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Dear partners,

Uganda has made steady progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by ensuring that more girls and boys, including adolescents, survive childhood illnesses, learn well in school, live in clean environments, are kept safe from violence and exploitation, and have an equitable chance in life.

However, rapid population growth, urbanization, increasing poverty, droughts, floods, disease outbreaks and an ongoing influx of refugees continue to put pressures on social services to educate, protect, and provide quality health care to children across the country.

The path forward is challenging, but UNICEF is equipped to support the Government of Uganda and other partners in creating real and lasting change for children. Guided by our global UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018–2022, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2016–2020, and Uganda’s Second National Development Plan 2015/16–2019/20, we have been able to deepen the impact of our work for every child in Uganda, starting with the most disadvantaged.

Our results for the year speak for themselves. Though too numerous to mention in this short message, I want to highlight a few:

In child survival and development, Uganda was able to maintain its polio-free status, while UNICEF support for a newly introduced measles-rubella vaccine helped the Government of Uganda reach more than 19.4 million children. UNICEF also provided technical and material support to the Ministry of Health and other partners in containing an outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease through infection control and prevention measures in health facilities, schools and points of entry between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).


We also saw positive developments in child protection. The Government of Uganda made significant progress towards achieving consensus on the structure of Uganda’s protection system, while prevention and response interventions reached more than 100,000 children, adolescents, parents and caregivers, including refugees.

In social policy, evidence-based advocacy by UNICEF led to an unprecedented near-double increase in Uganda’s budget for traditional vaccines. Multidimensional child poverty measures were successfully integrated into national statistics, and two new social protection programmes were launched: an urban social protection programme for adolescent girls in Kampala and an innovative child-sensitive social protection programme that strengthens health systems and bridges the gap between the development agenda and the humanitarian response in the West Nile sub-region.

UNICEF contributed to a greater awareness of the situation of children in Uganda and the principles put forward by the Convention on the Rights of the Child through a mix of public advocacy activities, while more than 26 million people were reached with information and social and behavioural change messages across different media and community platforms.

We hope this brings inspiration to you and that we continue to work together to strengthen a Uganda where boys and girls can learn, stay safe, be healthy, and fulfil their potential to drive the country’s progress forward.

Dr. Doreen Mulenga
UNICEF Representative in Uganda
A SNAPSHOT OF RESULTS IN 2019

HEALTH

x2
Doubling in domestic financing for traditional vaccines – from UGX 11 billion in 2018/19 to UGX 21 billion in 2019/2020 – as a result of systematic UNICEF advocacy for increased domestic financing for health, HIV, nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene

16 per cent
Reduction in the number of unimmunized children within one year, achieved through UNICEF support to immunization services in 22 poorly performing districts

NUTRITION

76 per cent
Vitamin A coverage in 20 UNICEF-supported districts for nutrition, exceeding the national average of 30 per cent

54,991
Children with severe acute malnutrition who received therapeutic feeding with UNICEF support, including 14,833 children in refugee-hosting districts

HIV and AIDS

68 per cent
Improved coverage of early infant HIV diagnosis in 2019, up from 52 per cent in 2018 due to UNICEF-supported point-of-care HIV testing

42
Health facilities in nine districts that adopted the Young People and Adolescents Peer Support programme, which helps identify HIV-positive adolescents, keep them in care, and help them adhere to antiretroviral therapy

SOCIAL POLICY

8
Flagship reports on multi-dimensional and monetary-based poverty published in 2019 to strengthen UNICEF policy advocacy

1,500
Adolescent girls included in Uganda’s first urban social protection programme
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

3.3 million
People reached by Ebola prevention messages and social mobilization activities in Kasese and other high-risk districts

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

>1,000
Villages that achieved open defecation free (ODF) status through the UNICEF-supported Community-Led Total Sanitation approach

First-ever budget line for WASH in the national education budget for 2019/2020
Created by the Ministry of Education and Sports as a result of sustained UNICEF advocacy

EDUCATION

>316,500
Girls and boys enrolled in early childhood development centres in 27 UNICEF-supported districts, reflecting a gross enrolment ratio of 30 per cent, above the target of 27 per cent per year

10.6 per cent
Percentage of girls retained in primary education in Karamoja in 2019, up from 8.4 per cent in 2017 with support from UNICEF-supported life skills programmes in schools in the sub-region

