



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

# 2014 ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT SOCIAL INCLUSION

unite for  
children

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*UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2014–2017 is designed to fulfil the organization's universal mandate of promoting the rights of every child and every woman, as put forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, in the current international context. At the core of the Strategic Plan, **UNICEF's** equity strategy – emphasizing the most disadvantaged and excluded children and families – translates **UNICEF's** commitment to children's rights into action. The first year of the Strategic Plan coincides with intensifying discussion in the international community on what the post-2015 development agenda will be. What follows is a report on what **UNICEF** set out to do in its Strategic Plan for 2014–2017 to advance the equity agenda through the organization's work on social inclusion; what was achieved in 2014, in partnership with many diverse organizations and movements; and the impact of these accomplishments on the lives of children and families. This report is one of eight on the results of **UNICEF's** efforts this past year, working in partnerships at the global, regional and country levels (one on each of the seven outcome areas of the Strategic Plan and one on humanitarian action). A results report on the **UNICEF** Gender Action Plan has also been prepared as an official **UNICEF** Executive Board document. The organization's work has increasingly produced results across the development-humanitarian continuum, and in 2014, **UNICEF** contributed to an unprecedented level of humanitarian assistance and emergency response. The report lays out what was learned through reflection and analyses, and what is planned for next year. It is an annex and is considered to be integral to the Executive Director's Annual Report 2014, **UNICEF's** official accountability document for the past year.*

Cover image: © UNICEF/NYHQ2005-1680/Estey

Two girls smile and embrace at a temporary camp for people displaced by the tsunami, in the TVRI television station compound in Banda Aceh, the capital of Aceh Province, Indonesia. In addition to providing emergency relief supplies, UNICEF's child protection unit offers a variety of recreational activities and psychosocial programs for children affected by trauma

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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UNICEF work on social inclusion on behalf of the poorest and most marginalized children to assist countries in understanding the patterns and drivers of child poverty and exclusion and in developing effective responses. While each UNICEF sectoral area strives to reach the poorest children and to combat discrimination, complementary interventions are needed because the origins and potential responses to poverty and social marginalization often lie beyond the scope of any single sector.

Despite the growing global consensus about its negative impact, child poverty remains alarmingly high. More than one third of the extremely poor are under age 13, and in low-income countries, half of all children live in extreme poverty. Well-designed social protection systems have a proven positive impact on child poverty and well-being, but coverage is still low. When in place, social protection systems can also be a critical lynchpin and timesaver when mounting a humanitarian response. Children are rarely prioritized when decisions are made about the use of public funds, yet this is essential for tackling multidimensional child poverty. In many countries local governments are increasingly responsible for service delivery, and yet lack capacity to consult their constituencies and plan, budget and monitor services in ways that respond to the needs of the most deprived children and women. Fighting discrimination also requires concerted efforts to translate human rights commitments into effective action, promote accountability and monitor progress – working with social movements and communities to counter and eliminate bias children may face.

UNICEF's work on social inclusion aims to address these important barriers to children's well-being. In 2014, UNICEF achieved important progress in implementing the five key areas of the social inclusion outcome area.

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## PROGRAMME AREA 1: CHILD POVERTY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

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UNICEF's goal is for national governments in all countries to measure, prioritize and respond to child poverty – to recognize it as a national policy priority and develop and implement plans of action

to protect children from poverty and its most devastating consequences. Currently, 48 governments regularly monitor and report on children and poverty, and 103 UNICEF programme countries calculate monetary child poverty rates using national poverty lines. In 16 countries, child poverty is explicitly addressed in national development plans or legislation.

Social protection is a crucial response to child poverty, and UNICEF assists over 100 countries in their efforts to make social protection systems more child-sensitive. This includes support to a range of social protection programmes such as cash transfers, school fee abolition, health insurance, and social support services. Currently, at least 146 million children benefit from cash transfers alone. In 2014, 62 countries (up 24 per cent from 2013) undertook social protection impact assessments, and 80 per cent of the assessments reported positive impacts on child well-being.

UNICEF's work on the social protection programme in Zambia, for example, included an impact assessment showing a reduction in the number of people living below the poverty line by 5.4 percentage points, a narrowing in the intensity and depth of poverty, and benefits in children's health and nutrition. Based on this evidence, the government boosted the annual budget of the cash transfer programme by 800 per cent in 2014 to raise coverage from 19 to 50 districts.

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

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International and national legislative frameworks are a key tool in addressing social and economic exclusion. In 2014, total ratifications of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) rose to 194, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to 188 and of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD) to 151. Countries also acted on these commitments, updating laws in response to Treaty Body Concluding Observations. In 2014, relevant reforms around child protection, health, education and other areas were undertaken in 78 per cent of UNICEF programme countries in response

to CRC concluding observations; 70 per cent for CEDAW and 56 per cent for CRPD, a substantial advance over 2013. UNICEF assisted 99 countries in integrating CRC recommendations into legislation, including during constitutional reform processes in Tunisia.

Country offices are also strengthening local and national mechanisms and services needed to guarantee these child rights. The support for independent human rights institutions for children is evident in Sri Lanka, for example, where UNICEF worked jointly with other United Nations agencies to help the Government establish a coordination mechanism connecting the national human rights institution, village child rights monitoring committees and government officials. In Turkey, UNICEF partnered with the Ombudsman Institution to establish a website where children can directly submit a complaint when they believed that their rights to education, health, transportation, housing or care were not respected.

Addressing discrimination requires improving legal frameworks, empowering those who are marginalized and changing community attitudes towards them. Legal efforts to include children with disabilities range from providing technical assistance for the drafting of a new law on the rights of persons with disabilities in Azerbaijan, to establishing two new information centres for people with disabilities in Mozambique. The Meena radio programme in India is working to support positive community attitudes relating to the rights of adolescent girls.

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### **PROGRAMME AREA 3: PUBLIC FINANCE FOR CHILDREN**

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In 2014, 103 country offices supported partners in ensuring that public investments could effectively reach the most disadvantaged children and families. Eighty-nine country offices generated evidence on how budget policies and resource flows can more effectively support children. In 72 countries, UNICEF worked to influence budgetary frameworks and processes, making them more responsive to children's needs and, in 30, UNICEF assisted in tracking budget implementation, including through community-based monitoring and Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys (PETS).

Thus, in Cambodia, UNICEF helped social sector ministries make a strong case for an enhanced budget, which resulted in a 70 per cent rise in the

2015 rural sanitation budget and in teacher salaries. In Ghana, UNICEF's research on the removal of fuel subsidies resulted in the expansion of social protection, which is expected to cover 2.2 million people living in extreme poverty by 2018. In Peru, UNICEF helped leverage more than US\$80 million from public resources to improve the access to and quality of health care, nutrition and education programmes.

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### **PROGRAMME AREA 4: GOVERNANCE AND DECENTRALIZATION**

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Successful inclusion requires authorities to take account of and be accountable to the population, including poor and marginalized children. To this end, UNICEF supports governance, decentralization and accountability initiatives. In 2014, 59 per cent of UNICEF country offices reported functioning mechanisms for public engagement to influence development agendas in the local, subnational, or national plans that affect the most disadvantaged and marginalized. For example, in Nepal, UNICEF supports a government platform for community members to participate in planning and budgeting. In Uganda, UNICEF expanded U-report, a short message service (SMS) tool that reaches 287,000 young people and connects them with each other, parliamentarians and other decision-makers.

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### **PROGRAMME AREA 5: SOCIAL INCLUSION IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS**

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Nowhere are children more at risk of exclusion than in fragile contexts and emergency situations that call for a humanitarian response. A key element of UNICEF's work on social inclusion is therefore aimed at children in these environments. Of the 75 UNICEF country offices that reported, 47 per cent (35 countries) supported governments in emergency prevention, preparedness and response through social protection systems and programmes. In around a third of these countries, UNICEF supported plans and programmes in humanitarian action to help build sustainable social protection systems. Accountability is crucial in humanitarian action. Two thirds of reporting offices provided information to affected populations to assist them in making informed decisions, and 79 per cent consulted affected populations during planning processes for

humanitarian response. For example, in the Central African Republic, radio communication messages were developed for Ebola, yellow fever, measles and cholera outbreaks; 5,000 solar radios were procured and distributed; and 261 listening committees were established to provide a platform for dialogue and planning for humanitarian response.

Climate, disaster and conflict risk have been integrated in national development plans in 77 per cent of UNICEF programme countries. Thirty-four UNICEF programme countries have adopted national policies on climate change or the environment that take children into account. UNICEF efforts to strengthen such capacities are ongoing in many countries, including Burundi, where conflict sensitivity and core peacebuilding competencies have been integrated into school curricula, and Kyrgyzstan, where UNICEF piloted a model for evidence-based municipal disaster risk planning.

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## STRATEGIC CONTEXT, PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCES FOR UNICEF'S SOCIAL INCLUSION WORK

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Regional and global advocacy is crucial in supporting an enabling environment for the inclusion of children. Active involvement in post-2015 advocacy contributed to the significant progress made in 2014 in the development of the draft global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The proposed wording of pivotal Goal 1, on the eradication of poverty, explicitly recognizes children, which is a testament to greater awareness of child poverty as a global concern. The draft Goal 1 also targets the expansion of social protection systems, a first in global goals. Goal 10 focuses on reducing inequality, an objective that adds momentum to UNICEF's overall attention to equity and social inclusion.

Growing partnerships assisted UNICEF's efforts in social inclusion in 2014. UNICEF co-founded and co-chaired a global coalition against child poverty that includes research institutions and regional and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs); this coalition has been coordinating approaches and advocacy on child poverty. Joint work with the World Bank resulted in progress in developing global data and analysis on monetary poverty among children, including children in households struggling to survive on less than \$1.25 per person per day (the extreme poor), as well as children living beneath national poverty lines.

Social protection partnerships have helped ensure a more unified approach among development partners nationally and globally to support this crucial work. Successful collaboration with the European Union (EU) led to the development of a toolkit to integrate a child rights approach throughout development programming, budgeting and policy-making. Work by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to develop General Comments on public spending on children and adolescents is ongoing.

Advancing work on social inclusion requires continued attention to a number of constraints. For example, there is not yet an agreed and consistent approach to measuring multidimensional poverty. At the same time, efforts are needed to move beyond measurement and analysis, and into supporting the development and implementation of further policy options. Social protection has significant cross-cutting sectoral impacts for children – and yet misperceptions about its impact and costs continue that hinder high-level commitment in some contexts. Work on human rights, non-discrimination and participation is hampered both by social norms – which result in widespread discrimination against girls, children with disabilities, ethnic minorities and other groups – and the lack of mechanisms for children's and adolescents' meaningful participation in development processes and interface with decision makers. Work on public finance for children faces challenges related to gaining access to budget information and key decision makers. Work on governance is constrained by lack of coordination between national and subnational government levels and between sectors; as well as by obstacles to the effective participation of children and women in local planning, monitoring and evaluation. Work on social inclusion in humanitarian settings faces the usual challenges of operating in fragile contexts, including crucial gaps in capacity, security and legitimacy, and fragmented and unpredictable political and financial support from the international community.

UNICEF's efforts to promote social inclusion by reducing child poverty and discrimination will build on the proposed SDG targets on child poverty, social protection and inequality, the Financing for Development Agenda and the post 2015 Sendai Framework. Country-level efforts will focus on using child poverty measurement for policy change and implementation. Future work on social protection systems will help strengthen links to other sectors for improved responses to children's multiple vulnerabilities. Efforts will continue to seize opportunities to redirect existing fuel subsidy allocations

into child-focused programmes. Public finance work will emphasize building partnerships with key technical and political counterparts, including ministries of finance and parliaments. Country offices will be supported to make further use of innovations in public finance for children – including investment cases, fiscal space analyses, simulations, public expenditure reviews and public expenditure tracking surveys – and their potential to contribute to impressive results for children. Support for accountability measures, including through innovative use of technology and promotion of young people's participation, will remain high on the agenda, building on both trends. Contributions to resilience and social inclusion in humanitarian settings will include further strengthening social protection systems to provide support before, during and after emergencies, work on disaster risk reduction with local authorities, and designing and implementing effective peacebuilding programmes, including working on conflict prevention with young people.

The pace of progress UNICEF is able to maintain in these crucial areas of social inclusion will depend on its ability to mobilize further funding, and in particular flexible thematic funds, that allow us to invest in innovative approaches, scaling up and generation of evidence. In addition to the areas described above, areas of work that will move forward – should sufficient funding be available in 2015 and beyond – include unifying approaches to child poverty measurement; generation of evidence and documenting successful examples of operational

work on human rights, non-discrimination and participation; creating and applying tools to enhance national efforts to better utilize and monitor public spending for children and child-focused SDGs; and increasing capacity for work on public financing for children.

In 2014, total global expenditure on social inclusion programming was US\$242.6 million, of which 52 per cent was spent from regular resources. This relatively high proportion reflects the centrality of social inclusion interventions to UNICEF's efforts within countries and the challenges, relative to more traditional sectors, in raising other resources in this outcome area.

In 2014, UNICEF received over US\$9 million in thematic contributions for social inclusion. Ninety-eight per cent of the thematic contributions came from two government partners: US\$6.3 million from Sweden, for programmes in Bolivia and Zimbabwe; and US\$2.5 million from Norway, which provided the most flexible funding through a single global thematic contribution. Private-sector fundraising through UNICEF Malaysia supplied regional-level thematic funding for social inclusion programmes in East Asia and the Pacific.

Social inclusion is a complex new programme area with a great potential for impact on child poverty and discrimination specifically – but also on all other outcome areas. It could benefit greatly from additional funding, particularly thematic funding.

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## STRATEGIC CONTEXT

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Despite substantial progress made over the past decades in reducing global poverty, children continue to represent a significant percentage of people living in poverty. Globally, 47 per cent of those living on less than US\$1.25 a day (in extreme poverty) are 0 to 18 years of age, although this group accounts for only 34 per cent of the world's population (*see Figure 1*).

Many more children are deprived in key dimensions of poverty beyond income; in 30 countries in sub-Saharan Africa alone, almost 250 million children are living in multidimensional poverty – that is, poverty that includes gaps in educational attainment, access to health care, adequate nutrition, clean water, or improved sanitation. About 76.5

million children are now living in relative poverty in the developed world, demonstrating that child poverty is a global challenge that requires a global response.

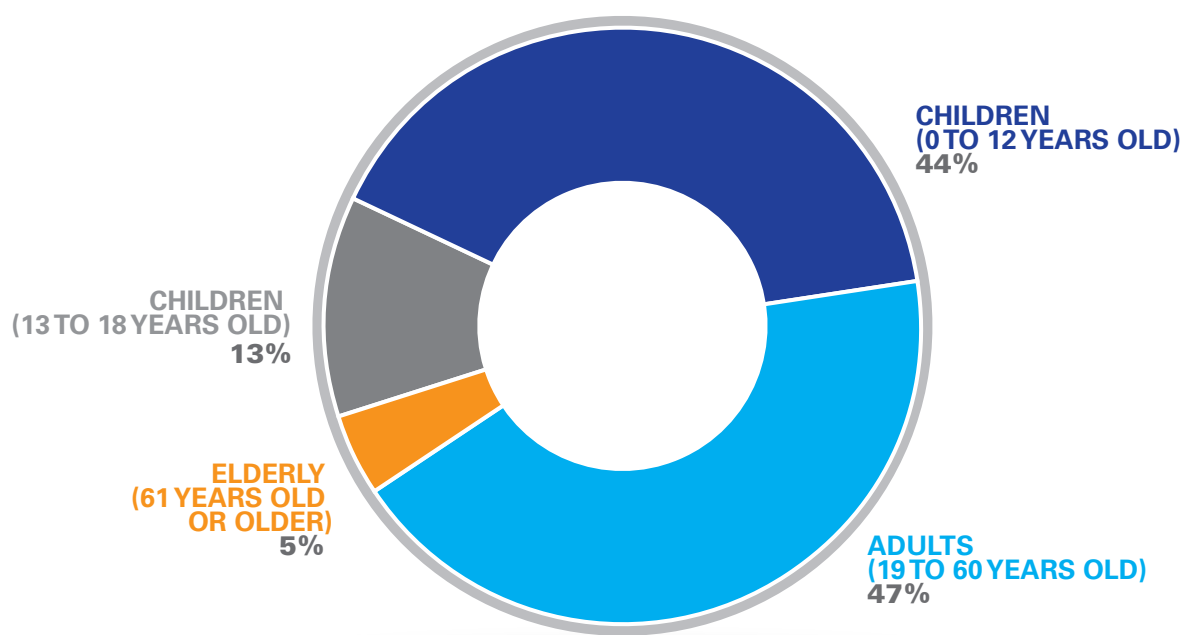
For every child to have an equal chance to survive and thrive, UNICEF's ambition is for national governments in all countries to measure, prioritize and respond to child poverty – that is, to recognize child poverty as a national policy priority, and develop and implement plans of action to address it and reach the poorest children with the services they need.

A common factor driving multidimensional child poverty is the lack of adequate, equitable or effective



**FIGURE 1**

**PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION LIVING ON LESS THAN \$1.25 A DAY BY AGE IN 2010, % OF TOTAL**



Source: Olinto, Pedro, 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?', Economic Premise no. 125, The World Bank, Washington, D.C., October 2013, pp. 1–8.

tive allocation and utilization of public financial resources. While overall domestic financing has been increasing considerably in many countries, the latest data show declines in health and education per capita spending in a majority of the 66 countries for which data are available. Even where social spending has increased, socio-economically disadvantaged areas often do not benefit. Further progress in child outcomes, especially for disadvantaged children, requires greater efforts by governments to tackle public financial management-related barriers and bottlenecks for children in national and subnational budgeting processes, including those which provide for responses to humanitarian crises.

## **LAUNCHING SOCIAL INCLUSION: ONE OF UNICEF'S SEVEN PRIORITY OUTCOME AREAS**

Social inclusion is a new outcome area in UNICEF's Strategic Plan for 2014–2017. The work undertaken

under the banner of social inclusion constitutes UNICEF's contribution to reducing child poverty and discrimination. It is built on earlier work on child rights advocacy, data gathering and monitoring, with an enhanced emphasis on interventions with a lasting impact on children's well-being.

In line with the equity approach, each UNICEF outcome area involves special efforts to reach the poorest children and combat discrimination that prevents children from accessing services. Such efforts are often insufficient because the origins and potential responses to poverty and social marginalization often lie beyond the scope of any single sector. For example, influential community members, local authorities, parliamentarians and ministries of finance usually play a crucial role in redressing inequities. Such gaps are addressed through five social inclusion programme areas:

- **Programme area 1:** Child poverty and social protection encompasses initiatives to make child poverty visible within countries. These include



extensive efforts to strengthen social protection systems (including programmes such as health insurance, cash transfers, school feeding programmes and social support services), in order to address children's vulnerability to poverty and deprivation, and to support child care and skill-building opportunities for adolescents.

