at central and decentralized levels. The study resulted in a multisectoral government road map called Words of Youth, which aims to promote youth empowerment and entrepreneurship. The road map will be overseen by the Prime Minister’s Office and implemented by a multi-stakeholder group that includes key central ministries, regional and local authorities, civil society organizations and youth themselves. In Uganda, UNICEF contributed to the development of a National Multi-Sectoral Framework for the Adolescent Girl and a corresponding communication strategy, both of which received strong political commitment from the government and the Office of the First Lady.

Specific sectoral policies that promote measurable outcomes for adolescents are essential to building enabling environments for adolescent development and participation. Globally, the number of countries with national, multisectoral, gender-responsive and budgeted plans focusing on adolescent health and well-being has doubled to 50 countries since 2016. In the United Republic of Tanzania, for instance, UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other partners supported the preparation of a National Accelerated Adolescent Implementation Action Plan for 2019–2022. The Plan aims to reduce the rate of adolescent pregnancies, HIV infections, anaemia, violence and school dropout, while promoting skills for learning and employability. UNICEF provided technical and financial support to help define the comprehensive framework and to engage adolescent girls and boys across the country in the design of the Plan’s framework.

UNICEF also advocated for and supported more targeted interventions, such as a change of laws regarding the age of consent for seeking medical services in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Philippines. It also facilitated strategic planning consultations between government ministries and key stakeholders, including young people, in Brazil, the Philippines, Senegal, Ukraine and Zimbabwe. UNICEF and its partners make efforts to ensure that policies and legislation are inclusive of vulnerable and marginalized adolescent populations. In the Philippines, for instance, UNICEF supported the government to implement a comprehensive health insurance package for children and adolescents with disabilities.

Addressing policies and legislation that determine the age at which adolescents can vote and thus formalize their role as active citizens is an area of increasing interest to governments globally.

UNICEF Brazil joined forces with the Brazilian Superior Electoral Tribunal and Regional Electoral Courts to encourage adolescents aged 16 and 17 to register and participate in the 2018 general election. The campaign, #partiumudar (#GoOutAndChange), encouraged adolescents to participate in the democratic process through educational activities on democracy and citizenship, and through social media outreach. Social media messages were based on content developed by adolescents themselves and reached almost 500,000 people and generated 140,000 video views.

Building skills and capacities

The ability to express one’s opinion, critically analyse information and make decisions is not innate – it must be learned and practised throughout childhood and adolescence. In societies and situations in which adolescent girls and boys are not encouraged to speak out, investments are needed to actively help them gain these critical skills. Critical to this are both foundational skills, such as basic literacy and numeracy, as well as transferable skills, such as problem-solving, communication, critical thinking, empathy and respect for diversity. Teaching, training and coaching on transferable skills that contribute to active and mutually respectful participation in civil society, community and/or political life form part of the rights-based approach taken by UNICEF towards education and skills development, which is captured within its Global Framework on Transferable Skills adapted from the Middle East and North Africa Conceptual and Programmatic Framework on Life Skills and Citizenship Education.49 This Framework aims to support the development of a breadth of transferrable skills that contribute to improving outcomes of learning, employability and entrepreneurship, active citizenship and personal empowerment. It also makes the
case for systemic approaches for learning through multiple pathways – formal, non-formal and community-based.

In 2018, across the 51 countries that reported age-disaggregated data on skills training, over 1 million adolescent girls and boys (788,620 aged 10–14 and 258,285 aged 15–19) benefited from skills training. To ensure that adolescent girls and boys have equal access to opportunities, skills development needs to not only consider gender norms, roles, and relations, but also promote measures to actively reduce their harmful effects, including gender inequity. UNICEF therefore supports countries to institutionalize gender-equitable approaches to skills development within training systems. The number of countries reporting that such systems are in place increased from 13 per cent in 2017 to 25 per cent in 2018, and 97 UNICEF country offices are supporting countries to develop such systems.

In Tajikistan, UNICEF developed an integrated programme for in-school and out-of-school adolescents to support key competencies in problem-solving, creativity, critical thinking and goal setting, which was delivered through Innovation Labs in Centres for Additional Education. In Nigeria, UNICEF supported the empowerment of girls though Girls for Girls interventions that provided leadership skills, life skills and citizenship education to 56,655 adolescent girls and boys. There were also teams of ‘male champions for gender equality’ (comprising fathers, community and religious leaders, male teachers), which led advocacy efforts promoting girls’ enrolment and retention in school.

In the United Republic of Tanzania, UNICEF supported the roll-out of a Cash Plus initiative for 2,500 adolescents aged 14–19 from the poorest households. The initiative presented adolescent girls and boys with life-skills training, mentorship, and access to vocational training and income-generating opportunities. Cash Plus was implemented in four districts on an experimental basis. Data collection was completed for a mid-term impact and process evaluation, with findings expected in early 2019.

Skills training for young people has been directly linked to efforts to encourage civic engagement, particularly when using a human-centred design approach, which focuses on empowering adolescents to become social innovators and entrepreneurs in their communities. UNICEF has been supporting this approach – called UPSHIFT – across 13 countries to deliver social innovation workshops, mentorship, incubation and seed funding to young people that allows them to identify problems in their own communities and design solutions. In Kosovo, between 2014 and January 2018, 6,440 young people received training via UPSHIFT and 213 youth-led projects were initiated, which later had a direct or indirect impact on more than 200,000 community members. Moreover, 20 of these projects were turned into businesses and an additional 28 have become charitable or civil society organizations. A video from Viet Nam highlights the impact UPSHIFT is making on the skills and confidence of young people with disabilities, while one from Tajikistan demonstrates how young people can be engaged in a specific challenge area (in this case, WASH) to design solutions and raise awareness of the issue within local communities. This approach has also proved effective in promoting civic engagement among refugee communities in Jordan and Lebanon, and in fostering ethnic and social integration among young people in Kosovo, Tajikistan and Viet Nam.

Addressing social norms

Even when positive policies and legislation are in place, adolescents often encounter social norms that hinder their ability to participate and engage. Deeply entrenched hierarchies (often justified in terms of traditional gender roles), a need for discipline and respect for elders, and assumptions of a lack of capacity in adolescents serve to exclude adolescents from being able to voice their opinions, have a say in decisions that affect them and become civically engaged. Addressing social norms that impede adolescents from being heard and being able to make choices about their own lives (including about marriage, access to education and communal violence) are vital avenues for UNICEF to foster more enabling environments for adolescent engagement. Adolescents themselves are often energized to contest social norms that they feel are discriminatory, but they need to be able to do this safely and without the risk of retribution.

In Bangladesh, UNICEF provides a range of platforms that encourage adolescent girls and boys to discuss and explore opportunities for becoming more engaged in challenging culturally sensitive norms around issues like child marriage, puberty and menstrual health. There, an edutainment drama series on adolescent well-being and empowerment reached more than 1.5 million people and engaged 3.4 million people via social media in 2018. Around 50,000 adolescents were informed about the End Child Marriage Helpline 109 and how to access it; 10,000 community members, including adolescents, received training on what to do when a child marriage is suspected. The helpline received reports of 870 suspected cases, and 150 child marriages were stopped as a result of community interventions that included adolescents.

