

Annual Results Report 2015

Social Inclusion

HEALTH
HIV AND AIDS
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE
NUTRITION
EDUCATION
CHILD PROTECTION
SOCIAL INCLUSION
GENDER
HUMANITARIAN ACTION



UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2014–2017 guides the organization's work in support of the realization of the rights of every child, especially the most disadvantaged. At the core of the Strategic Plan, UNICEF's equity strategy – emphasizing the most disadvantaged and excluded children, caregivers and families – translates UNICEF's commitment to children's rights into action. What follows is a report summarizing how UNICEF and its partners contributed to social inclusion in 2015 and the impact of these accomplishments on the lives of children, caregivers and families.

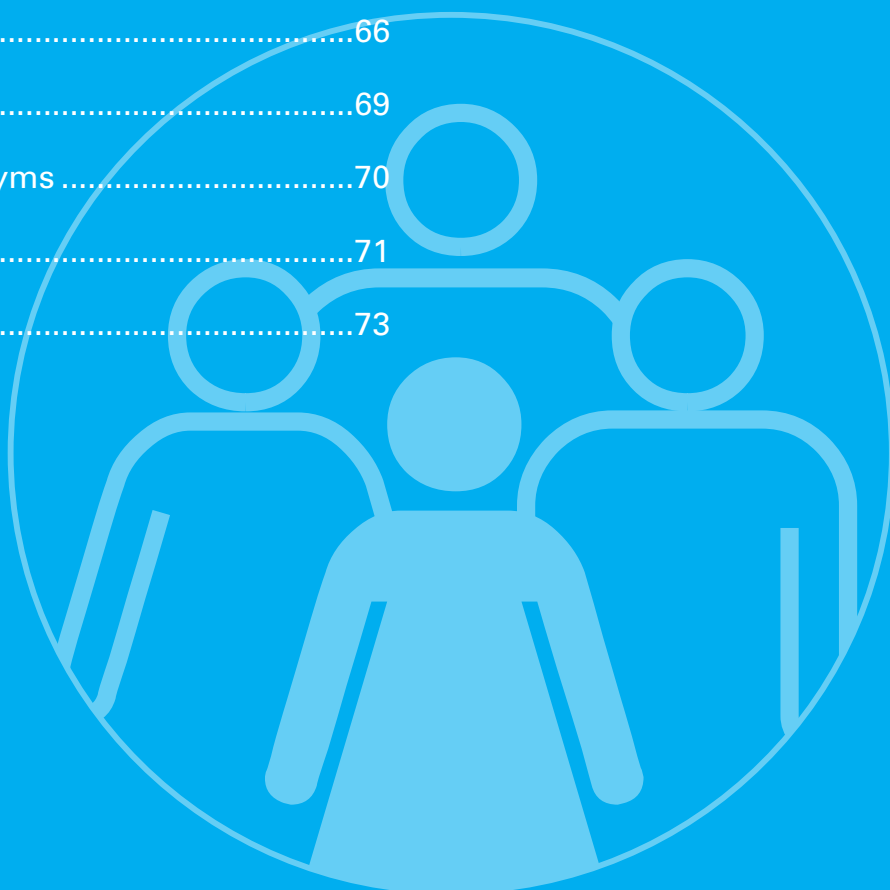
This report is one of nine on the results of UNICEF's efforts this past year, one on each of the seven outcome areas of the Strategic Plan, one on gender and one on humanitarian action. It is an annex to the 'Report on the midterm review of the Strategic Plan, 2014–2017 and annual report of the Executive Director, 2015', UNICEF's official accountability document for the past year. An additional results report on the UNICEF Gender Action Plan 2014–2017 has also been prepared as an official UNICEF Executive Board document.

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A Muhamasheen child stands inside her family's house in the Muhamasheen area of Mathbah, in Sana'a, Yemen, on 2 November 2015. Yemen is suffering and its people are facing some of the worst moments in human history. This extreme hardship is affecting the most vulnerable people in Yemeni society, pushing millions into extreme poverty, worsened by the collapse of support systems. Building on the social protection mechanisms which had been in place and on a household survey conducted prior to the conflict to register the poorest and marginalized populations, UNICEF provides monthly unconditional cash transfers (100USD for six months) to cover the basic needs of most affected and poorest households with children under 18 in Sana'a and Taiz cities. In addition, UNICEF is working on the emergency reactivation of the Social Welfare Fund operations, which has been suspended since the first quarter of 2015. This will help regain citizen confidence in the state's ability to provide critical services to the poor.

CONTENTS

Executive Summary	2
Strategic Context	5
Results by Programme Area	9
Programme Area 1: Child poverty and social protection	11
Programme Area 2: Human rights, non-discrimination and participation	24
Programme Area 3: Public finance for children	31
Programme Area 4: Governance and decentralization	37
Programme Area 5: Social inclusion in humanitarian settings	44
Financial Analysis	50
Future Workplan	66
Expression of Thanks	69
Abbreviations and Acronyms	70
Endnotes	71
ANNEX	73



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

Despite substantial progress made in past decades in reducing global poverty, children remain disproportionately affected: one third of the global population,¹ children (age 18 or under) nonetheless make up nearly half of those living in extreme poverty, on less than US\$1.25 a day.² At the same time, millions of children continue to be deprived in crucial aspects of their lives, such as nutrition, health care, education or water and sanitation. While social safety net programmes benefit more than 1.9 billion people in 136 low- and middle-income countries, at the same time, 773 million poor people (or 55 per cent of the world's poor) remain unreached.

This past year, 2015, proved a defining one for UNICEF's social inclusion work. Some 91 countries now measure child poverty, with half of them using both monetary and multi-dimensional measures; the number of countries explicitly addressing child poverty through national policies and programmes also continues to grow. Social protection advanced; an additional 9 million children were covered by cash transfers in 2015 alone, with progress also reported on reaching the most marginalized. Two more Member States ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, budget allocations for child-focused policies improved in at least 30 countries and opportunities and mechanisms for children and adolescents to participate in community decision making also expanded.

UNICEF's extensive engagement in efforts to shape the future development agenda, paid dividends for advancing social inclusion. UNICEF involvement supported the explicit inclusion of children in the poverty goal and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the increased focus of the new development agenda on both equity and accountability. The Financing for Development (FFD) framework highlights the need to invest in children and places special emphasis on delivering social protection and social services for all, reflecting efforts of UNICEF and partners that our work on public finance for children will help reinforce. Crucially, the SDGs also emphasized the importance of social inclusion for all children, not only those in poorer countries. This universal outlook is particularly applicable to the social inclusion agenda and objectives. Beyond the SDGs, the Paris Agenda on climate change will allow UNICEF to step up efforts to examine and address climate change concerns from children's perspectives, while the post-2015 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk

Reduction underscores the need to "empower local authorities and local communities to reduce disaster risk, including through resources, incentives and decision-making responsibilities."

Meanwhile, 2015 also brought new challenges. UNICEF worked to respond to the refugee and migrant crisis, natural disasters and public health epidemics around the world using social inclusion interventions. These included cash transfers, disaster risk reduction and peacebuilding with local authorities, the implementation of human rights on the ground, as well as communication efforts to address discrimination. In Nepal, for example, UNICEF supported the government to provide an additional emergency top-up cash transfer to beneficiaries of the existing social assistance programmes in the 19 most severely affected districts – approximately 434,690 people. Building on this experience, UNICEF is working to help the Government make the social protection system more robust and better able to respond to future disasters. Not only were these new challenges areas of urgent response for children in 2015, but they are expected to continue to shape the landscape for the social inclusion of hundreds of millions of children in the coming years.

UNICEF's work and results in 2015

In 2015, UNICEF's social inclusion programming extended to 152 countries (out of 157), supported and managed by 183 professional staff in country and regional offices and at headquarters.

During the year, UNICEF and partners continued progress on social inclusion for children, with internal accountability numbers showing an average achievement rate of 108 per cent, compared with planned goals across the five social inclusion technical programme areas. This summary provides an overview of these results, with the full report looking in more detail not only at progress against plans, but beyond the summary numbers to real examples that illustrate the changes in children's lives that resulted from this work.

Child poverty and social protection. UNICEF's Strategic Plan goal for national governments to measure, prioritize and respond to child poverty showed steady progress in 2015, with 75 countries using child poverty in policy discussions with governments, including through creating and disseminating nationally owned child poverty reports (71 countries in 2014), and 19 addressing child poverty in national development plans or legislation (16 countries in 2014). Four countries had a specific target on

reduction of child poverty in their national development policy or legislation (three countries in 2014). Social protection is a crucial response to child poverty through interventions such as cash transfers, school fee abolition, health insurance and social support services. Out of national social protection impact assessments in more than 60 countries in the past five years, 88 per cent demonstrated positive impacts on child well-being, and UNICEF reporting data estimates that an additional 9 million children were covered by cash transfers in 2015. In addition, 132 countries reported a functioning national social protection system in 2015, up from 124 in 2014.

Human rights, non-discrimination and participation.

Over the past two years, UNICEF's advocacy led to increased ratification of key human rights treaties for children. In 2015, two long-awaited ratifications of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) took place – in Somalia and South Sudan – bringing the total number of States Parties to 196, just one United Nations Member State short of universal ratification. Country offices also report a growing rate of support to legal reforms following CRC concluding observations (104 country offices as of 2015), followed by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (89 country offices) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (38 country offices). Additionally, 84 per cent of countries reported the existence of laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, ethnicity, disability and/or religious affiliation.

Public finance for children. Leveraging domestic public spending for children is at the heart of achieving results for children at scale. UNICEF's efforts have led to improved budget allocations for child-focused policies and programmes in 30 countries; better quality of spending in 20 countries; and filling of data gaps and improved budget transparency in 25 countries. These results reflect the momentum of UNICEF offices' efforts to influence domestic government budgets and financing. In 2014 and 2015, 103 country offices supported partners in ensuring that public investments could effectively reach the most disadvantaged children through generating evidence, influencing budgetary frameworks and assisting in tracking budget implementation. Work was initiated in 2015 to develop a methodology for measuring child-focused public expenditures building on the successful experience of several Latin American governments and in close partnership with the World Bank. This measurement is a pre-requisite for effective monitoring and improving how much and how well domestic resources are invested in children, and will also help countries with SDG and FFD reporting.

Governance and decentralization. UNICEF's work on decentralization and local governance aims to strengthen participatory mechanisms at local levels and strengthen urban governance for children. In 2015, 110 programme

countries (up from 89 countries reported in 2014 and progressing towards the 2017 target of 134 countries) reported having participatory mechanisms in place to support the most disadvantaged to influence local and national development agendas. In urban governance, UNICEF works to strengthen urban municipalities to collect and utilize disaggregated data for decision-making. In 2015, 55 programme countries with large urban populations produced and utilized disaggregated data on the most excluded. This represents an increase from 2014 (53 countries) and is 95 per cent of the 2015 target.

Social inclusion in humanitarian contexts. Social inclusion is becoming an integral part of UNICEF's work responding to humanitarian crises. In 2015, an additional 7 countries (now 42 total) supported governments to include emergency prevention, preparedness and response in their social protection systems; and the number of countries working to integrate disaster and conflict risk in national planning and monitoring systems increased, from 64 per cent in 2014 to 74 per cent in 2015. Accountability to local populations also improved, with 67 affected country offices (up from 59 in 2014) reporting that affected populations were consulted throughout one or more phases of the humanitarian programming process.

Global support to social inclusion. Global advocacy, partnerships and technical efforts supported UNICEF's country-level achievements. Key among these were the inputs to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Outcome Document of the Third Conference for Financing for Development described earlier. Other milestone achievements and products of 2015 included validation of methodology for child-focused public expenditure measurement, the Evaluation Office's report 'Cash Transfer as a Social Protection Intervention: Evidence from UNICEF evaluations 2010–2014'; and development and finalization of the Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI), an inter-agency assessment tool of social protection systems. Over the course of 2015, the social inclusion team at headquarters produced 11 guidance and technical notes covering areas such as child-focused budget analysis, inter-governmental fiscal transfers, child deprivation in poverty surveys and implementation of emergency cash transfers. Additionally, the team conducted a global mapping on child poverty and social protection to facilitate knowledge exchange.

UNICEF also advanced global partnerships in support of social inclusion work. UNICEF headquarters supported the development of two General Comments under preparation by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the draft General Comment on Public Spending on Children. UNICEF helped strengthen the Committee's capacity on the topic; the organization supported technical review of the draft and facilitated regional consultations. To support the General Comment on adolescents and as

part of advocacy with governments, UNICEF developed an 'Adolescent Assessment Card' that proposes a set of indicators to measure and track adolescent development and well-being. Over the course of the year, global-level partnerships with the World Bank advanced work on child poverty, social protection and public finance for children. Collaboration as an active member of the Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board led to new joint technical tools, and UNICEF also worked with the Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Kingdom Department for International Development to prepare the roadmap for the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit 2016. A 2015 partnership highlight was the launch of UNICEF-led Global Coalition to End Child Poverty. Attention to children with disabilities was also high on the agenda in 2015, as UNICEF Supply Division brought together governments, partners, leading disability advocates and NGOs to examine the global supply gap in assistive devices and identify ways to reverse long-standing deficiencies. As a co-chair of the working group on disability-inclusive humanitarian action, UNICEF has engaged in the World Humanitarian Summit consultations, the Secretary-General's Report and the special session on disability at the World Humanitarian Summit itself, planned for May, 2016.

Total 2015 global expenditure on social inclusion programming was US\$266.4 million, including funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational and other costs (see *Table 3*). This represents a slight increase in comparison with 2014 expenditure – mostly due to the increase of emergency expenditure from US\$21.1 million in 2014 to US\$63.3 million in 2015. Expenses from 'regular resources' and 'other resources, regular' have decreased. The most common funding source for social inclusion in 2014 was regular resources, accounting for 45 per cent of 2015 expenditure. This relatively high proportion of regular resources reflects both the centrality of social inclusion interventions to UNICEF's country-level work, as well as the challenges faced in raising unrestricted funds for this outcome area in comparison with more established sectors. UNICEF's social inclusion work is an excellent value-for-money investment; producing sustained results by leveraging governments' own funds for children. Unrestricted funds are crucial, since they allow UNICEF to move quickly when critical opportunities arise and also support the long-term investment needed to effect changes in national policies, laws and budgets which lead to social inclusion.

Looking ahead

The post-2015 development agenda lends additional urgency and creates opportunities to ramp up UNICEF's work around child poverty and discrimination. UNICEF's social inclusion work is closely aligned with the new goals and focus on child poverty, equity, governance, accountability and domestic resource mobilization. Meanwhile, the challenges of fragility, economic crises, migration, conflict and climate change present ongoing threats to children – and social inclusion efforts must increasingly adapt to address these in order to make a difference.

UNICEF's work over the first two years of the Strategic Plan positions us well to take the new global agenda forward. The strategic focus of social inclusion work in 2016 and beyond will include efforts to improve the quality, regularity and use of data on child poverty, increase commitment to halve child poverty by 2030 and identify the package of appropriate policies and programmes to achieve this result. Expanding social protection coverage in line with the SDG target and maximizing impact on children will be central to this effort, as will public finance efforts to support more effective and equitable public expenditure on health, education, protection, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). An increasing number of countries will initiate or improve the measurement of child-focused public expenditures, providing a baseline against which to track the adequacy and quality of these investments. UNICEF will also focus on strengthening the role of national human rights institutions, and social accountability with and for children and adolescents as agents of change, including indigenous children and children with disabilities.

Finally, UNICEF's role in supporting social inclusion in fragile and humanitarian contexts will continue to grow. UNICEF will promote the increased use of cash responses in emergency contexts. Crucial will be working to strengthen social protection systems to prevent and respond to crises and support their use and further strengthening when emergency does strike. An important emphasis will be support to local governments' efforts on peacebuilding and disaster risk reduction.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Overview

The new global agenda finalized in 2015 created new momentum to address poverty and discrimination, the twin pillars of social inclusion work. The new framework is strongly linked with the international human rights agenda: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) embrace the principle of universality, and States reaffirm their commitment to the full spectrum of human rights – civil, cultural, economic, political and social.

The SDGs' focus on leaving no one behind crystalizes attention on marginalized groups. SDG 1 on poverty specifically includes children, supporting UNICEF's efforts to put child poverty measurement and policy action at the centre of poverty eradication – including by expanding social protection, now a target under SDG 1. SDG 16 emphasizes the role of governance, inclusion, participation, rights and security in sustainable development, which dovetails with UNICEF's social inclusion goals and targets related to human rights and participation as well as governance and decentralization.

Beyond the SDGs, the Paris Agenda on Climate Change was an important step forward for children, reinforcing UNICEF's efforts to include children's voices and concerns in national plans to address climate change. The Addis Agenda for Action on Financing for Development underscored the importance of investing in children, and the need to pay more attention to domestic resource mobilization to support development aims – in line with UNICEF's expanding work on public finance for children.

UNICEF's partnerships and evidence also coalesced this year in ways that will help move the social inclusion agenda forward. The Global Coalition to End Child Poverty, co-founded by UNICEF, was formally launched with a major advocacy event at the United Nations involving 20 Member States. Members of the coalition include both international civil society organizations such as Save the Children and World Vision, academic institutions including the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the global Partnerships for Economic Policy network, as well as regional organizations including the African Child Policy Forum and Eurochild. Through global advocacy and coordinated country support, the coalition aims to place and keep child poverty high on the global agenda and support implementation of SDG Goal 1 on child poverty.

Through the launch and the sharing of a Joint Statement on Child Poverty also co-signed by the World Bank and

the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF helped reach more than 3 million people through social media. Through this and other outreach, the coalition worked for the inclusion of child poverty in the SDGs, which lays the foundation for accelerated country action against child poverty. UNICEF remained an active partner in the Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board, whose work progressed in 2015 through the production of common tools as well as a coordinated agenda to promote further expansion of social protection in line with the new SDG commitments. The evidence, based on the impact of social protection, in particular cash transfers, on child outcomes was notably strengthened this year, both through the Transfer Project, a research consortium which UNICEF co-leads with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Save the Children and research partners, and a synthesis of UNICEF-supported evaluations presented to UNICEF's Executive Board.

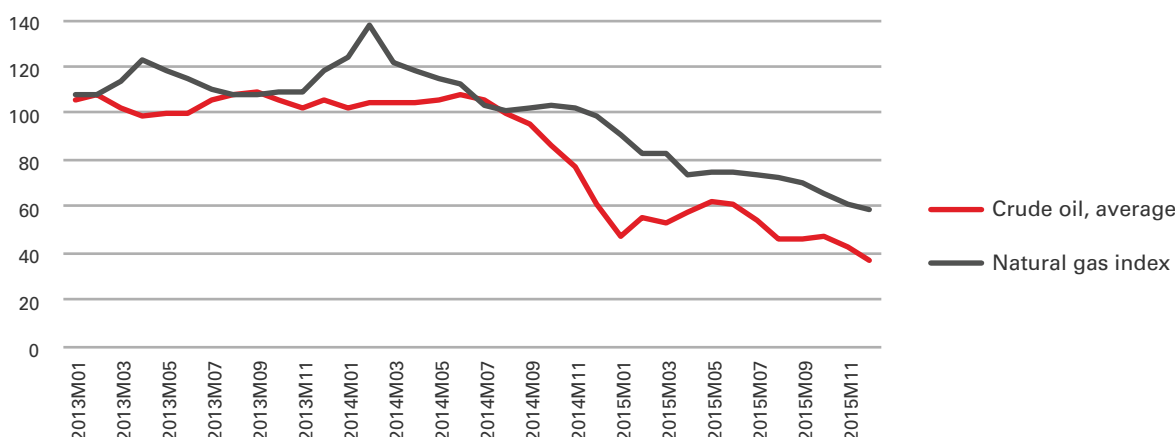
Meanwhile, the year brought new challenges for children, some of which can be mitigated by interventions under the social inclusion agenda. The unprecedented refugee and migrant crisis in the Middle East and Europe underscored the potential of humanitarian cash transfers and other measures, such as education fee waivers as an efficient, effective and dignified response to emergencies. It also pointed to the benefits of strengthening existing social protection systems and linking them to humanitarian measures.

Natural disasters struck in Nepal, Vanuatu and elsewhere, and in some cases, local efforts to reduce disaster risk reduction and prepare for emergencies reduced their impact on children. Robust social protection systems able to respond and expand during emergencies also made a difference. Public health epidemics in West, East and Southern Africa and in Latin America and the Caribbean highlighted the physical and psychological stress experienced by families and children who also face stigma and discrimination – and pointed to the need for services, information, voice and engagement to address this extra burden.

The sudden and drastic fall in global commodity prices during 2015 presented serious macroeconomic challenges to low- and middle-income commodity-producing countries. For example, the price of natural gas plummeted by nearly 60 per cent during 2015, with oil dropping by some 30 per cent (this jumps to 113 and 180 per cent, respectively, over the 2014–2015 period) (see *Figure 1*). For developing country governments that rely

FIGURE 1

Monthly prices of select commodities, 2013–2015 (in nominal US dollars)



Source: World Bank Commodity Price Data (The Pink Sheet).

on natural resource exports as a key source of revenue, this translated into sharp budget cuts – in some cases threatening social expenditure and thereby potentially undermining children's well-being. Such trends underscore the inherent economic volatility in such countries and the importance of UNICEF's work on budgets. Where countries have benefited from declining commodity prices, the expanding fiscal space provides opportunities for improving budget allocations towards child-focused policies and programmes.

Building on the new international development framework

The new SDG framework has particularly strong implications for UNICEF's work on child poverty. While about 90 countries currently measure child poverty, only half are doing so routinely. The SDGs require all countries to measure child poverty using the global extreme poverty line and national poverty lines, as well as measures that capture all of the dimensions of poverty. This is an unprecedented opportunity to build knowledge and understanding of the scale and scope of the poverty and deprivations children face. It can also build a foundation for taking action on the policies and programmes that focus on ending child poverty.

Since 2013, the World Bank's definition of 'extreme poverty' has been revised to living on less than US\$1.90 per day from US\$1.25 per day, reflecting the

latest updates in the cost of living across countries (purchasing power parities). Using this new line, the World Bank confirms that overall global poverty has fallen. According to the most recent data, from 2012, an estimated 897 million people, or 12.7 per cent of the global population, live in extreme poverty, down from an estimated 1.12 billion in 2010 (using the new line). The number is expected to fall to 702.1 million in 2015, a poverty rate of 9.6 per cent – and the first time the share of people living in extreme poverty would be in the single digits.

The number of children living in extreme poverty has likely fallen as well, but the World Bank's numbers, however, do not look specifically at children. UNICEF and the World Bank are now working together to estimate and update the number of children living in extreme poverty (aged 0 to 17 years, following definitions from the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and with appropriate age breakdowns) and the relationships with education. These numbers are expected to be shared in 2016, and will provide the basis for more routine and higher-quality reporting.

The poverty goal will also give a significant boost to policies and programmes that reduce child poverty, including social protection. Target 1.3 calls on States "to expand coverage of nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, and to achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable by 2030." This reflects the political consensus on the growing importance of social protection in national development, even in very poor contexts. It also explicitly includes children

and strengthens the ongoing agenda for universal social protection. It is anticipated that this will increase demand and encourage a coordinated approach to social protection.

The SDGs and human rights, participation, governance and accountability for children

The SDGs make a clear call to leave no one behind, and that explicitly includes children. The new goals reflect a commitment to eradicate discrimination, inequality and marginalization, and highlight groups that were invisible before, such as persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples.

Disaggregated statistics will be key to developing tailored and evidence-based policies, particularly those targeting children, and monitoring the new development agenda as it is put into practice. Making sure that the path towards sustainable development is inclusive and owned by all, including children, will also require strong accountability mechanisms.

The new SDG framework emphasizes the key role of local governments in sustainable development in general, and highlights the importance of local accountability and participation in particular. As the United Nations Secretary-General's Synthesis Report stated, many of the investments to achieve the SDGs will take place at the sub-national level and will be led by local authorities.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda confirms this. It explicitly acknowledges the increasing role of local governments in sustainable development, and commits to scaling up international cooperation to strengthen the capacities of municipalities and other local authorities – including their financial capacities. In the coming years, domestic financing of local governments, including cities, will become an important area of focus, emphasizing the links between UNICEF's programming in public finance for children and decentralization and local governance.

SDG 11, which emphasizes sustainable cities and communities, provides another opportunity. More than half the world's population currently live in urban areas, and that proportion is expected to increase to two thirds by 2050. Metropolitan areas and mega-cities play a crucial role in service delivery – and they are home to significant

The Sustainable Development Goals and child poverty: An obligation and an opportunity

The SDGs provide a global mandate for reporting on child poverty, towards ending extreme child poverty and halving child poverty by national definition by 2030. This obligation of all Member States creates an opportunity for stakeholders engaged in the fight against child poverty to engage in national processes to achieve the goal.

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Target 1.1: By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day

Indicator: Proportion of population below the international poverty line disaggregated by sex, age group, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural).

Target 1.2: By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

Indicator 1: Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, disaggregated by sex and age group.

Indicator 2: Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

Target 1.3: Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

Indicator 1: Percentage of the population covered by social protection floors/systems, disaggregated by sex, and distinguishing children, the unemployed, older persons, people with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims, the poor and the vulnerable.

numbers of people living in extreme poverty. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without strengthening intergovernmental financing mechanisms, upgrading urban services and addressing urban poverty, while also bolstering transparency, participation and accountability.

Many leaders praised the outcome of COP21, the Paris Agreement on climate change, as a success for children and future generations. For the first time in international climate diplomacy, 196 nations pledged to take action on climate change, both to reduce emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change on the poorest and most vulnerable populations. The parties agreed to limit the maximum average temperature increase vis-à-vis pre-industrial levels to well below 2°C, and to work to limit warming to 1.5°C. COP21 also saw renewed commitment to mobilizing climate finance – at least US\$100 billion per year by 2020 from public and private sources to help developing countries with climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The Paris Agreement offers an opportunity to set in motion an ambitious cycle of increasing climate action and finance, benefiting the health, survival, food security and well-being of millions of children. This transition needs to be inclusive, fair and equitable. The poorest and most vulnerable, especially women and children, have contributed the least to climate change but suffer disproportionately from its consequences.

Further global momentum on public finance for children

The past year witnessed two major global breakthroughs for public finance for children. First, work on a General Comment on article 4 of the CRC – on implementation of the Convention – approached its completion. Although article 4 obligates state signatories to ensure that the child rights agenda is supported with 'maximum available resources', the lack of clarity around this concept makes

it hard to effectively monitor governments' financial commitments to children or ensure compliance. The General Comment, to be released in 2016, will serve as a guide for governments to adapt their budgeting frameworks with specific benchmarks and criteria.

Second, the Third International Conference on Financing for Development boldly linked investing in children with achieving inclusive and sustainable growth. The impact of the outcome document from Addis Ababa was immediate: the Inaugural Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, which is charged with monitoring the financing framework, includes a section on investing in children and youth, with specific indicators for expenditures on child-focused programmes.

A growing role for social inclusion in fragile and humanitarian crises

The past year has also highlighted the need to expand social protection in humanitarian and fragile contexts. A dynamically changing environment – with migration and displacement across and within borders, climate change and political destabilization – challenges national governments and international partners to develop sustainable social protection approaches.

Unprecedented migrant and refugee movements require innovation, rapid learning and scale-up of effective interventions to address the root causes of movement and ensure the social and economic rights of refugees and migrants throughout their journey, regardless of their status. Strengthening social protection systems along the migration route – in countries of origin, at first entry, in transit and at the destination – is critical. Although experience in providing social protection in fragile and humanitarian contexts is growing, it is still an evolving field of knowledge, with gaps in practice, a continuing need for experimentation, and high demand for support.

RESULTS BY PROGRAMME AREA

Overarching results for social inclusion

The social inclusion outcome consists of five programme areas, each of which makes its own distinct contribution to reducing child poverty and discrimination. These contributions are quantified in the indicators and targets established in the Strategic Plan and through UNICEF's operational work. A separate progress report is therefore provided for each programme area.

Taken together, though, these programme areas tell a more holistic story. UNICEF's theory of change for social inclusion recognizes that real change for children requires interventions on several fronts. The different elements of the organization's social inclusion work build on one another, creating synergies that contribute to impact.

Within social inclusion, the work on child poverty provides an overarching framework and springboard: generating data on child poverty and directing policy attention to it can lead to advances in policy and programming in social protection and public finance. For example, Georgia's child poverty analysis contributed directly to the introduction of a child benefit (*see case study below*). Examples of this link were also evident this year in Fiji, Kyrgyzstan and Uganda, among other countries.

When countries strengthen their social protection systems for greater impact on children, it has an impact on child poverty – monetary, multidimensional or both. Social protection evaluations routinely document impact on material well-being as well as food security, education and health access. These sectoral results are both key components of most models of multi-dimensional poverty measures and of course important child outcomes in their own right.

UNICEF's work on public finance for children is a key instrument for addressing multidimensional child poverty, by encouraging more effective and equitable expenditure, especially directed towards the poorest children and adolescents. In Malawi, for example, UNICEF's support for a review of education and health sector spending underpinned successful advocacy to protect social sector funding when the Government carried out public sector reforms. It also helped secure budget allocations for early childhood development for the first time.

Public finance work also makes a strategic contribution to UNICEF's efforts to strengthen child-sensitive social protection, by helping governments analyse the financing options available. In Zambia, for example, UNICEF provided technical assistance to develop comprehensive budget proposals for cash transfers, which led the Government to double the size of the national cash transfer scheme in fiscal year 2016.

The focus on the human rights of excluded groups permeates all social inclusion outcomes, not only the human rights, non-discrimination and participation programme area. The confluence between social protection and human rights was evident in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in 2015, when UNICEF's work to identify the barriers Roma families face in accessing health insurance led to policy and programmatic action to close these gaps.

UNICEF also engaged countries on accountability and participation, demonstrating the strong synergies between human rights and governance. Examples included adolescent participation in local government planning in Jordan, and using U-Report in Uganda and Zambia to make the voices of adolescents heard in real time, generating data to influence policies.

Child poverty and discrimination are themselves rights violations, which should be addressed for their direct impact on children's well-being. That is the *raison d'être* of the social inclusion outcome – but working to address child poverty and discrimination also can and does support better results for children across all areas of UNICEF's work. The social protection evaluation synthesis presented to the UNICEF Board in 2015 shows how cash transfer interventions improve a range of outcomes. Monitoring of cash transfers in emergencies has also shown results in 2015, for instance in Jordan and Nepal.

As illustrated above and later in this chapter, public finance work not only increases investment in children overall and makes it more equitable, it also makes a difference sector by sector. In 2015, public finance for children interventions helped increase the amount of public funds for children in the health and education sectors in Malawi, and in health and nutrition in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Country offices' public finance interventions also helped make public spending on health and education in China, Romania and Thailand more equitable.

The role of thematic funding for social inclusion

The social inclusion thematic funds (US\$2,830,061) received in 2014-2015 were distributed among 36 countries in all 7 regions. The average amount of funds received by country was US\$78,613. Funds were mostly used to advance work on social protection, child poverty and public finance, leading to the following results:

- Strengthened social protection systems (in Burundi, Cabo Verde, Georgia and Rwanda);
- Improved child-focused budgeting and leveraged public spending for children (in El Salvador, Kazakhstan and Mongolia); and
- Generated evidence on child poverty (monetary and multidimensional) to underpin public policy responses (in Costa Rica, El Salvador, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mongolia, Montenegro and Rwanda).