- **Programme area 2:** Human rights, non-discrimination and participation covers support for implementing human rights norms and standards targeting the structural causes of exclusion and poverty, monitoring child rights, and promoting children's access to justice. This includes efforts to counter discrimination against marginalized groups by other children, parents, community leaders and national decision-makers.
- **Programme area 3:** Public finance for children involves support to increase the transparency, efficiency and equity of public investments in children. If the allocation and use of funds are left unexamined, the least advantaged children are routinely left with poor-quality services or none at all. The work is based on the fact that government budgets are the most significant source of spending on children even in the least developed countries.
- **Programme area 4:** Governance and decentralization efforts recognize the potential impact of local and national planning and decision-making on children. UNICEF helps build the capacity of local governments, including urban municipalities, to plan consultatively, organize services efficiently and monitor the impact on children. Support at the national level is geared towards participatory, child-sensitive policymaking and accountability measures, including efforts to address environmental sustainability and climate change.
- **Programme area 5:** Social inclusion in humanitarian settings encompasses efforts in fragile and emergency contexts. This includes supporting local authorities in preparedness, prevention and response to disasters and emergencies; supporting vulnerable groups during emergencies, including by facilitating direct consultation with affected populations; strengthening social protection responses in fragile and emergency contexts; and peacebuilding efforts with young people to promote understanding and reduce future conflicts.

During 2014, the first year of implementation of the social inclusion outcome, key regional and global developments created opportunities, and illuminated challenges, in furthering this work.

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## THE POST-2015 PROCESS, THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

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The post-2015 processes have fostered the goal of social inclusion. For example, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction – the first of several important milestones in the post 2015 processes – stresses the importance of an inclusive approach to reducing the disaster risk of the most vulnerable populations, including children, women, people with disabilities and other marginalized groups.

Unlike the development process for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDGs have enjoyed an extensive and participatory consultative process, involving Member States, United Nations agencies, civil society, the private sector and large numbers of global citizens, including young people.<sup>1</sup>

The substance of the SDG agenda offers an unprecedented opportunity nationally and globally for the inclusion of the poorest and most disadvantaged children. While the final agenda is still being negotiated, Member States' proposals for the first pivotal Goal 1, End poverty in all its forms everywhere, explicitly recognizes child poverty: Target 1.2 sets out to halve child poverty by 2030, while Target 1.3 calls for the social protection of all.<sup>2</sup> Goal 10 is aimed at reducing inequality, an issue inadequately considered in the MDGs, resulting in an insufficient focus on poor and marginalized populations.

UNICEF was active in deliberations on how accountability, human rights and child rights, and participatory monitoring and accountability should be reflected in the post-2015 framework. Critical issues include the universality and indivisibility of child rights, the need for disaggregated data on all forms of discrimination, and the meaningful participation of children and young people.

Consultations in the run-up to the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (July 2015) and the post-2015 agenda (September 2015) focused on the importance of strengthening public financial management (PFM) processes and developing financial indicators to achieve development targets, especially those involving investment in children.

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## PROGRESS IN STRENGTHENING THE INTERNATIONAL CHILD RIGHTS FRAMEWORK IN 2014

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Additional ratifications of the CRC, CRC Optional Protocols, CRPD and CEDAW were positive developments in 2014. At the same time there continue to be challenges to putting these into action. For example, Member States challenged accepted language and norms on gender and sexuality. Other challenges include insufficient mechanisms to translate commitments into effective action and to support the meaningful participation of children and adolescents in development and rights monitoring.

In 2014, UNICEF worked on strengthening accountability mechanisms – including social accountability – that provide redress, support monitoring and engage communities. There was a special focus on the discrimination and exclusion faced by girls, indigenous children and children with disabilities. UNICEF also helped develop and strengthen national human rights institutions and similar mechanisms that respond to child rights and protect minorities from discrimination.

Attention to public investment in children as a human rights imperative was notable in 2014. The Committee on the Rights of the Child began to draft a General Comment on the Right of the Child and Public Spending in order to elaborate on CRC Article 4, which outlines the obligation of governments to invest in the rights of the child to the maximum extent of available resources. The comment is to be issued in 2015.

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## THE CHALLENGES OF 2014 HUMANITARIAN CRISES

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The multiple humanitarian crises of 2014 highlighted how conflict, disasters and public health emergencies exacerbate and are exacerbated by poverty and social exclusion. More heartening examples emerged as well: robust social protection systems and investments in disaster preparedness and risk management in some instances mitigated the impact of crises on children and families and significantly reduced the cost of response.

The Ebola crisis in West Africa reminded the world how underinvestment and inequity in the provision of such social services as health care can have catastrophic consequences. In responding to Ebola, addressing discrimination was key to ensuring early

identification and access to treatment and allowing survivors and their families to reintegrate into daily life, efforts extensively supported by UNICEF. Another lesson in 2014 revolves around how an unprecedented and widespread public health crisis can increase poverty and marginalization, with lasting effects.

Throughout 2014, people fled conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic for refuge in five countries in the region (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey). In countries such as Lebanon and Jordan, combining emergency transfers and extending social protection has reduced the hardship for many displaced families and the host communities that have received them. Fragile states, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Somalia and South Sudan, also sought ways to link humanitarian transfers with long-term social protection.

The potential for reducing the impact of crisis was underscored in the Philippines, where the worst impacts of the December 2014 Typhoon Hagupit were mitigated in part due to lessons learned from Haiyan. In the largest peacetime evacuation in the Philippines, more than 1 million people sought shelter in prepared locations during Hagupit, the result of vigorous efforts by authorities, robust community engagement and greater awareness. Following the experience of Typhoon Haiyan, affected individuals were also more willing to evacuate.

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## KEY PARTNERSHIPS FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION

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In 2014, UNICEF co-founded and co-chaired a global coalition against child poverty that includes research institutions and regional and international NGOs. This coalition has worked to reduce child poverty through coordinated advocacy.

UNICEF also had a growing relationship with the World Bank in creating global data and analysis on monetary poverty among children, including children in households struggling to survive on less than US\$1.25 per person per day (in extreme poverty) as well as children living beneath national poverty lines.

The Social Protection Interagency Coordination Board, which was established in 2012 to enhance global coordination and advocacy on social protection issues, became a significant platform. Members of the board include the EU, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the World Bank, the United Kingdom Department for International Devel-

opment, UNICEF, and other bilateral and multilateral agencies and NGOs. Through the board, UNICEF contributed to the formulation of SDG social protection targets. It also had a key role in the working group responsible for the development of assessment tools aimed at improving social protection programmes and systems within countries.

UNICEF supported the African Union in formalizing commitments to social protection among its 41 member states. This culminated in the May 2014 Declaration of the Fourth Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Social Development, which included a clear commitment by African Union members to

expand and finance social protection systems.

Efforts around public finance for children engaged a wide range of partners. For example, UNICEF supported the capacity of civil society organizations and child rights institutions to press for child-responsive budgets and overall accountability. Such efforts are enhanced by work with government ministries on ways to improve budget policies and resource allocations in the interests of children. An emerging innovation is engagement with legislatures (parliaments and auditing institutions) to raise sensitivity to children's issues and support capacity in budget monitoring and oversight.

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## PLANNING AND RESULTS OUTLINED BY PROGRAMME AREA

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### PROGRAMME AREA 1

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#### CHILD POVERTY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

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##### IDENTIFYING, PRIORITIZING AND REACHING THE POOREST CHILDREN

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Poverty in childhood can undermine children's physical and mental health, setting children on a lifelong trajectory of low education levels and reduced productivity, a path that sustains the intergenerational transfer of poverty. While the largest costs of child poverty are borne directly by children, societies also pay a high price. For children to reach their potential in life, understanding and responding to child poverty is essential.

UNICEF works with national governments and the international community to address the causes of poverty and inequality. These efforts help ensure that child poverty is measured, prioritized in key development plans and legislation and addressed through relevant national plans and programmes. To ensure that child poverty is measured, UNICEF provides technical support to national statistical offices in the collection, analysis and publication of child poverty data using monetary and multidimensional approaches. In 2014, 103 country offices reported that monetary child poverty rates were being calculated according to national poverty lines, and 48 national governments were regularly monitoring

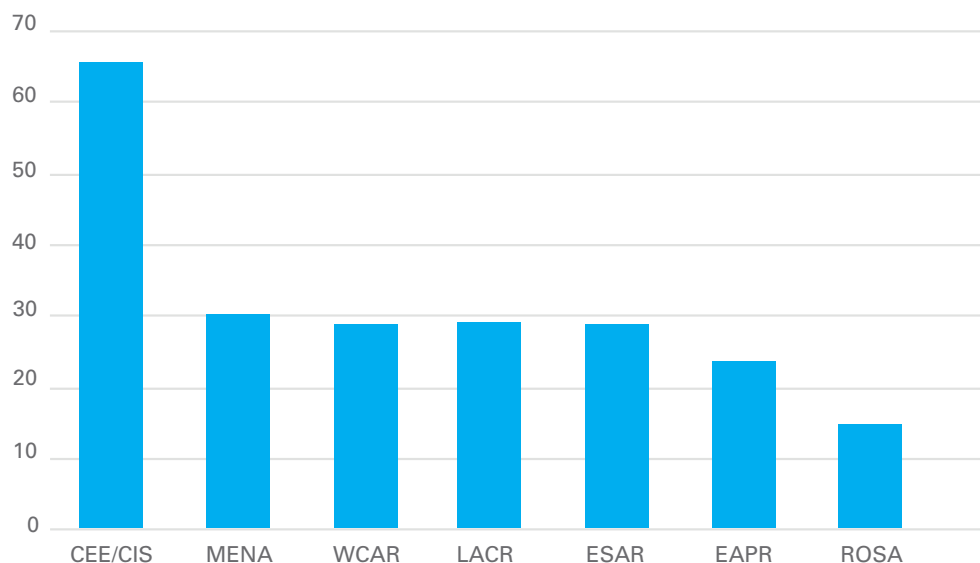
and reporting on child poverty, with some variation across regions (*see Figure 2*).

Children experience poverty through much more than a lack of income or shortages in consumption. UNICEF is a leading voice in multidimensional child poverty measurement, drawing attention to the multiple and often interrelated deprivations that children experience in nutrition, health care, education, and water and sanitation. UNICEF developed the Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA) tool to examine poverty among children and equity among countries. In Eastern and Southern Africa, UNICEF organized a regional training workshop on multidimensional child poverty analysis that drew the participation of 15 countries. Four countries (Botswana, Madagascar, Namibia and the United Republic of Tanzania) initiated MODA as a result.

UNICEF's child poverty and deprivation reports (including MODA) were undertaken in several countries in 2014, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Djibouti, Egypt, Madagascar, Mali, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, Ukraine and Viet Nam. UNICEF also completed a multidimensional child poverty analysis in sub-Saharan Africa. This is the first study that quantifies the scope and depth of multidimensional child poverty in 30 countries using individual data on children.

**FIGURE 2**

**STATUS OF CHILD POVERTY REPORTING BY REGION: COUNTRIES THAT REGULARLY REPORT ON CHILD POVERTY (PERCENTAGE)**



Source: UNICEF Country Office Annual Report (COAR) Strategic Monitoring Questions 2015.

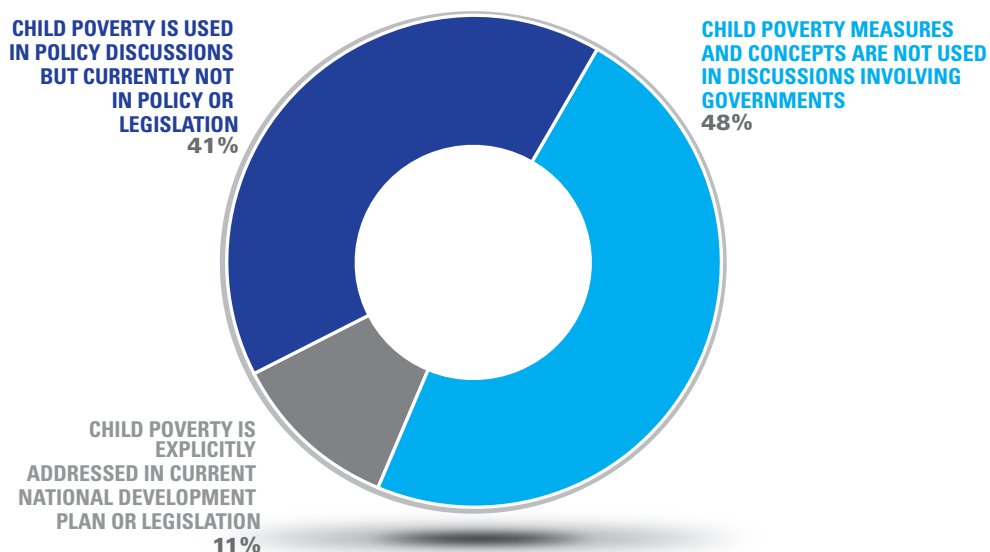
**MAKING CHILDREN VISIBLE  
IN NATIONAL POLICY DEBATES**

UNICEF country offices help mainstream child poverty into local and national policy discussions and legislation to ensure social and economic policies

become more child-centred and equitable (see, for example, the Mexico case study). Overall, child poverty is part of active discussions with government counterparts in 71 UNICEF country offices. A significant number of countries (16) explicitly address child poverty in national development plans and legislation (*see Figure 3*).

**FIGURE 3**

**MAINSTREAMING CHILD POVERTY INTO POLICY DISCUSSIONS AND NATIONAL LEGISLATION**



Source: UNICEF COAR Strategic Monitoring Questions 2015.



## MULTIDIMENSIONAL CHILD POVERTY MEASUREMENT IN MEXICO

In Mexico, poverty affects children disproportionately, especially indigenous children. During the global financial crisis of 2008–2009, UNICEF determined it was urgent to measure the impact of the crisis on child poverty, particularly in school attendance, food security and labour force participation, and to provide the Government with a mapping profile of children living in poverty so as to better target social policies.

Mexico is the first country to officially adopt a multidimensional poverty measurement methodology based on social rights. By law, the measurement is the responsibility of an autonomous institution, the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy.

Since 2009, UNICEF has worked with the Government to measure child poverty and the impact of social policies on children. In 2014, UNICEF and the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy published joint calculations of child and adolescent poverty in the format of a policy brief, with wide impact in national media. In addition, the figures were picked up by civil society and Government publications about social programmes, as they quickly became the indicators of reference on this population.

### POLICY AND PROGRAMMATIC IMPACT

UNICEF has been able to bring attention to child poverty in a language and methodology specific to Mexico and present findings that centre attention on child-focused policy responses. In particular, the creation of a new child rights protection system in the country has allowed UNICEF to advocate for the inclusion of child poverty as a key criterion for targeting social programs for children. In 2014, UNICEF initiated a new partnership with the Ministry of Social Development to determine how child poverty can be included in the new Social Development Targeting framework that will be rolled out across all ministries in 2016.

### NEXT STEPS

UNICEF is working with the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy to ensure that child poverty data are jointly prepared every two years, and UNICEF has been invited to participate in the development of the Government's new social policy targeting system. Mexico has become an international hub of knowledge on child poverty, and the Government is regularly contacted by other governments hoping to replicate the council's methodology. Exchange visits have been organized with Algeria, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Morocco and Tunisia.

**Note:** See *'La niñez y la adolescencia en el contexto de la crisis económica global: el caso de México'*, [www.unicef.org/mexico/spanish/La\\_ninez\\_y\\_la\\_crisis\\_global\\_caso\\_Mexico.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/mexico/spanish/La_ninez_y_la_crisis_global_caso_Mexico.pdf), accessed 29 April 2015; *'Pobreza afecta en mayor medida a niños y adolescentes'*, [www.unicef.org/mexico/spanish/mx\\_COMUNICADO\\_UNICEFCONEVAL\\_PRESENTACION\\_ESTUDIO\\_NINEZ\\_ADOLESCENCIA\\_final.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/mexico/spanish/mx_COMUNICADO_UNICEFCONEVAL_PRESENTACION_ESTUDIO_NINEZ_ADOLESCENCIA_final.pdf), accessed 29 April 2015; *'El impacto de la crisis en los niños y adolescentes'*, [www.unicef.org/mexico/spanish/politicas\\_publicas\\_15835.htm](http://www.unicef.org/mexico/spanish/politicas_publicas_15835.htm), accessed 29 April 2015; *'Pobreza y derechos sociales de niñas, niños y adolescentes en México, 2008-2010'*, [www.coneval.gob.mx/Informes/Coordinacion/INFORMES\\_Y\\_PUBLICACIONES\\_PDF/Pobreza\\_en\\_ni%C3%B1os\\_y\\_adol\\_mex\\_2008\\_2010.pdf](http://www.coneval.gob.mx/Informes/Coordinacion/INFORMES_Y_PUBLICACIONES_PDF/Pobreza_en_ni%C3%B1os_y_adol_mex_2008_2010.pdf), accessed 29 April 2015; *'Pobreza y derechos sociales de niñas, niños y adolescentes en México, 2010-2012'*, [www.unicef.org/mexico/spanish/UN\\_BriefPobreza\\_web.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/mexico/spanish/UN_BriefPobreza_web.pdf), accessed 29 April 2015; *'Niñez y adolescencia, especialmente la indígena, las más afectadas por la pobreza en México'*, [www.unicef.org/mexico/spanish/PR\\_UNICEFCONEVAL\\_abril2014final.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/mexico/spanish/PR_UNICEFCONEVAL_abril2014final.pdf), accessed 29 April 2015.

In Brazil, with UNICEF support, new social development policies target adolescents living in poverty. Specific policies of the Ministry of Social Development focus on ensuring the right of poor adolescents to community, a family environment, an education and life skills development.

In China, UNICEF supplied technical support to pioneer efforts by the Government to identify and analyse the multiple dimensions of child poverty.

Following child poverty surveys, Hubei Province designed regional poverty reduction plans that target child poverty. The Government of China asked for UNICEF assistance in child poverty analysis, plans and programming to reach more of China's poorest children in Jiangxi Province.

In Egypt, the launch of the study "Multidimensional Child Poverty in Slums and Informal Settlements," a result of a partnership between UNICEF and the

Informal Settlements Development Facility, generated policy dialogue with ministries, governorates and local NGOs. It also provided evidence for a national strategy to address child poverty in urban areas.

In Georgia, UNICEF and the World Bank supported the Government in revising the social protection system to tackle child poverty. A new allocation formula that takes child poverty into account will influence the allocation of child benefits. Once the social protection system becomes operational in 2015, it is expected to halve extreme poverty among children.

In Mali, UNICEF supported the Government in carrying out a MODA that provides evidence on child deprivation in the country. Based on the study, the Government is planning to launch a technical expert committee to be trained in the MODA methodology to ensure that child poverty is included in the next generation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

In Namibia, UNICEF and the University of Oxford provided technical support for the development of NAMOD, a tax-benefit micro-simulation model, which is being used by the Ministry of Finance to analyse the poverty reduction impacts of changes in the social grant system. A government task force was among five key line ministries trained in NAMOD.

In 2014, UNICEF supplied technical leadership to the United Nations Technical Task Team on Goal 1 and, together with Save the Children, brought together a coalition of partners, including research organizations, international NGOs and regional bodies, to agree on joint advocacy in the post-2015 agenda. Advocacy involved joint inputs such as the Sustainable Development Solutions Network recommendations on indicators to reflect the importance of child poverty.

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## **SOCIAL PROTECTION: RESPONDING TO CHILD POVERTY AND DEPRIVATION**

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Social protection is essential to UNICEF's commitment to addressing child poverty and enabling children, women and families to enjoy their rights. Social protection is increasingly being recognized globally as an integral component of national development, inclusive growth and poverty reduction efforts.<sup>3</sup> UNICEF's work on social protection concentrates on four components:

1. **Social transfers**, such as cash transfers, public works, child and disability grants, and school feeding;
2. **Programmes to ensure access to services**, such as removal of user fees and health insurance;
3. **Social support and care services**, including family support counselling and referrals; and
4. **Legislation and policy reform** to ensure equity and non-discrimination in access to services and economic opportunities – e.g., maternity/parental leave, and minimum and equal pay legislation.