In partnership with the Social Change Factory in Senegal, UNICEF supported adolescent reporters to advocate for the rights of child beggars through interventions on community radio. In Eritrea, female students from 463 school clubs engaged in raising awareness among their peers and male teachers about issues related to menstrual health and hygiene and how pervasive negative attitudes impact their attendance at school and sense of dignity. In the Maldives, the government formulated a strategy for behaviour change that included communication interventions, such as video messages and social media campaigns. The aim was to engage and encourage authorities and the public to change the social norms around discrimination of children with disabilities, in particular, raising awareness on children’s right to be heard in decisions affecting their education and health care.
Case Study 12: Whole of Syria Response: Promoting civic engagement and social cohesion

Eight years on, the Syrian conflict remains one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world. Over half of all Syrians are uprooted from their homes, with the majority of the displaced being children and youth. Within and outside the Syrian Arab Republic, adolescents and youth are at risk of exclusion, discrimination, economic and sexual exploitation, child labour and child marriage. Despite these daunting challenges, the ‘Whole-of-Syria’ response is generating promise, creating positive energy and boosting youth potential for taking ownership of their lives and creating a better future.

Work was done to promote youth civic engagement and social cohesion in all five affected countries (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey) in 2018. During the year, 254,706 adolescents participated in or led civic engagement initiatives across the five countries through UNICEF-supported programmes. A life-course approach focused on realization of the rights of adolescents and youth, especially the most vulnerable, to foster a generation that is protected, educated, employable and has a sense of shared responsibility.

Integrated services and opportunities were also provided, including skills development, civic and economic engagement at community level, and opportunities to influence policy decision-making at local to global levels.

Integrated service delivery for adolescents included the 150 Makani (My Space) centres in Jordan, 22 in refugee camps, 50 in informal settlements and 78 in host communities. These spaces provided multiple services and opportunities under one roof, including psychosocial support, life-skills education, opportunities for social and civic engagement, volunteering and innovation labs. Throughout 2018, some 63,453 adolescents and youth participated, of whom 55 per cent were female. The Sports for Development programme increased inter-ethnic tolerance and respect among refugees, displaced people and host communities, and reached more than 160,000 people across the five countries.

A Regional Life Skills and Citizenship Education Initiative in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic reached around 100,000 adolescents and youth through activities for developing entrepreneurial thinking and skills; seed funding was provided for selected projects. In Iraq, 1,020 out-of-school adolescents and young people received vocational training through government-run centres and 11 per cent found jobs within three months of completing training.

UNICEF and its partners in the Syrian Arab Republic and neighbouring countries continue to strengthen and scale up opportunities for civic engagement and programmes for Syrian adolescents and youth and host community populations.

Mahmoud, 13, at Start-Up Za’atari with his invention. “I took this model wheelchair to explain my idea to my neighbour,” Mahmoud said. “He has a daughter who has a disability. It will enable her to be more independent and not have to ask others for help.” Start-Up Za’atari is part of the UNICEF X ONE Humanitarian Changemakers Lab, a new partnership to equip vulnerable youth in Jordan with the knowledge and business skills needed to design their own solutions to everyday challenges, and to promote entrepreneurship and jobs.
Creating sustainable mechanisms and opportunities for participation

Evidence shows that the most effective approach for adolescents to acquire the skills and values of active citizenship and civic engagement is through the social and interactive process of participation itself. For that to happen children need opportunities and mechanisms that allow their participation. Adolescents need to feel and identify as part of their community. Civic engagement actions need to be situated in real life and relevant contexts (including online), and decisions being deliberated should be meaningful to adolescents. Moreover, engagement must be carefully nuanced, especially for younger adolescents aged 10–14 who may still be in the early stages of acquiring the relevant skills required for meaningful participation and civic engagement. UNICEF supports a wide range of platforms and mechanisms that enable adolescents to systematically engage in decision-making processes and identify as part of their community.

Opportunities in schools

With more children enrolled in primary schools than ever before and an increasing number transitioning into lower secondary schools, schools offer systematic opportunities for many adolescents to practise participation and become civically engaged. Participation and engagement can be supported through a variety of mechanisms. For example, Egypt has sought to institutionalize student councils over the past four years. To date, 63,000 students participated in student union elections and 2,500 students were trained on identifying and developing initiatives to benefit their schools or local communities. Over 80 adolescent-led initiatives reached 41,000 students. In Timor-Leste, UNICEF initiated the establishment of student councils in 66 schools as a platform to empower children and adolescents and boost their participation in school activities. Student council members received training and mentoring from youth parliamentarian alumni on life skills, civic education, emergency preparedness, and how to become ambassadors for violence prevention in schools. Student leaders also became engaged as hygiene advocates and, along with teachers, have taken on responsibility for the operation and maintenance of WASH facilities in their schools.

Supporting school management committees is an important focus of work for many education programmes across the regions, and an increasing emphasis is now placed on ensuring these committees give more space and opportunities for students to be actively included and have a say in decision-making. Of the 82 countries where these committees received training and support from UNICEF in 2018, 58 reported that students were included as stakeholders. In India, UNICEF supported the committees to include assistance to their student representatives, through radio programmes and phone text messages. In Niger, from 120 schools in the Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder regions, 2,000 female and 968 male students and School Management Committee members received training on menstrual hygiene management and on preventing violence in schools, and have been actively reaching out to their peers to promote more positive attitudes towards girls’ education.

Opportunities in youth centres and community settings

After-school clubs, youth centres and other safe spaces provide an important platform for civic engagement among adolescents. In Bangladesh, UNICEF established 40 Adolescent Friendly Spaces and 220 Adolescent Clubs, reaching more than 160,000 children with psychosocial activities and nearly 40,000 adolescents with life-skills education in Rohingya refugee and host communities. The aim is to reach 300,000 by 2021. In Indonesia, UNICEF supported after-school clubs across five districts to use the Adolescent Kit for Expression and Innovation. The Kit strengthens skills and resilience among young people to cope with situations before, during and after emergencies, and encourages them to develop ideas and potential solutions for issues they identify as important to them. Adolescents are further encouraged to explore options for mobilizing community members and resources to implement these proposed solutions. In South Sudan, UNICEF reached 36,165 adolescents in 2018 with the Kit. In Nigeria, the Kit was used to engage adolescent boys and girls who had escaped from Boko Haram and were subjected to stigma and rejection from their communities and families, to help develop trust and cope with their fears and concerns. Globally, UNICEF and partners reached over 130,000 adolescents in 14 countries through the Kits in 2018. In Mali, UNICEF worked with UNFPA and the International Organization for Migration to accelerate implementation of a national peace and reconciliation agreement by supporting 2,500 young people, of whom 900 were young women, to engage in community-level actions to promote reconciliation in the central part of the country, which has recently experienced high levels of conflict.

Peer-to-peer outreach is another effective mechanism for adolescents to become civically engaged, particularly for those not in formal education. In Pakistan, UNICEF collaborated with partners in Sindh Province on the Improving Adolescent Lives in Pakistan initiative. UNICEF reached 4,024 adolescents (2,430 of them girls) with training designed to empower adolescents to act as agents of change in their own protection and that of their peers. The trainees reached out to another 36,255 adolescents (of whom 15,095 were girls) to engage in intergenerational dialogue with key community
opportunities and over 31,101 community members, to discuss topics related to adolescent rights, including freedom of expression and participation and girls’ education. In Turkey, peer-to-peer activities promoting the integration of refugee and host communities reached 98,576 adolescents through girl- and adolescent-friendly centres. One unique intervention was the Social Circus, which trained 556 Turkish and Syrian young people in the performing arts. These performers reached audiences of over 190,000 young people through their shows, which included positive messages about social integration. In Mali, 1,496 adolescent girls and boys trained as ‘back-to-school ambassadors’ and a further 1,500 trained as ‘peace advocates’ and then conducted home visits, community dialogue and radio programmes to promote social cohesion, peace and a return to school.