CHILD PROTECTION

3,303
Children diverted away from the formal justice system by the police, increasing Uganda’s child diversion rate to 75.8 per cent

37.5 per cent
Uganda’s rate of under-five birth registration, which has been steadily increasing due to UNICEF support

HUMANITARIAN ACTION

740,000
Doses of cholera vaccine procured by the Ministry of Health with UNICEF support for cholera hotspots in Uganda

19.4 million
Children (9 months to 14 years) vaccinated against measles and rubella during a nationwide catch-up immunization campaign by the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF with funding from GAVI

21,000
Refugee girls and boys who completed accelerated learning and skilling programmes

30,779
Refugee girls and boys who received psychosocial support in child-friendly spaces and communities
Championing children’s rights in Uganda and leaving no child behind through five strategic goals.
GOAL AREA 01
Every child survives and thrives

PROGRESS FOR CHILDREN’S HEALTH STARTS AT THE TOP

Building a stronger enabling environment for progress in children and women’s rights to health is vital in Uganda. UNICEF plays a key role by strengthening health systems and providing integrated programming in health, nutrition, and HIV.

In 2019, the enabling environment for child survival was bolstered. At the policy level, UNICEF provided technical support to the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Water and Environment, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, the Uganda AIDS Commission, and the Office of the Prime Minister to identify the most pressing issues that affect children and develop evidence-based and gender-responsive interventions for inclusion in the sector issue papers.

UNICEF advocacy led to the doubling of domestic financing for traditional vaccines and the inclusion of nutrition and sanitation in the 2020/2021 National Budget Circular. In collaboration with UNHCR and WHO, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health in developing an integrated Health Sector Refugee Response Plan and refugees were included in the updated Health Information Management System. District local governments’ capacity for evidence-based and risk-informed planning, prioritization and monitoring in the health, nutrition and water sectors was also strengthened.

Work started on the development of tools to improve the quality and use of nutrition data for policy and programming in different sectors. This included a nutrition dashboard, a Nutrition Data Landscape Analysis, and a central repository of data in the framework of the European Union-funded Nutrition Information Platform for Nutrition.

QUALITY HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR NEWBORNS AND CHILDREN

In Uganda, newborn babies remain vulnerable, with one out of every 37 dying in their first month of life. Progress to reduce these preventable deaths has been slow as the health system continues to grapple with inadequate resources, capacity, infrastructure, supplies, and a paucity of data.

To improve access to newborn and maternal health services, UNICEF supported the establishment of special baby care units in 11 hospitals, and Kangaroo Mother Care – a method of care for preterm babies involving skin-to-skin contact – in nine hospitals and six health centre IVs.

Infrastructure improvements to 35 health facilities in Karamoja and 75 health centres in West Nile, including five comprehensive emergency and newborn care facilities, helped increase the proportion of babies delivered in medical institutions by 13 and 8 per cent in Karamoja and West Nile respectively between 2018 and 2019.

More than 1.2 million children under 5 suffering from malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhoea were reached through integrated community case management in 28

“I immediately put the baby on her mother’s chest while she was still on the operating table. In just a few minutes, he stabilized, started breathing better and instantly turned a healthy pink.”

Sister Ndaru Beatrice, a nursing officer in midwifery and a beneficiary of a UNICEF-supported training in caring for small and sick babies at Omugo Health Centre IV in Arua District, West Nile

Dr. Doreen Longes, Medical Officer of Tokora Health Centre III, Nakapiripirit District, examines an expecting mother in the maternity ward.

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high-burden districts. New approaches to detect and assist children with disabilities are being modelled in the health sector with UNICEF’s support. UNICEF also supported immunization services in 22 poorly performing districts, resulting in a 16 per cent reduction in the number of unimmunized children within one year.

**COMBATTING MALNUTRITION**

Malnutrition contributes to high levels of stunting and threatens the lives and potential of millions of children in Uganda. In 2019, UNICEF continued to support the government and partners in providing high-impact and cost-effective nutrition interventions across the country.

Through the Integrated Child Health Days campaign and routine service delivery, 2.73 million children aged 6–59 months were reached nationwide with Vitamin A in the first semester of 2019, representing 43 per cent of all children in this age group. Vitamin A coverage in the 20 UNICEF-supported districts for nutrition was at 76 per cent in the first semester, exceeding the national average of just 30 per cent.