UNICEF's work on social protection has focused on supporting governments to scale up programmes; strengthening capacities to develop, implement and finance integrated social protection systems; and carrying out assessments on the impacts and effectiveness of social protection. UNICEF also works to ensure that social protection systems are responsive to humanitarian crises and longer-term development needs.

In 2014, social cash transfer programmes were expanded to benefit 146 million children worldwide.<sup>4</sup> UNICEF provided technical support to countries to develop expansion plans and operational tools for this; these include targeting, registry and payment mechanisms to expand the coverage of flagship programmes. For example, in Zambia, UNICEF helped the Government plan for the expansion of the social cash transfer programme; this work included developing operational guidelines and training materials on targeting and payment, and designing and rolling out a quality-control mechanism. This helped support an increase from 60,000 beneficiary households in 2013 to about 150,000 by mid-2014.

UNICEF was an active partner in strengthening government capacities to develop comprehensive social protection systems. For example, in Armenia, it supported the reform of social welfare services that assist poor and vulnerable populations and link them with programmes to ensure more comprehensive responses to their needs. In Myanmar, UNICEF supported the development of the first national Social Protection Strategy and the design of the first social protection programme, which focuses on the first 1,000 days from pregnancy through the second birthday (see the Lesotho case study).

## LESOTHO'S INTEGRATED SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM

Poverty, unemployment, HIV and AIDS, and food and nutrition insecurity undermine the well-being of women and children in Lesotho. More than 57 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line. Poverty is exacerbated by recurrent floods and drought and high HIV prevalence (23 per cent). Social protection is a national priority of the Government in response to these challenges, and expenditure on social protection represents 4.6 per cent of gross domestic product, which is well above the 1–2 per cent spent in most developing countries. Despite the commitment, the sector grapples with challenges that include the lack of coordination as well as overlaps and gaps in coverage and spending across schemes.

UNICEF supported the Government in developing social protection and in coordinating actions with other relevant development partners, including the EU, the ILO and the World Bank. Work included the development of the National Social Protection Strategy; design and implementation of the impact evaluation of the Child Grants Programme; expansion of social protection programmes nationwide, particularly the Child Grants Programme; establishment of the National Information System for Social Assistance as a single registry for social programmes; strengthening of national technical and institutional capacities to deliver social protection programmes effectively; and the integration and harmonization of social safety nets.

### KEY RESULTS

UNICEF advised the Government to adopt an inclusive life-course approach that recognizes the risks and challenges across the life-cycle and the need for social protection to be responsive to these vulnerabilities. The Child Grants Programme was expanded to cover 65,000 children. The results in 2014 included the following:

- The National Social Protection Strategy was approved by Parliament in December 2014, ensuring national ownership and commitment.
- The results of the Child Grants Programme impact evaluation were published in April 2014. They highlighted the programme's contribution to increasing expenditures on schooling, clothing and footwear for children. The programme mitigated the effects of food insecurity on adults and children. The evaluation also demonstrated the affordability of a nationwide scaling-up of the grant.
- The Government announced it would take full responsibility for funding the Child Grants Programme, which was initiated as a donor-funded pilot project in 2008.
- The Government committed to making the National Information System for Social Assistance the country's single registry for all social assistance programmes. The system now includes information on over 103,000 households, a quarter of the total.
- The Ministry of Social Development was able to ensure the participation of an additional 34 qualified social workers to support the effective implementation of social assistance.

Key next steps include expanding the social workforce in every district, strengthening beneficiaries' access to social and economic services to promote graduation from the programme, developing a one-stop shop or referral mechanism to strengthen service delivery and implementing an integrated community development approach, in collaboration with World Vision and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit.

UNICEF, the EU and the World Bank will also support the Government's efforts to integrate and harmonize social protection programmes to strengthen efficiency and effectiveness. The focus will be on a nationwide expansion of the Social Assistance Information System using a new targeting approach to maximize the role of communities.

**Source:** Freeland, Nicholas, and Bazlul Khondker, 'Launch of Lesotho's National Social Protection Strategy', *Development Pathways' Perspectives on Social Policy in International Development* no. 18, February 2015, [www.developmentpathways.co.uk/resources/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/18.-Lesothos-National-Social-Protection-Strategy-PP18.pdf](http://www.developmentpathways.co.uk/resources/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/18.-Lesothos-National-Social-Protection-Strategy-PP18.pdf), accessed 28 April 2015.

An important element of strengthening social protection is making sure its impact on children and other vulnerable populations is evaluated. In 2014 there was extensive progress in this area

In sub-Saharan Africa, UNICEF was a leading partner in the Transfer Project, working with governments, development partners and research institutions to support impact evaluations of cash transfer programmes in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These and other evaluations found that cash transfers had important results in food consumption and dietary diversity, in increases in household expenditure in education and health care, and in gender empowerment and adolescent behaviour.<sup>5</sup> For example, in Malawi and Zambia, there was a 30 per cent increase in food consumption, and, in Ghana, there was a 10 percentage point reduction in the share of children missing a meal during an entire day.<sup>6</sup> In most countries, there were increases in primary school enrolment and grade completion among boys and girls, as well as declines in repetition rates and absences because of problems in household expenditure. Programme impacts in

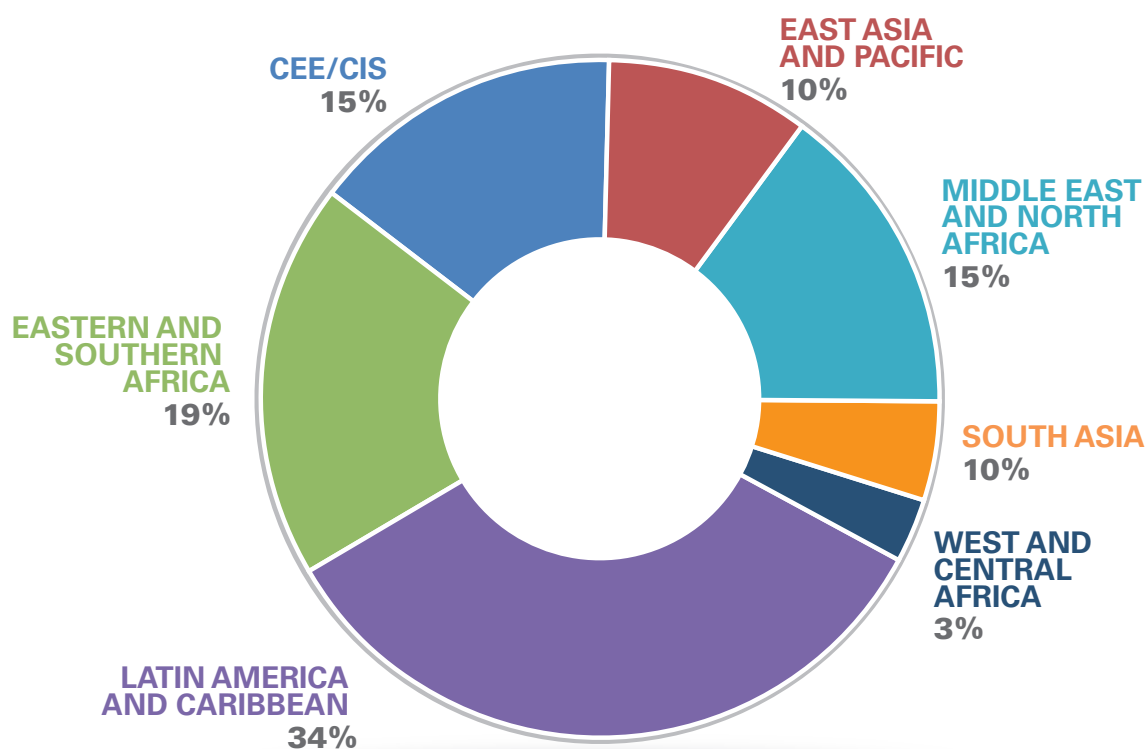
secondary education ranged from 5 to 12 percentage points.

In the State of Palestine, UNICEF supported a study on the impact of the Palestinian National Cash Transfer Programme, which was one of the recipients of the Best of UNICEF Research award in 2014.<sup>7</sup> Ghana enjoyed a 20 percentage point increase in health insurance coverage, and Kenya a 25 per cent rise in health care spending. Evaluations reported improved access to HIV treatment, care and support in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa and Zambia.

Overall, UNICEF mapped 62 countries with impact evaluations of major cash transfer programmes, of which 80 per cent reported positive impacts on children.<sup>8</sup> Figure 4 shows that 34 per cent of the evaluations occurred in Latin America, followed by Eastern and Southern Africa, which represents 19 per cent of the countries reporting that they have an impact assessment; 15 per cent were conducted in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS) and another 15 per cent in the Middle East and North Africa.

**FIGURE 4**

**REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF IMPACT EVALUATIONS OF MAJOR CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMMES**



Source: UNICEF COAR Strategic Monitoring Questions 2015.



The impact evaluations generated new evidence that was pivotal to the expansion of social protection in sub-Saharan Africa. For example, in Zambia in 2014, the positive results of the Child Grants Programme provided the evidence for the Government to raise the annual budget for the cash transfer programme by 800 per cent to scale up from 19 to 50 districts. In South Africa, the strong findings on the positive outcomes of the early receipt of the child support grant contributed to greater political support for expansion to include pregnant women, in part to address exclusion, as well as a renewed policy focus on early childhood development.

In South East Asia, UNICEF supported the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in implementing the 2013 Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection. The focus was dialogue among member states and ASEAN. This led to the development of a plan of action to expand social protection within countries that will be presented for approval and ratification. Key elements of the plan of action include the expansion of social protection to address the needs of children through the life cycle, and related South-South collaboration and capacity development.

UNICEF has worked with the African Union to formalize political commitments to expand social protection in member states. UNICEF worked with the African Union in the process that resulted in the Declaration of the Fourth Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Social Development, in Addis Ababa in May 2014. The declaration includes a clear commitment by all African Union members to scale up and finance national social protection systems. As part of this process, UNICEF also worked with the African Union to develop a technical background document that summarizes the progress in social protection and makes a strong case for social protection for children in Africa.<sup>9</sup>

UNICEF offices supported exchanges of experience among countries on a bilateral basis and in regional and cross-regional forums. It acted as co-facilitator of the Community of Practice on Cash Transfers in Africa, a learning platform for the scale-up of cash transfers and the development of social protection systems that benefits 36 countries. The platform promotes the organization of bimonthly virtual discussions and at least one annual meeting.

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## LINKING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING

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A growing area of UNICEF effort involves promoting social inclusion to strengthen policies and programmes that foster women's empowerment and children's well-being. This work has focused on helping governments address women's immediate needs and acknowledging the different roles of men and women as caregivers, but also identifying how to expand women's access to economic opportunities and community participation.

In Ghana, UNICEF worked with the government's flagship social protection programme, the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty cash transfer programme, to expand coverage to such groups as pregnant women and households with children under the age of 1, emphasizing the relevance of mother's and children's well-being, especially during the 1,000 days from the start of a woman's pregnancy through her child's second birthday. In Malawi, UNICEF supported the financial inclusion of women as the main beneficiaries of cash transfer programmes and recipients of training and support to diversify income-generating activities.

UNICEF supported the expansion of childcare and early childhood development as a means to enable women to work, diversify their roles and enhance the well-being of their families. It worked to generate greater knowledge on the links between women's empowerment and childcare and on evidence-based policy advocacy through an inter-agency task force consisting of the ILO, UNICEF, UN Women and the World Bank.

In Bolivia, UNICEF fostered policy advocacy through equity analysis and strengthened departmental and national standards in early childhood development, developing models for national scale-up. In China, UNICEF supported the establishment of early childhood development services through village-based centres and clinics, with technical support from mobile resource units composed of health care, early stimulation and social work professionals. In Rwanda, UNICEF supported the Government in a pilot initiative to link social protection programmes and early childhood development services.

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## CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

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Despite all of the progress that has been made, much work remains to be done, as a number of challenges and constraints have emerged. In child poverty, the lack of a global consensus or target can hinder the incentives of individual countries to measure and respond to child poverty, and while measurement of child poverty has improved significantly throughout the past few years, many countries still lack national data on poverty and children. If agreed, the proposed SDG1, which specifically includes children in its poverty goal, will be a major step forward in this regard. Countries have also faced challenges in terms of which approach to use to measure multidimensional poverty, and as such, bringing coherence and consistency to methodologies – while challenging – would represent a major step forward. Also emerging is the need to progress work on child poverty beyond measurement and analysis, into policy advocacy, design and implementation. While this is happening in a number of countries, there is an opportunity to expand this work through refined guidance and sharing of good practices.

Despite very significant progress externally and in the organization's work on social protection, challenges remain. Social protection has significant cross-cutting sectoral impacts for children – and yet misperceptions remain on its multi-sector and economic impacts that continue to hinder high-level commitment to social protection as an investment. This highlights the need for improved advocacy, communication and knowledge-sharing, both within and outside of UNICEF. Encouragingly, there is growing investment in social protection systems; however, there is a demand for tools, advice and South-South exchange on good practices. This will be an important work area for headquarters and regional offices, in collaboration with country offices, to fill these gaps in the coming years.

Work on child poverty and social protection is closely related, and in both areas increasing profile and demand for UNICEF support risks outstripping the organization's current human resources and programme capacity. Fulfilling the potential for children in these programme areas will require increased resourcing of this new outcome area, particularly at the country level.

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## PROGRAMME AREA 2

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### HUMAN RIGHTS, NON-DISCRIMINATION AND PARTICIPATION

The area of human rights, non-discrimination and participation covers UNICEF support for the implementation of human rights norms and standards related to social inclusion. This includes addressing the structural causes of exclusion and poverty. Ensuring the protection and fulfilment of these rights requires reducing the gaps that are leading to inequitable results. This involves dealing with issues of governance, policy formulation and service provision. It also covers UNICEF support for strengthening national mechanisms to enhance state accountability, empower state and non-state actors to access information and foster meaningful participation.

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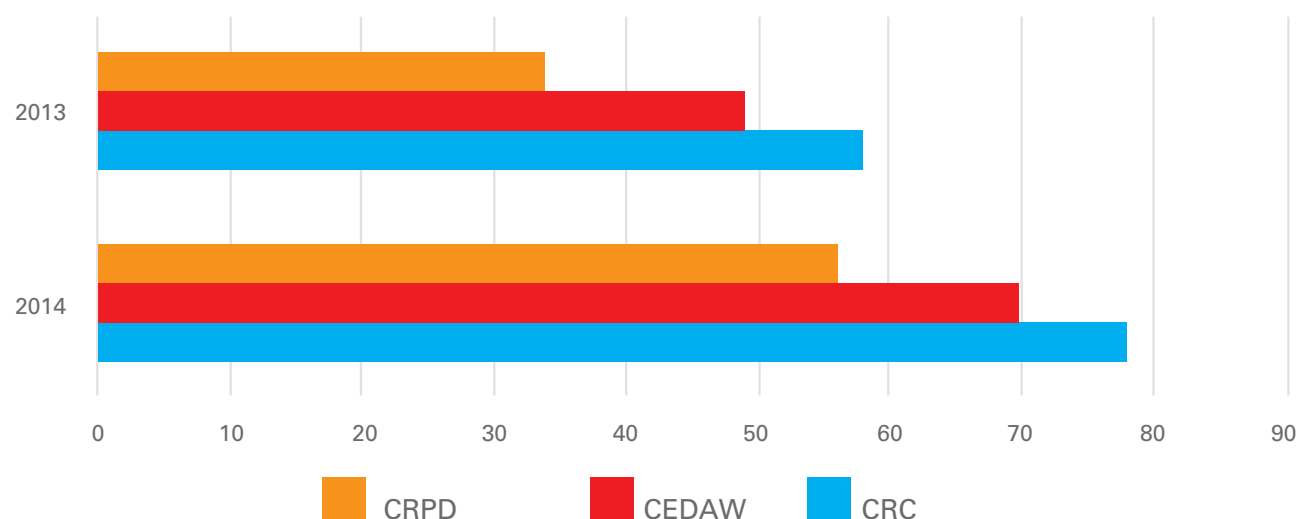
### ADVOCACY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS AND RELATED REPORTING PROCESSES

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In 2014, UNICEF's support for countries in the ratification of the CRC, CRC Optional Protocols and

other international instruments led to important results. For example, amid difficult circumstances, the State of Palestine ratified the CRC, the CRC Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, the CRPD and CEDAW. Six additional countries ratified this Optional Protocol, which has now been ratified by 159 countries.<sup>10</sup> Three countries ratified the CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, which has now been ratified by 169 countries.<sup>11</sup> Five countries ratified the CRC Optional Protocol on a Communication Procedure, which has now been ratified by 17 countries.<sup>12</sup>

Total ratifications of the CRC and CEDAW now stand at 195 and 188 countries, respectively. Despite facing important challenges, the Somali Parliament passed a bill for CRC ratification, which was the result of joint advocacy efforts with United Nations sister agencies to ensure that the ratification was a priority in United Nations and donor discussions with the Somali leadership. It is hoped that the steps for ratification will be finalized by 2015. 2014

**FIGURE 5****COUNTRIES REFORMING LEGISLATION FOLLOWING TREATY BODY CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS (PERCENTAGE)**

Source: UNICEF COAR Strategic Monitoring Questions 2013–2014.

also witnessed new CRPD ratifications, bringing total ratification to 151.<sup>13</sup> For example, UNICEF's technical assistance and advocacy contributed to CRPD ratification by Viet Nam.

UNICEF provided technical assistance to foster CRC implementation and assist States parties in their efforts to fulfil their obligations, including those related to the reporting process. It assisted States parties in preparing and submitting periodic reports and provided information and views to the Committee for all 11 programme countries reviewed in 2014. UNICEF country offices engaged in CRPD reporting through support for government and NGO reporting and by relaying UNICEF concerns and priorities to the CRPD Committee (for example, in Mexico). In most programme countries undergoing the Universal Periodic Review process (which reviews countries' human rights records), UNICEF contributed to joint United Nations country team efforts to support government reporting and to provide United Nations information for the reviews.

## STRENGTHENING NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

An important priority in the new UNICEF Strategic Plan is to strengthen the political commitment and

national capacity to legislate, plan and budget for children. UNICEF played a leading role in providing technical assistance to governments for the full implementation of the recommendations of treaty bodies and special procedures on child rights in the drafting of constitutions, legislation or other administrative guidance. The highest rates of country activity related to legal reforms as a follow-up to the CRC were related to concluding observations (78 per cent), CEDAW (70 per cent) and CRPD (56 per cent). This was a large increase over 2013, when the corresponding numbers were 58, 49 and 34 per cent (see Figure 5). In constitutional reform, the new Tunisian Constitution recognized children as rights holders and emphasized the responsibility of the family and the State to guarantee children's rights without discrimination.

The lower rate of implementation of the recommendations of the CRPD Committee mainly arose because the number of States parties is lower than in other treaties, and many countries had not yet submitted reports or had only done so recently. Nonetheless, the number of country offices addressing disability in their work increased by 45 per cent since 2010. For example, UNICEF Kazakhstan supported the review of stigma-free terminology in laws and practice vis-à-vis children with disabilities, in partnership with the Ombudsman's office (National Centre for Human Rights).<sup>14</sup>

The terms covered different areas of functional disability and were aligned with the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning (a framework for measuring health and disability at both individual and population levels) and with the CRPD. This exercise engaged professionals working on child disability, as well as language and human rights specialists. It revised their operational vocabulary in certifying disability among children, shifting terminology from a medical to a social approach to disability. One result was increased readiness among professionals to advocate with policymakers for legislative changes in line with the CRPD.