For example, in Burundi, the thematic funds were used to strengthen Government capacity to design and develop the first National Child Grant Programme, in partnership with the World Bank. This joint initiative aims to establish the key building blocks for a basic national social safety net system that would provide regular and predictable cash transfers to 40,000 extremely poor households with children under 12 years of age during its first phase.

The objective of the social cash transfer programme is to support the consumption of extremely poor households and promote investments in the foundations of human capital (nutrition, health, early childhood development). The programme combines regular cash transfers with promotion activities to increase knowledge about essential care and nutrition practices and change behaviours to promote investments in human capital. The rationale for this combination is a twin-track approach to poverty reduction.

In Togo, the thematic funds were used to undertake an exhaustive social sector budget analysis that examined public budgetary allocation and spending for social sectors, including social protection. The study also identified the bottlenecks faced by social sectors to spend their budget. This analysis provided an opportunity to engage in the debate about Togo's social sector and social protection financing. The evidence and findings are being used for policy dialogue to improve the Government's allocation and use of public funds in Togo, and inform the development of fiscal space.

UNICEF also used the thematic funds in Togo to strengthen the capacity of 88 staff in social sector ministries to plan and budget for inclusive social policies, and to get more resources according to the national development strategy. This training also helped the social development ministry revise its budgeting process agenda, and ultimately allow for a better execution rate.

These results show that social inclusion work is a cost-effective way of strengthening national systems, leveraging public spending and producing lasting results for children. They also illustrate the importance of thematic funding, which – even in small amounts – can catalyse change by providing partners like governments and the World Bank with expert advice on policy options that can improve the situation of children.



Nepal. On 13 July 2015, Maiya Ramtel, 26 years old, with her 4-year-old daughter, Prativa, and 4-month-old baby girl, Angela, in her home. Maiya belongs to the socially marginalized Dalit community. Her 4-year-old daughter qualifies for the cash grant provided by the Government. UNICEF is working closely with vulnerable groups, including Dalits, through the Government under the Emergency Top-Up Cash Transfer Project.

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PROGRAMME AREA 1: CHILD POVERTY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Child poverty

Headline results

At the global level, 2015 saw significant steps forward. Child poverty and social protection were formally recognized in SDG 1 – eradicate extreme poverty – as well as in the indicators proposed by the statistical community. This sets the scene for a stronger global focus on child poverty measurement and response, including through social protection.

A key goal for 2015 was to achieve a substantial increase in the number of countries measuring child poverty, using either monetary or multidimensional measures. The expectation for the year was also for more countries to make substantive use of child poverty data and analysis to influence national policies, and to see a child poverty focus reflected in national development plans. By the end of 2015, it was expected that several countries would be able to document how attention to child poverty led to

concrete policy changes with real impact on the lives of the poorest children.

Regarding measurement, currently 91 countries (including 16 countries with UNICEF National Committees) are measuring child poverty using either monetary or multidimensional measures. Of these, around half (46 per cent) use both monetary and multidimensional approaches, around a third (36 per cent) use monetary measures only, and around a fifth (18 per cent) use only multidimensional measures. UNICEF country offices led or supported child poverty reports in 30 countries in 2015.

Advocacy and policy engagement around child poverty further contributed to a modest but steady increase in the number of countries with policies or budget frameworks that explicitly address child poverty. Some 75 countries used child poverty in policy discussions (up from 71 in 2014), 42 countries had policy and/or budgetary frameworks that explicitly address child poverty and disparities (40 in 2014), 19 countries included child poverty in national development plans or legislation (16 countries in 2014) and 4 countries had a child poverty target (3 in 2014).

Country offices are increasingly able to document concrete change for children as a result of these efforts. In Georgia, multi-year collaborative work between UNICEF, the Government and development partners contributed directly to the establishment of a child grant within the social protection system in 2015. In Kyrgyzstan, the social

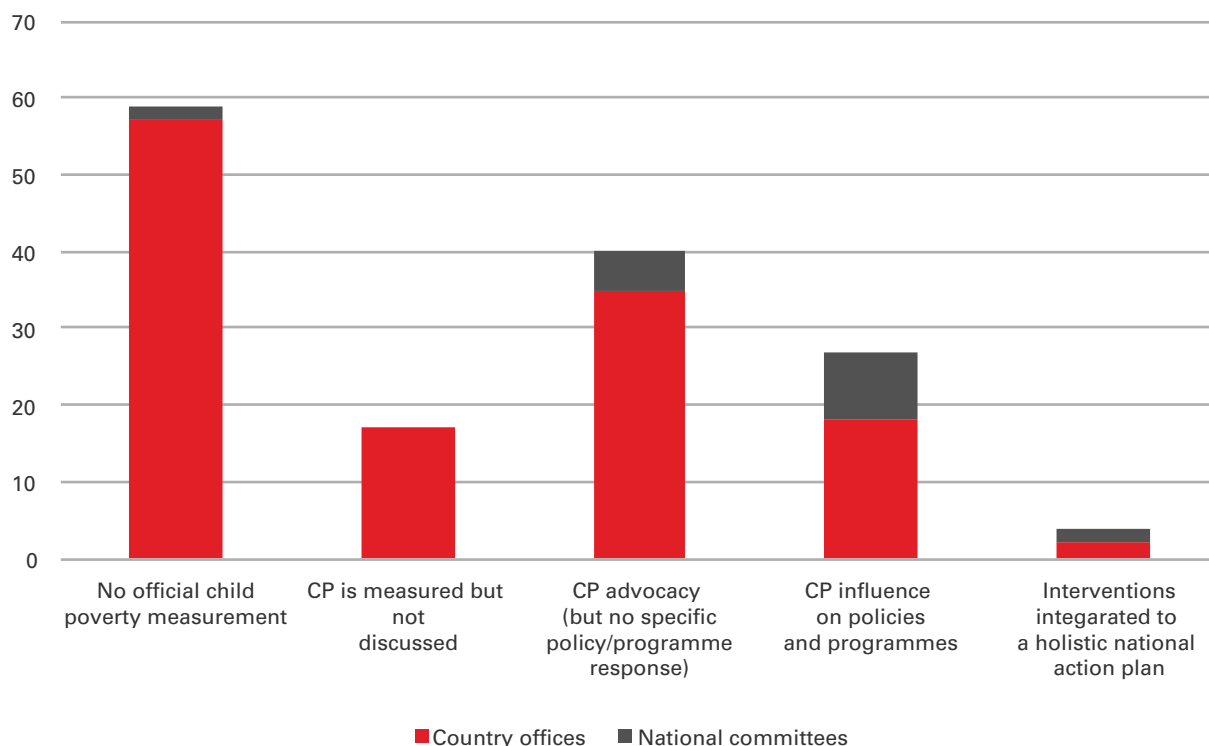
transfer programme was amended to expand coverage and increase benefit levels as a result of UNICEF's advocacy on child poverty. In Uganda, the Government has committed to increase the budget from 2 billion to 7 billion Ugandan shillings per year on a pilot social protection programme to address child poverty and deprivation, analysed in its child poverty study.

In 2014–2015, the thematic funding was instrumental for advancing work on child poverty in countries such as Costa Rica, El Salvador, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Montenegro and Rwanda. An average allocation of about US\$78,000 per country helped generate evidence on monetary and multidimensional poverty and underpin public policy responses. El Salvador, for example, used multidimensional poverty measurement supported by UNICEF to plan its social programmes. Two studies on child poverty – one on children's perception of poverty and the other on the official poverty measurement – helped shape the new Strategy for Eradication of Extreme Poverty in El Salvador, expected to be launched in 2016, and made children more of a priority within it.

Expanding quality, affordable care for young children is an important part of the response to poverty, because it can free parents – especially women – to take up economic activities that contribute to household well-being, while also giving children a safe and nurturing environment. At the global level, a multi-agency partnership of UNICEF, UN Women, ILO and the World Bank supported a desk review in 2015 to generate policy recommendations. The results of the study indicated a clear link between quality, affordable and accessible child care and women's economic empowerment. It also identified family-friendly workplace policies and quality child care programmes that helped reduce poverty among mothers and young children. The policy recommendations of the study promote a model of shared responsibility for child care.

In 2015, out of 152 countries, only 47 reported some data indicating they had worked on childcare, and only 17 reported that more than 50 per cent of young children had access to quality, affordable care (Algeria, Belarus, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, China, Croatia, Cuba, Djibouti, India, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Turkey, Uruguay and Zimbabwe). In

FIGURE 2
A global snapshot of countries' work on child poverty³



Source: UNICEF child poverty and social protection mapping 2015.

Uruguay, UNICEF supported the expansion of the Uruguay Crece Contigo and Canelones Crece Contigo childcare programmes into all 19 of the country's provinces, to reach 10,000 families by the end of the year. UNICEF helped to implement the programme and worked to make it more sustainable vis-à-vis the development of a universal social protection system for young children.

These achievements were supported by global advocacy and technical support. UNICEF produced guidance and technical notes to guide programming work on child poverty. Additionally, a global mapping on child poverty and social protection was conducted to facilitate knowledge exchange. Strengthening partnerships was instrumental for successful advocacy on child poverty and culminated with the launch of UNICEF-led Global Coalition to End Child Poverty.

Brief outline of programme area

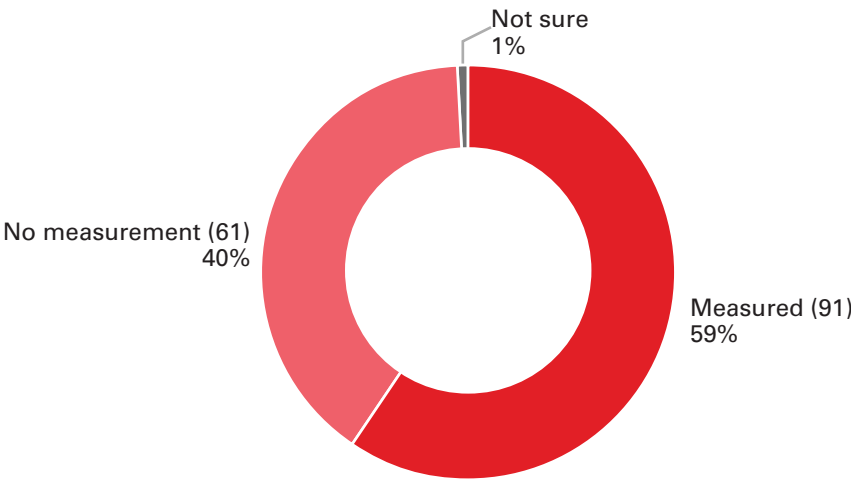
UNICEF's goal is for national governments in all countries to measure and respond to child poverty – to recognize it as a national policy priority and develop and implement plans of action to protect children from its most devastating consequences. This includes supporting

countries to measure both monetary and multidimensional child poverty and address it through policies, programmes and budgets. Key responses to child poverty include making social protection systems more sensitive to children's needs, allocating more public funds for the poorest children and using those funds more effectively.

To better categorize and capture UNICEF's child poverty work, it has been organized into four broad domains, depending on what countries are already doing to address the issue. These include:

- 1. Building national support for and initiating child poverty measurement (where there is no awareness or measurement of child poverty);
- 2. Advocacy on child poverty using child poverty measurement (where there is a measurement but the use of findings is limited);
- 3. Policy analysis and engagement to influence specific policies and programmes to reduce child poverty (where there is recognition of child poverty but no decisive action to address it); and

FIGURE 3
Countries measuring child poverty



Source: UNICEF child poverty and social protection mapping 2015. Methodology: Questions on measurement asked if there was 'current measurement of child poverty (either monetary or multidimensional poverty) by (or supported by) the Government'. In total, 153 countries responded to the survey.

4. Integrating policies and programmes through national action plans or similar to achieve the SDG on child poverty (where interventions are limited or fragmented).

2015 results in detail

In 2015, UNICEF worked to support Member States to include child poverty in the SDGs and laid the groundwork for national action to address it. A foundation of UNICEF's work has been establishing and co-chairing the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty. By the end of 2015, more than 20 institutions had joined the coalition, including global and regional civil society partners (including those representing children), academic institutions and United Nations partners. The Coalition was formally launched on the International Day of Poverty (17 October), with a major advocacy event at the United Nations that involved 20 Member States and a Joint Statement on Child Poverty that was co-signed by the World Bank and UNDP.

Alongside the General Assembly's agreement on the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the international statistical community made firm commitments on the indicators that will be used to measure the goals. UNICEF played a significant role by advising the technical support team, engaging the statistical

community on how child poverty could be measured, and holding a public event with the 'Friends of Children' that outlined the importance and feasibility of measuring child poverty as part of the goals. The resulting indicators (to be finalized and agreed upon in 2016) clearly articulate the need for Member States to measure progress on both monetary and multidimensional child poverty.

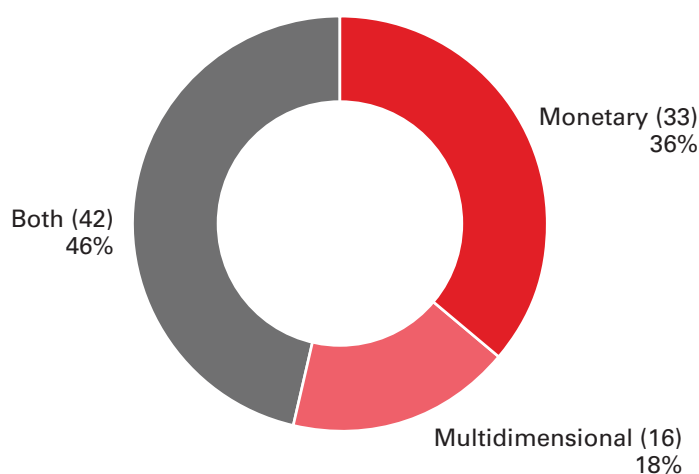
UNICEF undertook a global mapping of child poverty work that covered both country offices and national committees, obtaining information for 153 countries. Figure 2 gives a snapshot of where UNICEF stands globally.

Measuring child poverty: Quality, routine and nationally supported measurement is a prerequisite to working to reduce child poverty. Child poverty measures not only help build knowledge and understanding of the scale, scope and equity dimensions of child poverty, but also can be the foundation for understanding the policies and programmes that can reduce it.

UNICEF has been a leader on child poverty globally since 2005, and more countries around the world are measuring it thanks to the organization's efforts. The SDGs present a unique opportunity to obtain crucial data on child poverty in all countries, using both monetary and multidimensional measures. Currently, about 60 per cent of countries for which UNICEF have data measure child poverty (91 out

FIGURE 4

Measurement of child poverty: Monetary or multidimensional



Source: UNICEF child poverty and social protection mapping 2015. Based on a sub-sample of 91 countries that are measuring child poverty.

of 153 countries, including 16 countries with UNICEF National Committees), but only half of them (42 countries) do so routinely (See Figures 3, 4 and 5).⁴

Some 35 countries in all seven regions worked on child poverty reports or studies in 2015 (see the map below). Some 20 of them were based on the Multidimensional Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA) developed by UNICEF, while other countries used the Bristol Approach, the Multidimensional Poverty Index or original methodologies, adapted to their context.

All of the studies were carried out with partners, with 19 co-authored with governments, 8 with academic institutions and 2 with civil society organizations. Children and youth actively participated in five studies, including in Zimbabwe, where the youth council and junior parliament participated in a consultative workshop to express their concerns and views on child poverty.

Child poverty advocacy and policy engagement:

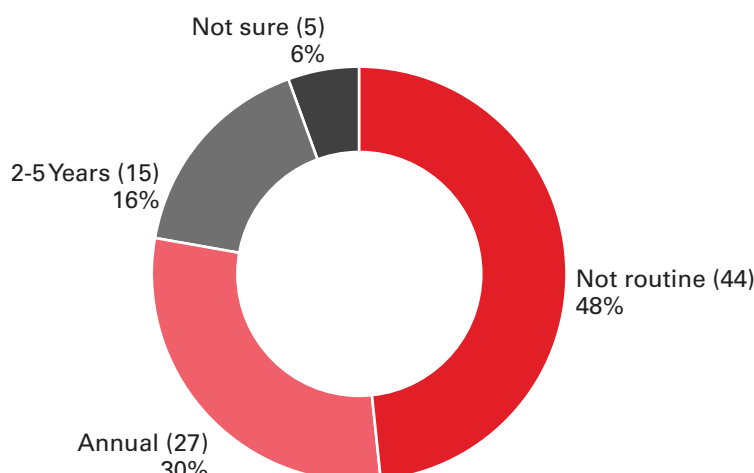
Measuring child poverty lays the groundwork for building political support for addressing it. This is necessary to stimulate immediate action and foster sustained support for the poorest children that can survive shifting political winds and priorities.

In 21 countries, the findings of the child poverty studies were used for advocacy activities aimed at putting child poverty on the political agenda. Some 11 country offices held workshops with governments and partners, 5 had dialogues with government officials on child poverty measurement, and 9 held dialogues with government officials on social protection policies to address child poverty. Such efforts were critical in moving from measurement to putting in place policies and programmes that can actually reduce child poverty. For example:

- In Iraq, the child poverty analysis was used to inform partners' understanding of the vulnerabilities of displaced people and host communities, as the need for humanitarian assistance increased drastically after the conflict.
- In Mozambique, UNICEF engaged the Government at the national and sub-national levels to discuss the concept of multidimensional child poverty and advocate for official measurement. National and regional workshops – involving the Vice-Minister of Finance and other government officials, civil society, donors and academia – helped advance these plans.
- In Turkey, UNICEF established a Child Well-Being Working Group composed of the Ministry of Family and Social Policy, the Ministry of Development

FIGURE 5

Frequency of child poverty measurement



Source: UNICEF child poverty and social protection mapping 2015. Based on a sub-sample of 91 countries that are measuring child poverty.

- In Viet Nam, the study highlighted child poverty, especially among ethnic minorities, during an international conference on sustainable poverty reduction.
- In Sudan, UNICEF organized a briefing on key findings from an analysis of inequity and multiple deprivations facing children, based on data from Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). The event was very well attended, involving four ministers of the Government, donors and United Nations agencies, and highlighted the situation of children in conflict-affected areas and the need to double government and donor investment in social sectors.

UNICEF's work on child poverty ultimately aims to effect policy and programme change that reduces deprivation. A key milestone towards this goal is including child poverty in national development plans, which can support policy and programmatic action. UNICEF played a key role in placing children at the heart of national frameworks in nine countries that adopted national plans in 2015 or undertook consultations to develop them. For example:

- Poverty Eradication Strategy, and Vision 2036. UNICEF undertook a MODA study, engaged the Government in discussions on the SDGs, and trained government officials at the sub-national levels to make child poverty a priority in district and urban development plans, in partnership with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and other United Nations agencies.

- Child poverty analysis can also serve as a basis for technical advocacy for policy change that benefits the poorest children. For example, a participatory child poverty analysis in Burkina Faso helped raise awareness of the multiple aspects of child poverty in the country, and has been discussed with the National Assembly. It has also

influenced other international agencies to advocate for increased public spending on children.

Results for children on the ground: UNICEF country offices are seeing their child poverty advocacy, policy analysis and engagement translate into concrete results for children on the ground.

In Kyrgyzstan, advocacy and policy engagement efforts led to a legal amendment that enhanced the country's social protection programme. To raise awareness about the low level of benefits offered by the social protection programmes and the poverty facing the country's children and youth, UNICEF and its partners – non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and young activists – launched a social movement and campaign called Survive on 18 Kyrgyz Soms a day, using Facebook posts to draw attention to how little a person can afford if they only have the average daily amount provided by the country's social protection benefit. Following the campaign, the Government raised the value of social transfers, and an additional 4,000 children were enrolled in the programme to address child poverty.

In Uganda, a 2014 child poverty and deprivation report showed that more than half of children 0–4 years old lived in deprivation. These findings, and UNICEF's continued engagement on the policy response to child poverty, supported the Government to complete a national roll-out plan for its pilot social protection expansion programme and to commit to increasing its budget from US\$2 million to US\$7 million per annum.

The Fiji Country Office's publication on child-sensitive social protection included an assessment of the country's high child poverty rate and made a case for stronger social protection to address it, while offering detailed analysis and recommendations on the targeting and management of the country's cash transfer programme. As a result, the Government committed to increasing its budget for social protection for children.

In Madagascar, UNICEF has actively engaged in child poverty advocacy, convening national partners to discuss child poverty and policy responses. The Madagascar Country Office disseminated a situation analysis of mothers and children in 2014, and a MODA in 2015. As a result, the recently adopted national social protection policy puts greater emphasis on child poverty.

The UNICEF Country Office in Georgia has been working on a combined analysis that measures child poverty, assesses the coverage and gaps of existing programmes, and simulates the impact of social protection benefits. This has contributed to a creation of a new programme with increased coverage and enhanced benefits for poor and vulnerable people (*see the box below for more details*).

Challenges and constraints

While the inclusion of child poverty in the SDGs is a huge step forward, the process of setting the Goals itself created an environment of uncertainty, as country offices and governments waited to see the final targets and indicators, delaying efforts to initiate routine measurement. This was particularly true for multidimensional poverty, as it was unclear if the Multidimensional Poverty Index⁵ would become the official SDG indicator. In the end, Member States left it to countries to decide on the methodology, and this may prolong the period of confusion, as countries consider their approaches.

The focus on child poverty within the social inclusion outcome at the outset of the Strategic Plan in 2014 signalled UNICEF's intention to move firmly from child poverty measurement, analysis and advocacy towards influencing policies and programmes to make a difference.

While the SDGs have confirmed the importance of focusing on ending child poverty, this shift comes with two challenges. The first is organizational: While child poverty is a flagship indicator of one of UNICEF's outcome areas and work is well under way – and having an impact – in a number of countries, it will take some time to build practice and guidance in this area.

Second, long-term engagement is needed to achieve significant results. In the Georgia case study, it took three years to achieve a large-scale result for children. Such long-term results take consistent work that can adapt to changing needs and opportunities, and the ability to raise flexible resources to expand the impacts over time.

Social protection

Headline results

Key goals for 2015 included increasing the number of children and families covered by social protection, and the number of countries measuring the effectiveness of social protection for children. These contribute to the end goal – more countries with social protection systems that improve children's well-being.

In 2015, UNICEF continued its progress towards the 2017 strategic plan targets, building on 2014 results to further expand social protection coverage and support the capacity of governments and partners to strengthen social protection systems. Some 132 countries reported functioning national social protection systems, while 88 per cent of national social protection impact assessments (conducted in more than 60 countries in the past five years) demonstrated positive impacts on child well-being.

A child poverty and social protection simulation in Georgia contributed to establishing a new child grant

In May 2015, Georgia introduced a child benefit scheme within the social security system, aiming to reach approximately 260,000 children from the poorest households nationwide. UNICEF helped bring about this positive development by supporting an analysis of child poverty and a simulation of different policy options to address it, based on a unique panel household survey.

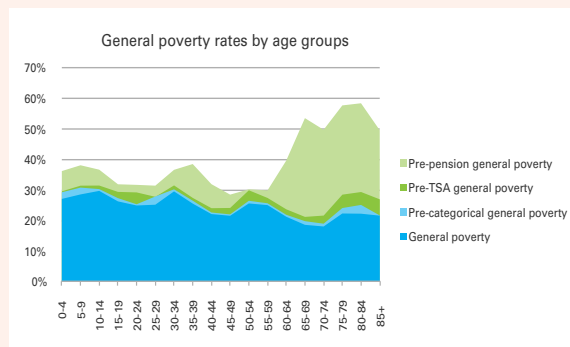
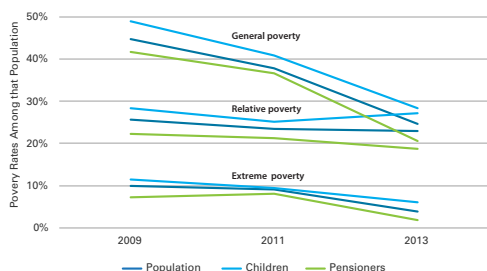
First, a national panel survey enabled analysis of poverty trends by age group, highlighting high poverty rates among children. UNICEF supported the Welfare Monitoring Survey, a panel household survey that captures different dimensions of poverty, including household income, consumption, access to services and goods, health, education and subjective well-being. Trend analysis of poverty rates by age group showed that child poverty was higher than the overall poverty rate regardless of the poverty thresholds (i.e., extreme poverty, general poverty or relative poverty), and identified a particularly high rate of extreme poverty for children 5–14 years old. This is consistent with analysis across many countries, showing that households with more children tend to be poorer.

Second, analysis of the existing social security programmes identified low coverage of households with children. The coverage and impact of the largest cash transfer programmes, the old-age pension and the Targeted Social Assistance scheme were then assessed. The data showed that the scheme covered more households without children, and the difference was particularly stark for poorer households. Accordingly, many of the poorest children were not benefiting from the transfers.

Third, the study modelled how a new child benefit and a reform of existing policies would affect the child poverty rate. The simulation showed a significant decrease in child poverty given a new child benefit. It also demonstrated how this instrument could be financed by reforming the scheme. The study used three scenarios, with a mix of different revisions of targeted social assistance and child benefit eligibility. It showed that without a new child benefit, the rate of extreme poverty will continue to be disproportionately high among children, while the child benefit could equalize the poverty rate across age groups.

The process and analysis were undertaken in close consultation with the Government and in collaboration with other development partners. The analysis of child poverty and scenario building were conducted as part of the larger social protection system reform, under way since 2013. The analysis was carried out by UNICEF; the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs; the Social Service Agency; and the Georgian National Statistics office, and also engaged international organizations, including the World Bank, and research organizations. The collaborative nature of the process was key to enabling successful policy change in a short time period.⁶

Figure 1: Population poverty trends, by age group in 2009, 2011 and 2013



As an example of UNICEF's work to support governments in strengthening national social protection systems, in Lesotho, UNICEF provided technical assistance to strengthen the national monitoring and evaluation system for social protection programmes, improving financial management to speed up payment cycles, and identifying which social services can be effectively delivered on outreach days by One Stop Shops that are being piloted in four community councils.

Meanwhile, important investments in producing evidence on the impacts of social protection on children and their families came to fruition in 2015, including the release by UNICEF's Office of Evaluation of a global synthesis of more than 40 UNICEF-supported evaluations of cash transfers, 'Cash Transfer as a Social Protection Intervention: Evidence from UNICEF evaluations 2010–2014' and numerous country and regional publications (see section below on 'Assessing Final Results' for further details). UNICEF also significantly expanded its work on social protection in fragile and humanitarian contexts to cover more countries, and strengthened its collaboration and advocacy with partners at the country and global levels in this area.

UNICEF global support to these processes included our collaboration as an active member of the Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board, to produce a series of inter-agency social protection assessment tools – a publicly available set of instruments for assessing and improving social protection systems. As a leading partner in the Transfer Project,⁷ UNICEF continues to work with partners to produce authoritative and cutting-edge evidence on the impacts of cash transfers on children, households and broader economies.

Brief outline of programme area

UNICEF's strategic plan indicators closely align with the SDG target 1.3 on social protection: they focus on expanding the coverage of social protection systems and ensuring that these systems have positive impacts on children's well-being.

A leading international agency in the sector, UNICEF works towards these goals in more than 100 countries. Through measures such as cash transfers, school fee abolition, health insurance and social support services, social protection is a crucial response to child poverty in all its dimensions. UNICEF's most common contributions include support to national cash transfer programmes (78 countries) and strengthening social protection systems (73 countries).

2015 results in detail

Reaching more children with social protection: Part of UNICEF's contribution has been support to the steady expansion of national social protection coverage, while ensuring that those children who are most likely to be left out are covered. In 2015, 132 offices reported that there were functioning national social protection systems, up from 124 in 2014. UNICEF reporting data estimates that an additional 9 million children were covered by cash transfers alone in 2015.⁸ UNICEF contributed to this increase through technical support, analysis and advocacy in a wide range of countries – including Egypt, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, the Niger, Paraguay and Zambia.

In Thailand, for example, UNICEF worked to build consensus for a new Child Support Grant, collaborating with executive and legislative branches of the Government, as well as with civil society, the media and academic institutions. In March 2015, the cabinet approved US\$20 million for the Child Support Grant programme, which is initially expected to reach 135,000 children aged 0 to 1. National implementation began in October, with UNICEF providing technical assistance.

UNICEF supported other countries, including Afghanistan and Liberia, in designing and implementing pilot programmes and gradually taking them to scale. UNICEF offices worked not only to ensure that more children could access social protection programmes, but also to increase the reach of these programmes to those groups of children that had been most likely to be excluded. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UNICEF is supporting efforts to analyse and address the barriers Roma families face in accessing health insurance, with support from thematic funding.

Strengthening countries' capacities: Increasing the numbers of children and families covered by social protection and improving the effectiveness of social protection systems is a challenging task for many national governments. UNICEF's widespread country presence in social protection allows the organization to work closely with national partners to enable them to better able to deliver effective social protection.

UNICEF supports countries in developing national policy and legislation, strengthening linkages with other social protection programmes and other social services, improving the administrative 'nuts and bolts' of programmes, and increasing the national financing and human resource capacity to deliver social protection programmes and services. Compared with 2014, 15 countries indicated that they had increased their capacity to deliver, implement and finance integrated social protection systems. Despite progress, substantial work

remains – only 19 countries reported having strong national capacity.

In many countries, developing national social protection policies and anchoring social protection in legislation has been critical to establishing it as a sector and setting clear national objectives and actions. UNICEF has helped 89 countries develop national policies and strategies. In 2015, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad, Ghana and Uganda, among others, finalized and approved such policies and strategies. In December, Albania approved a national Social Protection Strategy for 2015–2020 that was developed with UNICEF's extensive technical assistance, in close collaboration with a wide range of national government and civil society stakeholders at the national and local levels.

Accompanied by a detailed Plan of Action and costed targets, the strategy articulates the need to harmonize different social protection instruments to address the complex needs of vulnerable families and children.

Because children are vulnerable to poverty and deprivation in multiple ways, delivering social protection programmes in a coordinated way and linking them with other social services is critical to maximizing their impacts on children and their families. In countries including Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia and Malawi, UNICEF offices have helped countries link cash transfers with other types of social protection programmes and services, such as health insurance or social support services, and other social services such as health care, education and nutrition.

Ghana's impressive efforts to expand social protection and enhance children's well-being

During 2015, Ghana made impressive progress in expanding and strengthening social protection. It expanded the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) programme, its main cash transfer, to 50,000 additional poor households, reaching a total of 150,000, and launched LEAP 1000, which extends LEAP to households with pregnant women and infants younger than 1 year. Within LEAP 1000, families receive a set of social services in addition to the cash benefit, including nutritional information and access to health insurance. On the policy front, Ghana approved its very first National Social Protection Policy, which is the country's main framework for social protection.

All of these achievements were closely supported by the UNICEF Ghana Country Office. Specifically, UNICEF provided technical and financial support in developing some of LEAP's main tools, including the payment, grievance and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. UNICEF Ghana also helped design LEAP 1000 and implement it in the country's northern region, which has high rates of poverty and disproportionate malnutrition and stunting rates among infants.