To improve maternal nutrition, which is vital for the health of unborn and newborn children, more than 176,000 pregnant and lactating women received iron and folic tablets through UNICEF support. In addition, 487,380 parents and caregivers in the 20 UNICEF-supported districts were counselled on proper infant and young child feeding practices to promote healthy growth and prevent malnutrition.

A total of 55,991 children with severe acute malnutrition received therapeutic feeding, including 14,833 children in refugee-hosting districts. UNICEF also supported the development of national guidelines for infant and young child feeding in the context of Ebola and trained 563 health workers. The prepositioning of 3,696 sachets of ready-to-use infant formula helped bolster emergency preparedness efforts.

**IMPROVING ACCESS TO HIV SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS**

Uganda has made considerable progress in ensuring that over 90 per cent of pregnant women living with HIV receive antiretroviral therapy (ART). However, paediatric HIV treatment and care continue to lag, a challenge that UNICEF is working to overcome by supporting the Ministry of Health in innovative point-of-care (POC) testing for HIV-exposed children. The roll-out of POC testing has contributed to improved early infant diagnosis by eight weeks from 52 per cent in 2017 to 68 per cent in 2019.

Another challenge is that women and children who participate in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) and paediatric HIV programmes are being lost to follow-up and do not return for treatment. To improve retention in care, UNICEF, WHO and other partners are supporting the ‘Free to Shine’ and ‘Bring Back the Mother-Baby Pairs into Care’ campaigns, along with family support groups and village health teams. The increase in family support groups in UNICEF-supported districts – from 146 in 2018 to 249 in 2019 – contributed to stronger community accountability systems.

To strengthen adolescent HIV treatment and care, Uganda adopted the Young People and Adolescents Peer Support (YAPS) programme. YAPS identifies HIV-
positive adolescents, keeps them in care, and helps them adhere to ART. The model is being implemented with UNICEF support in 42 health facilities in nine districts where 193 YAPS and 60 facility mentors were identified and trained.

PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO DISEASE OUTBREAKS

An outbreak of Ebola in DRC in August 2018 led to several imported cases and associated outbreaks in Uganda, demanding significant investments in government preparedness and response systems in 2019. In addition, the country faced measles outbreaks, sporadic outbreaks of cholera, Rift Valley Fever, and Congo-Crimean Haemorrhagic Fever, putting additional strains on Uganda’s already overstretched social services.

UNICEF support in communication for development (C4D) helped reach 3.5 million people in Ebola-affected Kasese District and 29 other high-risk districts with messages on Ebola prevention though 524,000 household visits and interpersonal communication. More than 46,300 community influencers in high-risk districts were oriented on Ebola and continue to be mentored. Additionally, more than 2 million information, education and communication materials in 19 local languages were distributed, while innovative platforms like U-Report and mTrac were used to inform the population and address rumours and misinformation.

To provide durable solutions for cholera prevention and control, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to procure 740,000 oral cholera vaccine doses for cholera hotspots in Uganda. With GAVI funding and UNICEF and WHO support, the ministry also carried out a nationwide catch-up measles and rubella vaccination campaign, which immunized 19.4 million children under the age of 15. In addition, more than 7.9 million children under 5 received a booster dose of bivalent oral polio vaccine to reduce the risk of polio importation.
Every child learns

A STRONGER ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR EDUCATION

UNICEF support to the Ministry of Education and Sports helped to formulate the Education and Sports Sector Strategy for 2020–2025. The Early Childhood Care and Education Policy and the Inclusive Education Policy were also finalized. Once approved, the sector strategy and the two policies are expected to catalyse increased domestic and external resources for the education sector. These policies are also expected to address issues of equitable access, improved learning achievements, and efficiency and effectiveness within the education sector.

EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

UNICEF helped to forge a partnership between the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Starkey Hearing Aid Foundation to provide hearing aids for 3,000 primary school children. The child-to-child approach and provision of assistive devices under the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities have also provided good models for the education of children with special needs. The evaluation of the project on accessible assistive learning materials in 30 schools has shown improved learning outcomes and socialization between children with disabilities and those without.

INTEGRATED EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Uganda launched its first-ever National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy and Action Plan in 2016, which is now being implemented across the country with support from UNICEF and other partners.