Opportunities in local governance

For many years UNICEF has been supporting meaningful adolescent participation and engagement through participation in local governance, either as a stand-alone activity or as part of the Child Friendly Cities initiative. In 2018, UNICEF Niger supported adolescent-friendly platforms in 26 municipalities. These included 44 youth peace brigades that promote a culture of peace and mediate community conflicts, and 19 youth dialogue structures to help adolescent girls and boys participate in municipal decision-making. More than 1,600 young people were active across these 63 platforms in 2018 and reached over 11,000 other young people by leading civic engagement activities. In Honduras, UNICEF supported the creation of 90 adolescent-friendly spaces to encourage dialogue between adolescents and local authorities in 37 municipalities. As a result, 24 municipal governments adopted new resolutions to address proposals made by adolescents, such as opening safe recreational spaces, having better safeguards on the sale of alcoholic beverages, including adolescents in decision-making spaces, offering new sports in schools, promoting artistic-cultural activities and measures to include children with disabilities in schools and public spaces.

In Guinea, a partnership with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and the National Association of Scouts resulted in the establishment of youth committees in rural councils, which included girls and other individuals from marginalized groups. The initiative is expected to be scaled up across all 342 councils. In Montenegro, the National Human Rights Institution (or Ombudsperson) supported the participation of adolescents as ‘Golden Advisors’, whose mission is to promote children’s rights and the work of the Ombudsperson through peer support and education.

Opportunities in traditional media and digital spaces

Traditional and digital media are important platforms for adolescent civic engagement. Adolescents already account for a substantial percentage of the global networked population and their share is on the rise. As early adopters of new technologies, they are able to connect and communicate in ways that were not so easily available even a few years ago. U-Report, for instance, is an open-source mobile platform that connects young people all over the world to information and opportunities for engagement. It is free to use and now reaches almost 6.5 million users across all ages in 55 countries via SMS, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger and Viber. In Indonesia, young U-Reporters helped government officials identify and locate 3,500 people within 48 hours who had been displaced by the 28 September earthquake and tsunami, so they could receive urgent shelter, health services and psychosocial support. A confidential reporting facility, U-Report enables and empowers young people to speak out, report, ask questions and seek information they may otherwise be too embarrassed or afraid to pursue.

U-Report On the Move was developed in Europe in light of the recent migrant crises and allows young unaccompanied and separated children access to one-on-one legal advice to help them understand their rights and to petition key stakeholders concerning their migration and refugee status. U-Report On the Move has recruited almost 20 per cent of the adolescent refugees and migrants in the Italian region of Sicily in the past year. In Côte d’Ivoire, 485,000 U-Reporters conduct bi-weekly polls on a range of topics they feel need to be raised with adult stakeholders, the results of which are then amplified via radio and TV broadcasts. U-Reporters also take an active role as mentors to other young people and participate in policy dialogue interventions.

Community radio and television likewise serve as powerful and effective platforms for adolescent civic engagement and allow them to reach their peers with valuable information and messages. In Côte d’Ivoire, 120 young reporters (aged 14–21) produced and broadcast weekly radio programmes targeting adolescents on 10 radio channels. A reality television show, broadcast nationally, reached an audience of 3 million and provided opportunities for young people (aged 18–25) to identify problems in their status. U-Report On the Move was developed in Europe in light of the recent migrant crises and allows young unaccompanied and separated children access to one-on-one legal advice to help them understand their rights and to petition key stakeholders concerning their migration and refugee status. U-Report On the Move has recruited almost 20 per cent of the adolescent refugees and migrants in the Italian region of Sicily in the past year. In Côte d’Ivoire, 485,000 U-Reporters conduct bi-weekly polls on a range of topics they feel need to be raised with adult stakeholders, the results of which are then amplified via radio and TV broadcasts. U-Reporters also take an active role as mentors to other young people and participate in policy dialogue interventions.

Traditional and digital media are important platforms for adolescent civic engagement. Adolescents already account for a substantial percentage of the global networked population and their share is on the rise. As early adopters of new technologies, they are able to connect and communicate in ways that were not so easily available even a few years ago. U-Report, for instance, is an open-source mobile platform that connects young people all over the world to information and opportunities for engagement. It is free to use and now reaches almost 6.5 million users across all ages in 55 countries via SMS, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger and Viber. In Indonesia, young U-Reporters helped government officials identify and locate 3,500 people within 48 hours who had been displaced by the 28 September earthquake and tsunami, so they could receive urgent shelter, health services and psychosocial support. A confidential reporting facility, U-Report enables and empowers young people to speak out, report, ask questions and seek information they may otherwise be too embarrassed or afraid to pursue.

Community radio and television likewise serve as powerful and effective platforms for adolescent civic engagement and allow them to reach their peers with valuable information and messages. In Côte d’Ivoire, 120 young reporters (aged 14–21) produced and broadcast weekly radio programmes targeting adolescents on 10 radio channels. A reality television show, broadcast nationally, reached an audience of 3 million and provided opportunities for young people (aged 18–25) to identify problems in their status. U-Report On the Move has recruited almost 20 per cent of the adolescent refugees and migrants in the Italian region of Sicily in the past year. In Côte d’Ivoire, 485,000 U-Reporters conduct bi-weekly polls on a range of topics they feel need to be raised with adult stakeholders, the results of which are then amplified via radio and TV broadcasts. U-Reporters also take an active role as mentors to other young people and participate in policy dialogue interventions.

Community radio and television likewise serve as powerful and effective platforms for adolescent civic engagement and allow them to reach their peers with valuable information and messages. In Côte d’Ivoire, 120 young reporters (aged 14–21) produced and broadcast weekly radio programmes targeting adolescents on 10 radio channels. A reality television show, broadcast nationally, reached an audience of 3 million and provided opportunities for young people (aged 18–25) to identify problems in their status. U-Report On the Move has recruited almost 20 per cent of the adolescent refugees and migrants in the Italian region of Sicily in the past year. In Côte d’Ivoire, 485,000 U-Reporters conduct bi-weekly polls on a range of topics they feel need to be raised with adult stakeholders, the results of which are then amplified via radio and TV broadcasts. U-Reporters also take an active role as mentors to other young people and participate in policy dialogue interventions.
Adolescent participation in programme monitoring and evaluation and UNICEF planning

In 2018, one fifth of the 128 UNICEF country offices reported routinely engaging adolescents in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of UNICEF country programmes. This represents an increase from 15 per cent since 2017 (see Figure 24). The quality of this participation varies across country offices, but recent guidance has been issued by the UNICEF Evaluation Office that will support countries as they seek to improve their work with adolescents within their own planning processes. Jordan, for instance, has already tested out a number of mechanisms for engaging meaningfully with young people. A network of 300 youth and 60 members of a Youth Advisory Council provided advice to UNICEF programmes this year. These young people were involved in the development of UNICEF workplans and played an integral role in the planning and implementation of interventions and campaigns in education, youth engagement, social protection and child protection. They also led research and assessments in host communities and refugee camps, and supported the collection and analysis of digital data. In Timor-Leste, UNICEF supported the State Secretary of Youth and Sport to conduct an evaluation of the Youth Parliament programme. Young people (aged 15–25) were involved in the design of the evaluation and then supported collection, analysis and communication of the results.

In Iraq, UNICEF launched participatory action research activities across 10 districts. Forty young people received training in evidence generation, including data collection, analysis, communication and advocacy, and became Master Trainers. These Master Trainers worked with UNICEF partners and government counterparts to train 440 young data collectors and helped establish mechanisms for young researchers and their peers to influence UNICEF and partner-supported programmes. UNICEF supported the United Republic of Tanzania Social Action Fund to develop a monitoring and reporting system for the Cash Plus programme. Surveys were co-created with young peer educators and implemented to collect user feedback via the organization’s SMS-based platform to collect real-time data from programme participants.