Given that the Ghana Country Office supports (and co-chairs) the Sector Working Group on Social Protection in Ghana, UNICEF was strategically positioned to help government formulate and develop the National Social Protection Policy. The policy development involved an extraordinary consultation effort at the national, sub-national and community levels. One of the greatest challenges faced this year by the Country Office was managing almost parallel support to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, its main counterpart in social protection, in designing and implementing LEAP and LEAP 1000, as well as in the policy formulation process. This active level of engagement required additional human resources devoted to social protection work.

Various partnerships were instrumental in achieving the results in 2015. At the country level, UNICEF worked closely with the World Bank and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development in scaling up LEAP and advising the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection on formulating the National Social Protection Policy. The Country Office also partnered with the Office of Research in designing the impact evaluation of LEAP 1000, which will shed light on the impacts of delivering cash transfers in combination with other social services.

Additional partnerships include the Community of Practice of Cash Transfers in Africa, an active exchange platform around the design and implementation of cash transfer programmes, involving more than 30 African nations. The World Bank and UNICEF have been facilitating this community together since 2012 (involving UNICEF regional offices and headquarters in the facilitation role), and it has provided great support to national policymakers working in social protection. Ghana has been an active participant in the Community of Practice, both learning from other countries and sharing its own experience with other nations going through similar processes.

In Ethiopia, for example, UNICEF provided technical support to integrate the cash transfer programme with nutrition and child protection services, including through deployment and training of social workers.

UNICEF has also partnered with national governments to address exclusion and discrimination based on factors such as gender and disability in the design and implementation of social protection systems. In Rwanda, which conducted a gender equity assessment in 2013, UNICEF used thematic funds to help the Government adjust the design of its flagship programme in 2015. Changes included broadening the types of jobs within the public works component – to include working in early childhood development centres, local schools or clinics, for example – and providing childcare at public works sites, which will make it easier for women to participate in the programme and help ensure that young children are cared for. In Serbia, UNICEF's research and advocacy informed legal revisions to increase benefit amounts for children with disabilities and helped simplify administrative procedures that were significant bottlenecks for the most vulnerable children.

Increasing capacity for effective delivery of social protection services requires investing in the human resources and administration to carry out this work on a daily basis. In 2015, UNICEF helped countries conduct national capacity assessments and action plans, improve coordination and implementation at a decentralized level, hire more social welfare workers and train them, and create One Stop Shops, or service centres where beneficiaries can access multiple benefits and referrals to services according to their specific needs.

UNICEF has also worked with partners – including in Burkina Faso, Egypt, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka – to develop and strengthen central administrative tools, such as targeting, payment mechanisms, single registries and grievance procedures. In Lesotho, for example, UNICEF supported national government partners to make a number of investments to strengthen the overall capacity of the social protection system. This included providing technical assistance to strengthen the national monitoring and evaluation system for social protection programmes, improving financial management to speed up payment cycles, and identifying which social services can be effectively delivered on outreach days by One Stop Shops that are being piloted in four community councils

Although recent years have seen an increase in the number and percentage of more social protection programmes that are funded by national budgets, there is still progress to be made, particularly in low-income settings. Across the board, budget allocations and expenditure are not always child-sensitive or pro-poor.

Ensuring national, equitable and child-sensitive budget allocations to social protection is part of UNICEF's ongoing work in countries including Cambodia, Kosovo*, Morocco, Thailand, Zambia and Zimbabwe. This work includes providing analysis and ex ante simulations of policy options, identifying new financing sources and possible efficiency gains, and advocating for increased allocations.

In Kenya, UNICEF worked with national partners to raise awareness and advocate for the importance of social protection with key policy makers and legislators. This contributed to raising the budget allocation for the National Safety Net Programme to 18.1 billion Kenyan Shillings in 2015–2016 – up 30 per cent from the previous financial year. The additional funding will support expansion to an additional 230,000 households, of which 100,000 are households with orphans and vulnerable children.

UNICEF's support to national capacity also includes strategic partnerships at the regional and global levels. UNICEF continues to promote South-South learning. Together with the World Bank, for instance, UNICEF facilitates the Africa Community of Practice on Cash Transfers, which promotes learning and exchange of practice among more than 35 African governments. At the global level, UNICEF is an active member of the Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board, partnering with various agencies, including the World Bank, International Labour Organization, European Union, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development and GIZ, among others, to produce a series of Inter-Agency Social Protection Assessment tools – a publicly available set of instruments for assessing and improving social protection systems (<www.ISPATools.org>).

Assessing and improving final results for children and families: Measuring actual and potential impacts of social protection programmes on children, and ensuring that this evidence leads to better results, is a key area of UNICEF's work. Over the first two years of UNICEF's Strategic Plan, more than 60 countries reported social protection impact assessments of national programmes in the previous five years. In 2015, 88 per cent of these assessments demonstrated positive impacts on child well-being, a 10 per cent increase from 2014.

As part of ongoing investment in this area, UNICEF and national partners produced impact evaluations or major assessments of programmes in Botswana, Georgia, Morocco, Tunisia, Yemen and Zambia, among other countries. In Georgia, UNICEF worked with the national government and the World Bank to reassess the targeting formula and benefit structure of the Targeted Social Assistance Programme, which has directly informed reforms of the social protection system. This work has also included monitoring and evaluation of cash transfer

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

Key findings from the Office of Evaluation's Synthesis Report

The following findings from the Synthesis Report echo the large existing body of evidence on the impacts of cash transfers, showing how these contribute to children's outcomes and families' well-being and resilience:

1. Populations receiving cash transfers show a high propensity to invest in food, with these key results:

- Strong and consistently positive impacts on food expenditure and consumption (purchased and home-grown), resulting in lower stress about food throughout the year.
- A more diverse diet, including more proteins, fruits, vegetables and fats.
- Some positive impacts on infant and young child feeding and on stunting.

2. Households with children that receive cash transfers show a high propensity to invest in education, using cash to pay direct costs (e.g., school fees) and indirect costs (e.g., transport), with these key results:

- Strong impacts on primary enrolment rates, attendance, and reduction of absenteeism and drop-out rates.
- Similar consistent and strong impacts on secondary education.
- Consistent positive effects in grade completion, learning and performance.

3. Populations receiving cash transfers show a moderate propensity to invest in health needs, including HIV/AIDS and reproductive health services:

- The greatest positive impact was on accessing health care and vaccinations, including through the use of health insurance.
- In the few HIV/AIDS and reproductive health cases studied, risky sexual behaviour and transactional sex declined, age of sexual debut increased and adolescent pregnancy rates declined.

4. Populations receiving cash transfers show a high propensity to invest in economically productive activities, with these key results:

- Widespread increase in capital investment in the core economic activity of the household.
- Similarly widespread increase in labour investment in agriculture from both the household and hired sources.
- Agricultural results include both intensification of households' own production and some diversification, with net positive impacts on consumption and/or produce for sale.

programmes in humanitarian and fragile contexts, as in Jordan, Iraq, Nepal, the Philippines and Somalia, further described in the section on social inclusion in humanitarian settings.

Major UNICEF publications in 2015 captured the fruits of these ongoing efforts. UNICEF's Office of Evaluation released a global synthesis of more than 40 UNICEF-supported evaluations of cash transfers, 'Cash Transfer as a Social Protection Intervention: Evidence from UNICEF evaluations 2010–2014',⁹ which was presented to the UNICEF Executive Board in September. The report highlighted proven impacts of cash transfer programmes on a wide set of sectoral outcomes – nutrition and food security, education, health, HIV risk and child protection, economic productivity, resilience and dignity – across a range of country settings and contexts (*see the box on key findings from the report*). The report also

recommended that UNICEF promote the use of cash transfers to enhance results across all Strategic Plan outcome areas and to strengthen programming and evaluation of cash transfers in combination with other social protection programmes and complementary services. This was broadly supported by the Board.

As a leading partner in the Transfer Project,¹⁰ UNICEF continues to work with partners to produce authoritative and cutting-edge evidence on the impacts of cash transfers on children, households and broader economies. According to the Office of Evaluation report, "the evidence coming from the Transfer Project is among the highest [quality] ever produced by UNICEF."¹¹

In 2015, UNICEF's Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office and the Transfer Project released a report on 'Social Cash Transfers and Children's Outcomes: A review of

evidence from Africa'. This report synthesizes the available evidence generated across the continent on the impact of social cash transfer on poverty reduction, making the case for social cash transfers as an effective policy and programme response to address social and economic vulnerability in Africa. In 2016, the Transfer Project plans to cover additional countries from other regions and conduct evaluations of initiatives that combine cash with other programmes and services.

In the context of SDG implementation and monitoring, UNICEF is also contributing to improving global data collection on social protection. UNICEF has been pilot-testing a module for eventual inclusion in household surveys such as MICS and Demographic and Health Surveys, to improve household- and child-level data collection on social protection coverage. In 2015, this module was pilot-tested as a stand-alone survey in Zimbabwe and Viet Nam, and then field-tested in Belize as part of the broader MICS questionnaire.

Leaving no one behind: Social protection in humanitarian and fragile contexts: The commitment to expand social protection coverage, under SDG target 1.3, must include humanitarian and fragile contexts, if we are to leave no one behind. There are massive gaps in these contexts, and great potential to achieve better results for children, adolescents and women by using social protection systems to address both chronic and acute needs. Recognizing this, UNICEF has rapidly expanded its work on social protection in fragile and conflict-affected contexts and ensuring social protection is better prepared and able to respond to shocks.

In 2015, UNICEF worked with governments to help them develop and strengthen social protection systems in fragile and conflict-affected areas such as Burundi, Somalia, South Sudan and the State of Palestine. In Afghanistan, UNICEF supported the Government by developing a social protection strategy and a cash transfer pilot targeting the poorest households with children younger than 10 years old.

After conflict led Yemen to suspend key social protection programmes, UNICEF launched an unconditional cash transfer to cover the basic needs of some of the most affected and poorest households in the country. As of the end of 2015, UNICEF had reached more than 11,000 households. The programme builds on existing social protection mechanisms for its implementation, involving social welfare staff at district level in targeting, registration, and complaint and appeal mechanisms. Using existing mechanisms has been crucial to ensuring the system's resilience, preventing total collapse of existing structures, and laying the groundwork for recovery when the conflict abates.

UNICEF has also been working with government counterparts to equip social protection systems to respond faster and more nimbly when crises occur. In 2015, 85 UNICEF country offices (56 per cent) reported that they responded to a humanitarian situation (an increase of more than 10 per cent compared with 2014). Half of these countries also reported that they supported their government counterparts in incorporating emergency prevention, preparedness and response in their social protection systems and programmes. Another 35 country offices (41 per cent) reported that they used humanitarian situations as windows of opportunity to promote building more sustainable social protection systems or to improve the system already in place. For example, in response to the two powerful earthquakes in Nepal, UNICEF supported the Government to provide an emergency top-up cash transfer to beneficiaries of the existing social assistance programmes in the 19 most severely affected districts and is now supporting the Government to develop a more robust social protection system that is better able to respond to future disasters (*see more details in the section below on social inclusion in humanitarian contexts*).

UNICEF has been working with partners to identify ways to integrate internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees into existing social protection systems. The UNICEF country office in Lebanon has been supporting the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to provide free education up to Grade 9 for all children in public schools – regardless of whether the children are Lebanese. This ensures that school registration, parents' fund fees, and the cost of schoolbooks and stationery are covered. The office also assessed the feasibility of a new cash grant to address the barriers Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian children face in accessing education.

Challenges and constraints

The continued momentum of social protection in low- and middle-income countries and the political commitment to expanding the coverage of social protection systems reflected in the new SDG target represent enormous opportunities for improving the lives of children. Nonetheless, these opportunities also bring challenges.

The first is the need to increase capacity at the local and national levels to match the ambition of these commitments. Despite substantial progress, a relatively small number of countries have strong capacity to deliver and finance social protection systems. Capacity gaps vary according to different contexts, but include a need for greater coordination across ministries and sectors, insufficient numbers of trained social welfare workers, insufficient training of local government officials and programme implementers, and specific technical needs –



Arzu, 10 years old, goes to Mushvig, a day-care centre for children and young people with disabilities in Garadagh, a town about one hour's drive from the Azerbaijan capital of Baku.

UNICEF is working closely with the Government of Azerbaijan and civil society partners to create an effective legal and social framework for better care and protection of children with disabilities based on the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

for instance, in designing cash transfers, monitoring and evaluation, or setting up grievance mechanisms.

The second challenge is the massive gap in coverage in fragile and humanitarian contexts – often greatest among those most in need. In an environment that changes constantly because of factors such as migration and displacement (across and within borders), climate change and political destabilization, national governments and international partners face new challenges in developing sustainable social protection approaches. These challenges are technical, operational and sometimes political.

Fragile and humanitarian contexts magnify all of the capacity issues highlighted above, and add to that many other issues, such as the need for closer links between humanitarian and development actors, political sensitivities regarding the inclusion of specific populations, and the need for different delivery modalities due to security or health risks. This is an evolving field of knowledge, practice and experimentation, and demand for support is high. Working closely with partners at the national and international levels, UNICEF is a leading actor in this area. At the same time, UNICEF is still working to strengthen its own capacity and knowledge.

In responding to these external challenges, UNICEF faces some internal constraints. Social protection is the largest programming expenditure area within social inclusion, and includes a significant portion dedicated to work in humanitarian contexts. UNICEF is frequently a partner of choice at the country level. But demand for UNICEF support is in danger of outstripping the organization's total financial and human resource capacity. Leveraging UNICEF's existing capacity, relationships and support into greater progress and results for children will require additional investment.

The third challenge is the paucity of data on access to affordable, quality childcare. Only one third of countries report on this. For many programme countries, the main source of data is the MICS indicator on access to early childhood development services, including childcare.

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

Headline results

The cornerstones for all actions for – and with – children and adolescents are the CRC, which in 2015 almost

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reached universal status, and its Optional Protocols; the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Over the past two years of the Strategic Plan, UNICEF's advocacy led more countries to ratify these key human rights treaties for children.

UNICEF continued to strengthen its technical assistance to put these treaties into practice, by assisting State parties in their efforts to fulfil their reporting obligations – essential for monitoring, accountability and setting priorities – and to implement the concluding observations made by the treaty bodies.

UNICEF's work yielded significant results in 2015. For example, up to 84 per cent of the countries have reported on the existence of laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, ethnicity, disability and/or religious affiliation. To support the reduction of equity gaps, UNICEF country offices have increasingly made indigenous issues a priority in multi-year country programmes and action plans. For example, UNICEF Ecuador's Country Programme Action Plan (2015–2018) includes indigenous peoples' rights as a cross-cutting issue.

Strengthening accountability mechanisms for children's rights is a central part of the Strategic Plan – and an important component of the new development agenda. Country offices are increasingly reporting on how they are helping to establish and strengthen independent human rights institutions for children, as a key mechanism for not only monitoring child rights on the ground, but also helping children have a voice and access to remedies when their rights are violated. For example, UNICEF Uganda, in cooperation with the Norwegian National Committee, successfully advocated for the establishment of an Ombudsperson for Children.

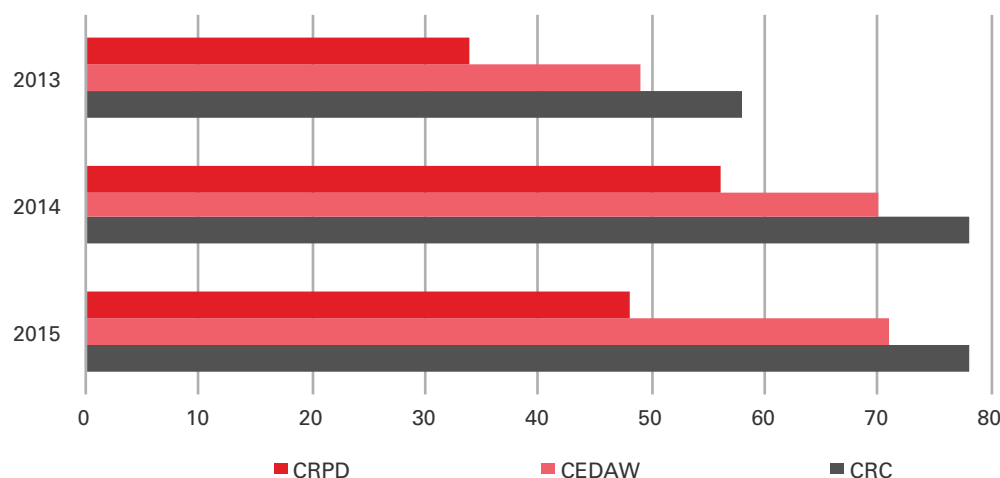
In 2014–2015, UNICEF's continued efforts to address discrimination through social change at the community level also led to strategic positioning and technical leadership for social mobilization and community engagement as part of the Ebola response.

Brief outline of programme area

With human rights and equity as a foundation of UNICEF's mandate, the Programme Area of human rights, non-discrimination and participation includes support for the practical implementation of human rights norms and standards.

FIGURE 6

Percentage of countries that revised their legislative framework following treaty bodies' concluding observations



Source: Strategic Monitoring Questions 2013–2014–2015.

This means addressing the gap between international standards and the measures taken at the national level that lead to inequitable results, including by improving governance, making better policies and providing better services. UNICEF helps countries strengthen national mechanisms to improve State accountability, make it easier for State and non-State actors to access information, and provide meaningful ways for children and adolescents to participate.

2015 results in detail

Work related to international human rights

instruments: Continued advocacy and technical assistance for ratification of the CRC, CRPD and CEDAW is an important element of UNICEF's efforts to advance children's rights. In 2015:

- Two long-awaited CRC ratifications took place, in Somalia and South Sudan, bringing the total number of States parties to 196 – just one United Nations Member State short of universal ratification;
- Three States ratified Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict,¹² bringing the total number of ratifications to 162;
- Two States¹³ ratified the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, bringing the total number of States parties to 171;
- Eight States¹⁴ ratified the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a Communications Procedure, which had 22 States parties by the end of the year;
- CEDAW gained one ratification,¹⁵ and has now been ratified by 189 States; while
- CRPD ended the year with 160 States parties, having gained 9.¹⁶

UNICEF continues to actively assist countries in their efforts to fulfil their CRC obligations, including monitoring and reporting on their progress in realizing the rights of children. UNICEF supported States parties in preparing and submitting the periodic progress reports required by the CRC, and provided information and views to the Committee for 21 out of 22 programme countries reviewed in 2015. These efforts enabled the Committee to make feasible and useful recommendations to States to accelerate progress in implementing all aspects of the Convention.

Country offices also helped governments and NGOs report on the CRPD, and relayed UNICEF's concerns and priorities to the CRPD Committee for 7 out of 10 programme countries reviewed, and for the European

Union. For example, Kazakhstan ratified the CRPD in February, 2015 and convened inter-sectoral consultations to establish baselines for implementing the CRC. UNICEF supported a national survey on the rights and quality of life of children with disabilities, which informed the Kazakhstan National Plan for the Rights and Quality of Life of Persons with Disabilities.

In most programme countries undergoing the Universal Periodic Review process, UNICEF contributed to joint United Nations Country Team efforts to support government reporting and provide United Nations information to the review. UNICEF also began to overhaul its current guidance to country offices and national committees on treaty body reporting.

UNICEF also plays a leading role in helping governments implement the recommendations issued by treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review process on child rights, by incorporating them in legislation, policy and administrative guidance, as well as programmes. Country offices report offering more support to the legal reforms countries make in response to CRC concluding observations (104 country offices), CEDAW (89 country offices) and CRPD (38 country offices). This shows that the treaty body reporting processes have been used not only as an opportunity to monitor progress of implementation and set national priorities, but also to define programmatic support.

UNICEF also provides technical support for the development of General Comments by the CRC, CRPD and CEDAW Committees, to further assist countries in implementing these obligations. General Comments are authoritative interpretations of the provisions of the Conventions, made by the relevant treaty body, and can be used as guiding tools for State parties. In 2015, UNICEF assisted the CRC Committee with work on two General Comments: on the rights of adolescents and on public spending to realize children's rights. UNICEF's support for the latter included technical advice, coordination with partners, and global and regional consultations with experts and relevant stakeholders. For the General Comment on adolescents, UNICEF convened consultations with groups of experts on adolescence as well as with adolescents themselves. Both General Comments are expected to be adopted by the CRC Committee in 2016.

To support the General Comment on adolescents and as part of advocacy with governments, UNICEF developed an 'Adolescent Assessment Card' that proposes a set of indicators to measure and track adolescent development and well-being. These indicators form the basis of an advocacy tool that can be used at the national, regional and global levels to define priorities, support advocacy, focus action, strengthen accountability and mobilize

resources for the adolescent agenda. The assessment card will be tested in a number of countries during 2016, including Brazil, Morocco and Zambia.

UNICEF also took part in the early stages of the development of a joint General Comment between the CRC and the Committee on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families, on the rights of children in the context of migration. This work will guide discussions and policymaking in the context of the current refugee and migrant crisis in Europe and other contexts.

Building on current work in inclusive education, UNICEF also supported the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in producing their respective General Comments on education.

With regard to the right of children with disabilities to education, UNICEF has been involved in several key areas to support the implementation of the CRPD from a global- and country-level perspective. For example, UNICEF supported the day of general discussion on CRPD article 24, which deals with education, hosted by the Committee in April 2015, and also facilitated collaboration and joint work between the CRC and CRPD committees. In 2015, UNICEF supported the Parliament of Armenia to approve amendments to the Law on General Education, requiring that 'special schools' for children with disabilities be transformed into inclusive educational support centres, in line with the CRPD.

To support the Strategic Plan's equity focus as well as to inform and support the monitoring of SDGs, there is an urgent strategic need for countries to strengthen their capacity to collect, analyse, use and disseminate data on children with disabilities in a manner that is accurate and comparable across different settings, countries, and populations. Responding to demand for technical assistance and to strengthen local Statistical Offices' capacities, UNICEF headquarters collaborated with external partners have to develop a data collection tool to assess child disability, called the Child Functioning module. In addition, a series of trainings and regional workshops on the measurement of child disability was undertaken in 2015.

UNICEF is also a key implementer of the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities¹⁷ (UNPRPD) projects at the country level, either leading or partnering to help implement 15 out of the current 21 country projects. These include projects in China, India, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda and Viet Nam, and a regional project on disability in the Pacific region. These engagements have enabled UNICEF to achieve results for children with disabilities in areas including data and statistics, inclusive education and early childhood development.

Strengthened accountability measures for children:

Strengthening accountability mechanisms for children's rights remains central to UNICEF's work and will play a key role in putting the new development agenda into practice. Country progress in increasing public engagement in national and local development agendas is described in greater detail in the Governance section.

National human rights institutions or ombudspersons are important mechanisms to support accountability and implement child rights on the ground. They can monitor the actions of governments and other entities, receive complaints, provide remedies for violations, and offer a space for dialogue about children in society and between children and the State. UNICEF is working to establish or strengthen such institutions in a number of countries:

- In Morocco, the Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme is collaborating with UNICEF to create and support a training module in the new training centre, which will enable all field-based staff to identify, report and alert others about child rights violations.
- In Peru, UNICEF helped build the capacity of the Ombudsman's Office to generate evidence on various issues related to child rights, and to increase the coverage of their unique protection service specializing in children's issues within the municipal sphere.
- UNICEF Kyrgyzstan provided technical assistance to the Government in implementing the Universal Periodic Review recommendations, including by amending the Law on the Ombudsman to align with international standards and comply with the Paris Principles.

UNICEF has also worked on various adolescent-led measures and tools to strengthen governments' accountability on child rights. For example, media networks and community radios in Indonesia and Nepal provide space for young people to discuss the status of schools and social services. In countries including Jordan, adolescents' participation in local governance has influenced local government plans and helped hold local governments accountable for delivering services for children and adolescents.

Youth innovation labs in Kosovo* and elsewhere allow adolescents to design their own solutions for social impact. Country offices including Uganda and Zambia are using U-Report to hear the voices of adolescents and use this real-time data to influence policies. While various measures and tools have been tested and used across countries, UNICEF needs to take stock of these initiatives, examining the lessons learned and good practices.

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

Promoting meaningful adolescent participation:

Promoting the meaningful and inclusive participation of children and adolescents involves interventions that support their engagement in consultative policy, planning, implementation, budgeting and legislative development processes at the national and sub-national levels.

This can take various forms – such as putting in place platforms through which children can engage directly with decision makers, or supporting children and adolescents to carry out effective advocacy to promote child rights. In 2015, there was a reported 11 per cent increase (from 61 per cent to 72 per cent) in efforts by UNICEF and government counterparts to ensure that children and adolescents define issues and priorities to feed into the development agendas at the local, sub-national and national levels.

In Brazil, for example, adolescent citizenship groups were established to influence public policy related to child rights, and 22,000 adolescents across 800 municipalities participated in the development of municipal action plans in line with local needs and priorities. In Montenegro, platforms were established to engage the most vulnerable adolescents (i.e., Ashkali and Roma youth) in municipal decision-making processes and train them in non-formal advocacy. The youth subsequently led six advocacy actions.

Adolescent-focused communication for development initiatives also demonstrated positive results after mobilizing adolescent networks through discussions of tolerance, identity and diversity. In Côte d'Ivoire, for example, UNICEF's Peace Messenger Clubs engaged 5,000 adolescents from 30 schools who had been child combatants and were subsequently dismissed from their schools for in-school attacks and disruptive behaviour. Club activities included conflict management training, participatory video and participatory theatre, which facilitated their transformation into agents of peace.

The systematic 'Most Significant Change' evaluation technique analysed more than 60 open-ended independent reports from adolescent participants, revealing significant impact. The most significant changes reported by the adolescents included improved motivation (28 per cent), commitment to being a role model in daily life (20 per cent), meaningful engagement in the Peace Club (16 per cent), active promotion of peace in the wider community (18 per cent), increased tolerance (10 per cent), acceptance of others (10 per cent), increased inner peace (10 per cent), increased consciousness (8 per cent) and better behaviour in school (8 per cent).

In partnership with the private sector, UNICEF also launched a six-country initiative to promote the adolescent agenda that focused on empowering adolescents through skills-building and civic engagement. This initiative engaged adolescents in countries including Indonesia,

Montenegro and the Philippines on issues related to drivers of conflict, tolerance, disaster risk reduction, identity and diversity.

Addressing discriminatory social-cultural practices and norms:

Building on its work to create spaces that allow children, adolescents and communities to voice their opinions, UNICEF helps mobilize media, opinion leaders and civil society organizations to not only influence decision makers, but also change personal, community-level and public perceptions, attitudes and practices that contribute to discrimination or stigma. In several countries, UNICEF worked in 2015 to advance more nuanced research on children facing discrimination and exclusion from services – e.g., children with disabilities (Montenegro), abused children (Sudan) and children denied polio vaccines (Afghanistan and Nigeria).

The government of Montenegro, with UNICEF support, developed a strategy of support system reform with a drive to simultaneously remove barriers and increase demand for inclusion through Communication for Development. Research has shown that attitudes towards children with disabilities have improved drastically since 2010, when UNICEF began its work to reduce stigma and discrimination under the 'It's About Ability' campaign, following a baseline public survey on knowledge attitudes and practice. In 2015, 76 per cent of citizens accept that a child with disability can attend the same class as their child, compared with only 35 per cent in 2010. Research was made possible through global long-term agreements with a number of academic institutions, using pre-vetted communication for development expertise to address the complex social norms underlying harmful practices, discrimination and social exclusion.

UNICEF used multiple platforms to mobilize young people in Central, Eastern, Southern and Western Africa to address a range of development challenges. In Uganda, interventions including radio programmes, listenership groups, and youth engagement in community dialogue and participatory theatre addressed youth unemployment, marginalization and grievances about young people's roles in families and communities. This helped transform young people's roles and develop their life skills. Participating adolescents highlighted that they became more involved in constructive peer groups, community action, peer learning and collaboration with community leaders on issues relating to youth.

UNICEF offices in Latin America and the Caribbean, East Asia and the Pacific, South Asia, and West and Central Africa have focused on the discrimination and exclusion faced by indigenous children, as a priority issue under the equity agenda. Interventions aim to improve indigenous peoples' access to quality and culturally appropriate basic services, and work together with indigenous networks and other actors to build capacity and strengthen

participation around indigenous peoples' rights and children's rights. Offices are also undertaking research and analysis – including disaggregated data collection and systematic analysis of bottlenecks and barriers (through the Monitoring Results for Equity System) – to identify the most vulnerable children and communities, assess their situation, and inform evidence-based policies and programmes that address these obstacles and meet the needs of indigenous children and communities.

At the regional level, the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office and country offices in the Amazonian countries have been elaborating a 'Strategy to build resilience and address discrimination and exclusion of Children in the Amazon basin, 2016–2023'. As part of this, UNICEF Ecuador is planning to support a programme in Amazonian provinces that aims to reduce indigenous children's and adolescents' exclusion from the education system; create protective environments, free from violence; reduce malnutrition and maternal and neonatal mortality; and empower indigenous children, families and communities to monitor and demand accountability on children's rights.

Global action on human rights, non-discrimination and participation: UNICEF continues to support various aspects of the social inclusion human rights agenda through strategic global-level contributions and partnerships.

For example, with the new 2030 Agenda calling not only for sustainable development, but also greater equity, UNICEF continues to advocate to recognize children as critical agents of change. The forthcoming United Nations High Level Committee on Programmes Positioning Paper on 'Equality and Non-Discrimination at the Heart of Sustainable Development', which UNICEF helped develop, will serve as the basis for a system-wide framework for action on inequalities and discrimination that is fully grounded in the United Nations' normative standards and universally applicable for all SDGs in all countries.

UNICEF has also been working closely with a range of partners to ensure that the SDGs include persons with disabilities, by hosting online consultations, developing briefing papers and advocating on the subject.

At the first-ever Assistive Products for Children with Disabilities event, hosted by the UNICEF Supply Division, governments, partners, leading disability advocates and NGOs convened to examine the global supply gap in assistive devices and identify ways to reverse long-standing deficiencies. This internal collaboration between UNICEF's Programme and Supply Divisions has also helped make UNICEF's Education in Emergency kits more accessible and inclusive. It has also led to a detailed review of supplies from a point of view of accessibility and universal design and to development of tools and

resources on promoting accessibility in premises and programme-related construction.

UNICEF has also taken the lead in making children with disabilities visible during crisis and emergencies at the global level. As a co-chair of the working group on disability-inclusive humanitarian action in the United Nations Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UNICEF has engaged in the World Humanitarian Summit consultations, the Secretary-General's Report and the special session on disability at the World Humanitarian Summit itself. UNICEF successfully advocated for children with disabilities to be explicitly mentioned in the Security Council resolution on children and armed conflict, adopted in June 2015. This helped initiate a high-level dialogue about children with disabilities in times of crisis, and how their situation can be addressed; there will be follow-up in 2016.

UNICEF also engaged in the development of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan to achieving the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including by identifying concrete ways to support the operationalization of the SDGs as they relate to indigenous peoples.