Data collection and disaggregation are essential to support evidence-based interventions and reforms. Yet they remain an important challenge in the area of social inclusion. Lessons learned show that various factors feed into this challenge, for example limited resources or capacity. There has been significant improvement in data collection on gender issues; data have demonstrated the specific costs of gender inequalities and lack of attention to the rights and well-being of women and girls in education, health care, nutrition and so on.

From a human rights perspective, data disaggregation should reflect different areas of discrimination, including, sex, age, race, ethnicity, income and disability. The lack of disaggregated data impacts heavily on the ability to make decisions and ensure that efforts are being directed in the right manner. Consequently, lack of disaggregated data leads to increased vulnerability of children with disabilities to social and economic exclusion. Data collection tools on children with disabilities need to be strengthened for evidence-based advocacy, programming and policy-making by closing the knowledge gaps and ensuring coherent approaches.

Consequently, following recommendations in The State of the World's Children 2013, UNICEF's Data & Analytics, Education and Disability Sections partnered with the Washington Group on Disability Statistics to develop various tools that will be mostly finalized in 2015, including (1) a manual for the production of statistics on children with disabilities; (2) a new survey module on child functioning and disability (already tested in a representative sample of countries across regions; completion expected in September 2015); (3) a new survey module on school environment and participation (various workshops were held with stakeholders in 2014, and field testing will be conducted in 2015); and (4) a toolkit for the assessment of activity limitations and participation restrictions in children.<sup>15</sup>

UNICEF supports its country offices and development partners in including child rights and recommendations from human rights mechanisms into their programming. In partnership with the EU, UNICEF ensured the distribution of printed, electronic and e-learning versions of the EU-UNICEF "Child RightsToolkit: Integrating Child Rights in Development Cooperation." The toolkit was designed to help improve the capacity of staff and key stakeholders, including European Commission officials in delegations and at headquarters, to identify and address child rights issues in their work and to design and implement more integrated and effective policies and programmes that would protect and fulfil these rights. The toolkit contains innovative and easy-to-use tools in eight thematic modules covering child rights in development programming, child participation and impact assessments, and child rights in governance, in crisis situations and budgeting.

It was presented to EU staff in charge of human rights portfolios (who act as child rights focal points) and shared with EU parliamentarians, bilateral donors, civil society partners and members of the African Union Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. This led to the initial identification of key stakeholders able to disseminate further the knowledge gained. This also led to requests for more capacity development using the toolkit. Training workshops will be completed in 2015 in different regions to contribute to strengthened integration of child rights in developing planning, programming, policy and law-making.

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## STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

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On the supply side, strengthening accountability mechanisms for children's rights is a central part of UNICEF's work. In 2014, UNICEF supported efforts to develop and strengthen accountability mechanisms – including social accountability – that support monitoring, engage communities and provide redress for rights violations.

One important way to support such mechanisms is by establishing and strengthening independent human rights institutions for children. For example, UNICEF Uganda, in cooperation with the Norwegian National Committee for UNICEF, successfully advocated for the establishment of an Ombudsman for Children. UNICEF Sri Lanka worked jointly with other United Nations agencies to facilitate the



## GEORGIA'S DEDICATED EFFORTS TO REALIZE THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

In recent years, the Government of Georgia has taken important steps to improve the social situation in the country, including providing free health insurance and increasing social benefits. Yet far too many children are left behind: children living in extreme poverty, children with disabilities, child victims of violence, rural children and those living in hard-to reach and conflict-affected areas. In fact, national poverty among children has worsened since 2011. In 2014, it was evident that the country needed to address the exclusion of the most vulnerable and extremely poor children.

UNICEF's Country Programme in Georgia is designed to address social exclusion through a strong social policy focus. It includes an emphasis on children with disabilities. The Parliament of Georgia declared 2014 as the "Year of Protection of the Rights of the Child" and, in partnership with UNICEF, committed to develop specific laws and influence policies to ensure children's rights are fully respected, protected and fulfilled. Following Georgia's ratification of the CRPD in March 2014, UNICEF undertook a systematic review of current national laws and policies on children and issued recommendations to align them with international standards. This process identified many barriers to the fulfilment of the rights of children with disabilities. For example, over 40 per cent of the Georgian public continues to stigmatize children with disabilities, which underscores the broader societal challenges that stand in the way of effective policy reform and implementation.

### KEY RESULTS

UNICEF is supporting the government to address these matters comprehensively, working on more inclusive social protection programmes through policy work and via media campaigns.

- The Prime Minister launched a special initiative to increase cash benefits and expand services – in particular home visiting services – for children with disabilities.
- After nearly a decade of UNICEF support for

childcare reform, significant progress was made to end institutional care and ensure a family environment for every child. The number of children growing up in institutions decreased remarkably from 4,600 in 2005 to 88 in 2014, and yet another large institution for children with disabilities closed down just in 2014.

- Specific efforts in Abkhazia led to strengthened health service delivery by training 200 medical professionals. In partnership with World Vision, the country office trained staff in three child development centres focused on preschool children with disabilities, and provided 246 children with disabilities and their parents with basic services (life-skills development as well as counselling). The country office also supported extensive South-South learning on inclusive education and promoted access to quality education in returnee and remote rural areas. To facilitate the inclusion of children with disabilities into mainstream education, UNICEF and World Vision also provided 1,500 pupils, teachers and community members with disability awareness training and 100 teachers with training on inclusive education.
- Extensive media pitching, advocacy around specific issues as well as innovations (e.g., 'Activate Talks'), and engaging artists in public advocacy contributed to enhanced visibility and a stronger voice for children. Activate Talks focused on children with disabilities and were a truly innovative tool that created a lot of discussion and mobilized the public's attention.

### NEXT STEPS

Children with disabilities still comprise the majority of children living in the last remaining state-run institutions. A law on adoption and foster care and a government programme on home care for children with disabilities are under development. UNICEF will support the Government in developing a package of legal changes to be presented to the Parliament in 2015.

establishment of a coordination mechanism between the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, an independent human rights body created in 1996 to promote and protect human rights in the country, and village child rights monitoring committees (state mechanisms on child protection created in

1993), as well as relevant government officials in targeted districts.

A total of 60 village child rights monitoring committees and 195 state officials, including police officers, probation officers and local government of-

ficials, were trained in child rights protection and monitoring. In addition, UNICEF helped the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka raise awareness of child rights by developing and disseminating child rights manuals to school authorities and children in targeted districts. Measurable results (such as increased use of referral systems) should be reported in 2015. In Turkey, UNICEF and the Ombudsman Institution developed a website (KDK Child) accessible to children to protect their rights and take remedial action against administrative bodies or authorities (school, hospital, family doctor, dorm, governorship, district governorship, police station, municipality, etc.) alleged to have violated their rights. The Turkey Country Office plans to collaborate with the media to inform the public about this mechanism and to inquire about the changes it is making in the lives of children and families across the country.

UNICEF provides technical assistance to other actors who play an important role in accountability, such as the private sector or the media. In Chad, UNICEF strengthened the media's capacity to report on human rights, working with 80 young reporters and 35 community radio and regional branches of the national radio and television company to promote compliance with the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children and the CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.<sup>16</sup>

Country offices also support innovative social accountability mechanisms for children's rights. For example, text message-based technology is being increasingly used to engage with young people directly for policy dialogue and improved service delivery through platforms such as RapidPro (an open-source platform of applications that can help governments deliver rapid and vital real-time information and connect communities to lifesaving services) and U-report (a free SMS-based system that allows young people to speak out on what is happening in communities across the country and to work together with other community leaders for positive change). U-report in Uganda expanded to more than 287,457 young people, or U-reporters, connecting them to each other, parliamentarians and other decision-makers.

UNICEF Nigeria is also addressing accountability through data collection using Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition surveys.<sup>17</sup> The surveys improve data quality review and assurance in larger surveys (such as the Mul-

tiple Indicator Cluster Surveys), provide technical capacity for decision-making and reporting, and support strategic and sustained capacity building. These surveys are linked to monitoring of results for equity, identification of bottlenecks, programme tracking and accountability.

For example, in Zambia, the SMART model has been adapted to support HIV/AIDS results. Using an SMS platform, thousands of U-reporters are provided with a free and interactive platform to receive information on HIV and AIDS, access to confidential counselling with qualified HIV counsellors, and ways to provide feedback to policymakers via SMS polls. The plan for 2015 is to strengthen effective linkages between this platform and health care, education and protection services.

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## PROMOTING THE MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF ADOLESCENTS

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Promoting the meaningful participation of children and adolescents involves supporting their engagement in consultative policy, budgeting and legislative development processes at the national and subnational levels. This includes institutionalizing platforms in which children can engage directly with decision-makers, as well as supporting children and adolescents in carrying out effective advocacy efforts to promote child rights. UNICEF is increasingly supporting child and youth clubs, adolescent-friendly spaces and innovation labs. These provide the opportunity for self-expression, peace-building initiatives and innovations within communities.

In 2014, 61 per cent of UNICEF country offices (92 out of 150 countries) reported that government counterparts and other partners were making substantial efforts to ensure that children and adolescents define issues and priorities that then feed into development agendas at the local, subnational or national levels. For example, in Namibia, UNICEF worked with the Government to include young people in national consultations leading to parliamentary approval of the Childcare and Protection Bill. In Azerbaijan, adolescents were regularly involved in town hall meetings in 21 districts in all matters affecting them at the subnational level. Another 9 per cent of country offices reported that while efforts to give children and adolescents a voice had been initiated, the results have been marginal.

Country offices also helped government counterparts and partners find ways to consult children and adolescents for a variety of purposes, such as in developing the Country Situation Analyses and sector-specific policies, plans or strategies. In countries that have developed national youth policies, UNICEF's support led to direct consultations with all adolescents. In these settings, however, it is not yet clear to what extent children and adolescents are given the opportunity to influence how these policies are put into practice or monitored.

Documentation and analysis of the quality, scope and impact of children's participation is crucial. For this reason, UNICEF and World Vision, in partnership with the Oak Foundation, Concerned for Working Children, Plan, and Save the Children, produced a toolkit in 2014 to monitor and evaluate children's participation.<sup>18</sup> The toolkit provides a conceptual framework for measuring children's participation at the national level, guidance on how to undertake monitoring and evaluation, and practical tools for measurement. This resource will help UNICEF and its partners build a stronger evidence base around children's participation in different programming contexts and in relation to social accountability for the delivery of services. The roll-out of the toolkit and efforts in joint capacity building are scheduled for 2015.

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## ADDRESSING SOCIOCULTURAL PRACTICES AND NORMS

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Building on its work to support the creation of spaces that allow children, adolescents and communities to voice their opinions and enhance their ability to demand fulfilment of their rights, UNICEF also ensures the mobilization of media, opinion leaders and civil society organizations (CSOs) not only to influence decision-makers, but also to change personal, community and public perceptions, attitudes and practices that contribute to discrimination or stigma.

For example, as a result of a multi-year public campaign in Montenegro to address attitudes towards inclusion, 60 per cent of Montenegrins found it would be acceptable if a child with a disability were their child's best friend (a 19 per cent increase from 2013), and 78 per cent supported inclusive education (8 per cent more than in 2013).

Communication for development (C4D) is also essential to fostering change in social practices and

norms in a way that is evidence-based and inclusive. This includes efforts to address discriminatory attitudes and beliefs as well as other practices that exclude children.

In a number of countries UNICEF undertook C4D work on social inclusion focusing on various forms of discrimination, including on account of disability, gender, race and sexual orientation, and relating to sexual and reproductive health rights. In India, broadcasts of the Meena Radio programme – in which boys and girls engaged with issues of gender and social inclusion – reached more than 7.5 million children across 170,000 schools in six states. In 2014, 40 new Meena Radio episodes were produced on the right to education, life skills, gender and child protection. By using mobile phones, Meena also reached about 20,000 girls in 1,500 adolescent girl collectives.

In Guatemala, drawing on bottleneck analyses of sociocultural practices and norms (using the Monitoring Results for Equity System), UNICEF and its partners scaled up the implementation of C4D strategies to address the chronic malnutrition of children among the most disadvantaged populations, including through community-led monitoring. The results show a 17 per cent increase in the number of children aged 6–8 months who receive complementary feeding of high nutritional value at least once a day.

To address stigma and discrimination against children living with HIV and promote lifelong antiretroviral therapy among mothers for the elimination of paediatric AIDS in Maharashtra, the India Country Office conducted large efforts on awareness through major print and electronic media and supported the development of a range of behaviour change communication activities.

Addressing discriminatory behaviours was also an important endeavour as the Ebola crisis began in March of 2014 ([see the section on social inclusion in humanitarian settings](#)).

In East Asia and the Pacific, C4D contributed to ongoing efforts to address violence, stigma and discrimination against children with disabilities and promote the inclusion of families and children in social protection programmes. In Bhutan, national consultations were carried out with children and adult stakeholders to step up protection for children with disabilities. The consultations identified the need for more advocacy and awareness on issues that children with disabilities face, including

stigma and discrimination. UNICEF supported the World Day of Prayer and Action in four districts with the theme, “Stop violence against children.” More than 700 children and adult monks participated in the programme.

In Viet Nam, UNICEF supported the implementation of a World Bank-financed social assistance project through the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs. The five-year pilot project introduced in four provinces is projected to benefit 500,000 poor households by providing them the opportunity, through cash support, to move out of inter-generational poverty. UNICEF provides technical support for an inclusive C4D strategy based on provincial participation and development and the implementation of training and communication activities in the project.

Addressing discrimination requires concerted efforts to change community attitudes towards marginalized groups by mobilizing the media, opinion leaders, CSOs and children’s voices to transform perceptions and practices. Most often, such efforts support the inclusion of children with disabilities. A few examples include Armenia, Mozambique, the Republic of Moldova, and the United Republic of

Tanzania. Work in Ethiopia and Kenya addresses other forms of discrimination, including against pastoralist communities. In Montenegro, UNICEF supported advocacy led by Roma youth.

## CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

Despite widespread ratification of the CRC and continued adoption of other key international human rights instruments important for children, including the CRPD and CEDAW, mechanisms are often lacking to translate commitments into effective action. Insufficient attention is paid to the establishment of ongoing and institutionalized mechanisms for children’s and adolescents’ meaningful participation in development processes and interface with decision makers. More efforts are needed to develop and strengthen accountability mechanisms that provide redress, support monitoring (including through data disaggregation) and engage communities. There is also a strong need to address underlying social and structural determinants that put particular groups of children, such as children with disabilities, girls and indigenous children, at greater risk of discrimination and exclusion.

## PROGRAMME AREA 3

### PUBLIC FINANCE FOR CHILDREN

#### A PROGRAMMATIC APPROACH FOR MAKING BUDGETS WORK BETTER FOR ALL CHILDREN

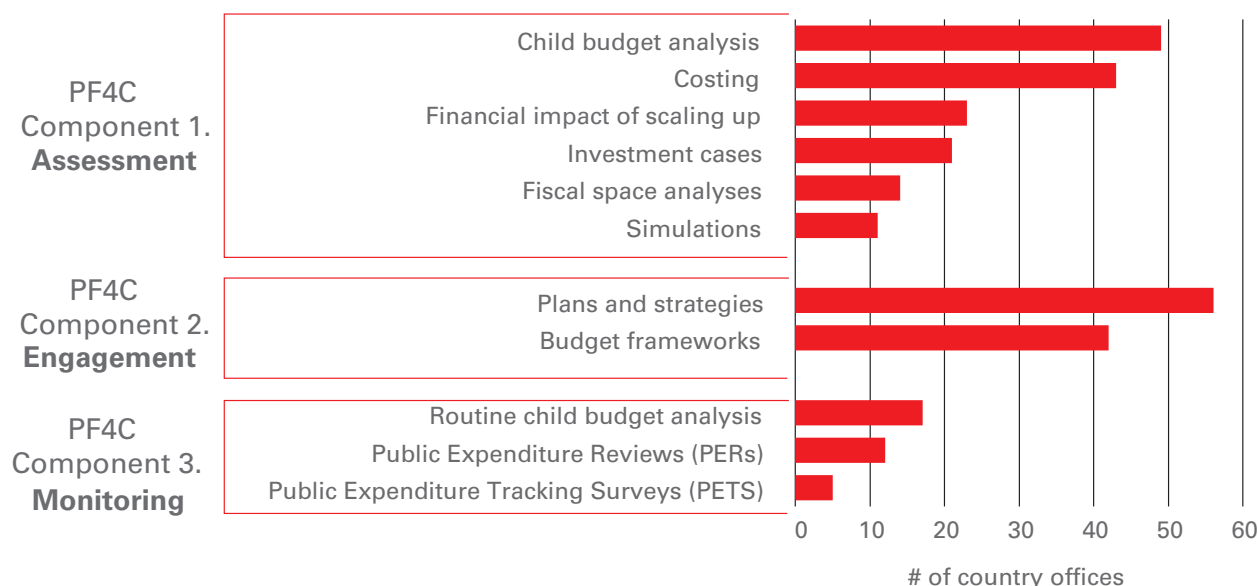
Public finance for children brings together sector-based and cross-cutting initiatives to influence how the budget is put together and how funds are transformed into public goods and services for the benefit of children. Key goals include influencing government decisions about spending on children and social services, reducing spending disparities among different population groups and applying value for money approaches so that children benefit optimally from resources intended to enhance their well-being.

Largely driven by the increasing recognition of the links between public financial decisions and progress on child outcomes, UNICEF’s engagement in this area has expanded rapidly in recent years. This includes both the number of country offices actively involved in public finance for children, from 80 in 2012 to 103 in 2014, as well as the number of activities implemented at the country level, from an average

of roughly two interventions per country in 2012 to three in 2014. One of the unique features of public finance for children is its universality, as interventions were carried out across all country contexts, from extreme poor and fragile situations to high-income countries, including ones with National Committees.

UNICEF’s strategic approach to public finance for children focuses on generating evidence on the budget (Component 1), engaging in budgetary frameworks and processes (Component 2), and monitoring budget implementation (Component 3). Core public finance for children interventions include child budget analysis and costing, which were carried out in 49 and 43 country offices, respectively, during 2014 (see [Figure 6](#)). There is also a strong emphasis on supporting government counterparts, including finance, planning and line ministries, to design plans and budgets to address the needs of children. In 2014, 56 country offices worked to ensure that Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, national development plans, sector plans, etc., are child focused and linked to budgets, while 42 country offices helped develop annual budgets and Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks with a child lens.



**FIGURE 6**
**COMPOSITION AND INCIDENCE OF PUBLIC FINANCE FOR CHILDREN INTERVENTIONS, 2014  
(NUMBER OF COUNTRY OFFICES)**


Source: Based on a review of UNICEF COARs.

UNICEF's experiences in 2014 further revealed a number of innovations in how to best manage public finance to better benefit children. For instance, investment cases (cost-benefit and cost-of-inaction studies), fiscal space analyses (to find room in a government's budget for increasing resources directed toward child-focused programmes) and simulations (for example, of removing fuel subsidies or tax reforms) emerged as effective analytical tools to identify budget gaps and advocate for greater and more equitable spending on children. At the same time, traditional public finance management (PFM) tools, including Public Expenditure Reviews (PERs) and Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys (PETS), were adapted by an increasing number of country offices to gauge the performance of resource flows and inform how budget implementation can be strengthened for the benefit of children.