Challenges and constraints

One of the major challenges for UNICEF in promoting adolescent civic engagement and participation revolves around addressing prevalent social norms that, at best, assume a lack of capacity amongst adolescents, and at worst, reinforce notions of discipline and overt respect for adults while denying adolescent girls and boys the right to express their opinions or be seen as active members of their communities. Gender inequalities in many societies further exacerbate this for adolescent girls. Such entrenched social norms need to be addressed through a range of targeted interventions, including through C4D approaches; teacher training and a wide range of efforts that seek to encourage skills development in adolescents; targeted media programmes and outreach to faith leaders, local government officials and other decision-makers to ensure that adolescent engagement is encouraged and, where possible, institutionalized. Another challenge and focus of the work UNICEF does on adolescent civic engagement is achieving results at scale. Small project-level interventions simply cannot hope to engage large numbers of adolescents and all too often risk supporting the least marginalized or promoting one-time, highly tokenistic participation or engagement. Efforts have therefore focused on institutionalizing mechanisms that promote meaningful participation and engagement for adolescents. A further challenge revolves around measuring and tracking levels of adolescent engagement, particularly in regard to digital engagement. Adolescents around the world are increasingly eager to use digital media to network, crowdsource ideas, or share experiences and approaches for taking action, and this digital engagement can be very much adolescent-led, but it is not always easy to measure. It will therefore be increasingly important for UNICEF to both support such engagement and promote tools that allow adolescents to explore new approaches to such digital engagement in safe ways, and for UNICEF to track the scale of this type of engagement. UNICEF will support countries to continue to explore how to engage adolescents at scale and mobilize resources and partners to promote these efforts.
In view of the results achieved over the first year of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, the organization is well-placed to continue taking this global agenda forward. UNICEF will continue to strengthen programmatic interventions to address child poverty and discrimination, promote participation and civic engagement of adolescents, and bring about changes in gender norms by taking interventions to scale, generating knowledge and undertaking effective advocacy.

While continuing to support more countries to routinely measure and monitor child poverty, UNICEF will place greater emphasis on measures to help countries address child poverty in practice. This means equipping countries with better guidance, tools and information about best practices to develop policies and programmes that address both monetary and multidimensional child poverty. In partnership with the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty, UNICEF will encourage countries to measure, monitor and address child poverty by capitalizing on high-level opportunities related to SDG reporting.

In 2019 UNICEF will build further on the expansion of our support to countries to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and equity of public finance for children, and to leverage additional domestic resources for children. Increased emphasis will be placed on demonstrating operational links between improvements in budget execution and overcoming public finance bottlenecks, and sector service delivery changes, particularly in health and ECD that will ultimately lead to change for children. UNICEF will explore regional and global collaborations.
and partnerships to support this work, including with the World Bank, the European Commission, and the International Budget Partnership. In addition, UNICEF will continue contributing to efforts to generate knowledge about and track public expenditure for the most deprived children, with a focus on equity of public finance, fiscal decentralization, and public finance in fragile contexts.

The organization will continue to promote child-sensitive social protection and rapid expansion of child benefits, building on prior advocacy work on universal child grants, by deepening its partnership with the ILO, World Bank, European Commission, DFID, Irish Aid, Sida, Government of Finland and other partner countries. UNICEF is also partnering with the European Commission, ILO and the Global Coalition on Social Protection on a global programme that will provide technical and financial support for strengthening social protection systems in eight selected countries. In addition, UNICEF will further expand its global work on gender-sensitive social protection and child disability and social protection – two key areas of the Strategic Plan. Furthermore, in 2019 UNICEF will launch the new Programme Framework and Guidance on Social Protection that will help country offices strengthen their engagement on emerging areas of work such as health insurance, employability and social welfare workforce strengthening.

In the coming years, UNICEF aims to expand its work on shock-responsive social protection in risk-prone countries by deepening its engagement in selected countries. This will involve developing strategic partnerships and collaborating with humanitarian stakeholders, especially with national humanitarian cash working groups, to strengthen coordination and support governments to build shock-responsive social protection. In addition, UNICEF will partner with stakeholders to explore the role of social protection in addressing distress migration and in supporting children and their families in countries of transit and settlement. Globally, the organization will continue to work closely with other stakeholders to generate knowledge and tools through leadership and participation in various forums related to shock-responsive social protection.

UNICEF aims to build on the foundational work on gender socialization that was completed in 2018 and establish concrete programming pathways and models for country implementation. The focus will be on priority topics such as positive parenting, addressing gender norms that underlie child marriage and gender-based violence, and girls’ empowerment through skills training. The cross-sectoral approach has been identified as a key pathway for making impact, and strategies will be jointly developed by different programming sectors such as education, ECD and C4D. UNICEF will strengthen its work on addressing harmful gender stereotypes in marketing and advertising by engaging with private sector partners and national committees. UNICEF is interested in exploring new avenues of collaboration with a broad range of partners – such as corporations, philanthropists and foundations – that are eager to leverage their resources, influence, reach or expertise to challenge gender stereotypes and transform the lives of millions of girls and boys.

In 2019 UNICEF will also seek to broaden the range of partners that can help it achieve the ambition of the Strategic Plan to support adolescent girls and boys to realize their rights, build their capacities and sense of agency, and reach their potential. In particular, UNICEF will build stronger ties with global youth organizations and advocacy groups, media and the private sector. In the coming years UNICEF will also focus more attention on adolescents who are displaced and affected by long-standing crises, disasters or conflict. The intent is to ensure that these adolescents can access basic services, education and opportunities to build their future, and most importantly, that they have the platforms to participate in preparedness initiatives, humanitarian programmes and peace processes. UNICEF will also renew its commitment to promoting greater availability of data on adolescents and disaggregation of existing data, to highlight critical contextual inequalities. Additionally, UNICEF will continue to work with a network of partners to establish indicators to help countries measure outcomes of adolescent participation.

UNICEF will continue to support girls and boys with disabilities to fully participate in society through access to assistive devices and disability-inclusive and accessible services in development and humanitarian situations. The organization will also further strengthen evidence-informed programming for children with disabilities and promote humanitarian responses that protect and meet the needs of children with disabilities. To accelerate and scale up disability inclusion within UNICEF, the Global Programme Guidance on Disability Inclusive Programming will be finalized and rolled out in 2019. To strengthen capacity at national level, UNICEF will continue to support the training of the workforce (including community health workers, education managers and teachers, community leaders, social workers and other relevant members of the workforce). UNICEF will also include a disability module within existing training for community interventions in health, WASH, nutrition, education and child protection, in development and humanitarian contexts. In addition, partners will be identified and convened – including international and national NGOs and organizations of persons with disabilities, donors and the private sector – to support inclusive programme and service delivery.