With an eye to promoting a child rights and equity-focused approach in the wider social accountability community of practice, UNICEF continued its active engagement in the Global Partnership for Social Accountability (housed at the World Bank). Among other things, it promoted a stronger child focus by developing a case study presented at the Global Partnership for Social Accountability annual forum in May 2015 in Washington, D.C., focusing on the role of U-Report in helping to protect children going to and from school across northern Nigeria. With the partnership's secretariat, the team is also exploring the prospect of launching calls for child-rights focused proposals to be funded by the partnership. Finally, it is collaborating with the 2030 Agenda team in the Public Partnerships Division on providing key inputs on social accountability and the SDGs at the May 2016 Global Partnership for Social Accountability Global Forum.

UNICEF also developed an international social inclusion media prize, in partnership with the International Central Institute for Youth and Educational Television, which stages the bi-annual Prix Jeunesse Film Festival and award for the best socially conscious television programmes for children. This is designed to reward media producers and stimulate national television broadcasting that will help to make children aware of – and encourage them to reject – discrimination and exclusion; ensure that marginalized children and adolescents are seen and heard; and celebrate diversity and acceptance of those with differences.

Of the approximately 400 films received, more than 50 were submitted for the UNICEF prize, including features

on refugee and migrant children, ethnic minorities and children with disabilities. Production of films such as these will be promoted annually to stimulate media products that raise awareness of the rights of excluded groups, demonstrate how marginalized children can rise above the challenges they face to become positive agents of change in their communities, and encourage societies to reject discrimination and exclusion.

Challenges and constraints

Despite widespread ratification of the CRC and continued ratification of other key international human rights instruments important for children, including the CRPD and CEDAW, in some areas, including in humanitarian and conflict situations, mechanisms are still lacking to translate commitments into effective action.

For example, the lack of global standards and indicators for civic engagement and participation makes it hard to measure impact of national-level initiatives and to advance progress based on evidence. Further research is needed in this area. Also, there is still a need for stakeholders at all levels to work together to clarify disability concepts and terms, especially the internationally accepted human rights-based approach to disability, and its definition, and illustrate how they are to be put into practice. A multidisciplinary approach to realizing the rights of children with disabilities and their families is essential and would lead to stronger dialogue between ministers and sectors within countries. A mechanism to coordinate between sectors is needed, as no single sector can be held accountable by itself for putting the international conventions into practice.

Conflict situations and political unrest increasingly strain and restrict local media environments in several countries, like Burundi and South Sudan, which carried out UNICEF-

Implementing the rights agenda towards equity for children with disabilities in Viet Nam

With the ratification of the CRPD in November 2014, the Government of Viet Nam strongly committed itself to implement the CRC in 2015. UNICEF Viet Nam has worked with key partners such as the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs; the Ministry of Education and Training; the Ministry of Health; and organizations focused on helping disabled people on a number of fronts:

- With UNICEF advocacy and technical support, in October 2015 the Prime Minister approved the **establishment of a National Committee on Persons with Disabilities**. This inter-sectoral mechanism, which includes vice ministers from key ministries and representatives of organizations focused on helping disabled people and mass organizations, promises to provide stronger coordination and cooperation between sectors on disability-related work, which will make programmes and interventions for children and adults with disabilities in Viet Nam more efficient and effective.
- UNICEF provided technical support to the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, including by holding consultative meetings with representatives of concerned line ministries and organizations for disabled people to coordinate the development of a **national inter-sectoral plan for CRPD implementation**. The current draft outlines clear goals, objectives, priorities and responsibilities for various sectors and agencies involved in implementing the CRPD. The draft plan prioritizes strengthening legislation in line with the CRPD (e.g., developing the sub-law paper used for guiding the implementation of inclusive education for children with disabilities); communication activities to raise public awareness on the rights of children and adults with disabilities; and enforcing relevant laws and policies to ensure the rights of children and adults with disabilities. The draft plan is currently being finalized and is expected to be submitted to the Government in the second quarter of 2016.
- Support was also provided to the **Viet Nam Federation on Disability**, an NGO and the lead civil organization representing adults and children with disabilities in Viet Nam. The federation coordinates efforts of NGOs in the area of disability, helps strengthen the capacity of persons with disabilities and their associations, and supports persons with disabilities to better integrate into communities. UNICEF Viet Nam has assisted the federation with the development of its organizational strategy for advocating and monitoring the implementation of policies, legislation and programmes that promote the rights of children with disabilities.

Together with other development partners, UNICEF continues to play an important role in advocacy and substantive technical support to make the rights of people with disabilities a reality in Viet Nam.



A young boy stands at the doorstep of his house in the village of Adone, in Saravane Province, Lao People's Democratic Republic. The UNICEF Country Office worked with the Ministry of Health to estimate medium-term budget needs (2014–2017), which led to new funding for vaccines and nutrition commodities along with additional allocations to close key health gaps in southern provinces.

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supported interventions focused on communication, participation and social accountability. For example, the socio-political crisis in Burundi resulted in attacks on the country's four main independent radio stations, which then closed, and required work to ensure the security of children involved in media and social media advocacy. To make sure children's voices were not silenced during this period, UNICEF negotiated air time on one of the national public broadcast stations.

Within UNICEF, initiatives may be fragmented, with different approaches to young people's engagement and participation. To address this, UNICEF headquarters conducted a mapping of country office work and drafted a global adolescent and youth engagement strategy that will be refined as a part of the wider organizational effort to position UNICEF as a leader in facilitating children's citizenship and developing mechanisms for their participation in planning and monitoring.

PROGRAMME AREA 3: PUBLIC FINANCE FOR CHILDREN

Headline results

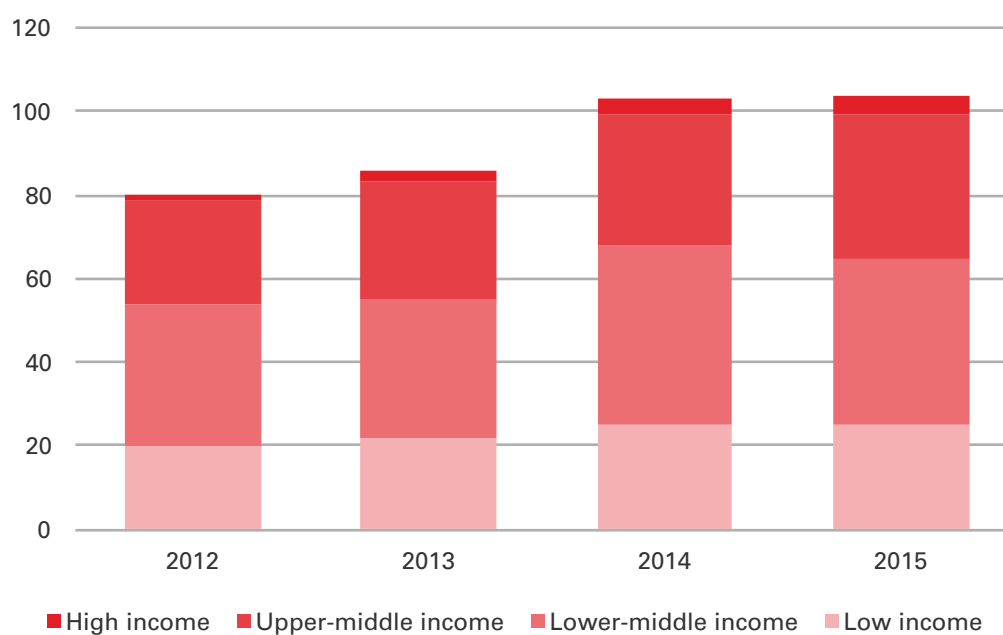
UNICEF supports an increasing number of governments in gearing their budgeting and spending towards achieving child-focused objectives – especially to reach the most disadvantaged children – and making them more transparent to promote financial accountability.

UNICEF's public finance for children programme activity gained greater scope and depth in 2015. Work at the country level continues to expand (*see Figure 7*). More than 100 country offices are now engaged, a 30 per cent increase since 2012. Contrary to popular perceptions, public finance for children is most common in the poorest contexts: 63 per cent of country offices with active programmes are in low- or lower-middle income countries. This includes 21 of the 36 countries that are part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, demonstrating the importance of UNICEF's work on budgets in low resource contexts.

More public finance for children programme activity has brought greater results for children (*see Figure 8*). More country offices undertook public finance for children interventions that directly improved the transparency and quality of public resources intended for children (25 and 20 offices, respectively), while the number of initiatives that increased spending on child-focused programmes

FIGURE 7

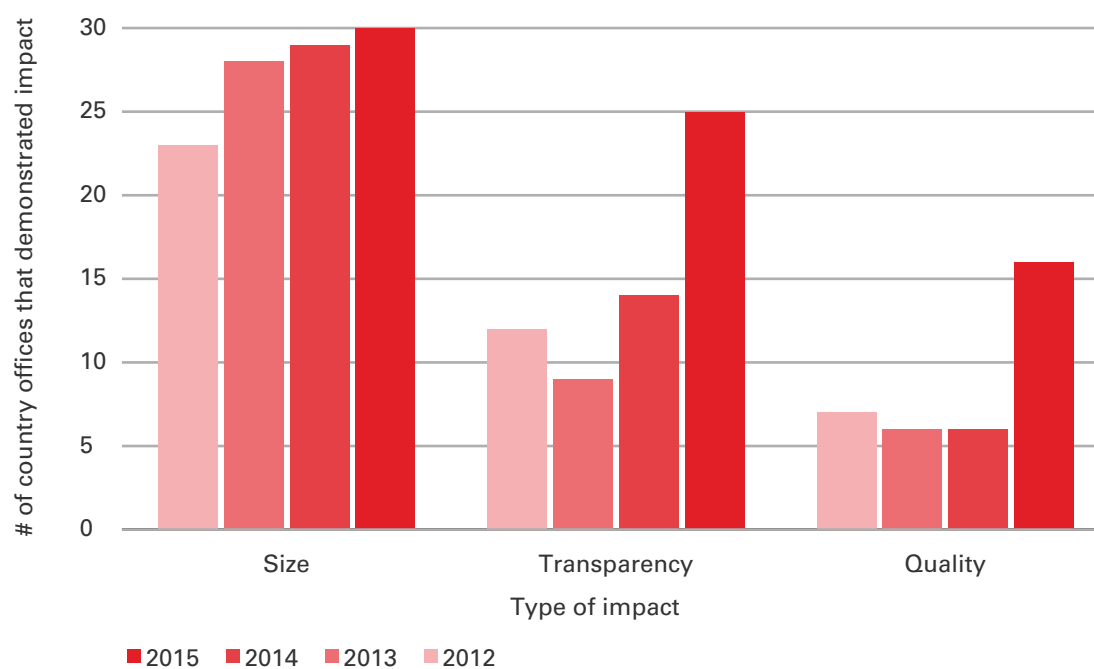
Country offices engaged in public finance for children, 2012–2015



Source: UNICEF Country Office Annual Reports and Results Assessment Module indicators.

FIGURE 8

Impact of public finance for children programmes, 2012–2015



Source: UNICEF Country Office Annual Reports (COARs) and Results Assessment Module (RAM) indicators.

also remained high (30 country offices). These results are encouraging, as public finance for children programmes require planning over several years, and it takes time for interventions to have an impact – for instance, evidence and advocacy in one year are only able to influence the budget in the following fiscal year.

During 2015, UNICEF headquarters continued to support the systemization and effectiveness of field PF4C efforts through: (i) results-based programming and technical guidance; (ii) data analytics tools; (iii) enhanced staff knowledge of public financial management through development of a staff learning programme and facilitation of regional workshops; (iv) global partnerships with the World Bank on public expenditure measurement and with the IMF on safeguarding spending on essential services; and (v) enabling political environment, working with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Human Rights Council and on follow-up to the Addis Agenda for Action on Financing for Development.

A particular focus this year was leading the development of a methodology for measuring child-focused public expenditure (C-PEM), building on approaches already in use in many Latin American countries. Collaborators for this effort include the World Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, with technical inputs from ODI, IMF, Open Budget Partnership and others. The methodology will be field tested in 2016 in India, Finland, the United Republic of Tanzania, and possibly Ethiopia. The social inclusion team provided technical leadership to develop and field test a global methodology for measuring child protection spending, filling a critical data gap.

Brief outline of programme area

UNICEF's strategic approach to making budgets work better for children focuses on generating evidence on the budget, engaging in budgetary frameworks and processes, and monitoring budget implementation. Core interventions include child-focused budget analysis and costing, which were carried out in 44 and 20 country offices, respectively, during 2015 (see Figure 9).

UNICEF also works with government counterparts, including finance, planning and line ministries, to design plans and budgets that address the needs of children. In 2015, 70 country offices provided technical assistance or training to ensure that initiatives like Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, national development plans and sector plans are child focused and linked to budgets, while 58 country offices helped develop annual budgets and Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks with a child lens.

2015 results in detail

Country office activities in 2015 showcased the results that can be achieved when UNICEF persistently engages in public finance for children.

*Towards adequate, equitable and transparent public investments in children*¹⁸ Making children visible in public finance decisions requires open and transparent budget information and processes. Many UNICEF country offices tried to understand the size of the government's financial commitment to children, while promoting the meaningful participation of child rights advocates across the budget cycle, including:

- In Mozambique, UNICEF produced budget briefs covering the education, health and social protection sectors, influencing national debates on budget allocations.
- In Zimbabwe, UNICEF's Child-Friendly National Budget Initiative supported the participation of children in budget processes, which included developing a comic book, 'Our needs, Our Budget', to educate children about budgeting concepts and help them engage.
- In the Dominican Republic, UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Finance to produce the first-ever study of child-focused public investments; these efforts made monitoring and reporting of spending on children routine, and strengthened the case for increasing overall investments towards the Latin American average (from 3.6 per cent of gross domestic product in 2014 to the regional benchmark of 6.0 per cent of gross domestic product).
- In Argentina, UNICEF facilitated the involvement of 34,000 adolescents in participatory budget mechanisms and contributed to increasing public investments in children in five provinces over the 2007–2014 period.

Because there is often a gross mismatch between children's needs and allocated funds, UNICEF advocates for increased resources and proactively engages in public financial management processes:

- In Malawi, UNICEF supported a review of how funds were being spent in the education and health sectors, along with an analysis of the Government's multi-year budget plans from a child perspective. The resulting findings fuelled successful advocacy to protect social sector funding during public sector reform processes, and helped secure the first-ever budget allocations for early childhood development.

- In Zambia, UNICEF provided technical assistance to develop comprehensive budget proposals for cash transfers, which led to a doubling of the size of the national scheme in fiscal year 2016.
- The UNICEF Country Office in Lao People's Democratic Republic worked with the Ministry of Health to estimate medium-term budget needs (2014–2017), which led to new funding for vaccines and nutrition commodities along with additional allocations to close key health gaps in southern provinces.
- In Mexico, UNICEF's ongoing work with the Ministry of Finance on measuring child-focused expenditures ensured that spending on child-

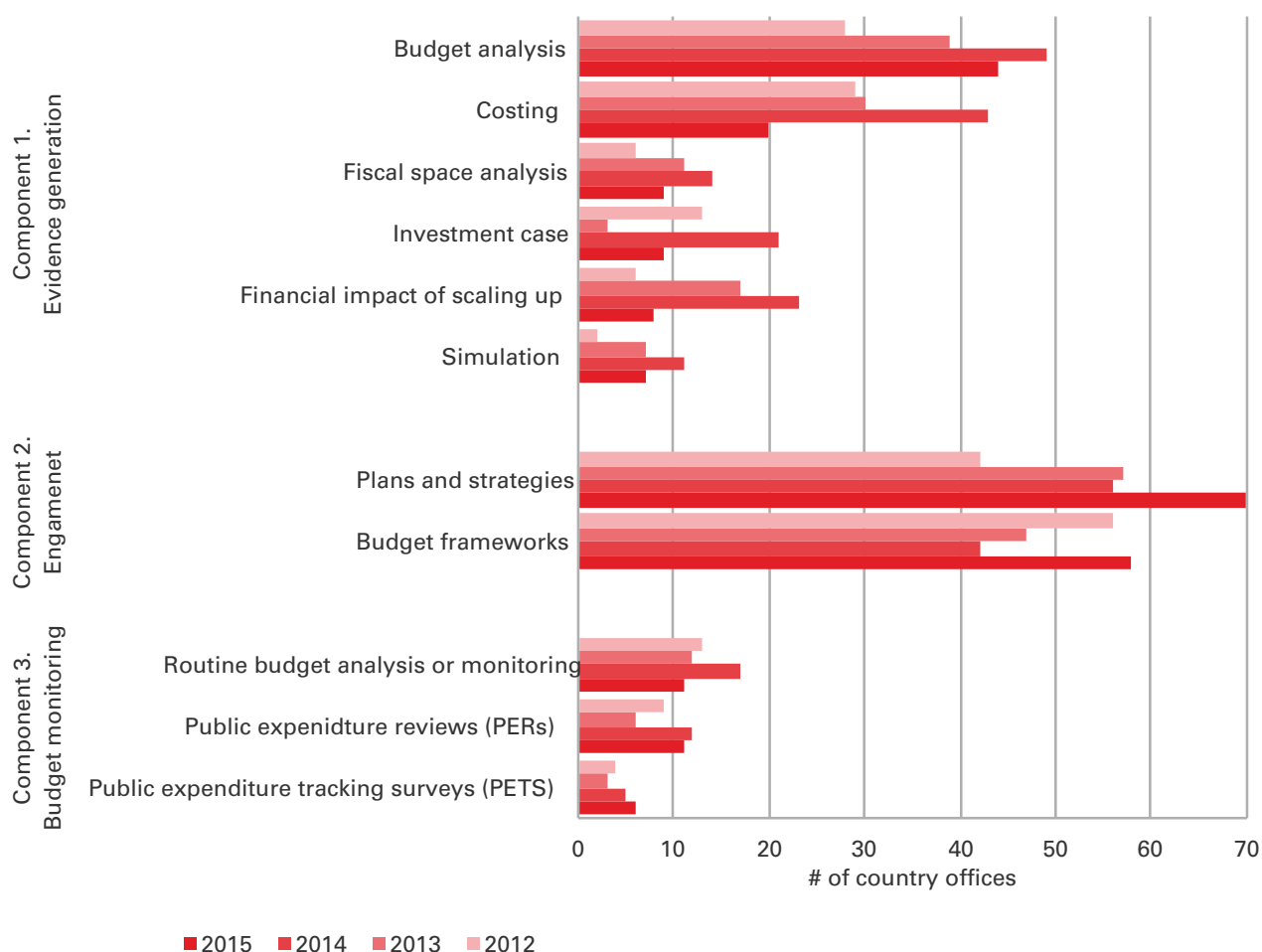
focused programmes was ring-fenced when planned budget cuts were announced.

Public finance for children interventions demonstrated steady progress in narrowing equity gaps in service delivery, between both geographic areas and population groups, including:

- In Namibia, UNICEF's advocacy around the findings from a simulation of tax reforms contributed to the Government's decision to allocate an additional US\$6.7 million to the child grant programme in fiscal year 2015.
- UNICEF Thailand, together with Thammasat University, commissioned a study to track the

FIGURE 9

Public finance for children interventions, 2012–2015



Source: UNICEF Country Office Annual Reports (COARs) and Results Assessment Module (RAM) indicators.

flow of public resources to schools from an efficiency and equity perspective; the findings led decision makers to reconsider key design issues, including targeting mechanisms and quotas for budget allocations for schools.

- In China, analyses of public expenditures in the child protection and education sectors led to a new spending target on 'balanced and equitable' compulsory education, which promotes equity across regions in quality, free basic education services for all children, including those of migrants.
- UNICEF Romania supported a study on the 'Cost of Scaling Up the Minimum Package of Integrated Services', which led the Ministry of Health to increase the number of community nurses by 30 per cent and leverage a European Union project valued at 44 million euros to scale up nursing home visits; both helped reduce geographical disparities in the provision of health services.
- In South Africa, UNICEF partnered with the Department of Women, Children and People with Disability to undertake a study on the financial and economic cost of disability for households. The study revealed high opportunity and out-of-pocket costs for most households with persons with disabilities (including children with disabilities). The findings of this study will inform the determination of social security benefits and other services targeting people with disabilities.

Thematic funding plays an important role in achieving better results for children. Programmed strategically, even relatively modest funds, can have a catalytic effect in removing crucial bottlenecks and leveraging additional resources for children:

- In Mongolia, UNICEF used part of the thematic funds (US\$140,000) to help the Ministries of Finance and Health revise the allocation formula for primary health care. The revised formula brought about a 4 per cent increase in the budget for primary health-care facilities in fiscal year 2016 compared with the previous year, and a more equitable budget allocation.
- In Paraguay, thematic funds (US\$50,237) were used to work with the Ministry of Finance to develop the first-ever analysis of child-focused expenditures. The Ministry will use this methodology to monitor such expenditures going forward.

- In Kazakhstan, part of the thematic funds (US\$76,000) were used to organize evidence-based advocacy and convince the Government to initiate a public expenditure review of mother and childcare services, and assess the effectiveness of social assistance to families with children.

UNICEF found innovative ways to help countries assess how to best manage public finance to benefit children. To identify budget gaps and advocate for greater and more equitable spending on children, UNICEF headquarters and country offices developed new tools or adapted existing ones and provided technical assistance to governments to undertake investment cases, fiscal space analyses (to find room in a government's budget for increasing resources directed towards child-focused programmes) and simulations (for example, examining the effects of removing fuel subsidies or tax reforms). UNICEF offices also adapted traditional public finance management tools, including Public Expenditure Reviews and Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys, to gauge the performance of resource flows and see how budgets can be implemented better to benefit children. To facilitate the take-up of the tools at the country level, UNICEF headquarters provided targeted technical assistance to select countries and also maintained a PF4C community of practice that is widely used by programme staff working on sectoral issues as well as on social inclusion and policy.

One key effort in 2015 was UNICEF headquarters' work to develop a global methodology for measuring child-focused public expenditure. The collaborative approach, which built on successful efforts by several governments and UNICEF country offices in Latin America, secured partnership with the World Bank's Boost Initiative and the Gates foundation for field testing. In 2015 and 2016, UNICEF continued to provide technical and financial support to the development of the General Comment on public spending for child rights by the UNCRC, and contributed to the endorsement of the resolution on towards better investments in child rights by the HRC. The measurement of child-focused public expenditure will be vital to governments' implementation of the General Comment, to states' periodic reporting on child rights implementation, and to the monitoring of SDG implementation as well as progress towards Financing for Development Commitments.

Monitoring global progress on public finance for children: Despite many positive country-level experiences, reporting on the outcomes of UNICEF's activities on public finance for children remains a challenge. There are significant time lags in countries'

reporting of financial information. For example, some 90 countries do not have any education expenditure information for the past three years. In addition, public finance for children programmes are often implemented over multi-year periods, so the latest aggregate fiscal indicators are more likely to capture UNICEF's past rather than ongoing engagement.

For this year's reporting, we extrapolated the values for education and health spending in 2014 and 2015 based on available data from earlier years; the baseline was also updated (see Figure 10, light red bars). Overall, the percentage of countries that maintained or increased social spending in per capita real terms (i.e., adjusting for inflation) is estimated to be 63.0 in 2015, slightly lower than the baseline period of 2011–2013 (68.6).

This reflects the overall tightening fiscal environment in many of the countries where UNICEF operates, including National Committee countries, and indicates that public finance for children programmes should prioritize evidence generation and advocacy around safeguarding essential spending. However, looking at the share of education and health spending in total government expenditure (see optional indicator, Figure 10, dark red line) suggests

a more positive outcome for UNICEF's public finance for children efforts (60.4 per cent in 2015 compared with the baseline value of 58.3 per cent).

These findings will be revised and updated as new data become available. Looking ahead, the increasingly volatile nature of public finance will continue to challenge rich and poor countries alike, especially natural resource exporters. This underscores the importance of UNICEF's efforts to 'buck the trend' by influencing budgets for children.

Challenges and constraints

As described earlier, major externalities – including the collapse of commodity prices – affected global trends in public spending on social sectors. A diverse set of UNICEF programme countries (including Angola, Chile, Iran, Mexico and Nigeria) were forced to enact austerity measures, which limited the availability of public investments for children. In those contexts, UNICEF public finance for children approaches focused on evidence generation and advocacy around protecting child-focused services from budget cuts as well as making existing spending more efficient.

FIGURE 10

Trends in government expenditure on key social sectors, 2011–2015¹⁸
(in per cent of countries with a positive, annual change)



Source: World Development Indicators, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UISStat) and International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook, extracted on 8 February 2016.

*Based on projected values.

UNICEF Peru: Making children and adolescents visible in the budget and strengthening the case for increased investments

“No child rights without domestic resources” may sound declarative, but Peruvian children just became visible in the public budget thanks to the UNICEF-supported classification of child-focused budget items.

UNICEF, together with a variety of government counterparts, developed a taxonomy that tracks all public expenditure directed at children and adolescents and identifies critical investment gaps. Children and adolescents in Peru benefited from an impressive 10 per cent increase in public spending across child-focused areas in 2014, compared with 2013. At the same time, efficiency improved: budget execution rates increased from 87 per cent in 2013 to 89 per cent in 2014.

More recently, this tool was used by policymakers and substantially influenced the debate on the 2016 Budget Law in Congress. For the first time, the presentation of the grounds for the law included a specific section on public spending for child-related issues.

Source: Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion, Roundtable on Poverty Reduction and UNICEF (2014) *Investing in Children in Peru. A Methodology and Monitoring Framework*. UNICEF Peru Country Office Annual Report and Results Assessment Module (2014 and 2015).

Technical guidance and training in 2016 will focus on budget and fiscal space issues as well as diagnosing inefficiencies during budget implementation. Other important external challenges include limited access to budget information or key finance decision makers, and having to work with weak financial management information systems. Internally, many of the high-level challenges persist from years past, and include ad hoc (rather than systemic) planning of public finance for children programmes, unpredictable financial support and gaps in technical knowledge.

PROGRAMME AREA 4: GOVERNANCE AND DECENTRALIZATION

Headline results

In 2015, UNICEF headquarters undertook a stocktaking exercise to map the organization's engagement in decentralization and local governance. Overall, 96 UNICEF country offices have worked in this area over the past five years. In 2015, 57 country offices reported such initiatives, up from 49 in 2013.

In 2015, most of the work pertained to local government planning, budget and management, and focused in particular on strengthening participatory mechanisms in local development agendas. Country offices used

various approaches, undertaking social accountability initiatives and piloting participatory planning and budgeting processes at the local government level. As a result, in 2015, 72 per cent of programme countries reported that they had participatory mechanisms that allow the most disadvantaged to influence local and national development agendas – up from 59 per cent in 2014, and just exceeding the 2015 target.

UNICEF also works to strengthen inclusive urban governance, often using the child-friendly cities model. In 2015, 15 country offices reported working on such initiatives. Another approach focuses on helping urban municipalities collect and use disaggregated data. In 2015, 55 programme countries with large urban populations produced and utilized – for instance, in priority-setting and in local planning – disaggregated data on the most excluded. This represents an increase from 2014 and approaches the 2015 target (95 per cent).

In 2015, many country offices used COP21 as an opportunity to promote the needs and priorities of children and youth in global and national responses to climate change. In 2015, 53 programme countries had a national policy on climate change or the environment that refers to children. These numbers represent a significant increase over 2014 and exceed the target for 2015 by 139 per cent. Among country offices, 59 per cent report that national policy in at least one of the key sectors (for example, water, health care, education) makes substantial reference to climate change or environmental sustainability.



A Basotho mother and child are part of a group of community members attending UNICEF Lesotho's One Stop Shop service day at the Morija community council, to receive medical and social services and referrals.

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Brief outline of programme area

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

In many countries, local governments, including urban municipalities, are increasingly responsible for a wide range of service delivery functions, and this affects key services for children. UNICEF's engagement in decentralization and local governance is therefore an important part of achieving children's rights at the local level. UNICEF focuses on helping local governments, including urban municipalities, plan consultatively, strengthen administrative procedures and services, and budget equitably.

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

Finally, effective governance for child rights at both the national and local levels also includes an emphasis

on environmental sustainability. UNICEF engages in national policy dialogue and supports implementation of environmental policies – for instance, seeking to mainstream environmental sustainability within local government planning processes.

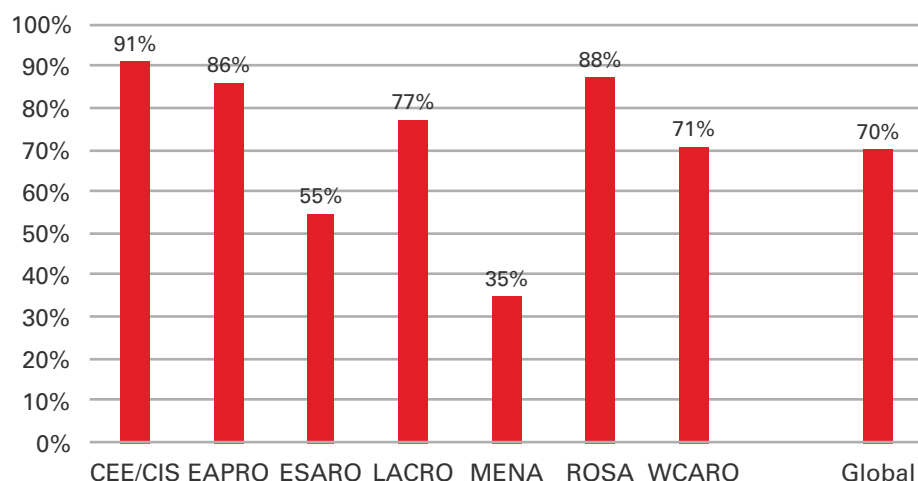
2015 results in detail

Making decentralization and local governance work for children: In 2015, UNICEF headquarters undertook a stocktaking exercise to map its engagement in decentralization and local governance, a relatively new area of work, and develop a Strategic Framework for it. The exercise reviewed UNICEF's engagement over a five-year period (2011–2014) and found strong existing programming in 96 country offices, spanning regions and income levels and including fragile contexts. Offices in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS), East Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, West and Central Africa and South Asia regions particularly emphasize decentralization and local governance, with more than 70 per cent of country offices involved in some type of initiative (see *Figure 11*). In 2015, 57 country offices reported ongoing initiatives.

A key area within decentralization and local governance is supporting public engagement in local government processes to ensure that local development plans and budgets reflect the needs and priorities of the most

FIGURE 11

Country offices working in decentralization and local governance, by region



Source: Stocktake of UNICEF engagement on decentralization and local governance.

disadvantaged, including children. In 2015, more UNICEF country offices (from 59 per cent to 72 per cent) reported that they had mechanisms for public engagement to influence development agendas in local, sub-national or national plans.

In some country offices, this means supporting innovative social accountability mechanisms for children's rights. In Zambia, for example, UNICEF continued to partner with Civil Society for Poverty Reduction, an NGO whose accountability programme tracks expenditures and monitors service delivery in 6 sectors and 10 communities across the country. UNICEF in Burkina Faso also continued its social accountability initiative in 70 rural municipalities. This initiative seeks to promote community-led, bottom-up and demand-driven accountability that can impact budgetary allotments and make spending more effective, efficient and focused on children's rights. An evaluation of this project was initiated in late 2015, with results expected in 2016.