## DELIVERING TRANSPARENT, EFFICIENT, EQUITABLE AND ADEQUATE SPENDING ON CHILDREN

At the country level, UNICEF's engagement in public finance for children in 2014 contributed to significant results that were most visible in terms of enhancing the

transparency, efficiency, equity and adequacy of public investments in children. These results were achieved through a variety of implementation strategies.

### More transparent public investments in children:

Many country offices implemented activities to gain access to and analyse budget documents, often together with government counterparts. In Jordan, for example, a child budget analysis was launched in two ministries during 2014, bringing the total to six ministries. This resulted in the modification of the General Budget Law to require reporting on budget allocations that directly benefit children. In addition, instructions on child-friendly budgeting were included in the annual budget circular. And in Mexico, UNICEF's efforts to systematize the measurement of child-focused spending at the national level led to the application of the methodology in four states (Jalisco, Oaxaca, Puebla and Yucatán).

Other country offices promoted regular and complete expenditure reporting and monitoring, which, in turn, translated into greater resources for children. For instance, UNICEF supported child budget monitoring in six provinces across Argentina to measure financial efforts and identify bottlenecks, which contributed to higher child-focused investments in the provinces of La Rioja, Salta and Tucumán, by 2.3, 15.6 and 3.9 per cent, respectively, in recent years. In Ken-

ya, social budgeting and social intelligence reporting expanded the availability of information for planning and budgeting in the social sector, which triggered additional child-related investments and enhanced community accountability. In Mongolia, UNICEF's advocacy efforts with local parliaments (*hurals*) led to the legal adoption of benchmarks to identify and monitor child-focused budget allocations, which reached, for example, 17 per cent in Khuvsgul Province and 19 per cent in Nalaikh District.

**More efficient public investments in children:** Many public finance for children programmes worked to improve the use of existing resources intended for children and their families. In some instances, results were achieved through capacity development and advocacy to influence political counterparts. In Ecuador, UNICEF facilitated the establishment of the General State Budget Implementation Control Unit within the National Assembly, which now produces monthly analyses of government expenditures and influences budget planning and implementation processes. In Guatemala, UNICEF advocated for amendments to the 2015 draft budget, which prompted Congress to pass a decree that prohibits the common practice of reducing or transferring funds assigned to child-focused programmes.

Elsewhere, results were achieved by working with technical counterparts to strengthen budget planning and better focusing expenditures on children's needs. UNICEF Cambodia, for instance, supported social sector ministries to analyse the budget and link it to planning priorities, which contributed to a 70 per cent increase in allocations for rural sanitation in 2015 and also helped improve budget execution rates in the education sector. And in Indonesia, UNICEF supported evidence-based planning and budgeting in 10 districts in Papua, which helped raise budget allocations for maternal, newborn and child health services.

**More equitable public investments in children:** Country offices across all regions generated evidence on the impact of budgets on different population groups. In many instances, ad hoc studies led to equity-oriented policy reforms. In China, for example, UNICEF and the Ministry of Finance analysed public financing for migrant children, which prompted an increase in central government resources for education among all children in cities, irrespective of residential status (RAM 2014). In Ghana, UNICEF's research on the removal of fuel subsidies led to a redirection of resources to scale up, by 2018, the national cash transfer programme to cover 550,000 extreme poor households (or 2.2 million persons), which represents a dramatic rise from the 77,000 households covered in 2014.

Delivery of technical assistance resulted in greater resources for disadvantaged children. In Kazakhstan, UNICEF's support to the Ministry of Health Care and Social Development led to the introduction of per capita financing at the primary health care level along with a special coefficient to increase resources for rural populations, which reduced geographical disparities in the access of health services by children and women. In the Republic of Moldova, UNICEF helped line ministries prioritize and defend actions that benefit the most marginalized children, which resulted in the incorporation of the Inclusive Education Programme in the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework as well as the abolition of co-payments for children's visits to physicians. In Mozambique, UNICEF's work with the Ministry of Finance led to the revision of the territorial budget allocation formula to consider the incidence of multidimensional poverty and population size.<sup>19</sup>

**More adequate public investments in children:** Nearly all country offices involved in public finance for children focused on increasing the overall resource envelope for children. Results were demonstrated through a variety of strategies, from budget analyses to advocacy with parliamentarians to technical assistance. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, UNICEF's analysis of education policies and budgets informed advocacy efforts that resulted in a boost in national allocations to 13.4 per cent in 2014, up from 11.8 per cent in 2013.

In Myanmar, UNICEF forged a partnership with the Ministry of Finance, a local research institute and a coalition of CSOs and parliamentarians to amplify the "first call for children" in the budget debate, which helped influence significant increases for health care, education and social protection in the 2015/16 budget. In Peru, UNICEF provided technical assistance at the subnational level to leverage more than US\$80 million from public resources, which were allocated to improving access and quality in health care, nutrition, education and protection services for the most excluded children (RAM 2014).

Innovations in public finance for children also translated into greater resources for children. Two prominent examples were investment cases and modelling. UNICEF Sudan is an example of the former, where the development of a nutrition cost-benefit analysis influenced the government's decision to allocate nearly US\$150 million for a five-year nutrition plan. An example of the latter is the tax-benefit micro-simulation model supported by UNICEF Namibia, which led to the Parliament's decision to universalize child benefits (*see box on page 27*).

## MODELLING THE IMPACTS OF TAX REFORMS AND CHILD GRANTS IN NAMIBIA

UNICEF supported the development of a tax-benefit micro-simulation system (NAMOD) to help government counterparts understand the implications of reforms to the social grant system. NAMOD uses information from the latest Namibian Household Income and Expenditure Survey to simulate the costs and reductions in poverty associated with changes to the welfare system (e.g., increasing the size of grants, introducing new grants, changing eligibility) as well as the impact of changes in personal income taxes and value added taxes. UNICEF commissioned the University of Essex to carry out the initial study to serve as a starting point from which the Government could explore specific reforms.

Once the study was completed in early 2014, a NAMOD Task Force was formed, consisting of the five key line ministries, whose members were trained on the application of NAMOD.

The training, combined with upstream advocacy and technical support to obtain licenses and house the model inside the Ministry of Finance, built a sense of commitment with government decision-makers and fuelled reform discussions. The tax-benefit modelling showed that the universalization of the child grant could reduce child poverty from 34 per cent (2011/12) to under 10 per cent as well as free up social workers to do more case management, rather than grant administration. This evidence led to adjustments to the draft Childcare and Protection Bill, including the removal of all targeting criteria for child grants and a gradual expansion towards universalization, which was approved by Parliament in December 2014.

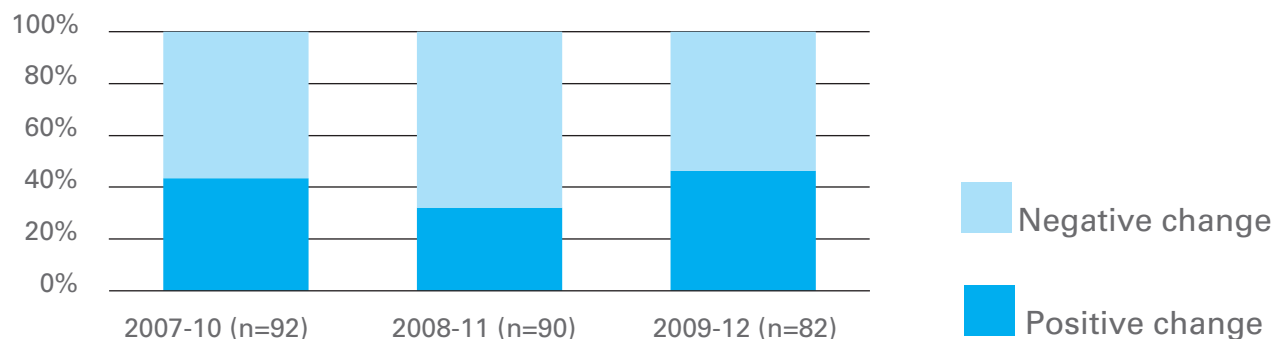
*Source: UNICEF Namibia COAR (2014) and Wright, G. et al., 'NAMOD: A Namibian tax-benefit microsimulation model', EUROMOD Working Paper no. EM 7/14, 2014.*

Aside from country-level examples, the Strategic Plan indicators offer interesting insights on results. For instance, [Figure 7](#) presents the share of countries that increased per capita public spending in real terms in key social sectors across various time periods. The number of countries with positive changes rose from 44 per cent, on average, in the baseline period (2007–2010) to 46 per cent in the most recent period (2010–2012), with a significant decline in the intermediary period (2008–

2011), when only 32 per cent of countries experienced positive increases in expenditures on key social sectors, on average. These data corroborate the widespread adoption of austerity measures by governments in rich and poor countries alike beginning in 2010, many of which adversely impacted funding to social sectors.<sup>20</sup> Although data from the latest period suggest there is a renewed focus of budgets on social sectors, this can only be confirmed over time.

**FIGURE 7**

**CHANGE IN REAL PER CAPITA VALUE OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURES IN KEY SOCIAL SECTORS, 2007–2012 (PERCENTAGE OF COUNTRIES)**



*Source: World Development Indicators and UNESCO (UISStat), extracted on 27 March 2015.*

It is important to highlight several technical issues with this indicator and its relevance to UNICEF's on-the-ground efforts in public finance for children. First, there is a time lag of at least two years in reporting on social expenditures. For instance, the latest estimates on health expenditures are from 2012, with education data for most countries only available for 2011. As a result, the latest global picture that can be obtained at the time of writing is for 2012, albeit based on a limited sample. Second, in merging health and education data to calculate key social expenditures, the sample size becomes restricted (112 observations in 2010, 100 in 2011, 48 in 2012), which means that many countries – including those where UNICEF operates – are not captured.

Third, the underlying data included in this indicator – expenditure, inflation, gross domestic product and population – are frequently revised, which means that the baseline, along with the latest estimates, must be recalculated each year (they are moving values). Fourth, this indicator does not reflect UNICEF's recent efforts in public finance for children. In practice, there can be a large time gap between such an intervention and the resulting impact into higher social spending. For instance, public finance for children activities carried out in year 1 (say, 2014) may influence the composition of the budget in the following fiscal year (2015) or beyond (2016), but certainly cannot be attributed to past performance.

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## CREATING GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES TO FURTHER LOCAL PUBLIC FINANCE FOR CHILDREN

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UNICEF helped direct attention to the importance of PFM processes and public investments to achieve child rights through various global channels during 2014. This included: (1) organizing an international seminar, “Investing in Children: A Commitment to Equity at 25 years of the CRC,” which convened experts and government officials from 22 countries in Lima, Peru, in October 2014 to share their experiences in investing in children; (2) supporting consultations and the drafting of a General Comment on “The Right of the Child and Public Spending” by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which elaborates on Article 4 of the CRC (to be issued in 2015); (3) supporting preparations for the Human Rights Council's 28th session on more effective investments in child rights, which included a General

Assembly resolution on the “Rights of the Child: Towards Better Investment in the Rights of the Child” (approved in March 2015); and (4) advocating for the inclusion of financial indicators and strengthened PFM processes to achieve agreed-upon development targets, especially those for children, during the run-up of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (July 2015) and the post-2015 agenda (September 2015).

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## CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

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Despite clear impacts of UNICEF's work to advance public finance for children, significant challenges remain. As evident from internal reporting during 2014, only 15 of 150 countries had planning and budgeting frameworks that were considered child-sensitive and adequately resourced to address child poverty and disparities. This highlights the need to overcome a variety of external and internal challenges to further progress in this area. External challenges range from gaining access to budget information and key decision-makers (for example, the finance ministry or the budget committee in parliament) to having to work at both national and local levels. Internally, these finance programmes are often challenged by poor planning, unpredictable support and technical knowledge gaps.

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## PUSHING THE PUBLIC FINANCE FOR CHILDREN AGENDA FORWARD

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Looking forward, experiences from 2014 indicate that longer-term, systematic approaches to public finance for children can deliver better results. To this end, some of the key programme design principles that can be adopted include: (1) engaging vocal and proactive leadership in public finance for children; (2) investing across all three core components of interventions (evidence generation, engagement in budgetary frameworks and processes and budget monitoring); (3) maintaining the flexibility to respond to windows of opportunity that may open (e.g., a meeting, new personnel, an election); (4) fostering cross-sectoral collaboration; (5) equipping staff with the right mix of knowledge and skills; (6) developing partnerships with key technical and political decision-makers inside and outside government; and (7) channelling national progress and momentum to local levels.



# PROGRAMME AREA 4

## GOVERNANCE AND DECENTRALIZATION

### UNICEF'S APPROACH TO GOVERNANCE

Local and national governance practices directly impact child well-being, but this is rarely taken into account. In many countries, local governments, including urban municipalities, are increasingly responsible for service delivery, yet lack capacity to consult their constituencies and plan and monitor services in ways that respond to the needs of the most deprived children and women. Particularly in large urban areas, poverty and marginalization are often hidden from view, thereby creating new risks for disenfranchised people, making an equity focus all the more important.

At the national level, stakeholders such as parliamentarians and ombudsmen have a significant role in supporting public accountability and promoting and monitoring child rights.<sup>21</sup> However, this oversight role on child rights is often overlooked and therefore limited. In addition, decisions on how to regulate and cooperate with the private sector increasingly impact the environment in which children live as well as the quality and costs of essential services. Engaging national-level stakeholders and the private sector is therefore crucial to the realization of child rights.

Effective governance for child rights at both national and local levels also includes a focus on environmental sustainability. While the starting point for environmental sustainability is national policy dialogue, effective implementation of environmental policies requires mainstreaming within local planning processes.

### STRENGTHENED URBAN GOVERNANCE TO SUPPORT INCLUSIVE CHILD RIGHTS

An equity focus in urban governance is crucial. In urban areas there are often stark differences between rich and poor as well as in the quality and availability of services for children and their families. In order to strengthen a focus on child rights within urban governance, UNICEF engagement frequently focuses on child-friendly city initiatives, a model that applies the CRC to the local government framework.

In 2014, 12 country offices were supporting child-friendly city initiatives, and this is likely to increase in the future. 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.<sup>22</sup> The initiative aims to create local governance structures that take into account children and their rights within all facets of local governance. In Morocco, an evaluation of the UNICEF-supported child-friendly cities initiative pointed towards improved preschool and primary school enrolment rates, reduced school dropout rates and increased cultural and sport events in the five municipalities where the model was supported.

In Turkey, UNICEF initiated the child-friendly cities model in 2014, supporting municipalities in designing rights- and evidence-based child-friendly policies and programmes. Youth-led child rights assessments informed municipal action plans to be implemented in 2015, and municipal child budgeting was increased in some municipalities to improve access to playgrounds among children with disabilities.

Innovation is playing a bigger role in the child-friendly cities model. For instance, UNICEF has been engaging children and young people through digital mapping to identify and report on problems in their neighbourhoods. This information then informs local policy. For example, in Bhutan, young people were trained on UNICEF's geographical information system and Voices of Youth Maps, to develop digital community maps.<sup>23</sup> The community mappers recommended enhancing public transportation services, waste disposal and environmental conservation and employing caretakers to ensure community safety and protection. Youth mapped out issues and concerns and also highlighted positive changes in their communities.

Another key area in strengthening inclusive urban governance focuses on improved disaggregated data, particularly data related to the most marginalized children. In Egypt, UNICEF launched the study "Multidimensional Child Poverty in Slums and Unplanned Areas." As a result, evidence on the nature and size of poverty experienced by children in urban

slums is available to the Egyptian government to inform its policy. In Colombia, UNICEF support resulted in increased availability of subnational information regarding children and adolescents, through the continuous updating and expansion of the Web-based DEVINFO tool, SINFONIA, which disaggregates data on more than a 100 indicators down to the municipal level. The user rate of this system grew by 265.4 per cent in 2014 relative to the previous year. In 2014, 58 per cent of country offices with large urban populations produced and utilized such disaggregated data on the most excluded.<sup>24</sup>

## STRENGTHENING EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL PLANNING

Participatory local planning is crucial to ensure that the needs and priorities of the most disadvantaged are reflected in local development plans, and is a pre-requisite for responsive and equitable local governance. In 2014, 59 per cent of countries where UNICEF is active are reported to have participatory mechanisms in place, which allows the most disadvantaged to influence local and nation development agendas.<sup>25</sup>

One strategy that country offices increasingly employ in this area is influencing the national policy framework to improve participatory local planning processes. In Benin, for instance, UNICEF supported the Government in the development of a format for Communal Development Plans. In Senegal, UNICEF supported a national forum to refine the protocols and tools to encourage community participation in and the prioritization of children's issues in planning and municipal budgeting.

Another frequent approach is to strengthen local participatory planning processes. In 2014, 22 country offices reported specific initiatives related to strengthening local participatory planning systems.<sup>26</sup> In India, for instance, UNICEF supported the Government in institutionalizing child-focused local participatory planning in districts in Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. A joint government-UNICEF assessment in Kerala provided evidence that the approach increased reflection of children's issues in local government plans. In Ethiopia, UNICEF continues to support the Government in implementing the Integrated Community Based Participatory Planning (ICBPP) process, which allows community voices, including those of women and children, to be heard and

priorities to be reflected in local development plans. The ICBPP approach has been rolled out in a total of 284 woredas (districts) and kebeles (sub-districts). In Morocco, UNICEF supported the building of local capacity through the Local Development Programme. As a result, 106 municipalities integrating child rights issues in municipal development plans. Elected councils approved 98 per cent of these plans. Furthermore, the model will be scaled up to the national level (expected after the municipal elections of 2015), which will ensure that children and women become priorities in municipal development plans throughout the country.

### SOCIAL SERVICE MAPPING IN CAMBODIA

In Cambodia, UNICEF continued its social service mapping processes, which are supported in 101 communes. The mapping process identifies vulnerabilities against 17 socio-economic indicators and covers 147,000 households. Most communes report that youth, children and people with disabilities actively participate. As a result of the process, local government expenditure on social services has grown from 4 per cent to 9 per cent. In addition, all 101 communes have included social service interventions in their investment plans, and the number of interventions grew from 196 in 2011 to 1,458 in 2014. Many of these interventions targeted community-defined needs. There was a rise from 56 to 74 per cent in the planned interventions being executed. This led to 20 per cent of vulnerable women and children in 2014 accessing community preschool; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); and maternal and newborn health services (120,815 out of 610,483 women and children), a significant increase from 2011.

The work related to local governance offers an excellent opportunity to focus on gender, particularly in terms of equal participation in local planning processes and equal local political representation. In Burkina Faso, for example, UNICEF's participation in the Common Gender Fund helped leverage funds to support five projects with CSOs, including a project that seeks to strengthen the participation of women in local decision-making bodies (local authorities and political parties). However, in 2014, only a limited number of country offices reported a specific gender focus in local governance.

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## ENSURING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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The realities of climate change exacerbate the extreme poverty with which many children are already struggling. At the same time, in many countries around the world, children are not consulted on climate change. Currently, 34 programme countries (23 per cent) have a national policy on climate change or the environment that makes reference to children. Among country offices, 49 per cent report that at least one of the key sectors (for example, water, health care, education) makes substantial reference to climate change or environmental sustainability in national policy.<sup>27</sup>

The issues involved range from addressing climate change impacts on children and utilizing sustainable energy solutions in WASH, health care, education and humanitarian situations, and raising awareness and educating children on the importance of environmental sustainability to ensure their futures. Several country offices supported the inclusion of environmental education in national education plans or strategies or national curricula.