In 2019, the Ministry of Education and Sports supported 1,253 ECD centres – or almost one-quarter of the ECD centres that are operating in 27 UNICEF-supported districts. More than 316,500 girls and boys enrolled in the 5,458 UNICEF-supported ECD centres, reflecting a gross enrolment ratio of 30 per cent including 5,863 girls and boys with special needs.

In refugee-hosting districts, 110,775 refugee children were enrolled in pre-primary education, meeting the annual target and constituting 49 per cent of total enrolment and 61 per cent of eligible refugee children in these districts.

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION

UNICEF advocacy, technical and financial support is helping to make schools safer, more supportive and more health promoting, specifically through teacher training and school clubs in UNICEF-supported districts.

Teaching capacity was improved in 2019 by training 1,972 teachers (out of the targeted 3,060) in the 34 Quality Enhancement Initiative programme districts on early grade child-centred teaching methods. In Karamoja, 82 per cent of trained teachers demonstrated knowledge and skills in teaching and assessing literacy and numeracy. In addition, 3,368 senior female and male teachers and school club

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Children with special needs use assistive devices provided to their schools through UNICEF support.

“Members of clubs relate better than others and communicate better in public. I think the pupils in clubs are going to have a great future.”

Gloria Nyakuru, the Senior Woman Teacher at Tika Primary School in northern Uganda where school clubs are teaching girls and boys important life skills.
patrons gained better knowledge on gender-responsive methods of teaching, safe and positive learning environments, menstrual hygiene management, and HIV and reproductive health.

DEVELOPING THE POTENTIAL OF ADOLESCENTS

To empower adolescent girls, the government began implementing the National Multi-Sectoral Coordination Framework for Adolescent Girls and the Multi-Sectoral Communication for Development Strategy for Adolescent Girls, both of which were developed with financial and technical support from UNICEF and other United Nations agencies. The modelling of schools as the integrated platform for adolescent development was initiated, with plans to scale up the approach in 2020 and beyond.

Life skills provide children with important tools to develop their potential and stay safe and healthy. In 2019, more than 43,800 adolescent girls and boys gained knowledge and life skills through their participation in school clubs. Life skills and citizenship education were introduced in school plans in Karamoja, West Nile, and other sub-regions. In Karamoja, life skills interventions contributed to a rise in primary school retention, from 8 to 11 per cent for girls and 13 to 14 per cent for boys between 2017 and 2019.

Adolescent empowerment is a critical aspect of adolescent development. As part of the global Adolescent Volunteer Initiative, 244 adolescents participated in multiple empowerment, training, and learning opportunities as well as community safety mapping. The trained adolescents also participated in budget planning meetings in Kaabong and Adjumani districts, and in the national dissemination of the C4D Adolescent Girls’ Strategy in May 2019. Adolescent issues were raised through U-Report, which engaged 129,130 young people in 2019, UNICEF also piloted a series of digital trainings for 59 adolescents in Karamoja, West Nile, and eastern Uganda, with a subset applying their skills to document community safety mapping through photography and videography.

EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

UNICEF continued to leverage partnerships and resources for refugee children. In collaboration with UNHCR, education development partners, and NGOs, UNICEF provided technical support to the Ministry of Education and Sports for the approval and implementation of the 2019 Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities in 11 refugee-hosting districts. As the member of the steering committee established to manage the implementation of the plan, UNICEF helped mobilize funding from Education Cannot Wait through a consortium of NGOs.

Twenty-one thousand refugee children completed accelerated learning and skilling programmes with UNICEF support. A total of 1,320 teachers were trained through the formal and non-formal Continuous Professional Development Programme in eight out of 11 districts hosting refugees and those affected by epidemic emergencies such as the Ebola outbreak.
GOAL AREA 03

Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

BUILDING ONE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM

Government and partners, including UNICEF, continued the process of building a single protection system that caters to the needs of girls, boys, and women. The central government and local governments are piloting the protection system in eight learning districts, including refugee-hosting districts and districts at high risk of Ebola outbreaks. Key components of the protection system have also been incorporated into the new Child Policy and implementation plan, which was developed in 2019 with UNICEF support.

Systems strengthening work in child protection advanced, with a focus on interventions that promote equitable gender norms and help to prevent violence against children. The interventions reached 107,357 children, adolescents, parents, and caregivers, including those in emergency-affected areas.