Country offices also support participatory local government planning processes to ensure that local plans reflect the needs of children and their caregivers (see *the box on participatory planning in Bangladesh*). In 2015, a number of country offices worked on pilot initiatives, which will be scaled up nationwide as their success becomes evident.

In Chad, for example, UNICEF helped develop two communal development plans and a regional development plan highlighting the rights of children, particularly of

Participatory planning in Bangladesh

In 2015, UNICEF Bangladesh strengthened the capacity of service providers and communities to identify service gaps, strengthen child-sensitive and participatory local government planning and monitor implementation of plans and services in a participatory manner. As a result, 118 unions prepared Integrated Development plans (2015-16) based on a mapping of available services and resources, a bottleneck analysis, and community priorities voiced during the planning process.

The implementation of these plans is funded through the local government budget. In Sirajgonj district, for example, the mapping and participatory planning process resulted in US\$1.04 million in leveraged funds to respond to identified needs of children. These funds were used, for instance, to renovate class rooms, provide school transport, procure school bags, run a rural ambulance service, and upgrade community health clinics.

the most disadvantaged. Based on these experiences, UNICEF will help produce a model for child-sensitive municipal and regional development plans, aiming to increase local investment and strengthen local government social services for children.

In Tajikistan, UNICEF mainstreamed child rights in local development planning processes in partnership with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. As a result, six pilot districts have designed child-sensitive development plans that address key children's rights issues in these districts. The Ministry is preparing a document reflecting experience in the pilot districts, which will serve as a model for other districts.

Gender equality is an important component of UNICEF's work on participatory local government processes. In 2015, UNICEF continued its support to the Government of Ethiopia in implementing the Integrated Community Based Participatory Planning process, which allows community voices, including those of women, to be heard, and encourages local development plans to reflect the priorities of women and girls.

UNICEF Burkina Faso also continued its support to the Common Gender Fund, which assists civil society organizations in implementing gender equality and female empowerment projects aiming, for instance, to strengthen women's participation in local decision-making bodies, including through political parties. In 2015, only a limited number of country offices reported a specific gender equality focus in local governance programming. In the future, more attention will be paid to expanding such approaches, such as by providing technical guidance on the topic.

To strengthen local government service delivery for children, UNICEF uses various approaches including systems strengthening and piloting of social services at the local government level. In 2015, UNICEF in Somaliland successfully supported local governments to implement education and water services, functions normally managed by higher levels of government. Third-party verification provided evidence that these services improved in pilot districts, resulting in cleaner and better-maintained school buildings.

In Lesotho, UNICEF partnered with the German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation to pilot the One Stop Shop initiative in three districts, bringing together multiple public sector services at the community council level, the lowest level of local government in Lesotho. The initiative promotes integration and referrals for social services and makes these services more accessible for remote communities. In 2015, it reached approximately 1,500 people with services. In 2016, the pilot will be scaled up to cover one community council in each of Lesotho's 10 districts.

UNICEF country offices frequently focus on leveraging local government funds for children and strengthening local government budgeting processes. In 2015, in Mongolia UNICEF continued to promote the role of children and communities in local budgeting processes. As a result, Local Development Fund investment for children in Khuvsgul Province reached 22.5 per cent in 2015, compared with 8.8 per cent in 2013 and 18.9 per cent in 2014. In Nalaikh District, such investment for children reached 32.4 per cent in 2015, compared with 19 per cent in 2014 and 3.2 per cent in 2013. These child-friendly investments improved access to services in education, health and WASH; enhanced the quality of these services; and helped ensure safe and supportive environments for children's development.

In 2015, local government planning, budget and management accounted for nearly US\$12.5 million of UNICEF's expenditure, as it frequently requires intensive engagement and support across jurisdictions. Strategic partnerships with United Nations agencies, other development partners, and national stakeholders such as civil service academies and local government associations represent an important strategy to support local government processes in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. Several country offices are already engaging in these types of partnerships, and in some cases, UNICEF works through joint United Nations programmes and collaborates with local government associations. Still, these type of partnerships could be further expanded.

Strengthening urban governance to support inclusive child rights:

A focus on economic equity in urban governance is crucial, because urban areas often show stark differences between rich and poor, along with disparities in the quality and availability of services for children and their families.

Child-friendly city initiatives are an approach that UNICEF often uses to make urban governance more focused on children's rights. A child-friendly city is a city, or any local system of governance, that is committed to fulfilling children's rights, including their right to influence decision-making and receive basic services such as health care, education, water and sanitation, and protection.¹⁹ Key principles of the model include child participation, a child-friendly legal framework, a citywide children's rights strategy, a children's rights unit, and child rights awareness-raising and advocacy.²⁰

In 2015, 15 country offices reported working on child-friendly city initiatives (up from 12 in 2014), with a little more than US\$700,000 in UNICEF expenditure. Building on efforts initiated in 2014, UNICEF Belize worked with the Ministry of Labour, Local Government Rural Development, the Belize Mayor's Association and UNDP to institutionalize and mainstream the SDGs and monitor child rights achievements at the sub-national level. In

2015, this successful partnership resulted in 100 per cent of Belize's urban municipal government working towards being certified as sustainable and child friendly. To date, all nine municipal governments have:

- A signed agreement endorsed by the Minister and UNICEF, committing the local government to work towards being certified as child friendly;
- A child rights coordinating mechanism: each municipality has a Steering Committee to advance the Sustainable and Child-Friendly Municipalities agenda;
- A mechanism to maximize children's participation in decision-making: each municipality has a children's advisory body;
- A draft action plan (including a budget) highlighting priorities to be addressed to improve the lives of children; and
- A Rapporteur who is a Councillor in the Municipality and is responsible for ensuring that Sustainable and Child-Friendly Municipalities issues are tabled at town or city council meetings.

Engaging parliaments to promote child rights: At the national level, parliamentarians and ombudspersons have a significant role in supporting public accountability and promoting and monitoring child rights. UNICEF increasingly engages parliaments and other national-level stakeholders to monitor policies and services for children.

In 2015, UNICEF Albania and the Albanian Parliament collaborated on a working agenda of the parliamentary group 'Friends of Children', which included a child-friendly justice reform; a draft new child protection law; a new law on social services; an online safety legal framework; and parliamentary hearings with children and young people. These important legislative reform efforts are bringing the child rights laws in Albania in line with international standards. Under the influence of UNICEF's continuous advocacy, Albania's Parliament has strengthened its oversight of the situation of children.

In Ecuador, UNICEF renewed a cooperation agreement with the parliamentary group on children and adolescents of the National Assembly, to help prepare and measure legislative measures related to promoting children's rights. This ensures harmony with human rights principles and international instruments, and supports the National Assembly's role in terms of analysis, approval and monitoring of the national budget, with a focus on investment in children.

Engaging with the private sector to strengthen Children's Rights and Business Principles: While UNICEF country offices expand their work on governance, work on the private sector is also picking up. In 2015, 30

programme countries (up from 26 in 2014) reported that their governments addressed the Children's Rights and Business Principles (CRBP) in their dealings with the private sector. Nevertheless, only 12 per cent of country offices reported that the country's Chamber of Commerce addressed CRBP in its charter and guidance to the private sector (down from 18 per cent the year before).

Private-sector engagement is particularly strong in upper-middle-income countries of the Latin America and Caribbean, CEE/CIS and the East Asia and Pacific regions. In the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia, both India and Bangladesh country offices manage highly sophisticated CRBP activities and partnerships. While further efforts are needed, particularly to go beyond supporting public-private partnerships, in 2015 several country offices have demonstrated what can be accomplished:

In India, UNICEF, in partnership with the Ethical Tea Partnership, the Indian tea association and a local academic partner, successfully piloted a tea plantation programme to improve conditions for children in 350 tea communities in 100 plantations in Assam State. More than 25,000 girls have been equipped with skills to help them secure a better future and reduce their vulnerability to violence, abuse and exploitation, and an additional 10,000 community members have been given knowledge and training to protect children from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation.

In 2015, UNICEF completed its Integrated Corporate Engagement strategy in Bolivia. The document outlines the office's approach to engaging and influencing the business sector to achieve results for children by linking fundraising, corporate social responsibility and programme innovation.

Meanwhile, the Bolivian Private Entrepreneurs Confederation, along with the Cochabamba and Tarija Federations of Private Entrepreneurs, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the objective of promoting CRBP among its partners and mobilizing resources for children in emergencies. From a corporate social responsibility perspective, UNICEF Bolivia is also engaging companies, the Government and other stakeholders about the CRBP and General Comment No. 16, aiming to implement the UNICEF Strategic Framework on Corporate Social Responsibility.

In Colombia, UNICEF has partnered with the Colombian Ministry of Family Welfare to consult with more than 1,000 companies, and has developed a set of tools for companies to manage negative impacts on children and adolescents. This year, at least 20 companies are integrating child rights considerations into core business operations as part of this programme.

In addition, the UNICEF country office in Colombia has worked with the Government to incorporate child rights

considerations into the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, as has also created a child rights round-table to roll them out. UNICEF is also working with the Government, 2 extractive companies and more than 10 tourism-sector companies to incorporate child rights considerations into business practices in these sectors.

In 2015, UNICEF, in partnership with the telecommunication company DTAC, launched mobile birth registration services in Thailand and targeted health messages for families via free short-message service (SMS) messages on child-rearing practices (108,000 current subscribers). Sansiri, a property development company, continued to support child-friendly spaces for migrant children at 14 construction sites, and partnered on the Best Start Campaign, which aims to raise awareness and understanding of the importance of early childhood development and urge the Government to increase investment in young children.

A 'child-friendly business' project has been launched in cooperation with the Thaipat Institute, a public interest organization that promotes socially responsible business practices and sets yearly corporate social responsibility trends for companies. By December 2015, the senior management of 31 companies had undergone corporate social responsibility sessions with directors on CRBP. A meeting entitled 'The Children Sustainability Forum: Business for the future' was held in collaboration with the Thaipat Institute at Thailand's Stock Exchange; 31 companies committed to better understand children's rights and be guided by the CRBP.

Country offices in sub-Saharan Africa have also started to identify the private sector as a strategic stakeholder, going beyond resource mobilization. In Madagascar, UNICEF has defined a new strategy for private-sector engagement, focusing on the large extractives industry in the country. The office regularly coordinates with the Mining Chamber and the Ministry of Mines & Petroleum. More recently, it has provided inputs on the mining code and a specific clause that relates to child protection. The office also helped align Madagascar Oil's social investment to community needs, by linking it with health and education authorities at the sub-national level. It also helped develop a zero tolerance policy for all stakeholders on the sexual exploitation of children, and key messages on child protection for Madagascar Oil to share with its employees and community.

Ensuring children's rights through environmental sustainability: The realities of climate change exacerbate the extreme poverty that many children already struggle with. At the same time, in many countries around the world, children and adolescents are left out of the picture in national responses to climate change, and consultations with children and adolescents on the issue are rare.

In Zimbabwe, UNICEF provided a successful model of how the organization can address this issue by helping to develop the country's National Climate Change Response Strategy, providing ongoing support to the National Climate Policy development process, and promoting child participation to ensure that it reflects the needs of children. The work was informed by the office's study on 'Children and Climate Change in Zimbabwe'.

Many country offices used COP21 as an opportunity to promote the needs and priorities of children and youth in global and national responses to climate change. Youth from Chad, China, Guatemala, Kiribati, Malaysia, the Niger, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe were consulted and trained on issues related to climate change and advocacy around these issues. The outcome was a digital map with more than 800 reports from 120 youth.

Several UNICEF country offices supported the participation of a few of these young people at the Conference of Youth held prior to COP21 in Paris and COP21 itself. In Zambia, youth climate ambassadors presented priorities of children and youth in discussions with political leaders in all regions of the country prior to COP21 (*see the box on empowering children in climate action in Zambia*). In Myanmar, UNICEF supported the Government in developing child-sensitive environmental impact assessment guidelines and setting Myanmar's intended nationally determined contribution.

Increasingly, UNICEF is also working on addressing air pollution and promoting sustainable energy solutions. For example, in Mongolia, UNICEF has issued a paper on the impacts of air pollution on child health in Ulaanbaatar, with policy recommendations. Country offices in Bangladesh, Rwanda and Zimbabwe are engaging with the respective governments and communities to promote improved cook stoves.

In 2015, climate change initiatives were increasingly taken into account at the local government level. As part of the Municipal Seal of Approval in Brazil (a child-friendly cities initiative), UNICEF provided capacity-building support to 370 municipalities through two events. This helped officials at the municipal level plan and implement social mobilization activities related to the impact of climate change on children and adolescents.

In Peru, a strategic partnership between UNICEF, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the regional government of Loreto, the provincial municipality of Maynas and local municipalities initiated a process to identify priorities, as part of a strategy to promote environmental sustainability and address issues that affect children. Once priority actions are identified, they will be carried out in a coordinated manner to improve children's quality of life, and in particular, to manage disaster risk and adapt to climate change.

In 2015, UNICEF country offices put greater emphasis on using information and communication technology innovation to promote climate change adaptation. UNICEF India set up an online system for water safety and scarcity prediction in drought-prone Maharashtra. The Government uses the system to anticipate risk and take action according to plan. Another example is the Green Solutions Hub programme launched by UNICEF in Zimbabwe, a social innovation platform for youth that focuses on environmental sustainability and renewable energy.

Some country offices have started to look into reducing the environmental footprint of the social policy programme. UNICEF Lesotho worked with the Government to automate data collection and case management while expanding the National Information System for Social Assistance. This eliminated the need for 80,000 sheets of paper that would have been used for manual questionnaires.

In 2015, 35 per cent of programme countries had a national policy on climate change or the environment that makes reference to children. Among country offices, 59 per cent report that national policy in at least one of the key sectors – for example, water, health care or education – makes substantial reference to climate change or environmental sustainability.

Challenges and constraints

UNICEF's work on decentralization and local governance, while widespread, is still ad hoc in nature, and would benefit from a clearly articulated strategy and strengthened evidence base. UNICEF headquarters' Stocktake of UNICEF Engagement in Decentralization and Local Governance (2015), the planned strategic framework for decentralization and local governance, and several

Empowering children in climate action in Zambia

Since 2010, UNICEF has been equipping young people with knowledge and advocacy skills to lead on climate change at the community, national and even international levels.

In 2015, UNICEF continued its support of Unite4Climate, a child-led advocacy programme that empowers 11–17-year-olds in all 10 of Zambia's provinces to become climate ambassadors. They go on to inspire thousands of children through peer-to-peer outreach and education, media programmes, debates, advocacy efforts, and low-cost community projects on climate change adaptation and mitigation. From creating a plan to build a floating school in Mongu, where flooding restricts school attendance every year, to hosting radio programmes and theatre performances that address climate change, more than 1,000 ambassadors are putting their training into action and reaching more than 1 million community members through their efforts.

The project clearly demonstrates the valuable role that children and young people can play in finding innovative solutions to issues that affect their daily lives. Specific results include:

- 1,325 climate ambassadors, 11 to 17 years old, have been provided with education and training on climate change, as well as new advocacy and communication skills.
- Through a system of peer-to-peer outreach and activities, climate ambassadors have reached more than 1 million people in the country, providing information on climate change, mitigation and adaptation actions, and helping to realize environmental sustainability goals set out in the Government of Zambia's National Adaptation Plan of Action.
- The voices of Zambian children have been raised to the national level, through engagement with Government officials, Members of Parliament and traditional leaders.
- Through district consultations, 350 climate ambassadors provided inputs to the Government of Zambia's country position paper for the COP21 meeting in Paris in December 2015.
- 30,000 trees were planted in schools and communities in 2015 alone.
- A floating school was built in an area susceptible to flooding, as a direct result of child-led advocacy, leading to a 44 per cent increase in enrolment.
- Ambassadors have encouraged smallholder farmers to engage in adaptation activities such as conservation agriculture.

technical guidance notes should assist country offices with this.

External challenges faced by country offices in their programming on decentralization and local governance include a lack of coordination between national and sub-national government levels and between sectors; low technical capacity of local government stakeholders; the slow pace of decentralization reform processes, and fragmented initiatives supported by various development partners. Thorough analysis of local contexts, including political economy analysis, and engagement in strategic partnerships could support country offices in overcoming some of these issues.

Bottlenecks in developing partnerships in this area are sometimes caused by misconceptions about the role that UNICEF can play in decentralization and local governance. UNICEF has been actively engaging in global partnerships, such as the decentralization and local governance development partner network, to address the issue and raise awareness of the strong and important role that UNICEF can play in from a social sector and child rights perspective.

PROGRAMME AREA 5: SOCIAL INCLUSION IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

Headline results

The integration of disaster and conflict risk in national planning and monitoring systems is steadily increasing, from 64 per cent of programme countries in 2014 to 74 per cent in 2015 (113 countries). Fewer countries have planning and monitoring systems at the sub-national level, but that has also increased, from 43 per cent to 52 per cent at the end of 2015 (79 countries).

Accountability issues are equally important in humanitarian, fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Of the 85 offices that reported on this, 66 per cent provided information to affected populations to help them make informed decisions. In 2015, 79 per cent of these country offices reported that affected populations were consulted throughout one or more phases of humanitarian programming (the phases being: planning needs assessment and response, assessment, project design or response planning, project implementation, distribution and service delivery, and monitoring).

Offices have also made strides in linking social protection and humanitarian action, at both preparedness and response and recovery stages. In 2015, an additional

7 countries (now 42 in total) supported governments to include emergency prevention, preparedness and response in their social protection systems, representing an achievement above the set Strategic Plan target (107 per cent), such as in Malawi (*see below for more information*). Additionally, 35 countries (an increase from 24 in 2014) supported programming for humanitarian action that contributes to building sustainable social protection systems, representing a further achievement above the set Strategic Plan target (124 per cent) – see box on Nepal, below. To support this work, UNICEF headquarters provided in-country and remote support to regional and country offices (among others, those in Mali, Nepal, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Yemen and CEE/CIS, the Middle East and North Africa and in West and Central Africa); production of a series of tools and trainings is currently under way.

Brief outline of programme area

Social inclusion in humanitarian settings encompasses efforts related to each of the programme areas in fragile, humanitarian and risk-prone contexts. Interventions include:

1. Working with national and local governments to improve preparedness, prevention and response to shocks and cumulative stresses, taking account of the most marginalized children and families;
2. Peacebuilding efforts that promote young people's understanding and reduce future conflict;
3. Keeping vulnerable groups visible during emergencies, by facilitating direct consultation with affected populations as part of humanitarian performance monitoring and accountability; and
4. Strengthening social protection responses in fragile and humanitarian contexts, including before crises happen, in ways that promote humanitarian outcomes, increase resilience and contribute to longer-term development of social protection systems.

2015 results in detail

Improving preparedness, prevention and response: Supporting governments to meet their commitments to disaster risk reduction and mitigation – in line with the Sendai Framework and the wider 2030 Agenda – framed UNICEF's work in 2015. In India, for example, UNICEF is working with the state government in Bihar to implement the Bihar Sendai Roadmap. This has meant targeting



Iraq. Shirin, 72, with her grandson Rian, 8, receive cash transfer during a UNICEF-facilitated distribution in Bajet Kandala Camp for internally displaced persons in Dohuk Governorate. “I am very tired and I have some health problems, so I’ll use some of the money for medicine,” said Shirin. “I’ll also use it to help my grandchildren.”

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high-risk communities to make social services responsive to floods and drought, to strengthen community preparedness plans and promote the role of adolescents in disaster risk reduction.

In South Asia, an agreement with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation has UNICEF providing technical support to Member States in developing risk assessment tools and guidance. In CEE/CIS, UNICEF has advanced its work on a municipal-level risk assessment methodology. In the Sahel and Latin America and Caribbean, UNICEF is working with partners to apply a risk index at the sub-national level.

In 2015, 85 per cent of countries (110) demonstrated a high level of compliance with key preparedness actions under the Early Warning Early Action system. In Uganda, for instance, UNICEF helped establish an SMS-based Disaster Monitoring System at the National Emergency Coordination and Operations Center, an innovative community-based initiative for early warning and humanitarian response.

Building peace and strengthening resilience: Making delivery of basic social services and related institutions more responsive, better managed and more equitable can contribute to building sustainable peace and development. A particular contribution of social inclusion efforts to the peacebuilding agenda is its strengthening of the

nexus between decentralization/local governance and peacebuilding. In 2015, UNICEF headquarters initiated research and the development of case studies of selected UNICEF country programmes in this area, to identify good practices and lessons learned and as a basis for a technical guidance note on this topic. Overall, the stocktake of decentralization and local governance work found 18 country offices contributing in the area of local governance and peacebuilding, particularly in West and Central Africa.

In 2015, in the Philippines, UNICEF supported Government-led interventions responding to humanitarian needs created by outbreaks of fighting and protracted conflict. In partnership with the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and the Government at the provincial, municipal and barangay levels, UNICEF helped Local Government Units extend critical services for child survival and development in conflict-affected areas, with the following results:

- 6,328 children of elementary school age and 931 children of day care centre age returned to learning in 22 Local Government Units affected by fighting.
- The Regional Department of Health and municipal/barangay Local Government Units extended programmes for community

management of acute malnutrition, infant and young child feeding and micronutrient supplementation for children and pregnant and lactating women in 25 Local Government Units.

- 5,376 children and 6,720 women in two cities and eight Local Government Units in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao received emergency WASH services.
- Children, Not Soldiers, a communication campaign to prevent recruitment of children, reached 15,085 people, including 2,457 children and 3,201 members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces in 61 Local Government Units in 8 provinces.

To strengthen adolescent voices in peacebuilding, UNICEF tested and finalized the adolescent kit for innovation and expression – the first supply kit developed for adolescents in emergencies. During 2015, five country offices (Bhutan, Indonesia, Myanmar, South Sudan and the State of Palestine) used the kit, and 1,500 kits were procured and available for use by country offices. To date, kits have helped country programmes reach more adolescents and support positive outcomes through child protection and education interventions in conflict-affected areas. UNICEF also developed a competency framework for adolescents, to guide peacebuilding programme managers and practitioners by outlining the competencies and skills that adolescents need to play an active role as peacebuilders.

Strengthening humanitarian performance

monitoring and accountability to affected populations:

Accountability issues are equally important in humanitarian contexts. In 2015, 56 countries out of 85 were reported to provide information to affected populations. Furthermore, in 2015, more than three quarters of these country offices (79 per cent) reported that affected populations were consulted throughout one or more phases of humanitarian programming processes (i.e., planning needs assessment and response, assessment, project design or response planning, project implementation, distribution and service delivery, and monitoring), with an increase in the number of countries from 59 in 2014 to 67 in 2015.

In Ebola-epicentre countries of West Africa, UNICEF led a new Special Needs Group to make sure that people with specific communication needs – such as hearing, visual or physical impairment – can play an active role in all community-led planning and decision-making processes. UNICEF is also leading a humanitarian communication coordination mechanism, with partners, to examine lessons learned from Ebola and strengthen UNICEF's mechanisms for Accountability to Affected Populations. The aim is to engage with communities systematically and get their feedback to inform locally driven community approaches and ensure that cultural, social and community concerns are addressed. Currently, only about half of country offices (55 per cent) are reporting that they

have consistently enabled affected populations to actively participate in key processes and decisions as part of the humanitarian response.

UNICEF is also working to mainstream issues that concern children with disabilities in humanitarian response. In addition to including children with disabilities in regular programmes and putting in place targeted interventions to cater to their specific needs, UNICEF addresses issues of inclusion through policies, guidance, capacity building and supplies. For example, revisions to supply components in education kits will help teachers and caregivers include more children in learning and play. UNICEF's child-focused victim assistance guidance also includes children with disabilities. UNICEF developed practical how-to notes on disability-inclusive humanitarian action to give colleagues in the field the requisite knowledge and skills to effectively plan and implement inclusive programmes. This will be field-tested in 2016.

Linking social protection and humanitarian action: In 2015, continued progress was made to create linkages between humanitarian action and social protection programming. Compared with 2014, an additional 7 countries (now 42 total) supported governments to include emergency prevention, preparedness and response in their social protection systems. Similarly, in humanitarian response, 35 countries (an increase from 24 in 2014) supported programming for humanitarian action that supports sustainable social protection system building.

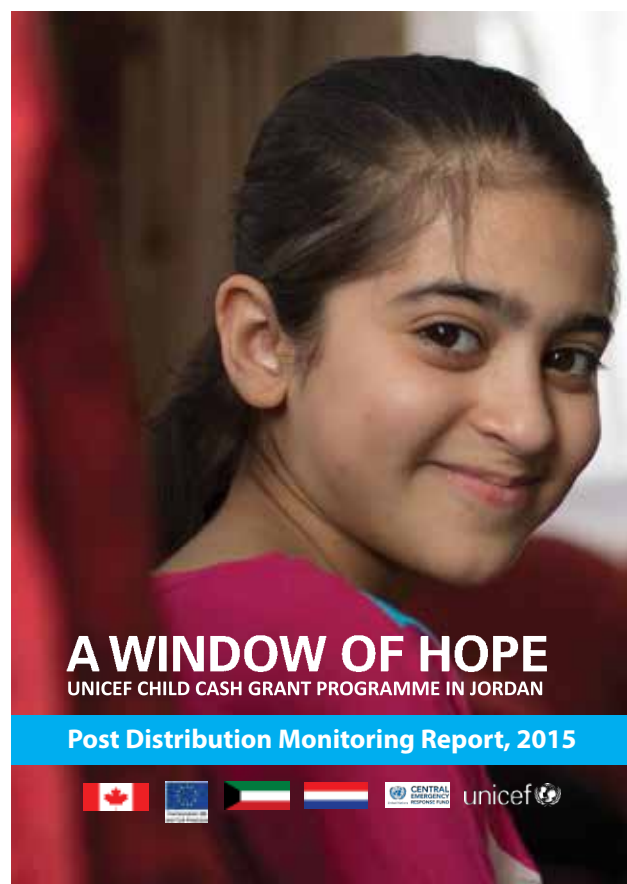
Building on its strong presence in fragile states, its diverse country experience in social protection and its leading work in humanitarian action, UNICEF supported governments in four main areas in 2015:

- i. Designing risk-informed social protection systems that address multiple vulnerabilities, including in fragile contexts;
- ii. Supporting governments to build mature social protection systems that can respond to a range of shocks, including natural disasters;
- iii. Fostering inclusive dialogue on how to move the current chronic caseload taken care of by humanitarian actors to social protection; and
- iv. Exploring options for social protection systems to integrate refugees, internally displaced people and returnees.

UNICEF helped governments develop and strengthen social protection systems in fragile and conflict-affected areas such as Afghanistan, and to use and modify existing social protection programs to respond to emergencies (Nepal – *see box below*). Other offices worked during emergency response and recovery to advocate for strengthening

existing systems (Nepal). In Malawi, discussions are ongoing with the Government, United Nations agencies (FAO, the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNDP) and the World Bank to harmonize targeting of social protection programmes and create a single registry of beneficiaries, which will make it possible to introduce a flexible cash transfer to cater to humanitarian needs. In Sierra Leone, a five-year strategic plan and social safety nets project were launched by the President. New challenges posed by the Ebola crisis spurred a review of the strategy to reflect measures to be taken during health pandemics.

UNICEF Lebanon has been working with partners to identify ways to integrate internally displaced people, refugees and returnees into existing social protection systems. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in providing free education up to Grade 9 for all children – Lebanese and non-Lebanese – in public schools, ensuring that school registration, parents' fund fees, and the cost of schoolbooks and stationery are covered. The office also assessed the feasibility of introducing a cash grant to address the barriers that Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian children face in accessing education.



In February 2015, UNICEF Jordan implemented a child cash grant to assist the most vulnerable Syrian refugee households with children living in host communities. UNICEF assisted 55,000 girls and boys from 15,000 of the most vulnerable registered Syrian refugee families on a monthly basis with a transfer of 20 Jordanian Dinars (US\$28). The grant was distributed on an unconditional basis, using existing and highly cost-effective mechanisms from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, allowing caregivers flexibility and autonomy in determining the needs of their children.

The monitoring process found that the child cash grant enabled families to meet child-specific needs. Some specific examples from the distribution monitoring report²¹ include:

- More than 50 per cent of families reported avoiding the use of at least one negative coping strategy;
- 88 per cent of families reported using the child cash grant to support their children's needs, with fresh food for children, school-related expenses and medicine for children, the most frequently cited expenses.
- 91 per cent of the sampled families reported that the child cash grant contributed to improving their family's overall well-being.
- Focus group discussions highlighted the effect of the grant on empowering children; children understand the purpose of the grant, ask more from their parents and assert their needs.

Based on this experience, UNICEF has been actively exploring links and synergies between this humanitarian cash transfer programme and the national social protection system in Jordan, to transfer knowledge on targeting, use of technology for transfer of funds (Iris technology), and monitoring and evaluation for national partners.

At the global, regional and national levels, UNICEF has been using its position across the humanitarian-development nexus to facilitate discussions between actors from multiple sectors, ministries, NGOs and partners to find ways to further link social protection and humanitarian action, and transfer part of the chronic caseload of humanitarian actors to social protection. UNICEF New York headquarters has worked closely with other partners, such as the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, WFP, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department and the World Bank, to identify joint areas of work and learning.

Challenges and constraints

The challenges of operating in fragile contexts are particular and manifold. Fragile states face crucial gaps in capacity, security and legitimacy, while political and financial support from the international community is often fragmented and unpredictable. In these situations, there are often multiple planning frameworks, which makes it harder to plan strategies and programmes.

It is crucial that UNICEF and its partners meet these challenges and deliver evidence-based programmes that fit the context and can ensure sustainable results.

Recognizing the increasing complexity of humanitarian crises and the potential of multi-purpose cash transfers to make the humanitarian system more effective, efficient and transparent, UNICEF has been expanding the use of cash transfers as a humanitarian assistance modality, where appropriate. In 2015, cash-based programming successfully addressed the various and immediate needs of vulnerable children and contributed to strengthening the UNICEF humanitarian responses to the crises in the Syrian Arab Republic and neighbouring countries, as well as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Nepal, Somalia and Yemen.

Emergency cash transfers as a humanitarian response and a catalyst to enhance the social protection system in Nepal

In response to the two powerful earthquakes that struck the central part of Nepal, UNICEF supported the Government to provide an emergency top-up cash transfer to beneficiaries of the existing social assistance programmes for vulnerable groups in the 19 most severely affected districts.

As well as providing immediate relief to those affected by the earthquakes, UNICEF used this US\$15 million programme as an opportunity to strengthen and progressively scale-up the child grant (a regular government social transfer programme for children), reinforce the building blocks of an integrated social protection system, and help develop a model for social transfers that works in both regular development and emergency contexts.

UNICEF sought agreement of the Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission to implement the emergency cash transfer programme through national systems (the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development), with support from UNICEF and other local partners.

A cash benefit of 3,000 Nepalese Rupees (US\$30) was provided to the beneficiaries as a top-up to their regular payments. Monitoring data indicated that 93 per cent of registered beneficiaries – approximately 434,690 people – received the transfer, and it achieved the goal of helping vulnerable households meet their short-term basic daily needs.