Zimbabwe is the first UNICEF office to have supported the Government in developing a child-sensitive national climate change response strategy (see box on Zimbabwe). In Zambia, through the Climate Ambassadors Programme, children met with high-level leaders to discuss policy and practical solutions to environmental degradation and climate change. In Nigeria, climate change adaptation practices are routinely mainstreamed into WASH policies, strategies and interventions. Finally, several country offices, including Malaysia and Turkmenistan, supported post-2015 national youth consultations and World We Want Surveys, which clearly indicate that environmental sustainability is a priority that needs to be addressed.

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## ENGAGING PARLIAMENTS TO PROMOTE CHILD RIGHTS PRINCIPLES

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At the national level, parliamentarians and ombudsmen 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 Bolivia, the

promulgation of the new Child and Adolescent Code demonstrated further significance and institutionalization of the Parliamentary Network for Children and Adolescents in its capacity to position and defend the rights of children and adolescents in legislative work. In Kazakhstan, UNICEF worked with Parliament to raise awareness among its members on international standards for youth policy, and convened parliamentarians, local government, youth NGOs and representatives of youth with vulnerabilities in an effort to advance a vision for youth in Kazakhstan. This enabled the stakeholders to reflect on and articulate gaps in the draft law and to consider young people's actual needs and concerns.

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## ENGAGING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO STRENGTHEN CHILD RIGHTS BUSINESS PRINCIPLES

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While governance is increasingly a focus of UNICEF country offices, work on the private sector lags behind. In 2014, only 30 per cent of countries reported that the government addressed child rights business principles in its dealings with the private sector. In addition, only 18 per cent of country offices reported that the country's Chamber of Commerce addressed child rights business principles in its charter and guidance to private sector. Efforts should be increased, particularly to engage with the private sector beyond supporting public-private partnerships.

There were a few examples of country office engagement with the private sector within the context of promoting public-private partnerships. In Colombia, for instance, the country office identified and promoted alliances and mechanisms for coordination among entities of diverse character for the benefit of children and adolescents, including with the Board for the Promotion of Public-Private Partnerships. In Morocco, municipal development plans were drafted in partnership with the private sector.

In 2014, one country office specifically supported work with the Chamber of Commerce. In Mongolia, the national release of Child Rights Business Principles – co-hosted with Save the Children, the National Authority for Children and the Mongolian Chamber of Commerce – was a significant step towards engaging and building alliances with the private sector to maximize the business community's potential to advance child rights. As a result, UNICEF Mongolia initiated dialogue with selected large and medium-sized enterprises in Mongolia to

implement corporate social responsibility actions with direct benefits for children.

## CONSTRAINTS AND OBSTACLES

In the governance area, main external challenges faced by country offices include a lack of coordination between national and subnational government levels and between sectors; low technical capacity of local government stakeholders; challenges in engaging local authorities in initiatives; and ensuring the effective participation of children and women in local planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Main internal challenges include gaps in filling approved technical posts at field office level; coordination between country offices and the field offices in the planning, implementation and monitoring of UNICEF-supported work at the subnational level; lack of funding for work related to decentralization and local governance; and limited internal financial and technical capacity to strategically engage in national decentralization processes.

## LOOKING FORWARD

In a recent assessment of UNICEF engagement in local governance, country offices expressed an interest in increasing future demand for UNICEF in this area, as well as a need for more strategic engagement through, for example, key partnerships with United Nations agencies and local government associations, as well as by connecting the work at the subnational level with the national policy framework. To support this effort, UNICEF is currently developing strategic guidance on decentralization and local governance. The assessment also pointed towards increased future engagement with municipal governments, particularly through the child-friendly governance model.

The work on climate change is also gaining momentum within the organization. Countries are increasingly reporting that environmental sustainability, including climate change, are important for ensuring child rights, and 118 country offices were working on environmental sustainability issues in 2014.

### DESIGNING A CHILD-SENSITIVE NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE STRATEGY IN COLLABORATION WITH CHILDREN

In Zimbabwe, many children already feel the impacts of climate change. Drought and floods result in food shortages, which lead to hunger and poverty. Some families resort to removing their children from school to earn money to pay for food. The realities of climate change exacerbate the extreme poverty with which many children in the nation are already struggling. At the same time, Zimbabwe is typical of many countries around the world in that children are not consulted on climate change matters. The CRC outlines children's rights to be a part of decision-making on issues that affect them; yet, few governments provide children the opportunity, training and platform to influence policies on climate change.

Through partnership with Zimbabwe's Government, academic institutions, the private sector and other United Nations agencies, UNICEF Zimbabwe ensured that the national policy discourse on climate change addressed children's issues. UNICEF supported the development of the National Climate Change Response Strategy, which provides a framework for climate change adaptation and mitigation. Topics such as disaster risk reduction and development have been integrated into the post-2015 framework

to understand how climate change will impact current and future risk scenarios for women and children. UNICEF has prioritized asking children how climate change is impacting them and what changes they want to see to protect their future through a variety of interventions, such as the Children and Climate Change Policy Dialogues.

The National Climate Change Response Strategy has produced climate preparedness and response plans that specifically reduce children's climate change vulnerability, while also framing climate change as a priority issue for the Zimbabwean public. UNICEF has made a powerful case for making children's perspectives on climate change an essential component of planning and policy, demonstrating how valuable their voices and ideas are to national discourse. The central role of children in the National Climate Change Response Strategy has yielded an array of children-authored recommendations for policymakers, including supporting community management of water resources, providing auxiliary feeding programs at schools in climate-vulnerable areas, strengthening climate and environmental education and involving schoolchildren in collaborative research on climate change.



# PROGRAMME AREA 5

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## SOCIAL INCLUSION IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

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### UNICEF APPROACH TO SOCIAL INCLUSION IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

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Attention to resilience and social inclusion in humanitarian action is needed to both prevent recurrences and to protect vulnerable populations in humanitarian situations. Those worst affected are the last to be reached and are often those who were already marginalized within their societies. When humanitarian responses fail to take their needs and voices into account, the prospects of the poorest children do not improve, and cycles of violence and poverty are perpetuated. Even the limited feedback and complaints mechanisms that do exist are not always child-friendly.

Increased attention to social inclusion and resilience measures in humanitarian situations is therefore required: national and local authorities must be able to plan for potential crises, factoring in attention to vulnerable community members in emergency response plans. Peacebuilding measures involving children and adolescents can contribute to social cohesion, as can strengthened human rights monitoring and justice mechanisms that incorporate child rights. Social inclusion in humanitarian settings encompasses specific efforts related to each of the programme areas in fragile and emergency contexts as well as some additional elements.

### IMPROVED NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PREPAREDNESS, PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

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The multiple humanitarian crises of 2014 highlighted how conflicts, disasters and public health emergencies both exacerbate and are exacerbated by poverty and social exclusion. Good disaster risk management can mitigate the impact on children and families. Country offices report that the integration of disaster and conflict risk in national development plans is 77 per cent, although only 43 per cent of country offices report the use of such information at the subnational level.

Nonetheless, work related to subnational disaster risk reduction is increasingly becoming a focus.

UNICEF Nepal, for instance, supported Government and non-governmental stakeholders in formulating a policy framework on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, along with local stakeholder capacity-building and mainstreaming risk-sensitive programming. The potential for reducing the impact of crisis was underscored in the Philippines, where the worst impacts of the December 2014 Typhoon Hagupit were mitigated in part due to lessons learned from Haiyan. Perhaps the most important reason for reduced casualties was the effective early warning and subsequent mass evacuation of people from areas in danger of flooding or landslides.

In 2014, 71 per cent of countries demonstrated a high level of compliance with key preparedness actions under the Early Warning Early Action system.

### BUILDING PEACE AND STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE THROUGH THE DELIVERY OF BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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Globally, an estimated 230 million children currently live in countries and areas affected by armed conflicts.<sup>28</sup> Children in these situations are more than three times as likely to be unable to go to school, twice as likely to die before the age 5, and more than twice as likely to lack access to safe water.

UNICEF has a strong commitment to delivering and managing social services in ways that contribute to building peace and resilience. In situations of crisis and in the aftermath of crises, social services help to build the capacities needed to 'bounce back'. Where conflict and fragility undermine recovery and development, a tangible benefit of peace for citizens is the provision or resumption of basic social services. This in turn can reduce incentives for people to engage in violent behaviour, creating a context for the building of resilience to conflict and other risks. Furthermore, strengthening (local) government structures will enhance national-local cohesion and resilience capacities (structures and processes, and assets) to respond to conflict and other risks. In the Philippines, UNICEF focused on providing technical assistance to local government units and developed pilot projects for service delivery in conflict-affected areas. In Somalia, UNICEF

works within the framework of the United Nations Joint Programme on Local Governance – the ILO, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, and UN-Habitat – to enhance community resilience by strengthening the delivery of basic social services by local governments, improving governance processes and supporting the participation of communities in local planning processes.

A 2014 evaluation of phase 1 of the programme found that especially the work supported by UNICEF in the area of transparency and accountability was successful, with citizens engaged in project oversight, lobbying for their communities and arguing for their priorities to be included in final plans. Furthermore, the participatory planning process has been successfully embedded in the local governance planning systems, and some of the better-off districts will be able to continue unaided using the systems and tools created.

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## **STRENGTHENING SOCIAL PROTECTION RESPONSES IN FRAGILE AND HUMANITARIAN CONTEXTS**

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In recognition of the increasing complexity of humanitarian emergencies and the potential to achieve better results for children by more effectively linking work across the development-humanitarian continuum, social protection in the context of humanitarian action is a rapidly expanding area of UNICEF work. Building on the organization's strengths in both areas, UNICEF's efforts in social protection bring together the necessary actors from multiple sectors and ministries, NGOs and development partners active in both emergencies and development. Because of UNICEF's ongoing presence within countries, the organization's staff are working with partners prior to, during and after crises.

In practice, this has meant working during emergency response and recovery to invest in cash transfers that can become the basis for building longer-term social protection systems where none exist, and using and modifying existing social protection programmes, where feasible, to respond to emergencies. Cash transfers implemented as part of humanitarian response can serve as stepping stones to building or strengthening social protection systems that are sustained through the recovery and development phases. It has also meant

working with government partners to better prepare social protection systems to respond rapidly and more nimbly when crises occur. Of the 75 UNICEF country offices that reported, 47 per cent (35 countries) supported governments in emergency prevention, preparedness and response through social protection systems and programmes. Also, 32 per cent (24 countries) supported programming for humanitarian action that addresses sustainable social protection system-building.

Examples of this work include UNICEF support during the Ebola epidemic and Syrian crisis through the provision of technical assistance to incorporate cash transfers and social protection system strengthening as part of short- and longer-term responses. In Sierra Leone, for example, UNICEF, along with the World Bank and other partners, had been supporting the Government in a national social protection policy and the design of a cash transfer programme prior to the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease. In response to the Ebola crisis, UNICEF worked with partners to modify these plans so that the programme could be rolled out more rapidly to reach 8,000 Ebola-affected households, in addition to 13,000 extremely poor households, to assist them in meeting food and other vital basic needs such as health care and education.

In Armenia, UNICEF supported measures to enhance government social protection responses to the needs of the most vulnerable groups during emergencies. Such support was driven by recent climate-related events, such as spring frost and strong hails that heavily affected the country and highlighted the relevance of having effective responses in place for future needs. UNICEF has also supported regional efforts – such as in East Asia and the Pacific, the world's most disaster-prone region – to strengthen the role of social protection in disaster risk management.

Although experience is growing in the area of social protection in fragile and humanitarian contexts, it is an evolving field of knowledge and practice characterized by gaps, experimentation and a high demand for support. It presents new technical, implementation and sometimes political challenges. In 2014, UNICEF conducted a survey of staff working at this nexus to identify strengths, gaps and needs. Key challenges identified were the need to strengthen the capacity of government and NGO partners and UNICEF staff in developing additional guidance and technical support, risk management strategies and financial resources.

Staff in the Programme Division and in the UNICEF Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS) are working together to provide technical assistance to regional and country office staff, document good practices and lessons learned from country experiences, strengthen and develop new guidance and tools, and create mechanisms for exchange among UNICEF staff working in this area. In addition, UNICEF is working with other partners, such as the U.K. Department for International Development, the World Food Programme, and the World Bank to identify joint areas of work and learning.

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## **STRENGTHEN HUMANITARIAN PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS**

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Accountability issues are equally important in humanitarian contexts. Of the 75 offices that reported, 67 per cent provided information to affected populations (for example, regular consultations with point-of-care community leaders in South Sudan) and helped them make better-informed decisions on various topics, such as nutrition and emergency preparedness. 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 (that is, planning needs assessment and response, assessment, project design or response planning, project implementation, distribution and service delivery, and monitoring).

Addressing discriminatory practices that impede inclusion and ensuring behavioural change through social mobilization and community engagement are central in accountability to affected populations. In response to the unprecedented Ebola crisis in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, UNICEF co-led the social mobilization pillar and facilitated the engagement of local networks and organizations such as women's groups, faith-based organizations, community radios and youth volunteers.

UNICEF coordinated massive communication, social mobilization and community engagement efforts that helped increase awareness, promote preventive and protective behaviours (including safe burial practices), support case identification and management, and increase early care-seeking. These initiatives also helped address high levels of stigma towards Ebola survivors. Data from three Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices surveys show

that C4D efforts in Sierra Leone contributed to the sustained reduction of some form of stigmatization and discriminatory attitudes towards Ebola survivors from 94 per cent in September 2014 to 38 per cent in January 2015.

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## **RISK ASSESSMENTS AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

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Within the context of formulating optimal resilience-focused programming and planning, it has long been recognized that social development and humanitarian programmes have lacked robustness of design in context-specific risk identification and analysis. Despite the progress in disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and peacebuilding, these efforts are rarely mainstreamed into sectoral programming. Recognizing the gap in guidance for risk-informed programming (beyond existing risk assessments and disaster risk reduction and peacebuilding programme guidance) and responding to the recent demands by UNICEF at all levels for guidance on this, the Programme Division Director's Office (Humanitarian Action and Transition) is currently developing an integrated and adaptable methodology for context-specific risk assessment and analysis, and a 'Basic Package for Risk-Informed Programmes How-to Guide', which aims to fill the gap.

The purpose of the how-to guide is to support country teams in the development of risk-informed programmes that will contribute to strengthening resilience. In particular, the guide aims to provide practical, step-by-step guidance that will help country teams in adapting their programmes to mitigate and address impacts, shocks and stresses. Sector-specific guidance material is currently under development for health, nutrition and HIV through a partnership with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Emory University. Similar work for other sectors is currently under way, and a sector-specific module for risk-informed programming in social protection will be developed in 2015.

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## **CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS**

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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 is often a multiplicity of planning frameworks, presenting key challenges to effective strategic and programme planning. Yet 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 for children.

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## THE WAY FORWARD

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Moving forward, the post-2015 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction emphasizes the importance of “empower[ing] local authorities and local communities to reduce disaster risk, including through resources, incentives and decision-making responsibilities, as appropriate.” For UNICEF, strengthening local government capacity in risk assessment, and adapting sectoral programming accordingly, will remain a priority.

In terms of peacebuilding, key priorities for UNICEF include (1) ensuring that conflict sensitivity and

peacebuilding are properly integrated into UNICEF planning processes and across programme sectors, (2) making sure all UNICEF programmes systematically apply the conflict sensitivity or do-no-harm approach, and (3) promoting peacebuilding in sectors where UNICEF has comparative advantage. This will include better integration of conflict and risk analysis into situation analyses (SitAns), a more robust linking of country programme documents and sector plans to the underlying causes and dynamics of conflict, and integration of indicators related to peacebuilding and resilience in monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

In addition, UNICEF will have a stronger focus on building technical capacity of its staff and partners in designing and implementing effective peacebuilding programmes. This will be pursued as part of the broader organizational priority for building resilience in fragile and conflict-affected settings and integrating conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding into related guidance, tools and capacity development packages.

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## REVENUE

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UNICEF is entirely dependent on voluntary contributions. Regular resources are unearmarked, unrestricted funds. The overwhelming majority of these funds are allocated to country programmes on the basis of under-5 mortality rates; gross national income per capita; and child population, which ensures that most resources are spent in the least developed countries. In turn, each country programme invests its share of regular resources in response to the specific context and development priorities of the country concerned. UNICEF revenue also comes from earmarked or other resources, which include, among others, pooled funding modalities such as thematic funding for UNICEF Strategic Plan outcome and cross-cutting areas. Other resources are restricted to a particular programme, geographic area or strategic priority, or to fund emergency response.

Despite a 5 per cent increase in 2014 to US\$1,326 million, regular resource contributions have continued to decline as a share of overall revenue since the turn of the new millennium, from 50 per cent to

just over 25 per cent. As we look to the post-2015 agenda, being ‘Fit for Purpose’ to deliver on the draft SDGs and aligned UNICEF Strategic Plan, flexible and predictable other resources are needed to complement a sound level of regular resources. It is only with more flexible resources that UNICEF can:

- maintain its independence, neutrality and role as a trusted partner, with adequate and highly skilled capacity at country level, for country-driven, innovative and efficient programming;
- achieve key results for all country programmes of cooperation; and
- respond quickly and flexibly to changing circumstances, including sudden-onset emergencies, allowing the channelling of resources to programme areas where they are most needed.

Additional and complementary earmarked funds can then be used to bring solutions to scale in different contexts.



## 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 complementary funding. Thematic funding is allocated internally 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 2014–2017 outcome areas, as well as for humanitarian action and gender. Resource partners can contribute thematic funding at the global, regional or country levels.

Contributions from all resource partners to the same outcome area and humanitarian action 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 at global, regional and country levels 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](http://www.unicef.org/publicpartnerships/66662_66851.html).

### PARTNER TESTIMONIAL

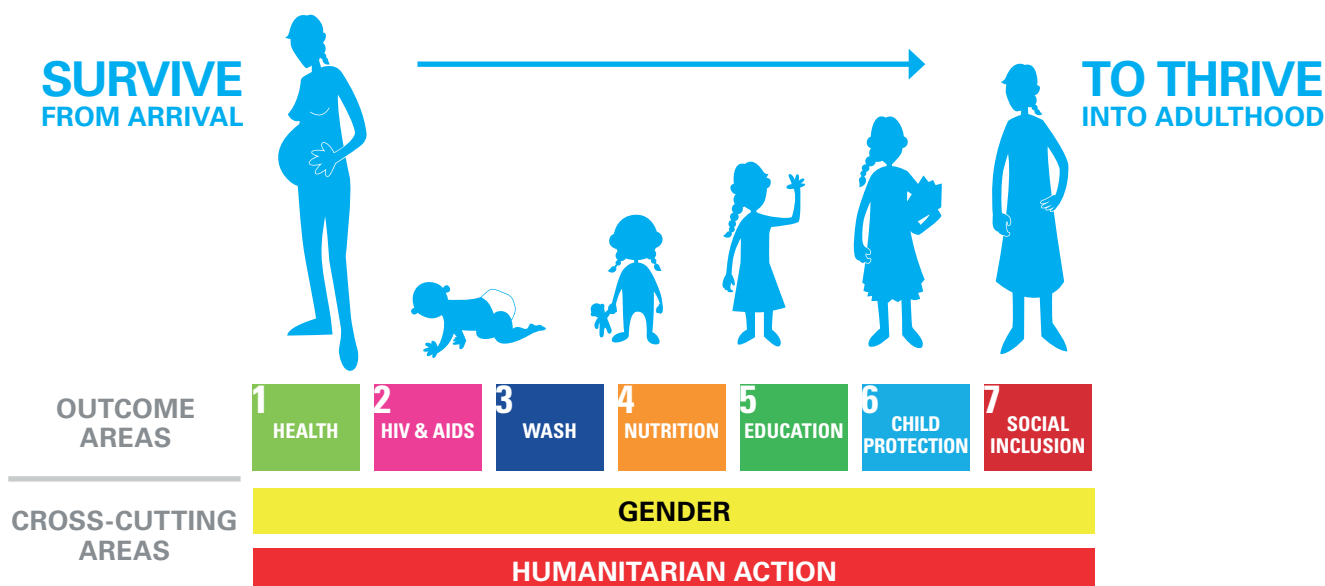
*"Helping children in need is the most important investment that we can make to achieve development, human rights, peace and stability. **UNICEF** is a key partner in this respect. [...]"*

*The flexibility of **UNICEF's** thematic funding allows us to reach the most vulnerable children, improve the effectiveness of our response and achieve better results. It also enables us to promote innovation and sustainability, improve coordination and long-term planning, and reduce transaction costs.*

*In accordance with its mandate, **UNICEF** works to promote the protection of children's rights and the fulfilment of their basic needs, and to increase children's opportunities so that they can reach their full potential. In today's world, **UNICEF's** work to fulfil this mandate is more important than ever."*

Børge Brende  
Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
Government of Norway

### UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014-17 Thematic Windows:



Of the US\$5,169 million of UNICEF's revenue in 2014, US\$3,843 million were other resources. Of these, US\$341 million constituted thematic contributions, marking a 5 per cent decrease from the US\$359 million received in 2013. This reflects a continuing decline in thematic funding as a percentage of other resources, from an all-time high of 21 per cent in 2010 to an all-time low of just under 9 per cent in 2014 (see Figure 8).