For the first time, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development analysed, consolidated and made use of data from four management information systems (MIS) – the orphans and vulnerable children MIS, the child helpline, the gender-based violence database, and the remand homes MIS. Data from the four MISs was incorporated in the ministry’s Statistical Abstract for 2019 for the first time. Districts are currently using their district-specific data to support their development planning for the next financial year (2020/2021), while the ministry is exploring ways to integrate the various databases into a single MIS.

With UNICEF support, 69 probation and social welfare officers were deployed to nine districts to strengthen the government’s social welfare workforce on the ground. These social welfare officers are plugging a critical gap at the sub-national level. UNICEF support to host the International Federation of Social Work Conference in the Africa region also helped accelerate the government’s plan to develop a national framework for strengthening its social welfare services.

STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION CASE MANAGEMENT

UNICEF is advocating for streamlined approaches to respond to gender-based violence and child protection, including simplifying case management approaches across departments. UNICEF successfully supported the government to upgrade its national child helpline, which reduced the hotline’s call abandon rate from 40 to 5 per cent, and to integrate the gender-based violence helpline into the existing child helpline. In 2019, more than 2,569 children were reached with protection services by the helpline, including 1,508 girls and 1,016 boys (with the gender of 45 cases unknown).
JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

In Uganda, UNICEF is supporting the government to ensure that the best interests of the child are given consideration in the justice system. In 2019, children in conflict with the law benefitted from improved diversion standards following the launch of the Uganda Police Force's new national diversion guidelines. The police are piloting the guidelines in eight UNICEF learning districts before scaling up to the national level.

In 2019, the police diverted 3,302 children (out of 4,353 eligible cases) from the justice system, increasing its diversion rate to 75.8 per cent. UNICEF support to Justice for Children Coordinators in 13 High Court Circuits significantly contributed to the diversion of children.

Furthermore, through the Spotlight Initiative, UNICEF and other United Nations agencies jointly supported the police, judiciary and prosecution to ensure child- and victim-centered investigations, prosecutions and adjudications. These efforts resulted in the development of integrated standard operating procedures on gender-based violence and violence against children for the police.

TACKLING NEGATIVE SOCIAL NORMS

Negative social norms and practices are strong drivers of violence against children and women and need to be counteracted to keep children safe from harm. In partnerships with civil society organizations, local governments, parents and children, UNICEF is helping to promote positive social and behaviour change and tackle harmful social norms and practices.

In 2019, more than 107,300 adults in eight districts, including those in refugee-hosting and emergency-affected areas, regularly participated in system strengthening interventions promoting gender equitable norms to prevent violence and harmful practices. More than 15,000 parents and caregivers strengthened their capacity for positive parenting in the eight learning districts.

KEY FACTS & FIGURES

35 per cent of girls and 17 per cent of boys experience sexual violence in Uganda.

59 per cent of girls and 68 per cent of boys experience physical violence in Uganda.

40.4 per cent of women are married before the age of 18.

37 per cent of children under 5 have birth registration.

IMPROVING BIRTH REGISTRATION

Birth registration is a fundamental right that gives children an official identity and access to protection and other social services. In Uganda, UNICEF partnered with the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) to scale up birth registration services and the use of the Mobile Vital Records System (MVRS) from 90 NIRA district offices at the end of 2018 to 117 NIRA district offices in 2019, covering all existing NIRA offices and representing 84 per cent of Uganda’s total districts.

Uganda’s eight child-protection learning districts provided 17,118 newborn babies with birth notifications in 2019, compared to just 3,913 birth notifications in 2018. NIRA is currently converting all birth notifications captured in MVRS to birth registrations.

Uganda’s under-five birth registration rate is now estimated to have increased to 37.3 per cent, with certification at approximately 19.5 per cent due to UNICEF’s financial and material support.

A baseline study of Uganda’s civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system was validated in 2019 and is currently awaiting approval by NIRA. It will pave way for the development of a national CRVS strategic plan and communication strategy.

CHILD PROTECTION IN EMERGENCIES

UNICEF continued to provide critical child protection services in refugee settlements and host communities. UNICEF also trained 2,429 volunteers in 15 Ebola high-risk districts on the provision of psychosocial support. Selected at-risk districts were supported to ensure that district probation and social welfare officers and community development officers engaged in preparedness efforts for the Ebola outbreak.

A total of 30,779 refugee girls and boys received psychosocial support in child-friendly spaces and communities, while 2,812 unaccompanied and separated children were provided with appropriate alternative care services.