Building on the experience of the emergency cash transfer response, with the objective of supporting the sustained recovery of vulnerable households with young children affected by the earthquakes, and to help the Government develop a more robust social protection system that is better able to respond to future disasters, UNICEF:

- Advocated to expand the coverage of the child grant beyond Dalit households to include all children under 5 years old in the most severely affected districts. Along with a one-off recovery payment, this will support affected households as they continue to restore their livelihoods, and will provide young children and their households with greater long-term economic security and resilience to future shocks.
- Is working with the Government to strengthen the child grant and the wider social protection system, including reviewing benefit levels, linking birth and programme registration, and extending the use of Management Information Systems for more effective delivery.
- Plans to work with the Government to define trigger mechanisms for emergency top-up cash transfers and linkages with early warning systems, identify mechanisms to ensure immediate access to funds for a speedier response, and define processes for rapid identification, registration and payment for new beneficiaries, to enable operational scale-up.

Source: Nepal Participatory Action Network and UNICEF, Post-distribution Monitoring Summary Report, January 2016

In many cases, measures to reduce risk must be embedded in development and humanitarian policy and practice as cross-cutting capacities. UNICEF will continue to work with partners to strengthen line ministries' capacity in risk assessment and risk-informed programming. Given the urgency of this task – notably in view of climate change predictions – UNICEF will need to address capacity gaps at its regional offices to provide predictable and long-term support to country offices and partners.

It is critical to bring together humanitarian and development actors. While UNICEF is well placed to do this, particularly in the areas of social protection and local governance, the organization could do more. In the area of social protection in humanitarian contexts specifically, UNICEF is working together with partners on both ends of the 'humanitarian-development' continuum – and internally across social policy and emergency colleagues – to address gaps and work together. This includes working to expand use of cash transfers in emergency contexts where appropriate, and developing the necessary tools and training to strengthen UNICEF and partners' capacity to do so effectively. It also includes strengthening linkages between emergency cash transfers and existing or fledgling social protection systems – a key area of added value that UNICEF brings to partner agencies and government counterparts. Financing poses a final challenge: Existing funding mechanisms do not allow for adequate or humanitarian funding focuses on saving lives, alleviating suffering and maintaining and protecting human dignity – that is, responding to the symptoms of crises. While it is often assumed that humanitarian work focuses on immediate responses to quick-onset disasters, evidence now shows that most humanitarian aid is spent in protracted contexts.

On the other hand, longer-term development funding barely goes to fragile contexts and countries facing protracted crises, since they are considered part of the humanitarian caseload. This situation makes it difficult to fund and implement projects with a longer vision, or those that aim to address underlying causes of fragility, in humanitarian contexts. Discussions on humanitarian financing under the framework of the World Humanitarian Summit, arguing for more flexible financing and multi-year funding, should help overcome this funding dichotomy.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The year 2015 saw unprecedented political and public resolve – including the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – to address some of the greatest global challenges. Also known as Agenda 2030, the SDGs are of great importance to children and the work of UNICEF for the coming 15 years. They set multiple, ambitious, child-centred targets that demand significant and sustained investment for the long term. To be fit for purpose in this evolving context, UNICEF revised its Strategic Plan 2014–2017 resource requirements by outcome area from the US\$14.8 billion originally planned to US\$17 billion.

Of the two main types of resources, ‘regular resources’ are unearmarked, unrestricted funds that help UNICEF respond rapidly to emergencies, maintain programme continuity, identify and address the root causes of inequity, and deliver services in the most remote and

fragile contexts. Because regular resources are not earmarked for a specific programme, they can also provide seed capital to develop innovative approaches to some of the world’s most challenging issues and ensure a credible reach and specialized expertise on the ground.

Thanks to these foundational resources, UNICEF and partners can bring solutions to scale and contextually replicate them through additional and complementary earmarked funds or ‘other resources’, which include pooled funding modalities such as thematic funding for UNICEF Strategic Plan outcome and cross-cutting areas. These other resources are restricted to a particular programme, geographical area, strategic priority or emergency response. Flexible and predictable other resources should complement a sound level of regular resources for UNICEF to deliver its mandate.

TABLE 1
Strategic Plan integrated results and resources framework by outcome area, 2014–2017:
Revised planned amounts (US\$ millions)

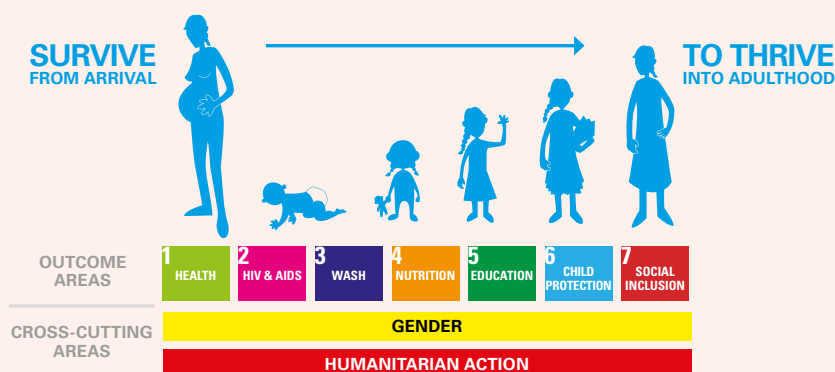
Outcome	Planned 2014–2017		
	Regular resources	Other resources	Total resources
Health	1,023	3,760	4,783
HIV and AIDS	183	671	854
WASH	548	2,014	2,562
Nutrition	365	1,343	1,708
Education	730	2,686	3,416
Child protection	438	1,611	2,050
Social inclusion	365	1,343	1,708
Totals	3,652	13,429	17,081

*Data as of 1 April 2016.

The value of thematic funding (OR+)

While regular resources remain the most flexible contributions for UNICEF, thematic other resources (OR+) are the second-most efficient and effective contributions to the organization and act as ideal complementary funding. Thematic funding is allocated on a needs basis, and allows for longer-term planning and sustainability of programmes. A funding pool has been established for each of the Strategic Plan 2014-17 outcome areas as well as for humanitarian action and gender. Resource partners can contribute thematic funding at the global, regional or country level.

UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014-17
Thematic Windows:



Contributions from all resource partners to the same outcome area are combined into one pooled-fund account with the same duration, which simplifies financial management and reporting for UNICEF. A single annual consolidated narrative and financial report is provided, that is the same for all resource partners. Due to reduced administrative costs, thematic contributions are subject to a lower cost recovery rate, to the benefit of UNICEF and resource partners alike. For more information on thematic funding, and how it works, please visit www.unicef.org/publicpartnerships/66662_66851.html.

PARTNER TESTIMONIAL

Children are a priority on Sweden's international agenda. Sweden has a long tradition of standing up for children's rights. UNICEF has been working for children for almost 70 years, and is a key partner to Sweden in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance.

The most excluded and most vulnerable children are reached by UNICEF's thematic funding. As a form of un-earmarked programme support, Sida believes that this financing modality enhances effectiveness since it provides greater flexibility and the possibility to plan activities over the long term, while still being able to act quickly in the event of a crisis. Over the years, Sida's support to UNICEF has moved away from earmarked support towards fewer and larger contributions and increased thematic funding. This trend reflects Sida's confidence in UNICEF as an effective actor and a strong advocate for the implementation of children's rights.

Sida shares UNICEF's belief that all children have a right to survive, thrive and fulfill their potential - to the benefit of a better world. This means equal access to services and care that can make all the difference in children's lives. Children are the next generation who will help build the future. It is our mutual responsibility to give them the best possible conditions. Effectiveness should be the foundation of such an engagement.

Ms. Charlotte Petri Gornitzka
Director-General, Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)

Supporting UNICEF's ability to deliver results for children



UNICEF's [Cases for Support](#) make the case for investing in children, while also spotlighting how the organization is able to deliver robust returns on such investments – for children and for society at large.

Investments in the most vulnerable children not only improve their lives and fulfil the obligation to realize their rights, they also yield benefits for everyone. Improving children's well-being – from providing essential health care and adequate nutrition and securing access to quality education, to protecting children from violence and exploitation – helps to break intergenerational cycles of deprivation that hamper economic development and erode social cohesion.

For each area, the *Case* describes the key results that UNICEF works to achieve and outlines the theory of change behind these results. This starts with an analysis of the situation of the world's children, focusing on the challenges facing the most deprived, and an overview of the evidence-based solutions that

UNICEF promotes. The Cases also focus on lessons learned from our experience across the world and draw attention to current risks and the measures needed to mitigate them. Finally, they detail the resources needed to achieve results and highlight current gaps in funding.

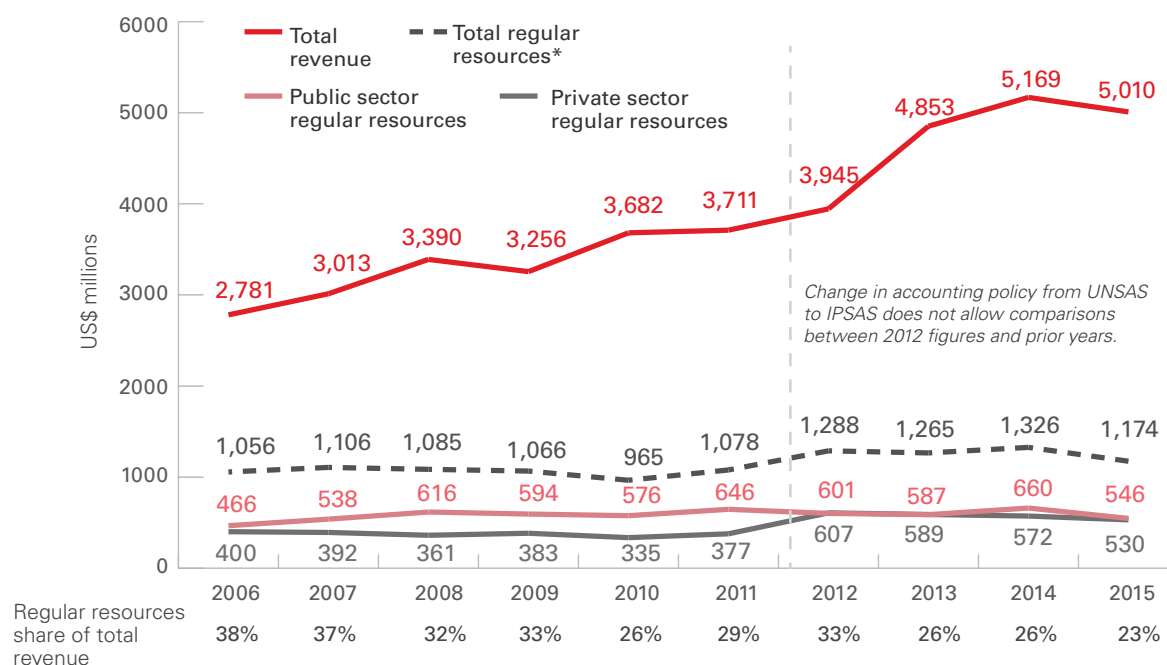
www.unicef.org/publicpartnerships/files/SocialInclusionTheCaseForSupport.pdf

In 2015, funding to UNICEF was over US\$5 billion for the second year in a row, thanks to the organization's loyal and new resource partners. At the same time, slowing economic growth and currency fluctuations – particularly of major European currencies and the Japanese Yen vis-à-vis the US dollar – resulted in an overall decrease of 11

per cent of regular resources compared to 2014. Totalling US\$1,174 million, this was the lowest level of regular resources in four years. At 23 per cent of overall revenue, this was the lowest level of regular resources in UNICEF's history, down from 50 per cent at the turn of the new millennium. Unearmarked contributions from public sector

FIGURE 12

Regular resource share by resource partner category, 2006–2015*



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

resource partners decreased by 17 per cent. As a result, UNICEF relied more heavily on softly earmarked funding streams for delivery of critical and otherwise underfunded programmes and activities.

Of the US\$5,010 million of UNICEF's revenue in 2015, US\$3,836 million was earmarked. Of these other resources, US\$390 million was softly earmarked as thematic, marking a 14 per cent increase from the US\$341 million in 2014. UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2014–2017 called for partners to enhance funding aligned to the organization's strategic mandate. The flexibility and potential predictability of thematic funding makes these pools an important complement to regular resources for both development and humanitarian programming and the links between the two. This is in line with the universal mandate of UNICEF and in support of country-specific priorities.

In 2014 and 2015, UNICEF received US\$113 million total other resources. The top resource partners in this area of UNICEF's work include the Government of Sweden (US\$19.1 million) and the United Kingdom (US\$10.7 million), as well as the European Commission (US\$8.6 million), the Swedish Committee for UNICEF (US\$7.2 million) and the Government of Norway (US\$7.1 million). In 2015, the total amount of other resources received by UNICEF for social inclusion was US\$55 million (*see Figure 14*).

Notable contributions to social inclusion programming in 2014–2015 included support from the United Kingdom to expand the social protection programme in Zambia (US\$8.6million) and re-registration of beneficiaries under National Social Security System in Mozambique (US\$2 million), from Ikea Foundation for activities targeting adolescents in South Asia (US\$7.2 million), from the European Commission for social protection work in Angola (US\$5.8 million), and from the Government of Germany for strengthening social cohesion and integration of IDPs in Ukraine (US\$5.4million). The Government of Sweden provided significant contributions for strengthening the protective environment for children in Kenya (US\$4.7 million) and for support to resilience building in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (US\$3.6 million). The Government of Norway provided the most flexible funding in the form of a single global thematic contribution in 2014 and 2015 (US\$4.7 million).

In 2015, UNICEF received US\$4 million in thematic contributions for social inclusion (*see Figure 15*), a 51 per cent drop compared to 2014, in part due to currency fluctuation and the strengthening of the US dollar.

FIGURE 13

Other resources, 2006–2015: Thematic vs. non-thematic

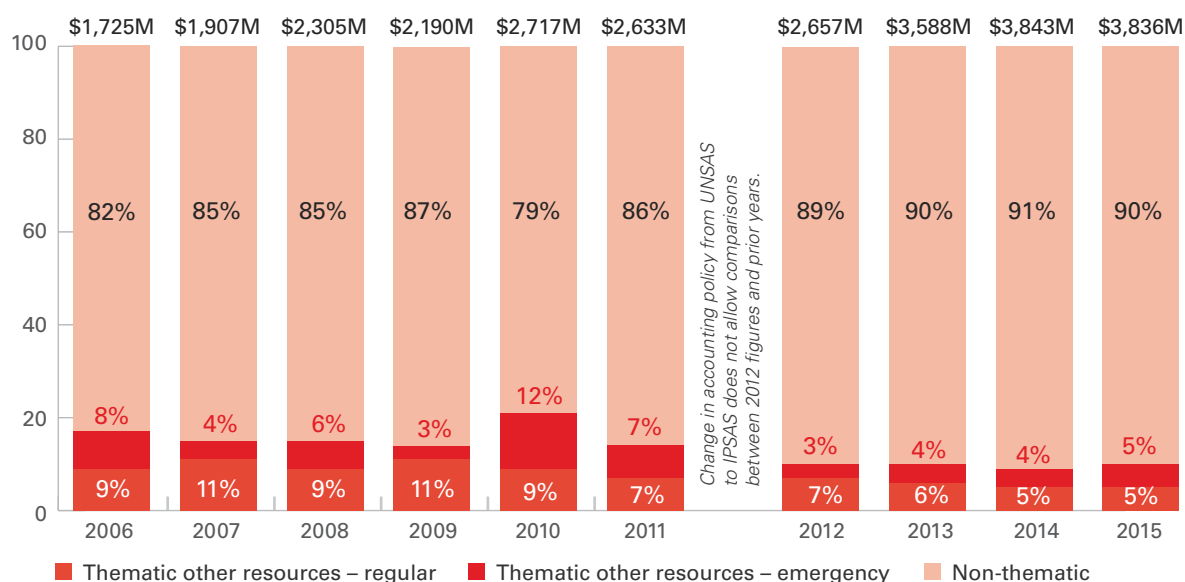
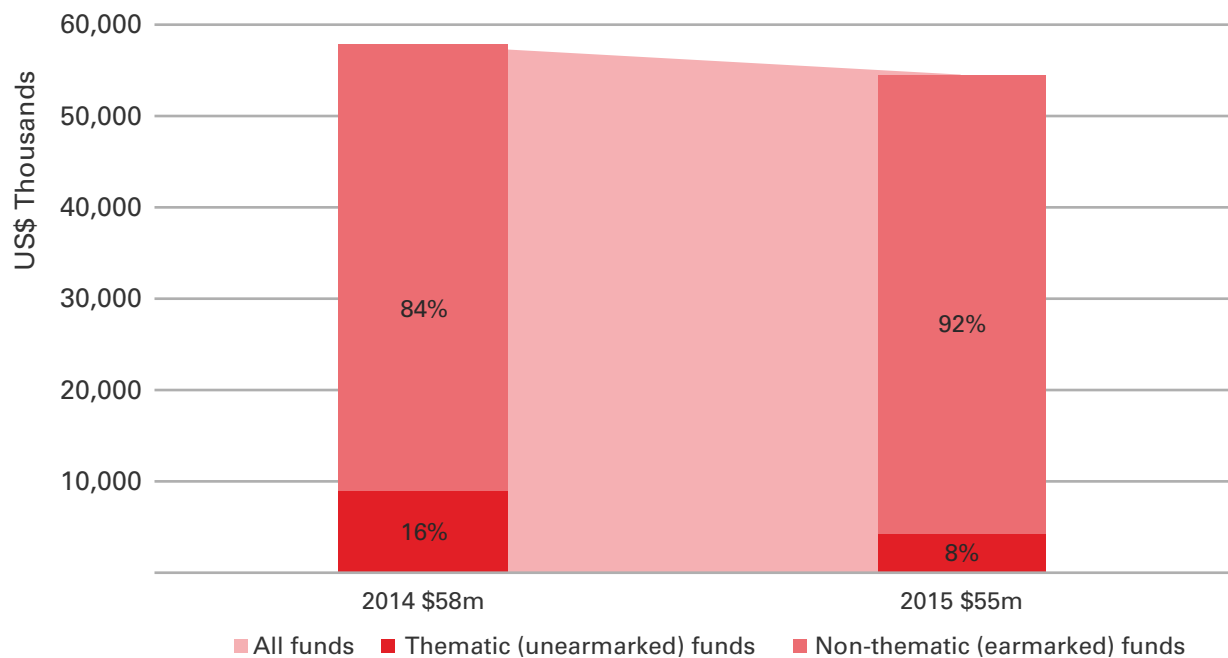


FIGURE 14

Social inclusion other resources funding trend, 2014–2015



* Regular resources are not included since they are not linked to any outcome or cross-cutting area at the time of contribution by a partner.

FIGURE 15

Thematic revenue share by outcome area and humanitarian action, 2015: US\$390 million

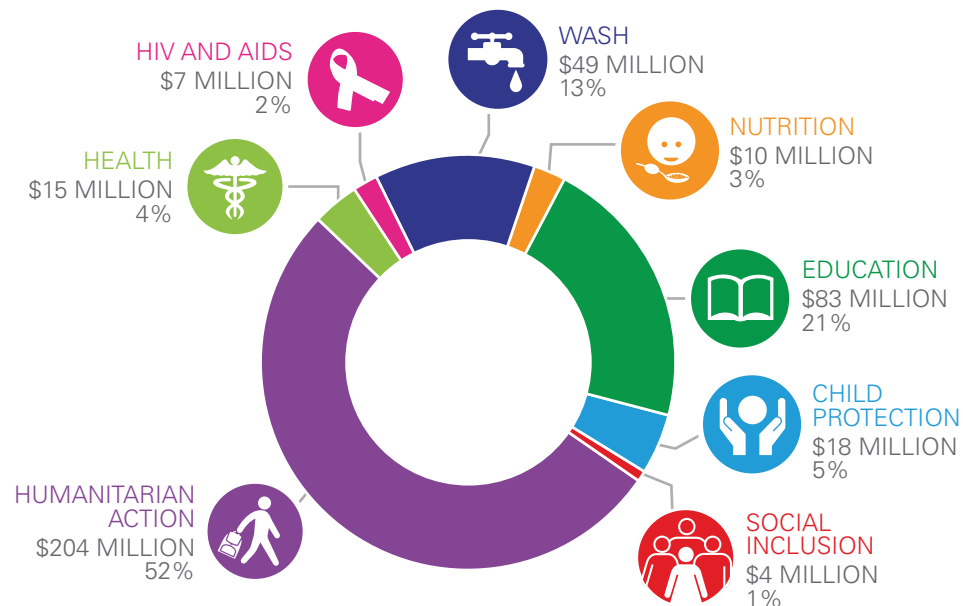


TABLE 2
Thematic revenue to social inclusion by resource partner, 2015

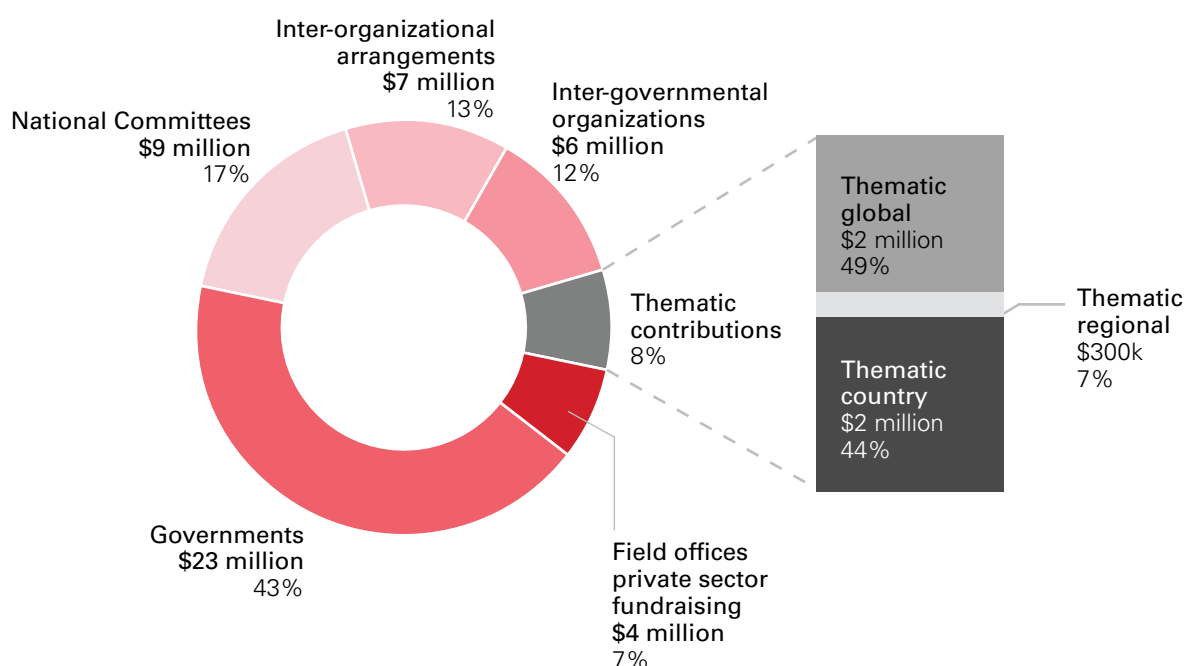
Resource partner type	Resource partner	Total (US\$)	Percentage
Governments 91%	Norway	2,190,374	49.39%
	Sweden	1,825,579	41.16%
National Committees 7%	German Committee for UNICEF	197,368	4.45%
	Luxembourg Committee for UNICEF	106,727	2.41%
	Turkish National Committee for UNICEF	15,038	0.34%
Field office private sector fundraising 2%	UNICEF-Malaysia	100,000	2.25%
Grand total		4,435,086	100.00%

*Figures do not include financial adjustments.

In 2015, thematic contributions were 8 per cent of total other resources for social inclusion. Of thematic contributions to the sector, 49 per cent was given most flexibly as global thematic funding (see Figure 16).

In 2015, 91 per cent of thematic contributions received for social inclusion came from two government partners (see Table 2). Norway provided its entire contribution most flexibly at the global level. Sweden earmarked its

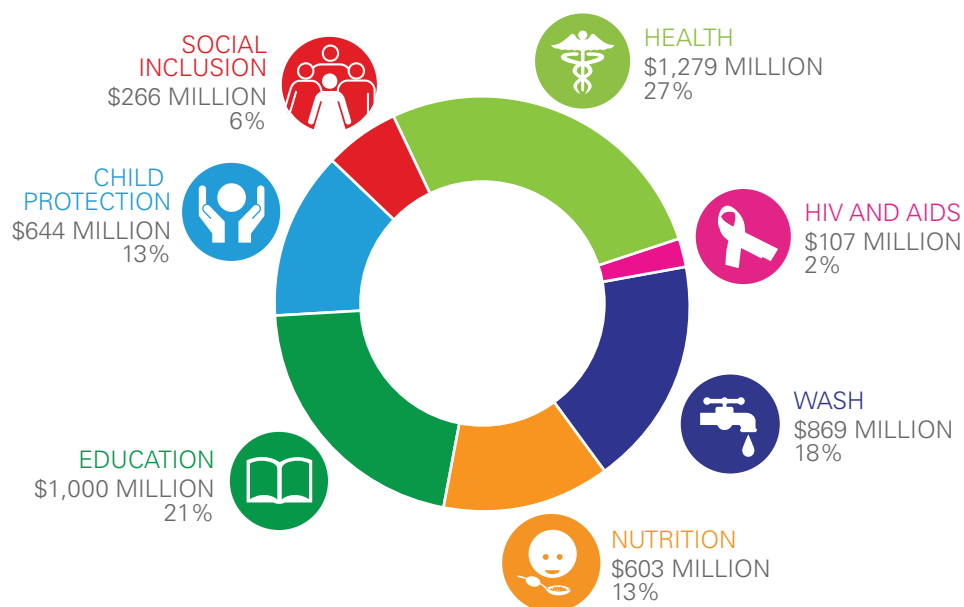
FIGURE 16
Other resources by funding modality and partner group, social inclusion, 2015: US\$54 million*



*Figure does not include US\$1 million in adjustments.

FIGURE 17

UNICEF expense by outcome area, 2015



contribution for activities in Bolivia and Mali. Country and regional thematic contributions for CEE/CIS, Brazil and Turkey were received from UNICEF National Committees in Germany, Luxembourg and Turkey, respectively (see Table 2). Social inclusion is a cross-cutting catalyst for progress across sectors and requires concerted resources. UNICEF is seeking to broaden and diversify its funding base (including thematic contributions) to this critical area of UNICEF's work. The number of partners contributing thematic funding to social inclusion increased from three in 2014 to six in 2015.

Total 2015 global expenses on social inclusion programming were US\$266.4 million, including funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational and other costs. This represents a slight increase in comparison with 2014 expenses of US\$242.6 million, and constitutes 6 per cent of UNICEF's total annual expenses for all outcome areas (see Table 3 and Figure 17). Expenses are higher than the income received because expenses are comprised of total allotments from regular resources and other resources (including balances carried over from prior years) to the outcome areas, while income reflects only earmarked contributions from 2015 to the same.

TABLE 3

Expenses by year for social inclusion, 2014–2015 (US\$)

Year	Other resources - emergency	Other resources - regular	Regular resources	Total
2014	21,112,189	96,414,231	125,071,950	242,598,370
2015	63,365,554	84,179,498	118,870,107	266,415,159
Grand total	84,477,742	180,593,729	243,942,057	509,013,529

The most common funding source for social inclusion programming in 2015 was regular resources, accounting for 45 per cent of total expenses. This relatively high proportion of regular resources reflects both the centrality of social inclusion interventions to UNICEF's country-level work as well as the challenges faced in raising other resource funds for this outcome area, in comparison to more traditional sectors. Expenses are higher than income because, while income reflects only earmarked donor contributions to the specific outcome area in 2015, expenses are against total allotments, including regular resources and other resources (balances carried over from prior years) that contribute to the same programme outcome area.

The proportion of social inclusion expenses from other resources emergency (ORE) increased from 9 per cent (US\$ 21.1 million) in 2014 to 24 per cent (US\$63.3 million) in 2015, pointing to the growing use of social protection and cash transfer responses to humanitarian crises. By contrast, the amounts and proportions of regular resources and other resources (regular) for social inclusion slightly decreased in 2015 compared to 2014 (see *Figure 19 and Table 3*).

The relative proportion of expenses for the programme area categories in use is provided in Figure 20 and Table 4.

The child poverty and social protection programme area maintains the highest proportion of expenses within the social inclusion outcome and grew from 33 per cent in 2014 to 46 per cent in 2015. This is due to the increase in emergency-related expenses for social protection reflected in increased other resources (emergency) expenses for this work – these jumped from US\$13.7 million in 2014 to US\$51.2 million in 2015. For example, emergency-related direct benefits payments expanded from US\$3.2 million in 2014 to US\$33 million in 2015. Similarly, expenses for emergency-related data and evidence work grew from US\$874,000 to US\$5.1 million (see *Table 4 for details*). Other components of child poverty and social protection work also grew in 2015, among them, support to achieving global/regional goals, support to protection programmes and systems, as well as costing, financing and accountability aspects of social protection work.