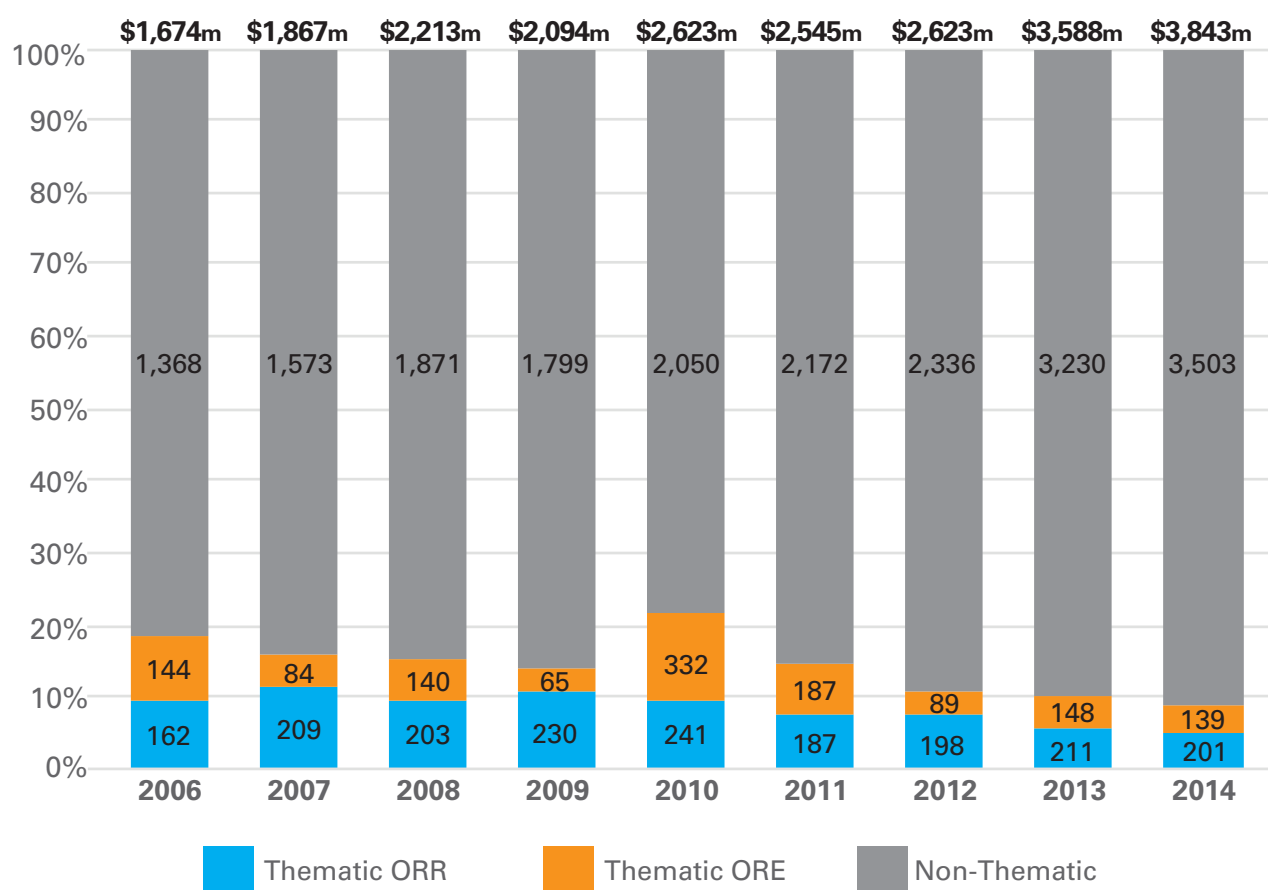
Of the US\$42 million to social inclusion in 2014, 79 per cent were highly earmarked funds (see Figure 9).<sup>29</sup> The remainder were thematic contributions. Of the US\$9 million in thematic contributions, only 28 per cent was received at the global level, the most flexible. Less flexible funding continues to be a challenge for UNICEF and social inclusion in particular, as re-

sources and efforts shift to preparing project proposals and reporting for tighter earmarked contributions.

Ninety-eight per cent of thematic contributions received for social inclusion came from two government partners (see Table 1). The Government of Sweden was the largest thematic resource partner, providing 70 per cent of all thematic contributions received, which were given at the country level for programmes in the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Zimbabwe. The Government of Norway provided the most flexible funding in the form of a single global thematic contribution, while private-sector fundraising through the UNICEF office in Malaysia provided regional-level thematic funding for social inclusion programmes in the East Asia and Pacific region.

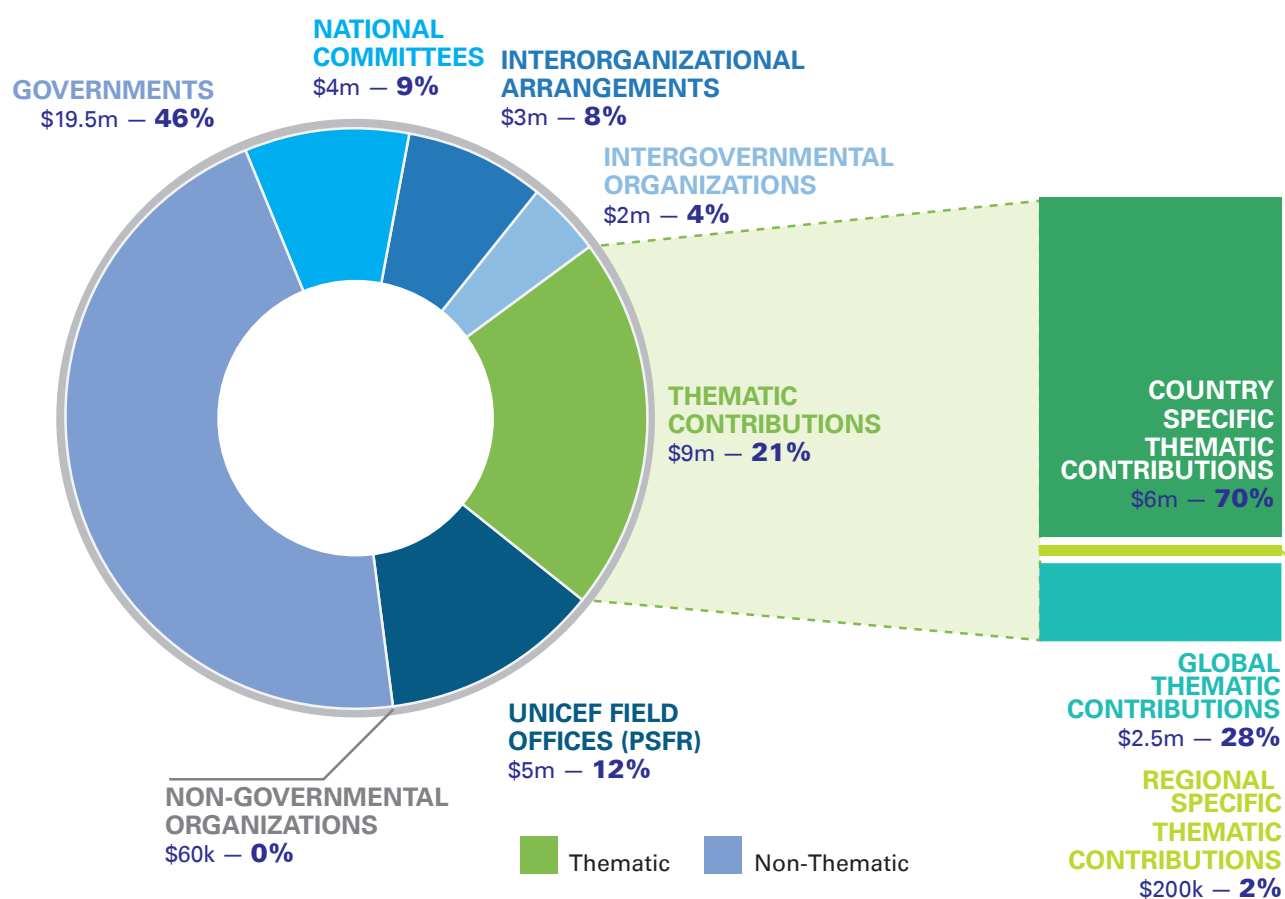
**FIGURE 8**

**OTHER RESOURCE CONTRIBUTIONS 2006–2014, THEMATIC VS. NON-THEMATIC**



**FIGURE 9**

**OTHER RESOURCES BY FUNDING MODALITY AND PARTNER GROUP, SOCIAL INCLUSION, 2014: US\$42 MILLION**

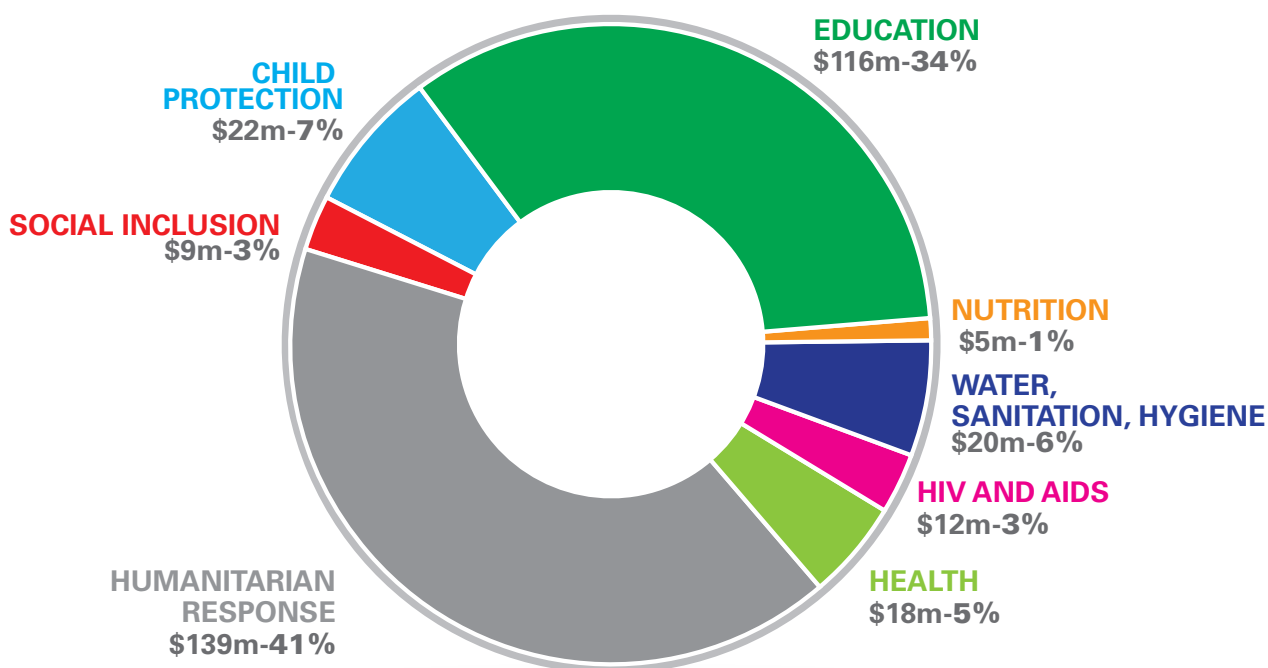
**TABLE 1:**

**THEMATIC CONTRIBUTIONS BY RESOURCE PARTNER TO SOCIAL INCLUSION, 2014**

Resource partner type	Resource partner	Amount (US\$)	Per cent
Governments 98%	Sweden	6,343,218	70.03
	Norway	2,514,247	27.76
Field offices PSFR 2%	UNICEF Malaysia	200,000	2.21
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>9,057,465</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**FIGURE 10**

**THEMATIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME AND CROSS-CUTTING AREAS,  
2014: US\$341 MILLION**



The decline in thematic funding pools overall, including having received no gender equality thematic contributions (*see Figure 10*), needs to be addressed to fulfil the shared commitment made by UNICEF partners to provide more flexible and pooled funding. In the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review resolution, Member States called for enhanced cost-effectiveness, highlighting pooled funding modalities as a means of achieving this objective. Subsequently, dialogue on financing the

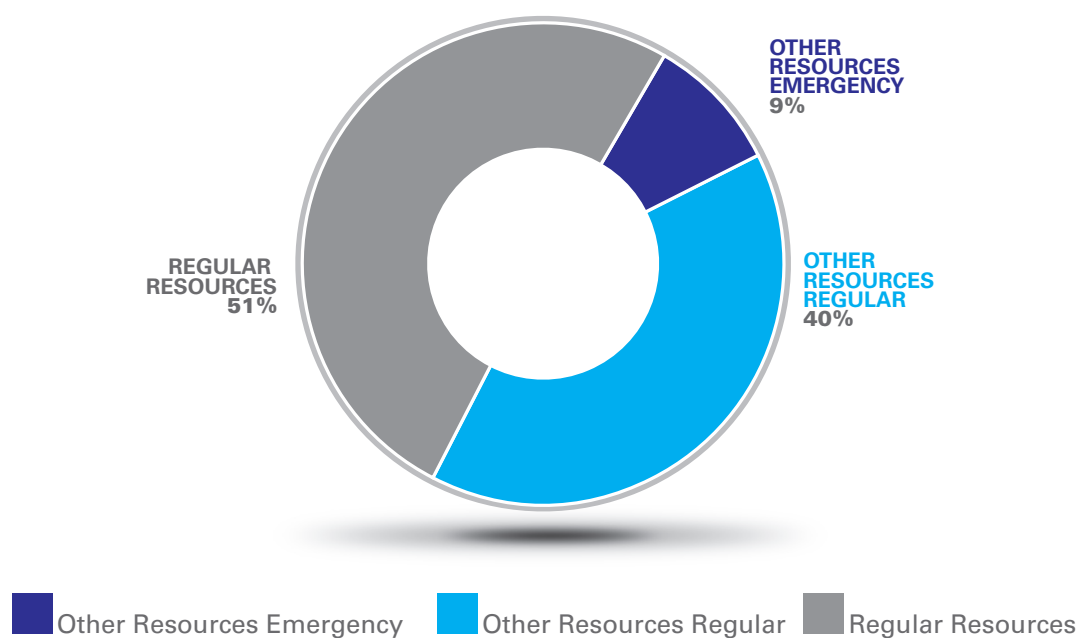
Strategic Plan structured by the UNICEF Executive Board called for partners to enhance the flexibility and predictability of resources aligned to the organization's strategic mandate. Board Members further chose to highlight the importance of thematic funds as an important complement to regular resources for both development and humanitarian programming and the links between the two, in line with UNICEF's universal mandate and in support of country-specific priorities.

## FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION

Total 2014 global expenditure on social inclusion programming was US\$242.6 million (*see Figure 11*). The most common funding source for social inclusion in 2014 was regular resources, accounting for 52 per cent of 2014 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 oth-

er 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 2014, 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.



**FIGURE 11****EXPENDITURE BY FUNDING SOURCE FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION, 2014****TABLE 2****EXPENDITURE BY FUNDING SOURCE FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION, 2014**

Fund Category	Expense	%
Other Resources Emergency	21,112,189	9%
Other Resources Regular	96,414,231	40%
Regular Resources	125,071,950	52%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>242,598,370</b>	<b>100%</b>

**TABLE 3****EXPENDITURE COVERED BY OTHER RESOURCES REGULAR FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION, THEMATIC AND NON-THEMATIC, 2014**

Fund Category	Expense	%
<b>Other Resources Regular</b>		
Thematic	17,302,105	18%
Non-thematic	79,112,126	82%
<b>Total ORR</b>	<b>96,414,231</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of other resources used for social inclusion programming, less than a fifth were from thematic sources (see Table 3). Because social inclusion is a new outcome area, earmarked thematic funds became available for social inclusion only in the last quarter of 2014, although some remaining funds from Focus Area 5 from the previous period were also used.

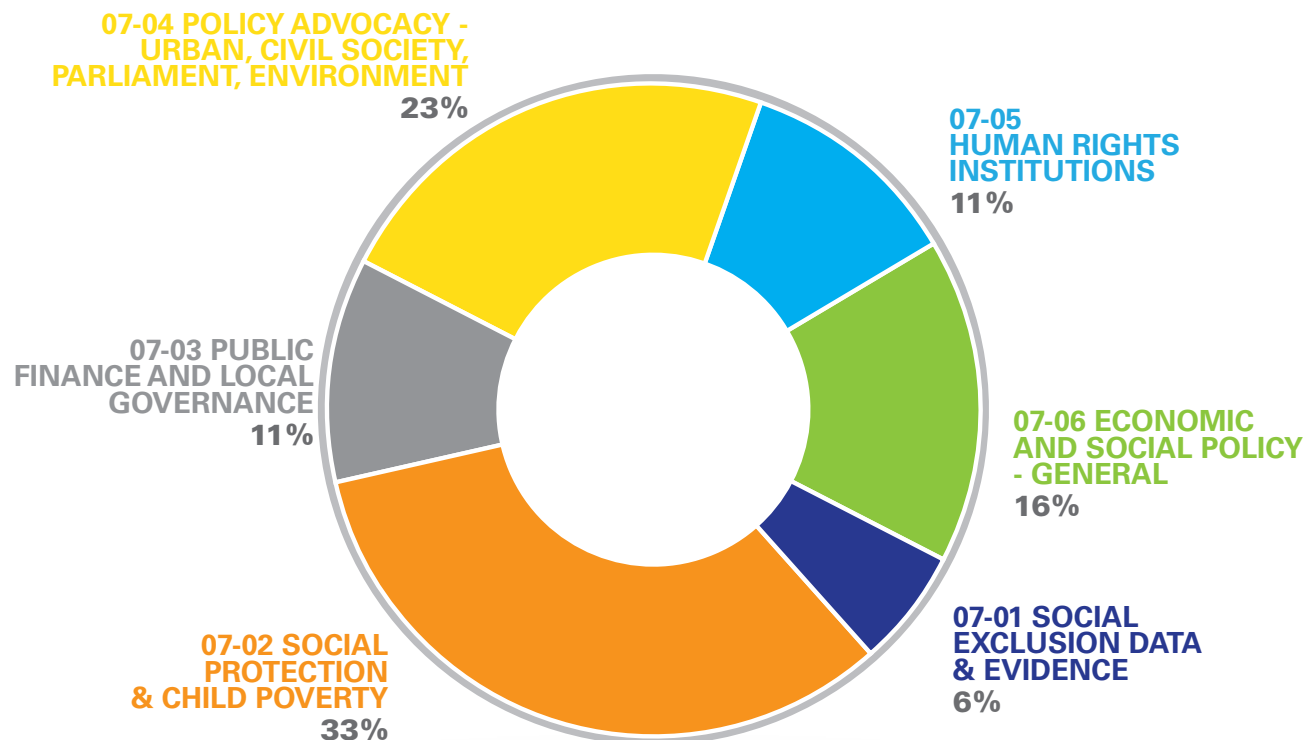
A portion of thematic funds used for social inclusion were provided from other sectoral thematic funding sources. This underscores the clear understanding at the country level of the importance of social inclusion programme areas in achieving sectoral results. Interventions in social protection, public finance, governance and other areas all contribute to improved systems, the removal of financial and institutional barriers and, ultimately, better outcomes for children in education, health and other areas.