To achieve the planned results under Goal Area 5 in 2019–2021, UNICEF will need US$1.3 billion for programming, and 79 per cent of this should come from other resources. The global thematic funds are instrumental in helping achieve results for children: the flexible and multi-year nature of this support gives UNICEF the ability to invest in longer-term processes of policy, budgeting and programme design, which have the potential to make a long-term difference to the most disadvantaged children and adolescents.
### Abbreviations and acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>Association of Southeast Asian Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AT Scale</td>
<td>Global Partnership for Assistive Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4D</td>
<td>Communication for Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONEVAL</td>
<td>Consejo Nacional de Evaluación de la Política de Desarrollo Social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRPD</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>United Kingdom Department for International Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHS</td>
<td>Demographic and Health Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAP</td>
<td>East Asia and Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECA</td>
<td>Europe and Central Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECD</td>
<td>early childhood development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMIS</td>
<td>education management information systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESA</td>
<td>Eastern and Southern Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>gross domestic product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen U</td>
<td>Generation Unlimited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEI</td>
<td>Inclusive Education Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KAP</td>
<td>knowledge, attitudes and practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMIC</td>
<td>low- and middle-income country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAPS</td>
<td>mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICS</td>
<td>Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>non-governmental organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-MODA</td>
<td>National Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norad</td>
<td>Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPA-VAWC</td>
<td>National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ODI</td>
<td>Overseas Development Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPHI</td>
<td>Oxford Policy and Human Development Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PF4C</td>
<td>Public Finance for Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPP</td>
<td>purchasing power parity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSNP</td>
<td>Productive Safety Nets Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAMED</td>
<td>Régime d'Assistance Médicale (Mali health insurance programme)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>South Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sida</td>
<td>Swedish International Development Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMS</td>
<td>short message service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPIAC-B</td>
<td>Social Protection Inter-agency Coordination Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNESCWA</td>
<td>United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNPRPD</td>
<td>United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Women</td>
<td>United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</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>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Endnotes

1 Refers to humanitarian cash transfers delivered through both social protection systems and parallel systems.

2 Data from 26 countries.

3 Data from 32 countries.

4 Data from 14 countries.

5 UNICEF committed to systematically consider cash-based programming in ways that build on and form the basis for sustainable social protection systems.

6 The UNICEF/Washington Group Module on Child Functioning is a set of questions to identify children aged 2 to 17 years old who have functional difficulties across 14 domains, and can be included in surveys and censuses to disaggregate data by disability: <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-disability/module-on-child-functioning>.

7 Oxford Policy and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).

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


11 Ending Extreme Poverty.


13 One billion is 1,000 million.


20 Ending Extreme Poverty.

21 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index.

22 Ibid.

23 United Nations Children’s Fund and Overseas Development Institute, Beyond the Numbers: Perceptions and dynamics of child poverty in a rapidly urbanising Tanzania (Mainland), [forthcoming], 2019.

24 A list of child poverty reports can be found at: <www.endchildhoodpoverty.org/child-poverty-reports>.

25 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index.


28 Ending Extreme Poverty.
29 Poverty and Shared Prosperity.
30 The methodology for calculating the baseline and milestones for this output level indicator was changed, which explains the difference between the values in the Strategic Plan and those reported here. This will be harmonized at the next opportunity for revision.
31 Refers to humanitarian cash transfers delivered through both social protection systems and parallel systems.
32 UNICEF data from 26 countries.
33 UNICEF data from 32 countries.
34 UNICEF data from 14 countries.
35 The methodology of measuring this indicator was changed to reflect the evolved thinking on social protection system strengthening, and a more robust approach was used that measures different dimensions of social protection systems. We propose to adjust the target at mid-term review.
36 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2015.
37 ‘Cash plus’ refers to connecting cash transfer recipients to information, knowledge and services.
39 ‘At-scale’ programmes are defined as those that are gender transformative and have a wide reach. For example, programmes that reach over hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries are able to shift critical dynamics and structures through policy or legislative changes, or make improvements in perspectives, attitudes and practices towards girls and women in a large population segment.
41 Ibid.
42 Work on disability-inclusive humanitarian action involves mainstreaming disability into humanitarian policies, programmes, capacities and supplies.
44 For more information on the results of UNICEF efforts in inclusive education, see Annual Results Report 2018 – Goal Area 2, ‘Enabling more children with disabilities to access water and sanitation’.
46 Community-based rehabilitation is a multisectoral approach that brings together health, education, vocational, social and other services to work with people with disabilities and their families and communities.
48 Assessment criteria included whether the policy: (1) is gender-responsive; (2) includes mechanisms to promote adolescent participation; (3) is evidence-based and based on disaggregated data; (4) defines lines of accountability; (5) articulates measurable results related to the fulfilment of adolescent rights; and includes (6) an operational monitoring and evaluation framework, (7) a costed implementation plan, (8) secured budget, and (9) mechanisms to support monitoring and implementation.
49 Known variously as soft skills, core skills, 21st century skills, socioemotional skills, or life skills.
Annex 1: Financial report*

UNICEF revenue in 2018

In 2018, total revenue to UNICEF reached US$6.676 billion. This was an increase of 2 per cent compared to 2017, due to an increase in un-earmarked funds (regular resources). Revenue from regular resources reached US$1.807 billion in 2018. This represented 27 per cent of total revenue to UNICEF, up from 22 per cent in 2017.

Revenue from earmarked funds to specific programmes (other resources) decreased by 6 per cent, from US$5.153 billion in 2017 to US$4.869 billion in 2018.

Henceforth, ‘revenue’ refers to the total amount committed in the year the agreement was signed plus any adjustments, while ‘contributions’ refers to disbursements received in a particular year, exclusive of adjustments.

FIGURE A1-1: Revenue by funding type 2014–2018 (US$ millions)**

* All funding data as of 30 April 2018, pending audit and certification.

** Revenue for 2014–2016 has been restated to reflect a change in accounting policy for comparison with 2017–2018. OR, other resources; RR, regular resources.
‘Other resources’ contributions decreased by 2 per cent over 2017, while contributions to the 10 thematic funding pools grew by 6 per cent, from US$363 million to US$386 million. Thematic funding has remained stable, at 8 per cent of all ‘other resources’. This is an underachievement compared to the 12 per cent indicator milestone set out in the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021. In alignment with the Funding Compact between governments and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, UNICEF has a goal to double thematic funding as a share of all ‘other resources’, to 15 per cent by 2021. To reach this goal, UNICEF encourages partners to channel more contributions through these softly earmarked funds.

In 2018, partners contributed US$60 million ‘other resources – regular’ for social protection, inclusion and governance, a 15 per cent increase over the previous year. Government partners contributed the largest share of ‘other resources – regular’ to social protection, inclusion and governance, at 59 per cent. The top five resources partners to UNICEF social protection, inclusion and governance in 2018 were the European Commission, the United Nations Joint Programmes and the governments of Sweden, Japan and Germany. The largest contributions were received from the United Nations Joint Programmes for Social Protection activities in Mozambique, from the Government of Japan for early detection and interventions for children with disabilities in the State of Palestine, and from the European Commission for social protection activities in Lesotho (see the body of the report for details on all of these programmes).

FIGURE A1-2: Other resources contributions 2014–2018: Share of thematic funding*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>$3,798m</td>
<td>$3,857m</td>
<td>$3,938m</td>
<td>$4,677m</td>
<td>$4,583m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Contributions for 2014–2016 have been restated to reflect a change in accounting policy for comparison with 2017–2018.

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

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

Other resources – regular (ORR): Funds for specific, non-emergency programme purposes and strategic priorities.