FIGURE 18
UNICEF expenses for social inclusion by funding type, 2015

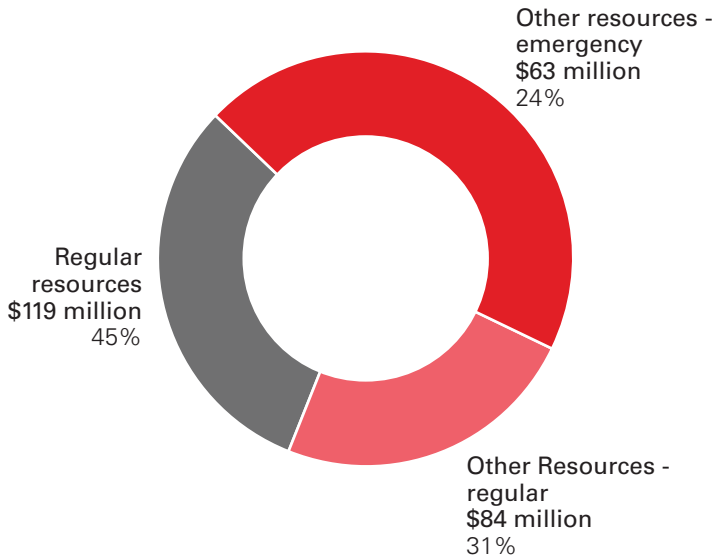


FIGURE 19

Expenses trend for social inclusion, 2014–2015

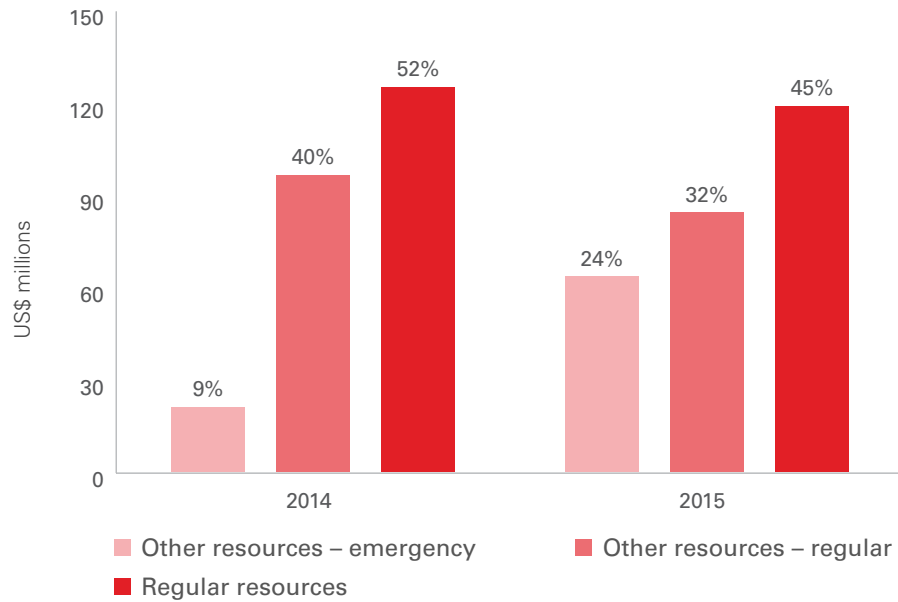


FIGURE 20

Social inclusion expenses by programme area, 2015

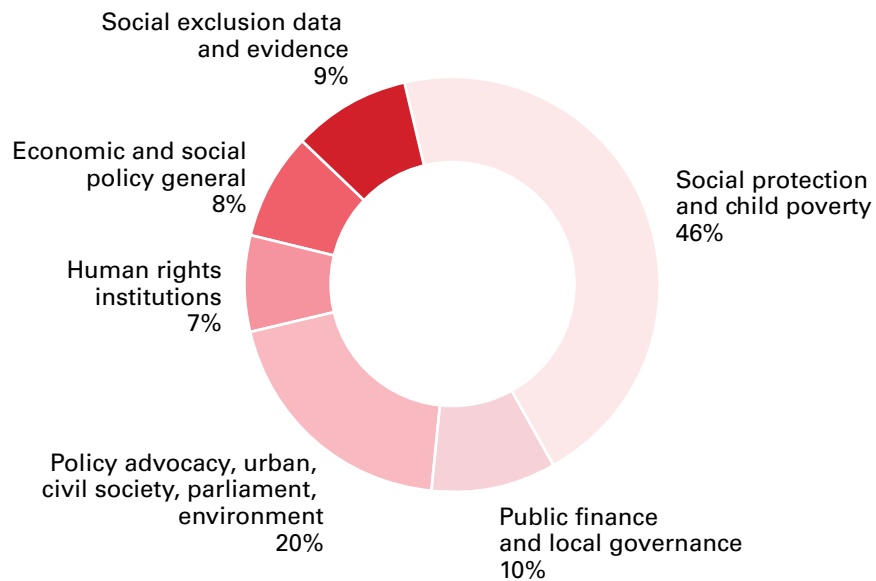


TABLE 4

Expenses by programme area and by year for social inclusion, 2014–2015 (US\$)

Programme area	Other resources - emergency	Other resources - regular	Regular resources	Total
Social exclusion data and evidence	5,995,725	10,676,826	21,798,561	38,471,111
2014	874,251	4,185,355	8,800,839	13,860,444
2015	5,121,474	6,491,471	12,997,722	24,610,667
Social protection and child poverty	64,888,536	67,606,569	69,095,229	201,590,335
2014	13,799,020	32,142,716	34,468,835	80,410,571
2015	51,089,516	35,463,854	34,626,394	121,179,764
Public finance and local governance	1,252,033	14,138,782	37,351,042	52,741,857
2014	986,241	6,439,703	18,791,077	26,217,020
2015	265,792	7,699,080	18,559,965	26,524,837
Policy advocacy, urban, civil society, parliament, environment	2,953,307	50,753,770	55,716,357	109,423,435
2014	1,544,680	28,040,970	27,449,107	57,034,757
2015	1,408,627	22,712,800	28,267,250	52,388,678
Human rights institutions	3,615,735	19,275,650	23,191,260	46,082,645
2014	1,308,978	11,700,806	13,189,805	26,199,589
2015	2,306,757	7,574,844	10,001,455	19,883,056
Economic and social policy general	5,772,406	18,142,131	36,789,609	60,704,146
2014	2,599,019	13,904,682	22,372,287	38,875,988
2015	3,173,387	4,237,449	14,417,321	21,828,158
Grand total	84,477,742	180,593,729	243,942,057	509,013,529

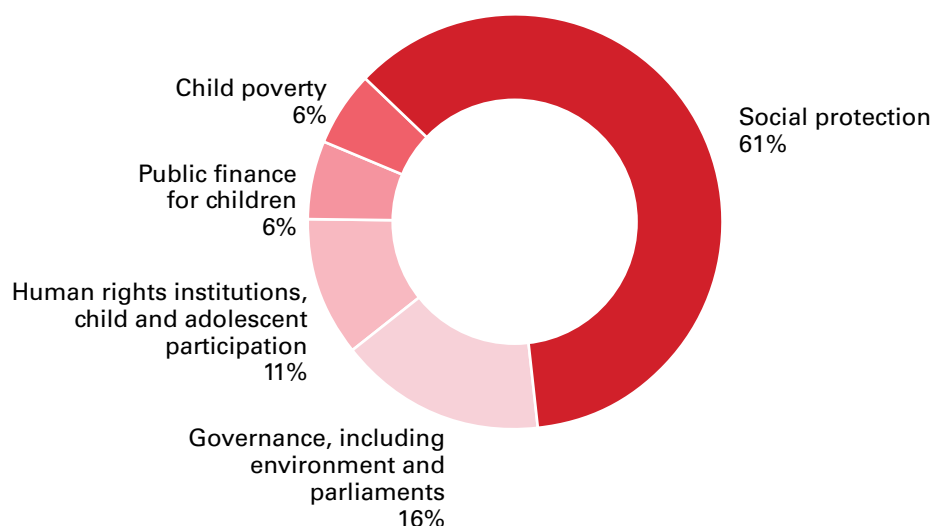
Expenses in other programme areas slightly declined, including those related to human rights, non-discrimination and participation (which dropped from 11 per cent in 2014 to 7 per cent in 2015) and general economic and social policy (which dropped from 16 per cent to 8 per cent).

The programme areas for the social inclusion outcome area were agreed upon only in 2014, thus the coding used by country offices to categorize expenses does not provide a perfect match to the programme areas of the social inclusion outcome. To identify more precisely the type and cost of interventions in each social inclusion programme area, in 2015 UNICEF conducted an analysis of expenses for specific actual areas of intervention. The main findings of this analysis are presented in Table 5 and Figure 21 and can be summarized as follows:

- The estimated cost of social protection interventions in 2015 was US\$80.4 million, and primarily covered direct benefits payments for cash or in-kind transfers (US\$37 million, of which 89 per cent was spent in humanitarian settings); support to social protection programmes and systems (US\$13 million); and support to improving national policies, strategies, planning and legislation (US\$5.9 million).
- US\$7.6 million was spent globally on child poverty work, including efforts on measurement and identification of child poverty, support to improving national policies and legislation and work towards achieving global and regional goals.
- Global expenses for public finance in 2015 were US\$7.7 million and mostly covered support to strengthening public financial management for children as well as economic analysis of social services and essential prices.
- Expenses in the governance and decentralization programme area totalled US\$21.1 million in 2015 and included support to local government budget planning and management, advancing transparency and accountability initiatives at sub-national levels, as well as work on urban planning and systems and child-friendly cities initiatives.
- Total spending on human rights, non-discrimination and participation (US\$14.4 million) covered work on promoting child rights, child-centred policies and services in disability-friendly formats, and participation of children and adolescents as well as of marginalized and excluded groups.* (See Figure 21 and Table 5.)

FIGURE 21

Expenses by programme area for social inclusion (combined analysis), 2015*



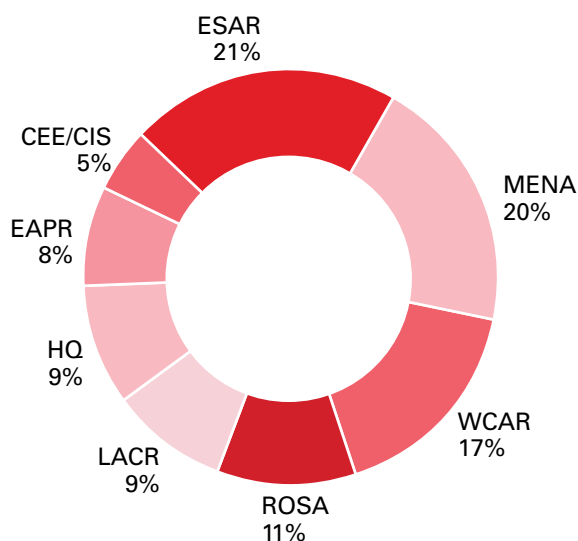
*The global expenses data in this paragraph and Figure 21 excludes funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational and other costs.

TABLE 5
Expenses by programme area for social inclusion, 2015 (US\$)

Programme area	Other resources - emergency	Other resources - regular	Regular resources	Total
Social protection	37,083,242	25,308,802	18,078,164	80,470,208
Child poverty	1,879,962	2,494,213	3,257,280	7,631,454
Public finance for children	246,498	2,671,574	4,848,349	7,766,421
Governance, including environment, parliaments	658,613	7,416,913	13,114,146	21,189,672
Human rights institutions, child and adolescent participation	1,760,168	5,607,039	7,114,833	14,482,040
Policy advocacy - urban, civil society, parliament, environment	27,607	6,349,434	8,494,189	14,871,229
Data and evidence	4,427,949	4,601,695	8,553,955	17,583,599
Economic and social policy general	973,629	2,188,231	8,734,625	11,896,485
Total social inclusion programme area expenses	47,057,668	56,637,901	72,195,539	175,891,108
Social inclusion funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational and other costs				90,524,051
Grand total social inclusion expenses	63,365,554	84,179,498	118,870,107	266,415,159

* The global expenses data in Table 5 exclude funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational and other costs.

FIGURE 22
Total expenses by region for social inclusion, 2015



While no separate coding is available for the fifth programme area – social inclusion in humanitarian settings – a helpful approximation of spending in this area can be gleaned from the data on funding sources. The source of 24 per cent (or US\$63.3 million) of total social inclusion expenses is other resources (emergency) funds, suggesting that a similar proportion of expenses could be classified in this programme area. Such work is currently mainstreamed across the other programme area categories.

The regional breakdown of social inclusion spending is presented in Figure 22 and Table 6.

In 2015, large shares of expenses in the area of social inclusion continued to occur in Eastern and Southern Africa and in West and Central Africa. In comparison with 2014, social inclusion expenses in the Middle East and North Africa grew from US\$20.2 million in 2014 to US\$52.8 million in 2015 – mainly a result of high expenses for social protection in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic. In other regions, social inclusion expenses decreased: by US\$6.7 million in South Asia, by US\$5.2 million in Latin America and the Caribbean and by US\$3.6 million in CEE/CIS (see *Table 6*).

Expense patterns for social inclusion vary across regions. In most of them, the highest proportion of expenses was allocated to social protection and child poverty work (81 per cent in the Middle East and North Africa, 52 per cent in East Asia and the Pacific, 46 per cent in Eastern and Southern Africa, 44 per cent in West and Central Africa, and 45 per cent in CEE/CIS). In South Asia, the highest proportion of expenses (38 per cent) was related to public finance and local governance interventions. Most headquarters expenses attributed to the social inclusion outcome were related to data and analytics work, which is in essence cross-cutting and cross-sectoral. For instance, 73 per cent of headquarters expenses were spent on MICS and other multi-sectoral household surveys, data collection and analysis, on civil society and social movement work and on innovation activities.

TABLE 6

Expenses by region and funding source for social inclusion, 2015 (US\$)

Region	Other resources - emergency	Other resources - regular	Regular resources	Total
CEE/CIS	130,579	6,711,900	6,087,565	12,930,044
EAPR	25,482	10,221,383	10,841,791	21,088,655
ESAR	8,032,791	21,070,405	27,808,537	56,911,733
HQ	(935,137)	10,076,729	15,366,186	24,507,778
LACR	1,419,479	13,308,034	9,871,550	24,599,063
MENA	41,158,763	5,242,409	6,305,677	52,706,849
ROSA	2,863,630	7,172,201	18,744,747	28,780,578
WCAR	10,669,968	10,376,437	23,844,055	44,890,460
Grand total	63,365,554	84,179,498	118,870,107	266,415,159

TABLE 7

Top 20 country or regional offices, by expense for social inclusion, 2015 (US\$)

Country	Other resources - emergency	Other resources - regular	Regular resources	Total
Jordan	18,579,694	1,025,937	824,334	20,429,964
Iraq	12,689,867	860,938	(968)	13,549,837
India	(1,162)	2,490,056	7,474,345	9,963,239
Sierra Leone	5,353,693	1,524,950	1,803,518	8,682,162
Bangladesh	2,701	1,030,974	7,530,558	8,564,233
Somalia	6,308,427	1,407,727	350	7,716,504
Brazil		5,931,102	1,311,578	7,242,680
Zimbabwe	4,653	3,888,954	2,586,153	6,479,759
Syrian Arab Republic	6,125,565		100,788	6,226,353
Nepal	1,331,633	3,113,268	1,442,678	5,887,578
Ethiopia	17,603	1,054,400	4,462,710	5,534,712
Zambia		3,909,356	1,369,380	5,278,736
Ghana	209,468	2,297,478	1,852,861	4,359,807
Chad	738,161	540,226	2,968,167	4,246,554
Democratic Republic of the Congo	161,856	1,561,240	2,505,790	4,228,886
Mozambique	224	1,019,168	2,997,544	4,016,936
Afghanistan	1,522,639	409,081	2,023,852	3,955,572
Guinea	2,331,782	135,557	1,414,166	3,881,505
South Sudan	1,411,624	389,435	2,050,285	3,851,344
Malawi		1,420,622	2,332,332	3,752,953
Total top 20	56,788,428	34,010,469	47,050,418	137,849,315

In 2015, UNICEF supported social inclusion programming in 152 countries across all regions. Countries with the highest expenses related to the social inclusion outcome area are listed in Table 7.

Responding to the crisis in the Middle East, over US\$20 million was spent for social inclusion programming in Jordan and US\$13.5 million in Iraq, mostly on direct benefits payment for cash or in-kind transfers. Similarly, in Sierra Leone, Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic, the biggest share of expenses was related to emergency programming. In 2015, the largest development programming expenses for social inclusion were in India

(US\$9.9 million), Bangladesh (US\$8.5 million), Brazil (US\$7.2 million) and Zimbabwe (US\$6.4 million) (*see Table 7*).

At the half point of the current Strategic Plan, by the end of 2015, expenses reached close to 50 per cent of the revised planned amounts by outcome area. By using expenses as a proxy for revenue, the Strategic Plan remains 50 per cent unfunded. Specifically for social inclusion, the gap is 70 per cent up to the end of 2015 for the 2014–2017 planned period. UNICEF looks forward to working closely with its partners to meet these funding needs and fulfil the shared commitments and results towards Agenda 2030.

FIGURE 23

Expenses by region and funding source for social inclusion, 2015

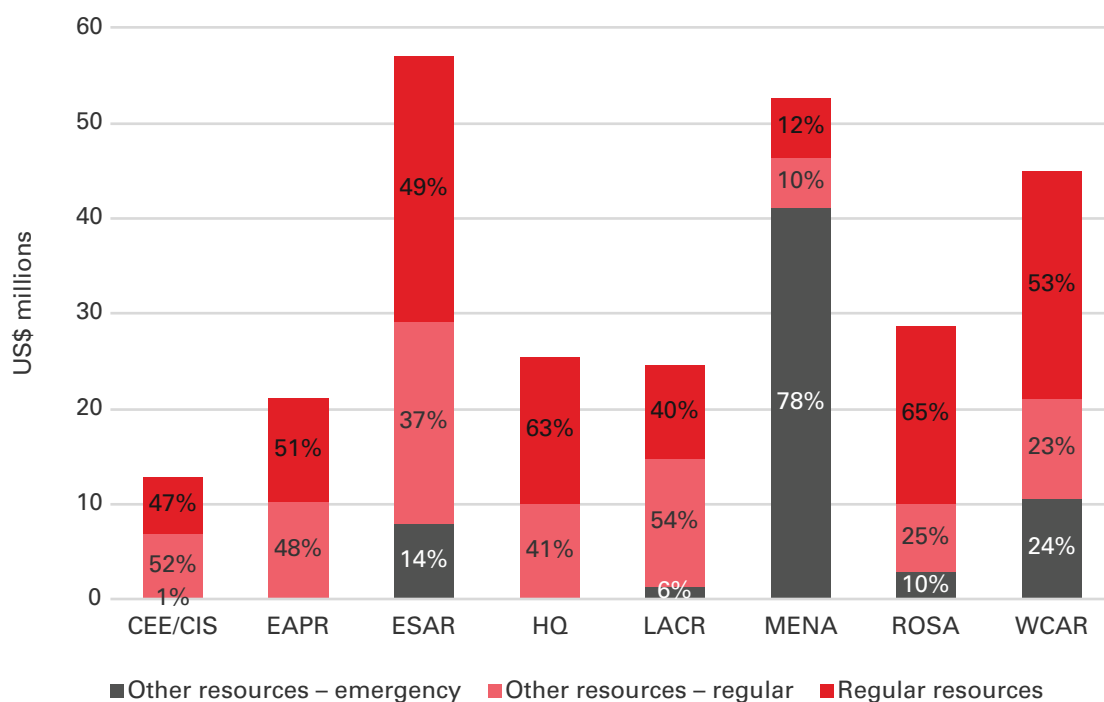


TABLE 8

Strategic Plan integrated results and resources framework by outcome area, 2014–2017:
Updated planned amounts, actual expenses and funding gap (US\$ millions)*

Outcome	Planned 2014–2017			Actual expenses			Funding gap		
	Regular resources	Other resources	Total resources	Regular resources	Other resources	Total resources	Regular resources	Other resources	Total resources
Health	1,023	3,760	4,783	473	2,035	2,508	550	1,725	2,275
HIV and AIDS	183	671	854	73	141	214	109	530	640
WASH	548	2,014	2,562	211	1,385	1,596	336	630	966
Nutrition	365	1,343	1,708	196	892	1,088	170	451	620
Education	730	2,686	3,416	293	1,533	1,827	437	1,153	1,590
Child protection	438	1,611	2,050	302	856	1,158	136	756	892
Social inclusion	365	1,343	1,708	244	265	509	121	1,078	1,199
Totals	3,652	13,429	17,081	1,792	7,107	8,899	1,860	6,322	8,182

*Expenses as a proxy for revenue received.

FUTURE WORKPLAN

In 2016 and beyond, UNICEF's social inclusion work at the country and global levels will include efforts to improve the quality and regularity of child poverty measurement, and the analysis and use of these data to strengthen the commitment to halve the child poverty rate by 2030 and identify a package of appropriate policies and programmes to reduce child poverty.

Expanding social protection coverage, in line with the SDG target, and maximizing the impact of social protection on children will be central to this effort. UNICEF's public finance efforts to make public expenditure on health, education, protection, WASH and nutrition more effective and equitable will be equally critical. To provide a baseline against which to track the adequacy and quality of these investments, more countries will work to initiate or improve the measurement of child-focused public expenditures, and help partners identify and implement public finance measures to address child poverty by making sure that public spending on children is adequate, efficient and equitable.

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

Child poverty and social protection. The SDGs put within striking distance the possibility of universal measurement and response to child poverty, fundamentally shifting the environment for the world's poorest children. To take advantage of this opportunity, child poverty needs to remain a high priority on the global agenda. Amid more than 160 global targets, maintaining the focus on child poverty will take a set of interventions that include high-level publications and ongoing advocacy with partners like the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty and the World Bank.

At the country level, UNICEF's work on child poverty will take two broad directions. First, the organization will encourage countries that are not yet routinely measuring multidimensional and monetary child poverty to do so. UNICEF has much experience in this area and can provide

countries with technical assistance, including external expert consultants. Second, UNICEF will help countries move from measurement and broad advocacy on child poverty towards instituting policies and programmes that have an impact – and ultimately, towards making comprehensive, integrated plans to end extreme child poverty and halve child poverty by national definitions. This is a newer area of practice for us, and we will need to collect and share best practice and new guidance and support.

To support these efforts, UNICEF Headquarters will continue work with the World Bank to produce common monetary child poverty numbers, and to collaborate with many partners on further development and application of multi-dimensional child poverty measures. To support the move from measurement to analysis and use, UNICEF at global level will work with the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty on developing guidance on how to do this effectively. The organization will also prioritize collaboration on research to identify the most effective policies for child poverty reduction.

Building on work in the first two years of the strategic plan, UNICEF will continue to support progress towards the SDG target of expanding coverage of social protection systems and maximizing the impacts of social protection for children. As UNICEF continues to strengthen national capacity and provide technical support for implementation, the organization expects to make progress and additional investment in several key areas.

At the global level, UNICEF will work to define the specific interventions where the organization is best placed to add value to national-level social protection work and to develop further guidance and tools to support these efforts, in areas such as identifying and reaching the most vulnerable; linking cash and service interventions; administrative systems; and supporting UNICEF's growing efforts on strengthening the social welfare workforce.

UNICEF country offices will also provide ongoing technical assistance to national governments on how to put these combinations of programmes into practice. UNICEF at all levels will document good practice and synthesize it into guidance and support to South-South exchange. Equipped with stronger evidence and operational learning, national governments and partners will be able to make their social protection programmes for children and families more effective.

UNICEF plans to strengthen its work on social protection in fragile contexts. While expanding its programming and innovation on the ground, UNICEF headquarters is making

a number of investments to become more effective, by building its own capacity, collaborating with key partners and developing guidance and tools for staff and partners on strategies and steps for making social protection systems more responsive in emergencies; linking cash transfer emergency responses to existing social protection systems; and working to develop sustainable systems, where feasible and needed following and building on emergency cash responses.

Second, UNICEF will capitalize on its role in generating evidence on the impacts of social protection on children, to understand which combinations of social protection programmes and services can maximize benefits for children and their families, and how best to strengthen the systems necessary for their effective delivery. To date, the strongest evidence on social protection has been on cash transfer programmes, which has been critically important to increasing national commitments to social protection and improving practice. Now, there is increasing demand from diverse partners for better evidence on the impact of combining various types of social protection programmes – for example, cash transfers together with health insurance or social support services – and combining social protection with complementary measures, such as nutrition information.

Human rights, non-discrimination and participation.

UNICEF will continue to work to promote human rights, participation and non-discrimination, as a key part of the support provided to countries to implement the new development agenda. UNICEF will focus on various aspects of accountability, including strengthening the role of national human rights institutions and creating sustainable mechanisms for social accountability with and for children and adolescents, in schools, in communities, and at local and national levels. Countries will also put greater emphasis on groups that are marginalized and discriminated against – such as indigenous children and children with disabilities – in putting the SDGs into practice.

UNICEF will also advance development and humanitarian priorities through multi-level and evidence-based interventions, including interactive digital technology to promote behaviour and social change that helps make sure that programmes include children from excluded groups – such as migrant children, children from nomadic groups, those living in remote areas, children with special needs, and those belonging to ethnic and linguistic minorities. UNICEF headquarters will make more explicit efforts to define and support models for Accountability to Affected Populations within Humanitarian Action, focusing on children's resilience, and on mitigating stigma and discrimination.

Public finance for children. During 2016, UNICEF's engagement in public finance for children will continue to build on of the momentum created by the financing framework for the SDGs and the forthcoming General

Comment on public spending on child rights, and 'graduation' of an increasing number of countries from global or donor financing for some key interventions. An analysis of UNICEF's results management information system (RAM) suggests a continuing groundswell in PF4C-related activities, based on country programme outputs shown in RAM, and that these activities span across multiple result areas. In the social inclusion area alone, 75 PF4C-specific outputs are being worked on or planned for in around 60 country programmes. In many contexts, this will make public finance for children approaches more systematic, as more country offices transition from one-off, ad hoc interventions to longer-term engagement strategies that combine evidence generation, advocacy and budget monitoring.

UNICEF headquarters will aim to capitalize on the momentum to accelerate PF4C work by producing guidance and tools and building on the political opportunities and emerging partnerships. Public finance for children work will increasingly span across sectors. UNICEF will build on the equity strategies of other result areas and expand engagement in public financial management systems, to reach meso and downstream segments (for instance, local government and facility-level financial management). This will help identify and remove barriers and bottlenecks in service delivery. Especially where governments have lost revenue because of the drop in global commodity prices, UNICEF will work to safeguard spending on essential services for children.

At the same time, there will be a greater emphasis on sharing and adapting proven public finance for children approaches across countries, building on an emerging group of public finance for children 'champions'. Malaysia, for example, has showcased its leadership in outcome-based budgeting by hosting a number of high-level delegations from across Asia. Based on their innovation and long-term engagement, Argentina, Mexico and Peru are among the trailblazers in measuring and monitoring child-focused expenditures and can serve as knowledge brokers for establishing methodologies in other contexts. Similarly, Viet Nam has designed a variety of Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys and is well-positioned to advise others on generating local-level evidence and advocating for using resources more efficiently.

Support from UNICEF headquarters in 2016 and 2017, in coordination with regional offices, will be geared to increasing the number countries that regularly monitor child-focused budgetary allocations and spending against related policy commitments to 20 by the end of 2017. Following the work done in 2015 to develop a methodology for measuring child-focused public expenditure, field tests are planned for 2016 in India, Finland, the United Republic of Tanzania, and possibly Ethiopia. This will be followed by support to increase use

of the methodology in additional countries. In light of growing demand, an overarching framework/programme guidance note to support all public finance work undertaken within UNICEF will be developed, along with sector- and issue-specific tools and guidance as needed. Additional steps will be taken to increase staff capacity to undertake public finance for children work. For example, a learning course has been developed and approximately 80 staff are signed up to participate in the 10-week online course.

UNICEF will also continue to emphasize influencing key global political efforts, including shaping the Financing for Development monitoring framework and the CRC General Comment on public spending and the rights of the child, to reflect greater emphasis on monitoring and improving domestic investment in children.

Decentralization and local governance. The work on decentralization and local governance is in the early stages of development, with a focus on consolidating learning around current work to provide guidance and clarity on measuring progress. The stocktake of UNICEF engagement in decentralization and local governance was a first step in this direction. The stocktake found that many country offices – across different income levels and including in fragile contexts – are working in this area. But this engagement is frequently opportunistic and ad hoc in nature, and could benefit from a more systematic and strategic approach. In 2016, UNICEF will therefore focus on developing a strategic framework on decentralization and local governance engagement, along with specific technical notes. In addition, the decentralization and local governance development partner network offers learning opportunities to country office staff.

UNICEF expects to put greater emphasis on decentralization and local governance programming in 2016–2017, with stronger connections between UNICEF sector and decentralization and local governance programming and between the local governance level and the overall decentralization framework. UNICEF country offices operating in decentralized or decentralizing environments will increasingly base their engagement in this regard on strong analysis of contexts and political economy, and will more often partner with key stakeholders, including Ministries of local government, local government associations, development partners and United Nations agencies.

Social inclusion in humanitarian settings. Work in social inclusion in humanitarian settings will strengthen the links across sectors and between development and humanitarian programming. UNICEF headquarters has commissioned two research consultancies to look at the role of local governments in disaster risk reduction and peacebuilding. These will produce technical documents based on a combination of literature and existing UNICEF

country office experiences. UNICEF country offices will use this technical guidance to support more evidence-based and systematic programming, making initiatives more effective and sustainable. To encourage programme outcomes to more deeply consider risk, UNICEF headquarters has also been supporting the development of risk-informed programming guidance, to be developed by all outcome areas, including social inclusion.

UNICEF will continue to advocate for linking and strengthening social protection and humanitarian action – before, during and after crises, and in fragile contexts – to build the resilience of children, households and economies. UNICEF will work with partners at the country, regional and global levels to facilitate policy dialogues in countries and offer technical support to countries to contribute to more effective humanitarian action and to the expansion and strengthening of social protection systems and programmes worldwide, including in the most fragile contexts.²²

Out of the US\$2.8 billion for which UNICEF has appealed to reach 43 million children in humanitarian emergencies worldwide, 2 per cent, or US\$84 million, is required for cash transfers and other social protection programmes, including activities to prepare social protection systems to respond to emergency situations and implement humanitarian cash transfers for internally displaced people and refugees.

UNICEF will engage with the World Humanitarian Summit process to advocate for links between social protection and humanitarian action, and will also make internal investments to improve our own capacity in this area. UNICEF will work together with other partners, encourage collaboration among emergency and social policy staff, develop training and programming guidance for UNICEF staff and partners, and learn from its monitoring and evaluation.



Uganda. A young girl carries her sibling on her back and firewood on her head. Girls often bear a heavy burden of household chores.

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EXPRESSION OF THANKS

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

Special thanks go to the Governments of Norway and Sweden for providing consistent and generous thematic funding for social inclusion, as well as to our top resource partners: the Governments of the United Kingdom and Germany, the European Commission and the Swedish Committee for UNICEF.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEE/CIS	Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States
CRBP	Children's Rights and Business Principles
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty programme
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
MODA	Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis
NGO	non-governmental organization
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMS	short message service
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme

ENDNOTES

1. According to population estimates from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, children (0–17 years old) accounted for 31.9 per cent of the world population, and 34.5 per cent in developing countries, in 2010.
2. Olinto, P., et al., 'The State of the Poor: Where are the poor, where is extreme poverty harder to end, and what is the current profile of the world's poor?', The World Bank – Economic Premise, no. 125, pp. 1–8.
3. Based on a survey of UNICEF staff in 153 country offices including 18 National Committees. The question on country status asked: Which of the options best describe the current status of child poverty in your country, regardless of UNICEF involvement?
4. Methodology. Based on a survey of UNICEF staff in 153 country offices including National Committees. Questions on measurement asked if there was 'current measurement of child poverty (either monetary or multidimensional poverty) by (or supported by) the Government'. Some 153 countries responded to the survey.
5. An international poverty measure developed by UNDP and Oxford Poverty and Humanitarian Initiative that capture deprivations with respect to education, health and living standard. The final report on SDG indicators did not adopt the Multidimensional Poverty Index, allowing national governments to adopt an indicator according to their national definitions.
6. Further resources:
<http://unicef.ge/uploads/UNICEF_Poverty_Paper_2015_ENG_FINAL_.pdf>,
<www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2014/12/04/social-protection-systems-in-georgia-should-better-address-the-needs-of-the-most-vulnerable-groups-unicef-and-world-bank-say>
<<http://www.developmentpathways.co.uk/resources/georgia-introduces-a-new-child-benefit-strengthening-its-commitment-to-an-inclusive-lifecycle-approach-to-social-security/>>.
7. The Transfer Project is a research initiative, in which UNICEF is a leading partner. Such initiatives promote cutting-edge impact evaluations of cash transfer programmes in various countries, mostly in Africa. <<https://transfer.cpc.unc.edu/>>.
8. This is likely an underestimate, given that a total of 41 countries were unable to report numbers of children.
9. The report is available at: <www.unicef.org/evaluation/files/Social_Protection_Evaluation_Synthesis_Final.pdf>.
10. The Transfer Project is a research initiative, in which UNICEF is a leading partner. Such initiatives promote cutting-edge impact evaluations of cash transfer programmes in various countries, mostly in Africa. <<https://transfer.cpc.unc.edu/>>.
11. The report cites four reasons for this assessment: "the broad scale of the programming in the host nations; the use of gold standard research techniques such as randomized control assignment into beneficiary and control communities; large research budgets allowing abundant and sophisticated data collection; and cooperation among agencies (FAO, others) to pool expertise in research design and analysis."
12. Bahamas, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati.
13. Bahamas and Kiribati.
14. Argentina, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, Mongolia and Uruguay.
15. South Sudan.
16. Azerbaijan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Gambia, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Marshall Islands, Sao Tome and Principe, Trinidad and Tobago, and Viet Nam.
17. The United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is a unique collaborative effort that brings together United Nations entities, governments, disabled people's organizations and the broader civil society to advance disability rights around the world. The partnership supports the full implementation of the CRPD by facilitating coalition building and capacity-development at the country, regional and global levels.
18. Note: The sample is restricted to those countries that have at least two education expenditure data points, one of which is from 2012, 2013 or 2014; and the methodology for reporting on this indicator changed due to the increased availability of education and health expenditure data.
19. Child-friendly cities promoted by UNICEF National Committees and country offices – Fact sheet, September 2009.