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1 UDHS 2016 plus admin data from MVRS 2019.
2 UDHS 2016 plus NIRA CRIMS 2019.
GOAL AREA 04

Every child lives in a clean and safe environment

STRENGTHENING THE WASH SECTOR

UNICEF consolidated its system strengthening approach in WASH in 2019, helping to improve the quality and delivery of services. In partnership with UNHCR and UNDP, UNICEF supported the development of the Integrated Refugee Response Plan for WASH. The national framework for operation and maintenance of WASH infrastructure was refined by the Ministry of Water and Environment with UNICEF support. The Ministry of Education and Sports’ nationwide microplanning for WASH in schools is expected to contribute to improved coordination of partners and mobilization of additional resources to rapidly increase the coverage of WASH in school packages.

UNICEF supported eight districts to develop and implement district-wide ODF plans, which also integrate gender, disability, and environmental protections in WASH packages for health facilities, schools, and communities. One district is on the verge of achieving ODF status in 100 per cent of its villages. UNICEF’s contribution to the development of Uganda’s roadmap to eliminate open defecation is expected to provide impetus to the country’s efforts to put an end to this practice.

As a result of UNICEF’s sustained advocacy, the Ministry of Education and Sports created the first-ever budget line for WASH in its annual budget for the financial year July 2019/2020. UNICEF will continue to support the ministry in using these resources efficiently.

“Our teachers always inspect water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in our school!”

Marcy Noela, Primary 6 pupil, Matany Primary School, Napak District, north-east Uganda

KEY FACTS & FIGURES

- 79 per cent of Ugandans have access to improved water in urban areas and 69 per cent in rural areas.
- 15 per cent of water systems are non-functional at any given point in time.
- 37 per cent of Ugandans have access to basic sanitation facilities in urban areas but only 17 per cent in rural areas.
- 20 per cent of children under 5 have suffered from diarrhoea, a water-borne disease.
- 1 in 5 Ugandans practices open defecation.

WASH IN SCHOOLS AND HEALTH FACILITIES

Within the WASH in schools framework, children in 57 schools were oriented on positive hygiene practices. The same schools benefitted from solar-powered water systems, toilet blocks for girls (with facilities for menstrual hygiene management) and latrines suitable for differently abled children. Similarly, gender-friendly WASH facilities were provided in 35 health centres, leading to an improved hygiene environment for pregnant and postpartum women.

WASH IN EMERGENCIES

UNICEF provided supplies, infrastructure development, and capacity building to strengthen national Ebola preparedness and response efforts. WASH supplies to stop the spread of Ebola were provided to 642 health facilities, 962 schools, and 75 points of entry. A total of 856 health workers and 613 teachers were trained on infection prevention and control covering 24 high-risk districts. Twenty-four health facilities had their infrastructure upgraded and 50 solar-powered chlorine generators were provided to health facilities in districts at high risk of Ebola. More than 5,600 portable handwashing equipment and renewable supplies were also provided to facilities and schools, including over 26,000 kg of soap.
GOAL AREA 05

Every child has an equitable chance in life

ADVOCACY ON POLICY AND SOCIAL SPENDING

UNICEF continued to support the Government of Uganda in improving equity-sensitive and child-friendly policies, programmes and budget allocations based on high-quality evidence and strengthened oversight. A great example of this was leveraging evidence-based policy advocacy to nearly double the government’s allocations for traditional vaccines – from UGX 11 billion in FY 2018/19 to UGX 21 billion in FY 2019/2020. Chronic underfunding of such vaccines in the past systematically led to the exhaustion of funds for procurement well before the end of the financial year.

UNICEF also led the systematic integration of off-budget financing for health in national planning and budgeting. In this regard, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to map external off-budget financing in the health sector. This exercise indicated that development partners’ contributions to the health sector represent over 50 per cent of total health expenditure in Uganda. The regular collection and integration of off-budget financing for health in national planning and budgeting processes will support and enhance programme delivery and sector performance.

UNICEF launched an innovative financing scoping study to improve and strengthen the government’s efforts to attract additional sources of funding with the potential to transform key social outcomes.

STRENGTHENING EVIDENCE GENERATION

The year 2019 witnessed the successful integration of multidimensional child poverty into national statistics. With UNICEF support, multidimensional child poverty reporting markers were also added to the monitoring and evaluation frameworks of two of Uganda’s largest national poverty reduction programmes – the Third Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF-3) and the Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP).