Other resources – emergency (ORE): Earmarked funds for specific humanitarian action and post-crisis recovery activities.
FIGURE A1-3: Goal Area 5 ‘other resources - regular’ contributions, 2014-2018

FIGURE A1-4: Total Goal Area 5 funds received by type of donor, 2018: US$60 million
### TABLE A1-1: Top 20 resource partners to Goal Area 5 by contributions, 2018*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Resource partner</th>
<th>Total (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>8,535,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>United Nations Joint Programme</td>
<td>8,385,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>7,645,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>4,701,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>3,961,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>3,815,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
<td>2,978,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>2,934,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>2,554,605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Swedish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>2,424,677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>1,881,753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>910,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>789,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>UNICEF Brazil</td>
<td>522,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>German Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>324,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>245,686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security</td>
<td>236,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Dutch Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>146,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Turkish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>129,797</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Additional contributions were received for ‘ART-IN-A-BOX – Adolescent kit for expression and innovation’ under Goal Area 3.
TABLE A1-2: Top 20 contributions to Goal Area 5, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Resource partner</th>
<th>Grant Description</th>
<th>Total (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>United Nations Joint Programme</td>
<td>Joint Programme on Social Protection, Mozambique</td>
<td>6,891,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Early Detection &amp; Interventions for Children with Disabilities, State of Palestine</td>
<td>4,701,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>Social Protection, Lesotho</td>
<td>4,099,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Strengthening of basic social services for vulnerable population, South Sudan</td>
<td>3,796,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Support to Resilience (PEAR Plus 3), the Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
<td>3,726,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>Social Inclusion, Ukraine</td>
<td>3,213,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Emergency Reactivation of the Social Welfare Fund Cash Transfer Programme, Yemen</td>
<td>3,084,084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Social Protection, Inclusion and Governance, Global thematic funding</td>
<td>2,554,605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Swedish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>Improving adolescents’ lives, South Asia</td>
<td>2,204,677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Dutch Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>Power for Youth Phase II – PD – ING*</td>
<td>2,192,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
<td>Support to the United Republic of Tanzania One United Nations Fund – UNDAPII Dem Gov, HR &amp; Gender</td>
<td>1,808,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Inclusion des jeunes les plus vulnerables, Morocco</td>
<td>1,592,065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Social Protection, Inclusion and Governance thematic funding, the Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
<td>1,427,267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Scaling up birth registration, the United Republic of Tanzania</td>
<td>1,342,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>German Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>Power for Youth Phase II – PD – ING*</td>
<td>1,134,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Increasing Resilience of Youth for Peaceful &amp; Inclusive Communities in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan</td>
<td>1,274,839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Social Inclusion of Roma Children and Children with Disabilities, Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>910,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>Disability and social inclusion for children, Belarus</td>
<td>900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Social Protection, Inclusion and Governance, Global thematic funding</td>
<td>796,360</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Contributions received for activities for adolescents in other sectors.
Thematic funding remains a critical source of revenue for UNICEF programme delivery. Through thematic funding contributions at the global, regional and/or country level, partners support UNICEF to deliver results at the highest programme level in each of those contexts for the greatest impact. They act as an ideal complement to regular resources, being allocated on a needs basis.

For partners, contributions to the 10 UNICEF thematic funding pools provide greater alignment with the principles of good multilateral resource partnerships. Thematic contributions have the greatest potential of ‘other resources’ to produce high-level results directly aligned to the Strategic Plan, as endorsed by the UNICEF Executive Board, and they support the aims of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. They yield a higher return on investment than more tightly earmarked contributions, as lower management and reporting costs result in a larger percentage of funds going towards programming. They also simplify renewal and allocation procedures and reduce the administrative monitoring burden for partners.

Overall contributions to the thematic funding pools increased from US$363 million in 2017 to US$386 million in 2018. The largest public sector contributors to the thematic funding pools in 2018 were Norway, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands, while the largest private sector contributions were facilitated by the German Committee for UNICEF, the United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. For more information on thematic funding and how it works, please visit: <www.unicef.org/publicpartnerships/66662_66851.html>.

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.

The social protection, inclusion and governance thematic funding pool was established for the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 as a continuation of the 2014–2017 social inclusion thematic funding pool. In 2018, thematic funding contributions for social protection, inclusion and governance reached US$6.4 million, a 24 per cent increase over the US$5.1 million received in 2017. Ninety-eight per cent came from government partners.

UNICEF is seeking to broaden and diversify its funding base (including thematic contributions), and encourages all partners to give as flexibly as possible. Regrettably, the number of partners contributing thematic funding to social protection, inclusion and governance decreased from seven in 2017 to four in 2018.

Sizeable thematic contributions were received from the governments of Norway and Spain for the global social protection, inclusion and governance thematic pool, while Sweden contributed country-specific funding for activities in Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the Sudan, and the Dutch Committee for UNICEF contributed country-specific funding for Turkey.

FIGURE A1-5: Thematic contributions by thematic pool, 2018: US$386 million
TABLE A1-3: Thematic contributions by resource partner to the social protection, inclusion and governance thematic pool, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource partner type</th>
<th>Resource partner</th>
<th>Total (US$)</th>
<th>Percentage of total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97.67%</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>2,899,647</td>
<td>45.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>2,554,605</td>
<td>39.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>796,360</td>
<td>12.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Committees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.33%</td>
<td>Dutch Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>149,343</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand total</td>
<td></td>
<td>6,399,954</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grant numbers are provided for IATI compliance: SC1899080002, SC1899080003, SC1899080004, SC1899080005, SC1899080006, SC1899080008, SC1899080007.

PARTNER TESTIMONIALS

“UNICEF remains a strategic partner to the Government of Spain, bringing extensive technical and programmatic expertise to tackle poverty and promote sustainable human development, focusing on children’s rights and needs. Longer-term processes of policy, budgeting and programme design require flexible and multi-year investment to make positive and lasting impact on the well-being of the most disadvantaged children. Flexible thematic funding also promotes innovation, sustainability and better coordination, and reduces transaction costs both for UNICEF and Spain. Our government has seen a significant impact thanks to its long-term investment in UNICEF’s Global Thematic Fund for Social Protection, Inclusion and Governance. As the leading actor and strong advocate for the implementation of children’s rights UNICEF remains a partner of choice for the Government of Spain.”

– Juan Pablo de Laiglesia y González de Peredo, Secretary of State for International Cooperation and for Ibero-America and the Caribbean, Spain.

“Children’s rights are human rights. Our commitment to protecting and promoting children’s rights is reflected in our long-standing partnership with UNICEF and the funding we provide to the thematic area of social inclusion. With its normative mandate, UNICEF is in a unique position to work with governments and other partners to build capacity and promote engagement. Its work to promote domestic resource mobilisation and effective use of resources is invaluable for addressing child poverty. Norway is proud to support UNICEF’s efforts to achieve sustainable results in this area.

Thematic funding enables UNICEF to adapt its work to different contexts and needs. Member states have now agreed on the most effective funding modalities for the UN: core contributions, softly earmarked thematic support, and inter-agency funding mechanisms that promote collaboration. Adequate, flexible and predictable funding will be vital for supporting the reformed UN. UNICEF is one of Norway’s main channels for global thematic funding, and we value our ongoing and constructive dialogue with the organisation.”

– Dag-Inge Ulstein, Minister of International Development, Norway.

“The Norwegian Government gives priority to safeguarding the rights of vulnerable groups, in line with the 2030 Agenda, the SDGs, and the important principle of leaving no one behind. We must ensure that children’s human rights are respected. Our aim is for boys and girls to be able to grow up in a world free from discrimination, prejudice and poverty. Children with disabilities are especially vulnerable, and at particular risk in situations of war and conflict.
FIGURE A1-6: Social protection, inclusion and governance thematic funding contributions at country, regional and global levels, 2018 (US$)

Just over half (52 per cent) of all thematic social protection, inclusion and governance contributions UNICEF received in 2018 were global-level contributions.

Global thematic funds remain the most flexible source of funding to UNICEF after regular resources. The global level is the most valuable thematic funding level, since partners can 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. It facilitates programme implementation in a more strategic manner, and enables the organization to adjust and respond to emerging issues. It also allows UNICEF the flexibility to allocate resources to areas with the greatest need, including critically underfunded country programme areas and humanitarian response activities.

Thanks to a multi-year contribution from the Government of Norway, a total of US$4,774,962 in global thematic funding for social protection, inclusion and governance was allocated to 70 UNICEF offices.

The allocation and expenditure of all thematic funding contributions can be monitored on the UNICEF transparency portal, and the results achieved with the funds against targets and indicators approved by the Executive Board at the country, regional and global levels are consolidated and reported across the suite of Annual Results Reports.