- ^{20.} See <<http://childfriendlycities.org>>, accessed November 2015.
- ^{21.} 2015 Post Distribution Monitoring Report, 'A Window of Hope: UNICEF Child Cash Grant Programme in Jordan' is available at: <www.unicef.org/jordan/A_Window_of_Hope_December_2015.pdf>. Interactive data visualization is available at <<http://childcashgrantjordan.org/#page/1/chapter/1>>.
- ^{22.} Source: 2016, UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children – Overview.

ANNEX

Visualizing achievements

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



Green

Indicator level

Achievement of the indicator is at or above 100% of the milestone

Outputs and outcome area level

Average achievement of indicators in the output or outcome area is at or above 100%



Amber

Indicator level

Achievement of the indicator is between 60% and 99% of the milestone

Outputs and outcome area level

Average achievement of indicators in the output or outcome area is between 60% and 99%



Red

Indicator level

Achievement of the indicator is less than 60% of the milestone

Outputs and outcome area level

Average achievement of indicators in the output or outcome area is less than 60%

Social Inclusion

Average achievement rate:

108% 

Impact Indicator	Baseline*	2017 Target	2015 Update**
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7a. Countries in which social protection systems have a positive impact on children's well-being

35

53

50

7b. Countries that have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

CRC – 190
CRC OP1 – 153
CRC OP2 – 165
CRC OP3 – 10
CEDAW – 186
CRPD – 141

CRC – 197
CRC OP1 – 175
CRC OP2 – 165
CRC OP3 – 24
CEDAW – 193
CRPD – 169

CRC - 196
CRC OP1 - 162
CRC OP2 - 171
CRC OP3 - 26
CEDAW - 189
CRPD - 162

7c. Number of children living in extreme poverty

550 million
(2010)

447 million

Updated data
not available

Outcome Indicator	Baseline*	2017 Target	2015 Update**
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P7.1 Countries that expand the number of children covered by social protection systems

37 (2014)

52

35 out of
96 UNICEF
programme
countries with
data for 2014
and 2015

P7.2 Countries with improved capacity to develop, implement and finance integrated social protection systems

32

50

15 out of
149 UNICEF
programme
countries with
data for 2014
and 2015

P7.3 Countries in which social spending on a per capita basis is being maintained or is increasing

24

50

45 out of
82 countries

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

Output a

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

Average output achievement

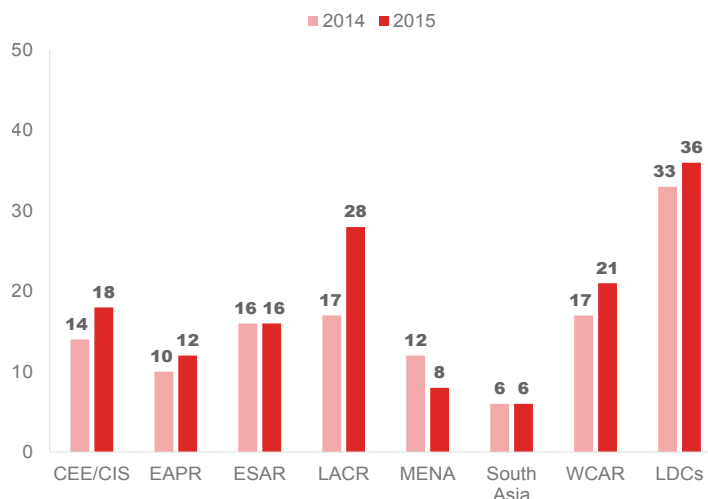
108%

P7.a.1

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

2014 Baseline	92
2015 Result	109
2015 Milestone	94
2017 Target	102

Achievement 116%

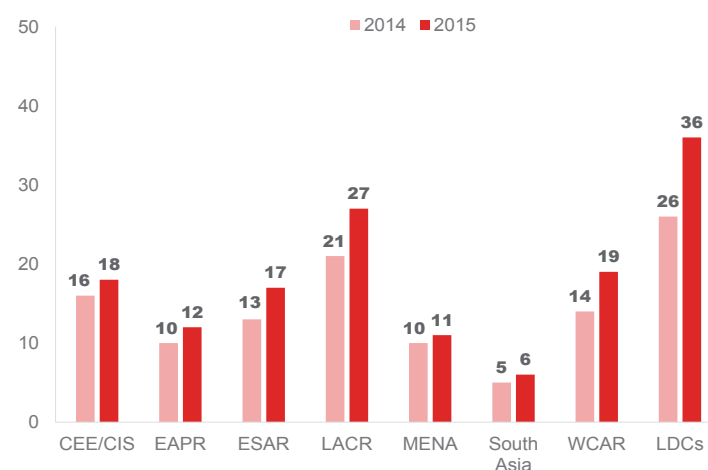


P7.a.2

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

2014 Baseline	89
2015 Result	110
2015 Milestone	109
2017 Target	134

Achievement 101%



Output b

Increased national capacity to provide access to inclusive systems that protect children and adolescents from poverty and promote social inclusion

Average output achievement

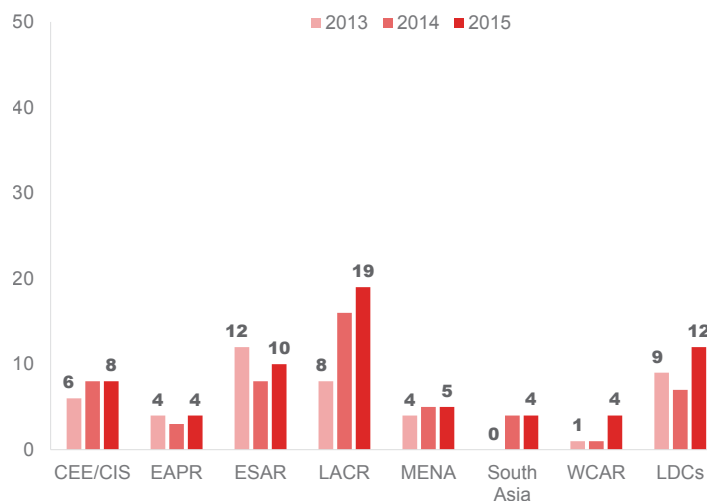
115%

P7.b.1

Countries that track the effectiveness of social protection on at least one child outcome

2013 Baseline	35
2014 Result	45
2015 Result	54
2015 Milestone	50
2017 Target	60

Achievement 108%

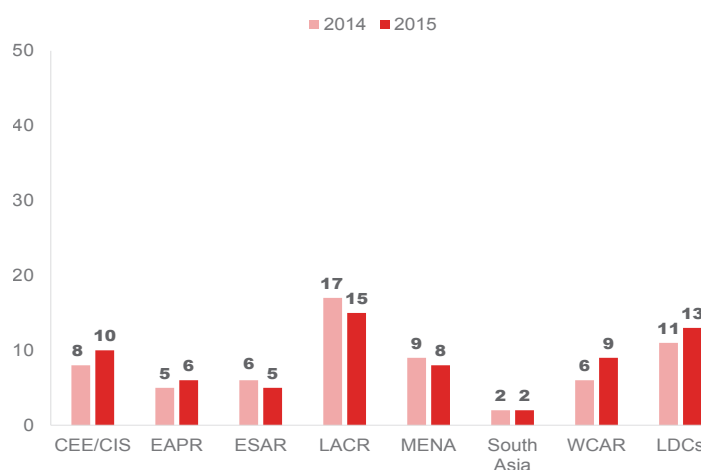


P7.b.2

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

2014 Baseline	53
2015 Result	55
2015 Milestone	58
2017 Target	68

Achievement 95%

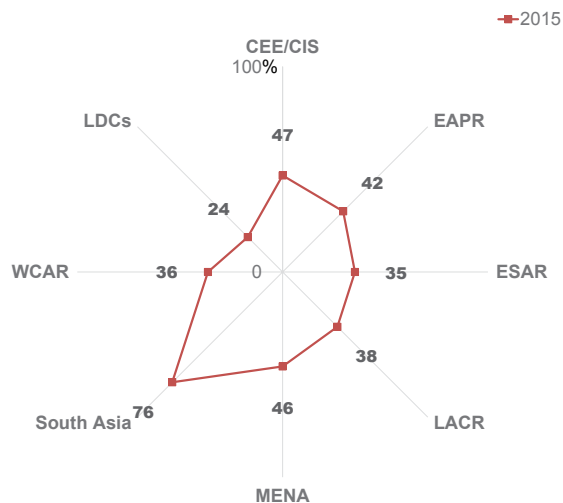


P7.b.3

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

2014 Baseline	25%
2015 Result	41%
2015 Milestone	26%
2017 Target	30%

Achievement 158% ●

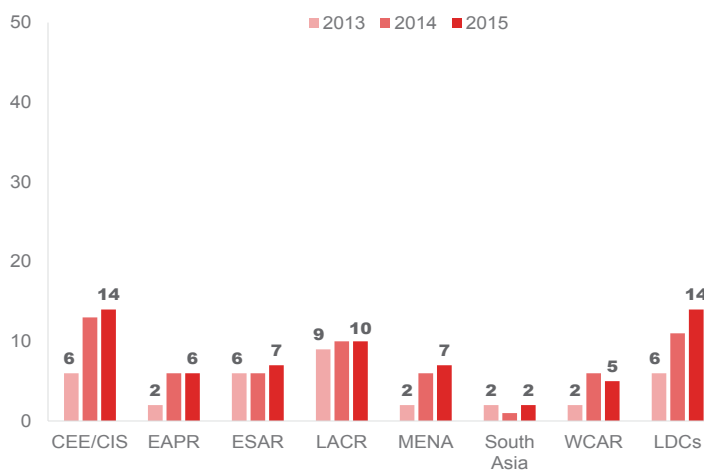


P7.b.4

Countries that routinely monitor and report on child poverty

2013 Baseline	29
2014 Result	48
2015 Result	51
2015 Milestone	52
2017 Target	60

Achievement 98% ●



Output c

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

Average output achievement

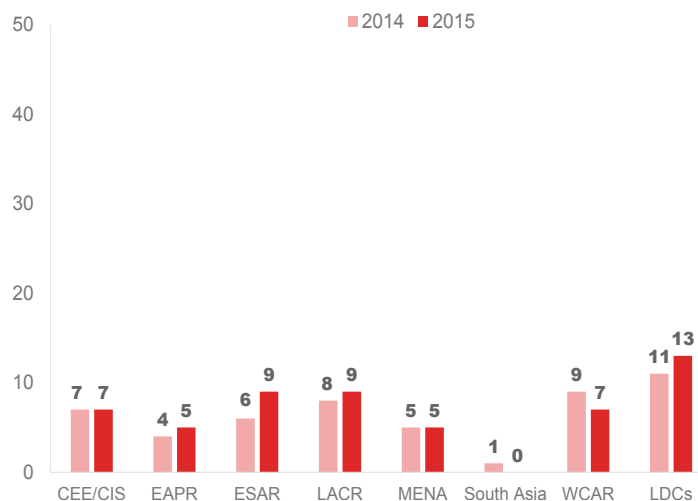
116%

P7.c.1

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

2014 Baseline	40
2015 Result	42
2015 Milestone	45
2017 Target	60

Achievement 93%

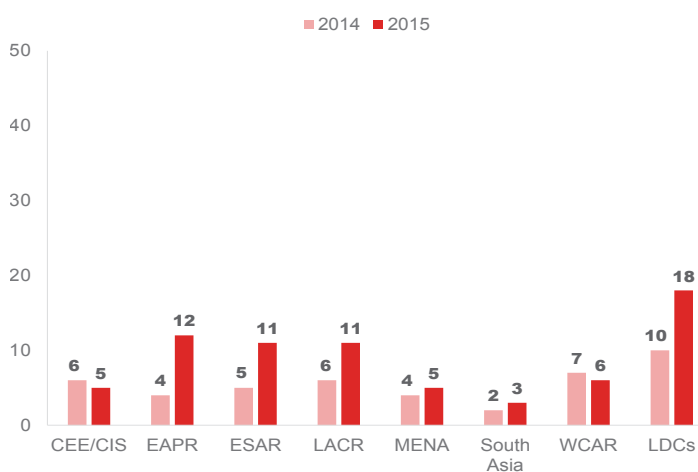


P7.c.2

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

2014 Baseline	34
2015 Result	53
2015 Milestone	38
2017 Target	50

Achievement 139%



Output d

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

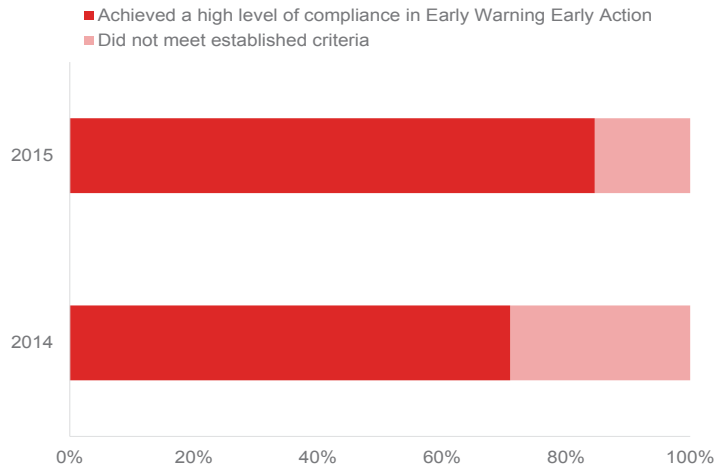
Average output achievement
112%

P7.d.1

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

2014 Baseline	71%
2015 Result	85%
2015 Milestone	75%
2017 Target	100%

Achievement 113%

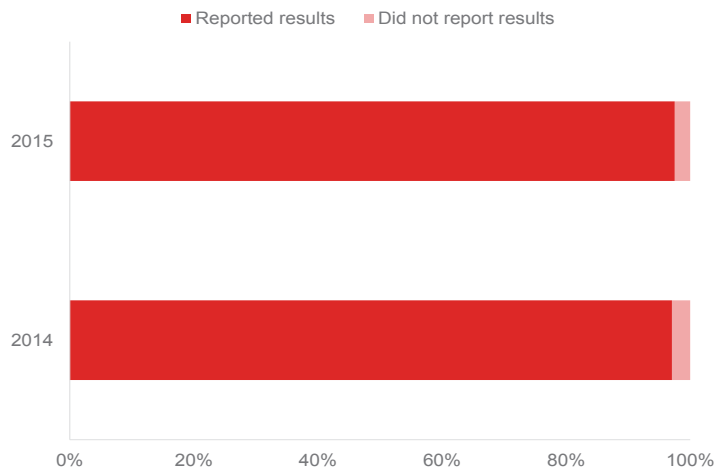


P7.d.2

Countries in humanitarian situations with systems to monitor UNICEF humanitarian results

2014 Baseline	97%
2015 Result	98%
2015 Milestone	98%
2017 Target	100%

Achievement 100%

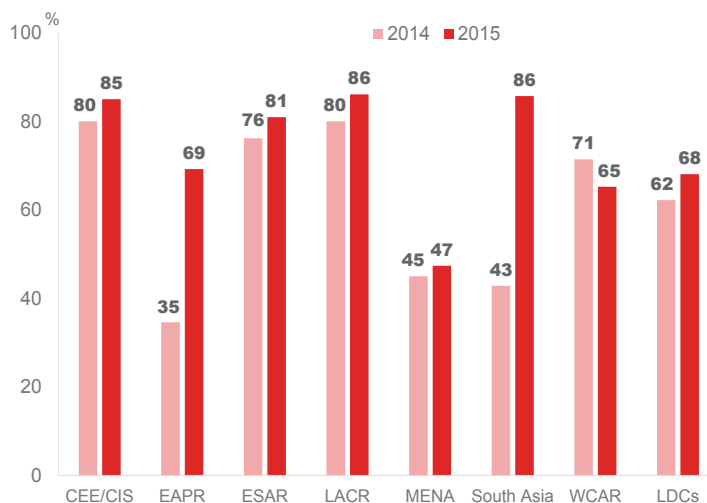


P7.d.3 (a)

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

2014 Baseline	64%
2015 Result	74%
2015 Milestone	66%
2017 Target	74%

Achievement 112% ●

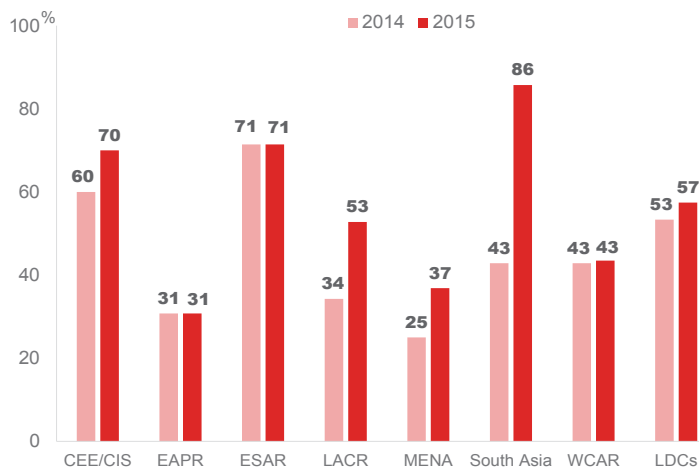


P7.d.3 (b)

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

2014 Baseline	43%
2015 Result	52%
2015 Milestone	45%
2017 Target	51%

Achievement 116% ●

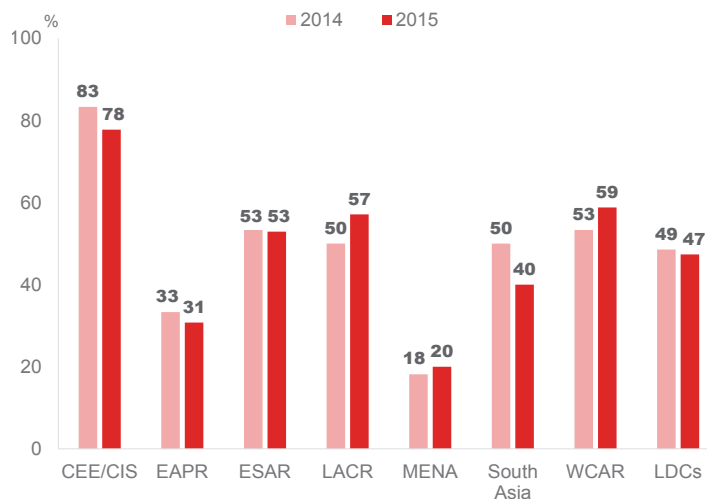


P7.d.4 (a)

Countries in which humanitarian action has contributed to the development of social protection programmes/systems

2014 Baseline	47%
2015 Result	49%
2015 Milestone	46%
2017 Target	50%

Achievement 107% ●

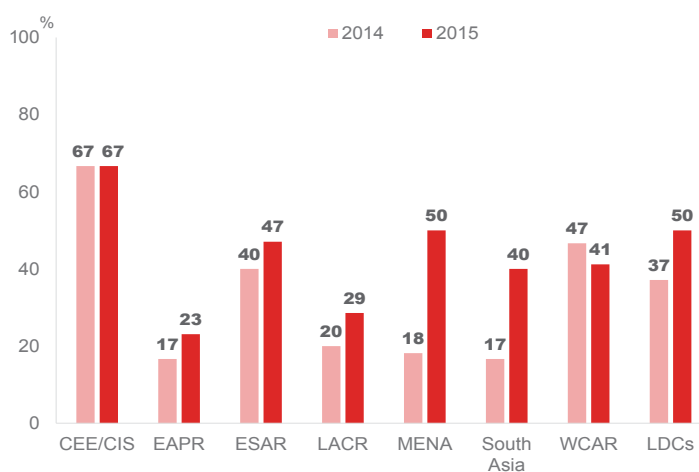


P7.d.4 (b)

Countries in which UNICEF-supported social protection programming has contributed to humanitarian action responses

2014 Baseline	32%
2015 Result	41%
2015 Milestone	33%
2017 Target	40%

Achievement 124% ●



Output e

Increased capacity of Governments and partners, as duty-bearers, to identify and respond to key human-rights and gender-equality dimensions of social inclusion

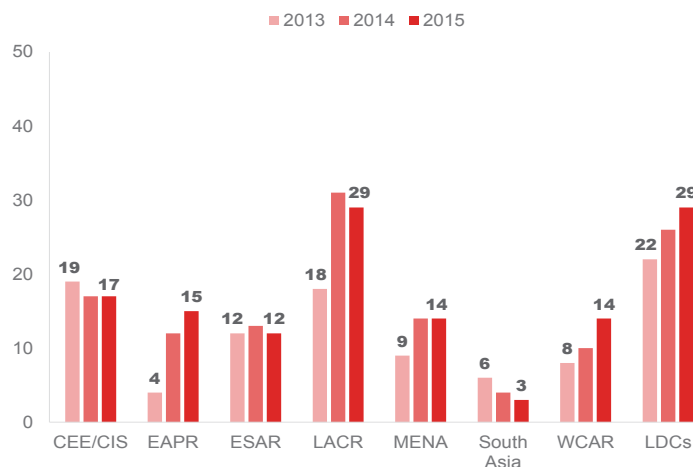
Average output achievement

88%

P7.e.1 (a)

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

2013 Baseline	74
2014 Result	101
2015 Result	104
2015 Milestone	115
2017 Target	157

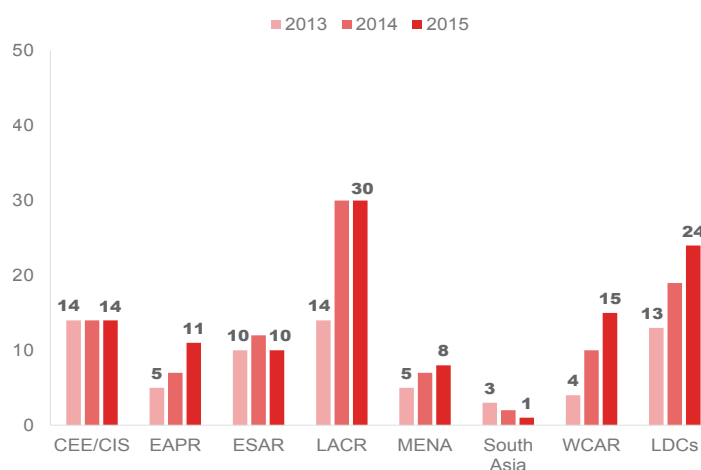


Achievement 90%

P7.e.1 (b)

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

2013 Baseline	55
2014 Result	82
2015 Result	89
2015 Milestone	90
2017 Target	110



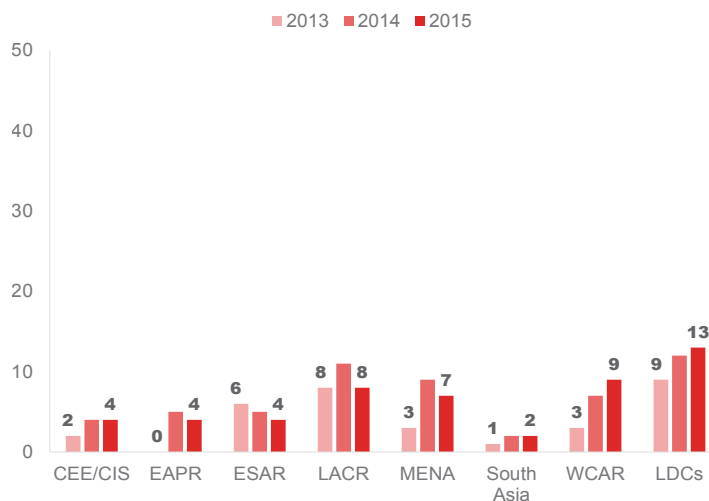
Achievement 99%

P7.e.1 (c)

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

2013 Baseline	23
2014 Result	43
2015 Result	38
2015 Milestone	55
2017 Target	72

Achievement 69%

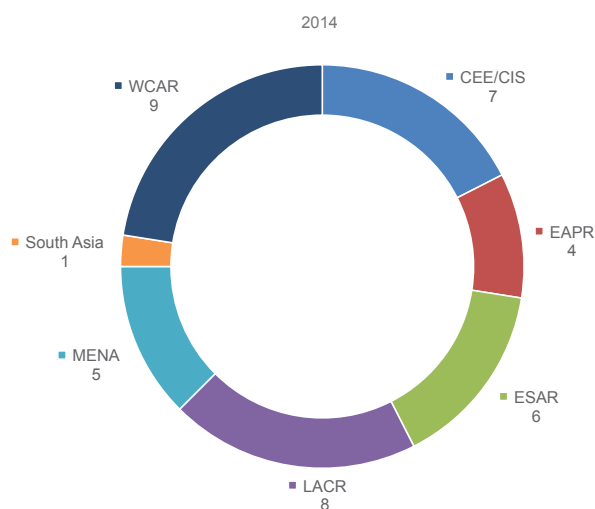


P7.e.2

Countries with a national social protection strategy or plan that includes elements focused on gender

2014 Baseline	40
2015 Result	-
2015 Milestone	42
2017 Target	50

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

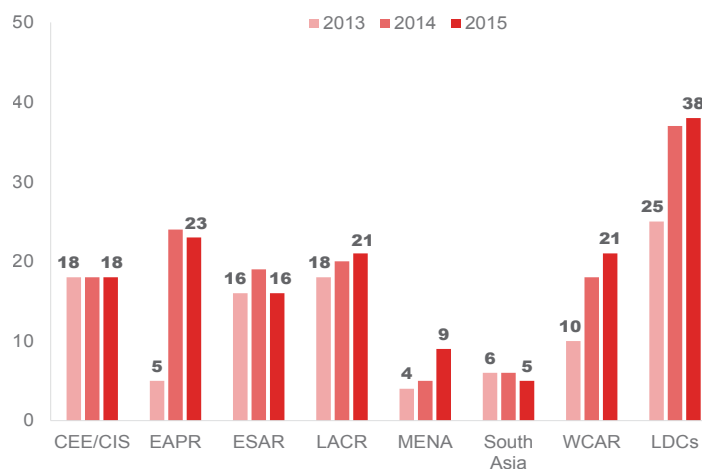


P7.e.3

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

2013 Baseline	77
2014 Result	110
2015 Result	113
2015 Milestone	120
2017 Target	140

Achievement 94%



Output f

Enhanced global and regional capacity to accelerate progress towards social inclusion

Average output achievement

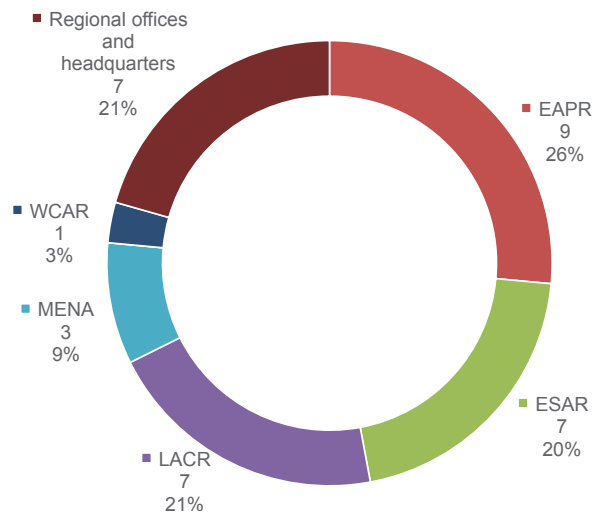
104% ●

P7.f.1

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

2014 Baseline	16
2015 Result	34
2015 Milestone	26
2017 Target	46

Achievement 131% ●

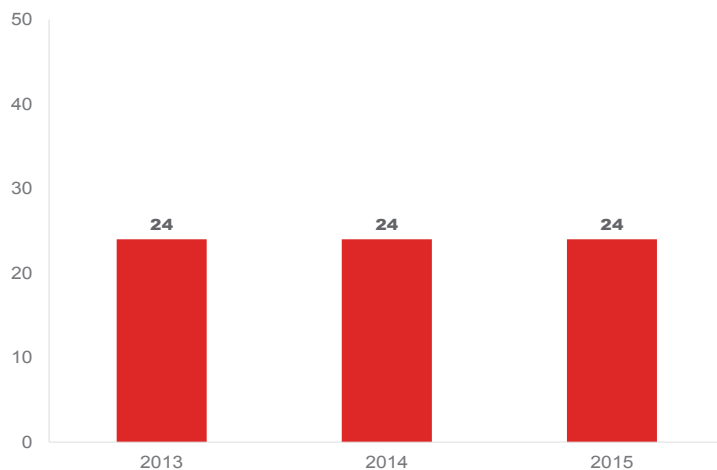


P7.f.3

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

2013 Baseline	24
2014 Result	24
2015 Result	24
2015 Milestone	25
2017 Target	29

Achievement 96% ●



P7.f.2

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

2013 Baseline	11
2014 Result	11
2015 Result	11
2015 Milestone	13
2017 Target	19

Achievement 85%



Global initiatives

- Initiative on cash preparedness and adaptive social protection – in partnership with the World Bank, the United Kingdom Department for International Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Inter-Agency Social Protection Assessments (UNICEF is part of the Advisory Group)
- Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board
- Global Coalition to End Child Poverty
- Transfer Project (an initiative to promote impact evaluations of cash transfers) – UNICEF headquarters, together with the Office of Research, in partnership with Save the Children and FAO

Regional initiatives

- Africa Community of Practice on cash transfers – headquarters, ESARO and WCARO, in partnership with the World Bank, serve as facilitators of the platform involving more than 30 countries
- United Nations Development Group Western and Central Africa Strategy and Road Map to operationalize the resilience-building approach at the country level in the framework of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (WCAR)
- Together with ILO and UNDP, the CEE/CIS regional office launched a new regional United Nations cooperation initiative on social protection floors, which led to the creation of a Thematic Working Group on Social Protection in Europe and Central Asia under the United Nations Regional Directors Team (CEE/CIS)
- Regional Framework and Action Plan to Implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection (Adopted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in November 2015) – UNICEF, together with ILO and other international agencies (EAPRO)
- Public Expenditure Network in Asia - UNICEF has official observer status (EAPRO)
- Bangkok Show and Tell on Social Protection – initiated by UNICEF and ILO, with participation from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the World Food Programme (WFP), FAO, UNDP and UNFPA (EAPRO)



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