UNICEF also worked in close collaboration with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics and the World Bank to produce sub-county level poverty maps to inform local government allocations by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Such actions represent a bold effort to nest equity considerations in budget formulation and execution.

To further inform policy dialogue, UNICEF produced various quantitative and qualitative analytical reports, including the situation analysis of children in Uganda, the health and nutrition situation analysis of children in Uganda, and an assessment of Uganda’s prospects to achieve a demographic dividend. UNICEF also supported two knowledge, attitudes, perceptions and behaviour (KAPB) surveys and one anthropological study to inform Ebola preparedness and response activities.
SOCIAL PROTECTION

Building on evidence and advocacy with the government, UNICEF continued to support the implementation of the National Social Protection Policy and Roadmap, calling for a more comprehensive social protection system and supporting the rollout of the Social Protection Sub-Sector Review.

Two new social protection programmes were successfully launched in 2019. The first was an urban social protection programme targeting vulnerable adolescent girls, both in and out of school, living in Kampala. The programme, called GirlsEmpoweringGirls, is being implemented in partnership with Kampala Capital City Authority and others. The second is a child-sensitive social protection programme implemented in partnership with WFP in the West Nile sub-region, an area with high poverty and deprivation levels, as well as a large and vulnerable refugee population.

UNICEF also contributed to strengthening United Nations support for social protection by coordinating joint action and reporting on social protection by United Nations agencies under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

PROMOTING CHILD PARTICIPATION

UNICEF has remained a key advocate for child rights and worked with the government to celebrate 30 years since the signing of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. To further ensure representation and the meaningful participation of children, UNICEF engaged children in consultations to develop a child-friendly Child Participation Strategy. A child rights TV series will be launched to draw attention to important issues such as corporal punishment and violence against children.

KEY FACTS & FIGURES

- **23 per cent of children** in Uganda live in a household below the monetary poverty line.
- **56 per cent of children** in Uganda live in multidimensional poverty where they are deprived of six or more basic services and necessities of life.

Source: Situation Analysis of Children in Uganda, 2019.
CROSS-CUTTING PROGRAMMES

“I remember them telling us that one of the ways of contracting Ebola was through touching a person who died of Ebola and I clearly knew that when my husband goes for burial in Congo, he can’t fail to touch the dead body of his daughter. This will pose a great risk to our family and entire village when he returns. So, I tried to stop him and he refused.”

Justine Alini, a determined 49-year-old woman who withstood immense pressure from her husband and in-laws for having stopped her husband from attending his daughter’s burial. The daughter had died of Ebola in DRC.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION

UNICEF actively strengthens integrated humanitarian and development programming under the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. In 2019, the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and Sports were able to finalize the multi-year integrated refugee response plans for 2019–2024 with support from UNICEF and other partners. A similar plan for the WASH sector is being developed. UNICEF also continued to build the capacities of district planning and budgeting authorities in refugee-hosting districts to integrate refugee needs into their plans. In 2019, UNICEF reached more than 3.5 million people in Uganda with humanitarian support.

Since the beginning of the current Ebola outbreak in DRC in 2018, UNICEF has supported preparedness and prevention efforts overseen by the Ministry of Health. Following the outbreak in Kasese District in western Uganda in June 2019, the ministry and its partners transitioned from Ebola preparedness to response. A three-month US$17.2 million National Ebola Response Plan was launched with support from UNICEF and other partners and extended until December 2019.

The UNICEF response strategy is aligned with the National Ebola Response and Preparedness Plan and is integrated into the Joint United Nations Ebola Response Framework. Based on its comparative advantage, UNICEF support in high-risk districts focused on risk communication, social mobilization and community engagement; infection prevention and control through WASH; infant and young child feeding and nutrition; psychosocial support through child protection; supply and logistics support; and external communications.

INNOVATIONS

UNICEF Uganda is known globally for promoting innovative high and low-tech tools and strategies to accelerate results for children. In 2019, UNICEF continued to prioritize the Technology for Development (T4D) agenda. One of the key components of this agenda is the technical handover of UNICEF-supported
Innovations to the Government of Uganda. Substantial progress was made on this front in facilitating the handover of mTrac to the Ministry of Health. Current T4D areas of exploration include evidence-informed planning and management, service provider-client and community linkages, and digital learning and internal resource management.