Specific reporting for country and regional thematic funding contributions is provided separately for partners giving at those levels.
TABLE A1-4: Allotment of social protection, inclusion and governance global thematic funding revenue to offices and programmes, 2018*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Amount (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EAP</td>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>54,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>54,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lao People’s Democratic Republic</td>
<td>54,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>54,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>54,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>40,496.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>54,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Timor-Leste</td>
<td>54,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>54,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total country offices</strong></td>
<td><strong>472,496.20</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAP</td>
<td>EAP Regional Office</td>
<td><strong>81,856.49</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECA</td>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>100,745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>North Macedonia</td>
<td>65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Republic of Moldova</td>
<td>65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total country offices</strong></td>
<td><strong>620,745</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECA</td>
<td>ECA Regional Office</td>
<td><strong>81,856.49</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESA</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>75,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>75,246.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eswatini</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>25,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Comoros</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total country offices</strong></td>
<td><strong>525,246.82</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESA</td>
<td>ESA Regional Office</td>
<td><strong>81,856.49</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>80,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bolivia (Plurinational State of)</td>
<td>65,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>60,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>55,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salvador</td>
<td>85,745.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>10,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>70,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>60,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>15,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total country offices</strong></td>
<td><strong>620,745.06</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>LAC Regional Office</td>
<td><strong>81,856.49</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>177,496.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Iran (Islamic Republic of)</td>
<td>100,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>200,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total country offices</strong></td>
<td><strong>477,496.20</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>MENA Regional Office</td>
<td><strong>81,856.49</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>80,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>80,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>60,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>60,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>41,996.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>60,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total country offices</strong></td>
<td><strong>381,996.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Regional Office for SA</td>
<td><strong>81,856.5</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCA</td>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>60,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>70,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Equatorial Guinea</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Gambia</td>
<td>32,995.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gabon</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guinea-Bissau</td>
<td>40,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>25,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>35,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>35,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sao Tome and Principe</td>
<td>40,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>35,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total country offices</strong></td>
<td><strong>572,995.0</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCA</td>
<td>WCA Regional Office</td>
<td><strong>81,856.49</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters</td>
<td></td>
<td>525,245.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The total allocations in 2018 are greater than contributions received, thanks to a multi-year agreement with the Government of Norway. The global thematic contribution from the Government of Spain has yet to be allocated to country offices.

EAP, East Asia and the Pacific; ECA, Europe and Central Asia; ESA, Eastern and Southern Africa; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA, Middle East and North Africa; SA, South Asia; WCA, West and Central Africa.
The 2018 allocations to country offices were based on country offices’ stated intention/commitment to meet one or more relevant Strategic Plan targets on child poverty, social protection, PF4C or local governance.

Further prioritization criteria were:

- Least-developed countries
- If a country office had the opportunity and a plan to make tangible progress towards one or more of the Strategic Plan targets for social policy
- If steps had been taken to incorporate attention to adolescents, disability and gender into the social policy work
- If a country office had demonstrated a capacity to absorb funds and had a funding shortfall for its planned social policy activities.

**Transparency**

Follow the flow of funds from contribution to programming by visiting [http://open.unicef.org](http://open.unicef.org)
Expenses for social protection, inclusion and governance in 2018

Note: Expenses are higher than the income received because expenses comprise total allotments from regular resources and other resources (including balances carried over from previous years), while income reflects only earmarked contributions from 2018 to social protection, inclusion and governance.

To reach the results set out in its Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, UNICEF has planned for a total of US$20.3 billion in programme expenses. In 2018, total expenses for UNICEF programmes amounted to US$5.4 billion, leaving an expense gap of US$14.9 billion for the remainder of the Strategic Plan period.

Expenses versus expenditure

‘Expenses’ are recorded according to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) standards and are accrual based. These are used for official financial reporting. ‘Expenditures’ are recorded on a modified cash basis. They are used for budget reporting, since they are aligned with cash disbursements and goods receipts (the way budgets are consumed).

TABLE A1-5: UNICEF planned resources and actual programme expenses for 2018–2021, US$ millions (by Goal Area)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal Area</th>
<th>Planned resources 2018–2021</th>
<th>Actual Expenses 2018</th>
<th>Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regular Resources</td>
<td>Other Resources</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survive and Thrive</td>
<td>1,744.0</td>
<td>6,366.9</td>
<td>8,110.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn</td>
<td>872.0</td>
<td>3,183.5</td>
<td>4,055.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection from Violence and Exploitation</td>
<td>523.2</td>
<td>1,910.1</td>
<td>2,433.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe and Clean Environment</td>
<td>845.8</td>
<td>3,088.0</td>
<td>3,933.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equitable Chance in Life</td>
<td>375.0</td>
<td>1,368.9</td>
<td>1,743.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>4,360.0</td>
<td>15,917.3</td>
<td>20,277.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Totals may not match sum due to rounding.
Goal Area 5 expenses in 2018

Expenditure

Note: Expenses are higher than the contributions received because expenses comprise total allotments from regular resources and other resource (including balances carried over from prior years) to the outcome areas, while contributions reflect only funds received from 2018 to the same.

Expenses versus expenditure

‘Expenses’ are recorded according to IPSAS standards and are accrual based. These are used for official financial reporting. ‘Expenditures’ are recorded on a modified cash basis. They are used for budget reporting, since they are aligned with cash disbursements and goods receipts (the way budgets are consumed).

In 2018, global expenses for Goal Area 5 programming totalled US$427 million, including funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational and other costs. This constitutes 8 per cent of UNICEF total annual expenses for all Goal Areas (see Figure A1-7).

In 2018, ‘other resources – regular’ constituted 49 per cent of the expenditure, while regular resources accounted for 24 per cent of total expenses for the Goal Area 5. Over half of the US$123 million expenses from the ‘other resources – emergency’ category were supporting the delivery of cash transfers through government systems in Turkey (US$41 million), the Syrian Arab Republic (US$13.8 million), Lebanon (US$7.8 million) and Jordan (US$2.6 million). These figures point to the growing use of social protection and cash transfer responses in humanitarian crises.

In 2018, the largest proportion (45 per cent) of social inclusion expenses was concentrated in Middle East and North Africa: US$192 million, with over 85 per cent spent on social protection. A substantial amount of social inclusion expenses in Europe and Central Asia (US$68 million) reflects the increased investment in social protection work in Turkey.

FIGURE A1-7: Expenses by thematic sector, 2018: (US$5.394 billion)
TABLE A1-6: Expenses for Goal Area 5 by funding source, 2018 (US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund subcategory</th>
<th>US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other resources – emergency</td>
<td>123,169,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other resources – regular</td>
<td>200,954,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular resources</td>
<td>102,921,863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand total</strong></td>
<td><strong>427,046,410</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIGURE A1-8: Expenses by region for Goal Area 5, 2018: US$427 million

EAP, East Asia and the Pacific; ECA, Europe and Central Asia; ESA, Eastern and Southern Africa; HQ, headquarters; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA, Middle East and North Africa; SA, South Asia; WCA, West and Central Africa.
### TABLE A1-7: Expenses for Goal Area 5 by region and funding source, 2018 (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>SA</td>
<td>629,930</td>
<td>3,672,775</td>
<td>10,378,481</td>
<td>14,681,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAP</td>
<td>186,468</td>
<td>7,862,546</td>
<td>8,884,588</td>
<td>16,933,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>909,212</td>
<td>11,151,169</td>
<td>8,121,217</td>
<td>20,181,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HQ</td>
<td>2,581,147</td>
<td>11,639,699</td>
<td>12,597,436</td>
<td>26,818,282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCA</td>
<td>2,152,655</td>
<td>6,248,904</td>
<td>21,529,472</td>
<td>29,931,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESA</td>
<td>1,564,242</td>
<td>33,608,754</td>
<td>22,864,136</td>
<td>58,037,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECA</td>
<td>52,698,199</td>
<td>8,223,414</td>
<td>7,503,368</td>
<td>68,424,981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>62,447,980</td>
<td>118,547,454</td>
<td>11,043,164</td>
<td>192,038,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand total</td>
<td>123,169,832</td>
<td>200,954,715</td>
<td>102,921,863</td>
<td>427,046,410</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Totals may not match sums due to rounding.