During Ebola preparedness and response, UNICEF successfully piloted the use of solar-powered chlorine generators to support infection prevention and control at health facilities.

PUBLIC ADVOCACY

In 2019, UNICEF worked to inform and sustain public and policy discourse on key priority issues through the creation of knowledge products, partnerships, and platforms for raising awareness, dialogue, and engagement.

More than 10,000 knowledge products and communication assets were developed and disseminated through multiple platforms, reaching approximately 12 million people including government officials. These knowledge products help facilitate an enabling environment for public discourse.

The ‘Invest in Uganda’s Children’ campaign slogan was used across social media to sustain the gains made around financial investment for children during the country programme cycle. Strategic opportunities enabled a renewed focus, including the 2019 Africa-China Poverty Reduction and Development Conference, the launch of the report on multi-dimensional child poverty in Uganda, and the GirlsEmpoweringGirls urban social protection programme.

Sixty young people from disadvantaged regions were equipped with communication and digital skills through a pilot training co-organized with the Thomson Foundation. The newly acquired skills will allow the trainees to co-create content with UNICEF and become storytellers, leading online and offline conversations about issues that affect them. Through a second pilot initiative, 150 members of WASH school clubs in Karamoja were trained on how to use an App that can easily capture and share the impact of UNICEF and donor-funded programmes in the sub-region. At the end of the 2019, the children shared short stories, photos, and videos of how their lives in schools have improved through the provision of WASH facilities and improved access to safe and clean water.

On World Children’s Day, children took over the offices of the UNICEF Representative and the chairperson of the Uganda Human Rights Commission, generating substantial media coverage. Nearly 2.3 million people were reached through social media and over 1.5 million through traditional media.

In addition, during the CRC@30 media roundtable, 3.5 million people were reached through live media coverage. Engagement with parliamentarians, government officials, NGO and media partners led to a signed pledge by the government with a commitment to submit the long-outstanding CRC report in 2020.

Strategic programme work on priority issues was undertaken using digital platforms to support social and behaviour change, public dialogue, and advocacy for policy change. UNICEF social media content engaged 248,472 people in and out of Uganda. The country office website, which was revamped in April 2019, recorded 188,000-page views.

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COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Around 18.7 million people were reached with social and behavioural change messages across different media and community platforms. Mass media messaging for Ebola reached 14.6 million people between January and September in 24 districts.

A second knowledge, attitudes, perceptions and behaviour (KAPB) study on Ebola in October 2019 indicated that levels of awareness about the disease increased from 89 to 100 per cent in high risk-distRICTS compared to the year prior. Risk perception increased from 48 to 63 per cent. The recent KAPB study also showed evidence of behaviour change with 65 per cent of respondents indicating that they had taken some actions to avoid contracting Ebola.

To curb an increase in HIV infections among young people, a two-month nationwide radio campaign broadcast information on how to prevent HIV and where to seek adolescent-friendly services in various districts.

WORKING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

UNICEF’s efforts to persuade the extractives and mining sector in Uganda to adopt the Children’s Rights and Business Principles (CRBP) continued in 2019. CRBP guides companies on the full range of actions they can take in the workplace, marketplace, and community to respect and support children’s rights.

In 2019, UNICEF supported orientation and capacity-building for 50 local government officials and artisanal gold miners on CRBP, resulting in the development of action plans to sustainably reduce child rights violations in mining communities.

CRBP advocacy also targeted the draft National Child Policy, the Employers Act in reference to the upcoming mandatory Breastfeeding and Child Care in the Workplace Policy guidelines, the Workers Compensation Act and the Mining Act, influencing them to address child rights holistically beyond child labour.

CRBP engagement to influence three previously oriented business entities (Capital FM, Federation for Uganda Employers, and NTV/Nation Media Group) to adopt more child-friendly corporate practices resulted in the Federation incorporating CRBP operationalization into its 2020 strategic plan.

A feasibility study was launched to determine the viability of a social business model that equips the youth, especially young women, to manage early learning centres as businesses. This is in response to the twin challenges of youth unemployment and limited access to ECD services for young children.
# FINANCES

## PROGRAMME BUDGET, 2019, US$ 

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<th>PROGRAMME</th>
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<th>OTHER RESOURCES EMERGENCY (ORE)</th>
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## DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS, 2019, US$

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