EAP, East Asia and the Pacific; ECA, Europe and Central Asia; ESA, Eastern and Southern Africa; HQ, headquarters; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA, Middle East and North Africa; SA, South Asia; WCA, West and Central Africa.
**TABLE A1-8. Top 20 expenses for Goal Area 5 by country/regional programme/HQ division, 2018 (US$)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Other resources - emergency</th>
<th>Other resources - regular</th>
<th>Regular resources</th>
<th>Grand total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>923,990</td>
<td>109,861,983</td>
<td>1,456,772</td>
<td>112,242,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>52,035,382</td>
<td>1,187,224</td>
<td>399,544</td>
<td>53,622,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>21,295,921</td>
<td>98,747</td>
<td>1,709,192</td>
<td>23,103,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>19,828,331</td>
<td>1,416,455</td>
<td>755,145</td>
<td>21,999,931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>114,313</td>
<td>12,731,629</td>
<td>2,687,069</td>
<td>15,533,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>11,705,367</td>
<td>187,140</td>
<td>250,795</td>
<td>12,143,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Division</td>
<td>573,227</td>
<td>2,917,256</td>
<td>4,605,698</td>
<td>8,096,181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>3,877,067</td>
<td>1,095,420</td>
<td>1,875,048</td>
<td>6,847,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Research, Italy</td>
<td>15,965</td>
<td>5,299,338</td>
<td>1,195,327</td>
<td>6,510,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data, Research and Policy</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2,388,020</td>
<td>3,949,716</td>
<td>6,337,745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>324,810</td>
<td>4,333,922</td>
<td>784,785</td>
<td>5,443,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>836,369</td>
<td>4,583,034</td>
<td>5,419,402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>148,028</td>
<td>3,683,387</td>
<td>413,888</td>
<td>4,245,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Republic of Tanzania</td>
<td>324,016</td>
<td>3,778,685</td>
<td>4,102,702</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Mozambique</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>1,941,752</td>
<td>1,789,992</td>
<td>3,732,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>2,673,143</td>
<td>986,270</td>
<td>3,659,414</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa, Jordan</td>
<td>1,386,654</td>
<td>1,266,448</td>
<td>979,381</td>
<td>3,632,483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>2,014,956</td>
<td>1,532,289</td>
<td>3,547,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>679,290</td>
<td>1,699,067</td>
<td>1,137,847</td>
<td>3,516,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>2,821,305</td>
<td>672,631</td>
<td>3,493,937</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Totals may not match sums due to rounding. EAP, East Asia and the Pacific; ECA, Europe and Central Asia; ESA, Eastern and Southern Africa; HQ, headquarters; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA, Middle East and North Africa; SA, South Asia; WCA, West and Central Africa.*
### TABLE A1-9: Expenses for Goal Area 5 by result area and funding source, 2018 (US$)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results 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>Child poverty/public finance for children</td>
<td>3,977,281</td>
<td>31,328,321</td>
<td>38,075,335</td>
<td>73,380,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social protection</td>
<td>100,391,364</td>
<td>147,050,298</td>
<td>47,306,080</td>
<td>294,747,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent empowerment</td>
<td>16,030,476</td>
<td>18,381,091</td>
<td>11,851,782</td>
<td>46,263,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender discriminatory roles and practices **</td>
<td>350,874</td>
<td>2,215,825</td>
<td>2,865,244</td>
<td>5,431,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children with disabilities</td>
<td>2,419,838</td>
<td>1,979,180</td>
<td>2,823,421</td>
<td>7,222,439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand total</strong></td>
<td><strong>123,169,832</strong></td>
<td><strong>200,954,715</strong></td>
<td><strong>102,921,863</strong></td>
<td><strong>427,046,410</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Totals may not match sums due to rounding.

**The expenditure of US$5.4 million on ‘gender discriminatory roles and practices’ only refers to the programme expenditure tagged against the positive gender socialization work under Goal Area 5. This value does not reflect the positive gender socialization work under other goal areas. Furthermore, this value does not reflect the complete UNICEF gender expenditure in 2018. UNICEF expenditure on gender transformative programming in 2018 is US$760 million, which is 14.1 per cent of total 2018 expenditure. For the consolidated financial report on income and expenditure related to gender equality in 2018, please refer to the Annual Results Report 2018 – Gender Equality.

### FIGURE A1-9: Expenses for Goal Area 5 by results area, 2018

- Child Poverty / Public finance for children: 17%
- Social Protection: 69%
- Adolescent empowerment: 11%
- Children with disabilities: 2%
- Gender discriminatory roles and practices: 1%
Within Goal Area 5, the highest proportion of expenses in 2018 took place under the social protection results area, within which US$257.6 million* was spent for social protection interventions. Yemen, Turkey, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan and Lebanon were the top five recipient countries. The largest proportion of these funds (US$110 million) was invested in the delivery of cash transfers through a new or parallel system.

Globally, UNICEF spent US$45 million* on child poverty and public finance interventions in 2018. A substantial part of these funds (US$20 million) was invested in child poverty analysis, including profiling, mapping and identifying drivers of children’s multidimensional and monetary poverty, as well as modelling and simulating policy options. Support to the measurement of child poverty saw the investment of US$3 million, and over US$1.9 million contributed to developing or strengthening national policies to address child poverty. Over US$7.7 million was invested in interventions aimed at improving budget allocation, the effectiveness and efficiency of expenditure, and transparency, accountability and participation.

The total global spending on adolescent participation and engagement, appropriate policy development, and routine engagement of adolescents in UNICEF programme planning and the programme cycle was US$33.5 million* in 2018. A total of US$28.5 million was spent on adolescent participation in civic engagement initiatives, including US$16.6 million in humanitarian contexts – resulting in over 6 million adolescents participating in or leading civic engagement initiatives through UNICEF-supported programmes. The amount spent on developing multisectoral policies supporting the development and participation of adolescents was US$3.5 million in 2018, and US$1.5 million was spent on routine adolescent engagement in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of UNICEF programmes.

As the inclusion of children with disabilities in programmes and services cuts across all goal areas, including education, child protection, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health and early childhood development, UNICEF global expenditure on disability inclusion can be measured across the whole Strategic Plan, not just expenditure on targeted activities captured under Goal Area 5. As such, global expenditure on the inclusion of children with disabilities in 2018 was US$233,430,338, reaching over 1.3 million children with disabilities in 123 countries.**

* Excluding funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational and other costs.
**Global disability-related expenditure is calculated based on disability-specific budget codes and activities tagged using the disability tag, which is applied to all activities globally. Note that the disability tag has multiple levels, and a methodology has been established that includes different proportions of expenditure tagged based on the tag rating (principal/significant).

FIGURE A1-10: Expenses from the social protection, inclusion and governance thematic pool by region, 2018: US$26.1 million

* EAP, East Asia and the Pacific; ECA, Europe and Central Asia; ESA, Eastern and Southern Africa; HQ, headquarters; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; MENA, Middle East and North Africa; SA, South Asia; WCA, West and Central Africa.