Cross-cutting data and analytical work, including the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, is most often classified as social inclusion and explains this tendency for making use of different sectoral funds. Other resources (emergency) accounted for 9 per cent of total social inclusion expenditure, pointing to the importance of promoting social inclusion, including the use of social protection and cash transfer responses to humanitarian crises.

The programme areas for the social inclusion outcome area were agreed upon only during the second quarter of 2014, thus the coding used by country offices to categorize expenditure does not provide a perfect match. The relative proportion of expenditure against the categories in use at the start of 2014 is provided in Figure 12. From 2015 onwards, new categories will be used to reflect the agreed-upon programme areas.

**FIGURE 12**

**EXPENDITURE FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION, BY PROGRAMME AREA, 2014**



**TABLE 4****EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAMME AREA FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION, 2014**

Programme area	Other resources emergency	Other resources regular	Regular resources	Grand total	% to Total
07-01 Social exclusion data & evidence	874,251	4,185,355	8,800,839	13,860,444	6%
07-02 Social protection & child poverty	13,799,020	32,142,716	34,468,835	80,410,571	33%
07-03 Public finance and local governance	986,241	6,439,703	18,791,077	26,217,020	11%
07-04 Policy advocacy - urban, civil society, parliament, environment	1,544,680	28,040,970	27,449,107	57,034,757	24%
07-05 Human rights institutions	1,308,978	11,700,806	13,189,805	26,199,589	11%
07-06 Economic and social policy - general	2,599,019	13,904,682	22,372,287	38,875,988	16%
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>21,112,189</b>	<b>96,414,231</b>	<b>125,071,950</b>	<b>242,598,370</b>	<b>100%</b>

**TABLE 5****EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAMME AREA FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION, 2014 (MERGED VERSION)**

Programme area	Other resources emergency	Other resources regular	Regular resources	Grand total	% to total
07-01 Social protection & child poverty	14,673,271	36,328,070	43,269,674	94,271,015	39%
07-02 Public finance and local governance	5,129,940	48,385,354	68,612,471	122,127,765	50%
07-03 Human rights institutions	1,308,978	11,700,806	13,189,805	26,199,589	11%
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>21,112,189</b>	<b>96,414,231</b>	<b>125,071,950</b>	<b>242,598,370</b>	<b>100%</b>

Currently available data breakdowns do not allow us to show the relative proportions of governance versus public finance expenditure. Governance work includes most of what had been categorized as policy advocacy, and so expenditures in this category have been included in this combined analysis. Economic and social policy analytical work supports both public finance and governance and was also included in this category.

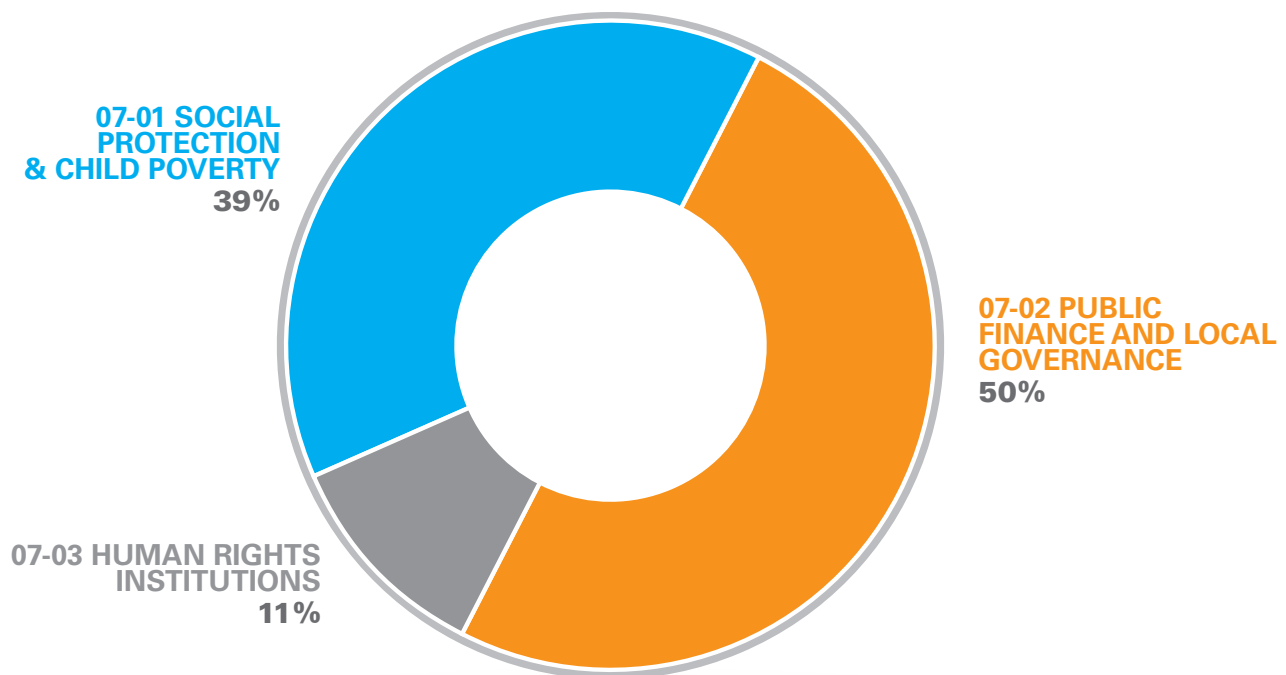
Total spending on human rights, non-discrimination and participation may be somewhat underestimated, as currently only expenditure on human rights institutions is included. Updates to the coding systems in future years should allow greater capture of important ongoing social inclusion work to address discrimination through policy or C4D work.

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 9 per cent of total social inclusion expenditure from other resources (emergency) suggests that at least this proportion of the expenditure for the outcome could be classified in this programme area. Such work is currently mainstreamed across the other programme area categories.

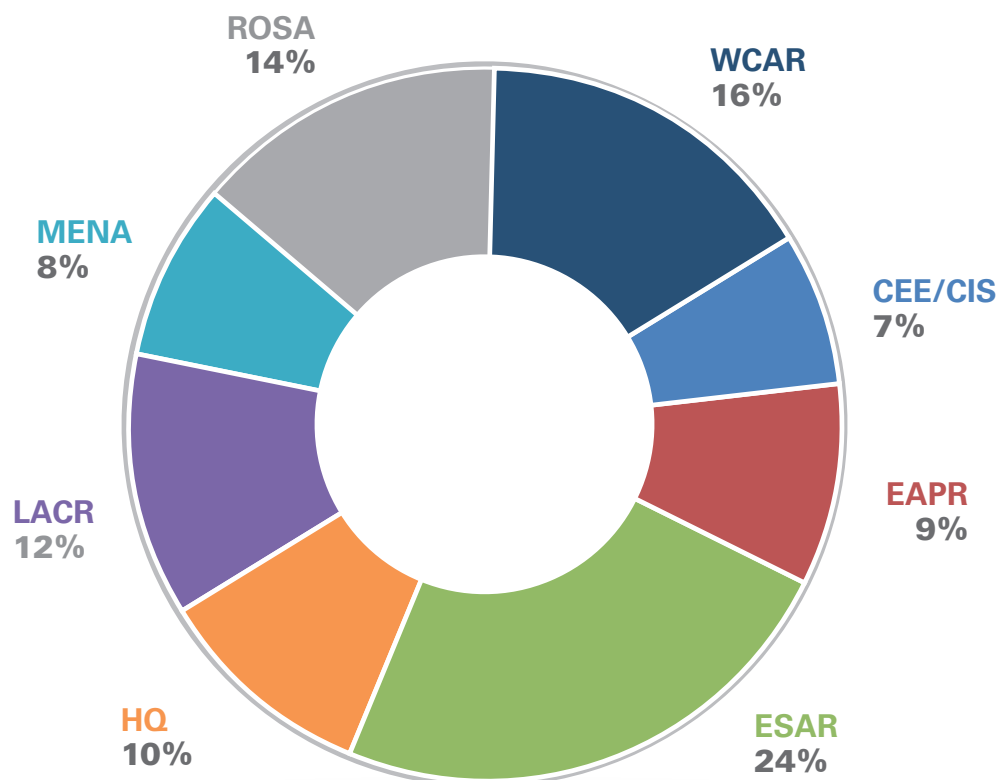
The regional breakdown of social inclusion spending mirrors the overall spending of the organization for all outcome areas combined in East Asia and the Pacific (8 per cent overall versus 9 per cent for social inclusion), Eastern and Southern Africa (26 versus 24 per cent) and South Asia (10 versus 14 per cent), where it is within 4 percentage points of the general trend (*see Figure 14*). Higher than average spending in Latin America and the Caribbean (4 versus 12 per cent) and Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (3 versus 7 per cent) – more than double the overall expenditure in these regions – points to the need and ability of UNICEF offices in middle-income countries to place emphasis on poverty and discrimination issues overall. Such offices often have greater potential to leverage government funding for children through social inclusion interventions like social protection and public finance for children, since the proportion of children remaining unreached by social services or otherwise living in poverty is usually smaller, and governments of middle income countries increasingly acknowledge the importance of reaching these groups and the potential to do so with their own resources, while appreciating UNICEF's assistance in developing effective approaches to reach these goals.

**FIGURE 13**

**EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAMME AREA FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION, 2014**

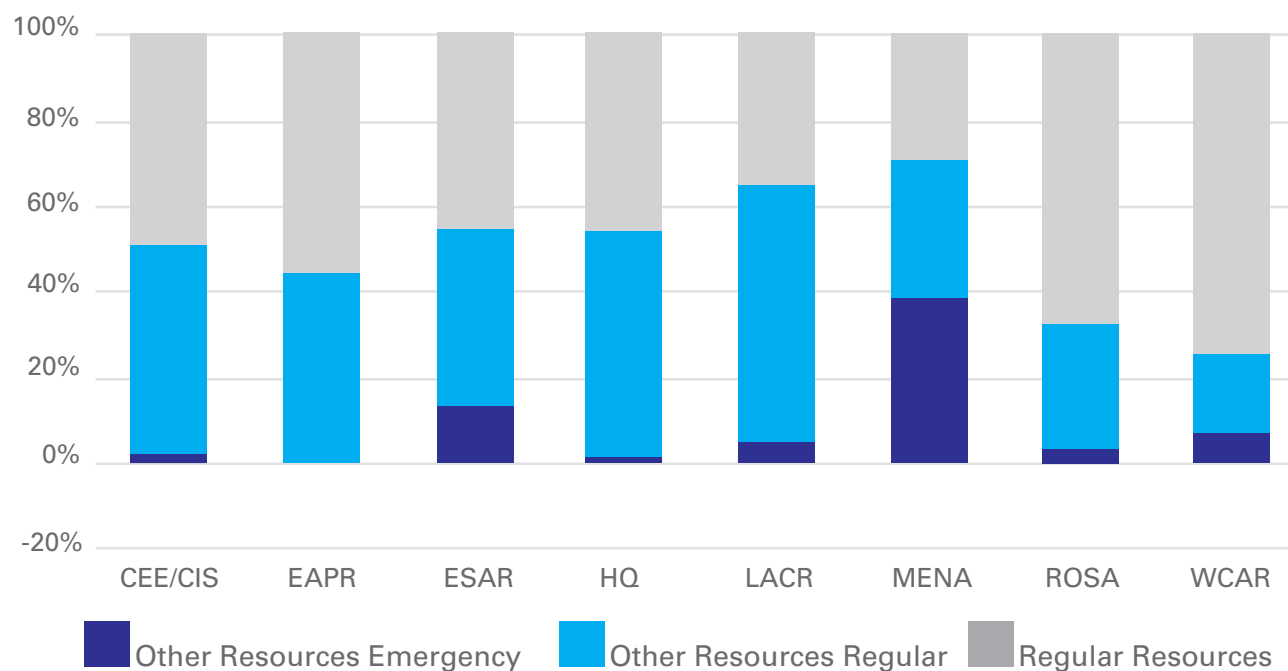




**FIGURE 14****EXPENDITURE FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION, BY REGION, 2014****TABLE 6****EXPENDITURE BY REGION AND FUNDING SOURCE FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION, 2014**

Region	Other resources emergency	Other resources regular	Regular resources	Grand total
CEE_CIS	420,001	7,834,003	8,279,837	16,533,841
EAPR	28,684	9,954,033	11,221,173	21,203,890
ESAR	7,089,416	23,658,513	26,997,229	57,745,158
HQ	-654,187	13,357,271	10,909,998	23,613,083
LACR	1,604,806	18,070,500	10,210,225	29,885,531
MENA	7,786,433	6,280,864	6,214,081	20,281,378
ROSA	1,475,588	9,996,181	23,938,986	35,410,754
WCAR	3,361,449	7,262,864	27,300,421	37,924,734
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>21,112,189</b>	<b>96,414,231</b>	<b>125,071,950</b>	<b>242,598,370</b>

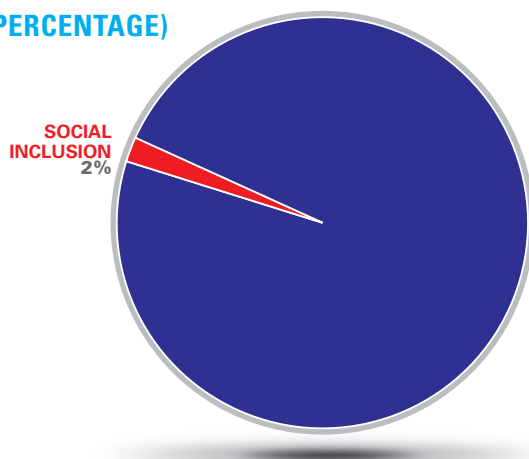
**FIGURE 15**  
EXPENDITURE BY REGION FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION, 2014



The relatively lower expenditure in the Middle East and North Africa (17 per cent overall versus 8 per cent for social inclusion) and West and Central Africa (16 versus 28 per cent) is mainly a result of high emergency expenditure: while social inclusion certainly features in emergency work, the large supply

components in other sectors mean that the overall expenditures are relatively lower. This point is borne out in [Figure 16](#), which shows that of all other resources (emergency) spent by UNICEF, only 1.2 per cent was for social inclusion inputs.

**FIGURE 16**  
SHARE OF OTHER RESOURCES (EMERGENCY) GOING TO SOCIAL INCLUSION, 2014 (PERCENTAGE)



**TABLE 7**  
PROPORTION OF ORE EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL INCLUSION, 2014

ORE Expenses	
UNICEF	1,203,298,893
	1,182,186,704
Social Inclusion	21,112,189
% to UNICEF	1,8%

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# FUTURE WORKPLAN

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UNICEF's efforts to promote social inclusion by reducing child poverty and discrimination will build on the new SDGs, including the expected targets on child poverty, social protection and inequality. Continued developments in international human rights frameworks that support children will be seized upon to translate into concrete gains at the country level. This includes the increased attention to public spending on children, likely to be enhanced further from a development perspective as Member States agree on the Financing for Development Agenda. As a result of this momentum and building on UNICEF's existing experience at the global and country levels, there will be increased emphasis on moving from child poverty measurement and analysis to policy change and implementation. There has been significant growth in the number of countries – with UNICEF support – measuring child income poverty and multidimensional poverty, and an increasing number of countries are in a position to build on this progress and advocate for policy and programmatic changes to address child poverty.

Developing country-level social protection systems that effectively link to other sectors is essential in adequately responding to children's multiple vulnerabilities. To support the demand to undertake this work in UNICEF country programmes, it will be important to create new guidance, provide financial and technical support to country offices and facilitate South-South exchange.

Seizing subsidy reform opportunities will also continue. As the global price of oil hovers near record lows, UNICEF should be encouraged to explore opportunities to redirect existing fuel subsidy allocations into child-focused programmes while the political reform window remains open. Globally, country offices can learn from and build on the successful experiences of Ghana and countries in the Middle East.

Building partnerships with key technical and political counterparts including Ministry of Finance and Parliaments can allow for more effective engagement in budget preparation processes, building on sector and local-level expertise and knowledge. However, few country offices have fostered close ties with both sides, indicating that this is an area of untapped potential for UNICEF's work on public finance for children.

UNICEF's experiences in 2014 validated the growing use of innovations in public finance for children – including investment cases, fiscal space analyses, simulations, public expenditure reviews and public expenditure tracking surveys – and their potential to contribute to impressive results for children. Developing guidance and providing financial and technical support to country offices could further the adaptability and cost-effectiveness of such tools as well as maximize their potential to generate strong returns for children.

Support for accountability measures, including through innovative use of technology and promotion of young people's participation will remain high on the agenda, building on both trends. The importance of governance and working with local actors, both local authorities and influencers – to ensure attitudes, practices, plans and budgets support rather than hinder the well-being of the most disadvantaged children – will feature ever more strongly in UNICEF's social inclusion work.

UNICEF will augment its efforts to bring accountability for international child rights commitments closer to the ground. In 2015 and beyond, efforts will include: (1) supporting cross-cutting and holistic efforts to change personal, community-level and public perceptions, attitudes and practices that contribute to discrimination or stigma against marginalized groups; (2) advocating for the inclusion of children and adults with disabilities and their families in the design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of programmes related to inclusive legislation, policies and services; (3) supporting and strengthening citizenship and social accountability programmes that provide skills and spaces for children and adolescents – particularly those who are marginalized and excluded – to participate in local decision-making and actively contribute to civil society; and (4) promoting innovations in technology that support participatory monitoring and accountability, including ones that give a voice to children.

In a recent assessment on UNICEF engagement on local governance, country offices expressed an increase in future demand for UNICEF in this area, as well as a need for more strategic engagement, for example through key partnerships with United Nations agencies and local government associations. Further work is expected on strengthening local planning, data collection, accountability and participatory mecha-

nisms. Capacity development and technical assistance continue to be primary implementation strategies, complimented by the use of technological innovation such as SMS. For instance, the Ugandan U-report model, which allows youth to express their views and opinions via SMS, is currently replicated by several country offices. The child-friendly governance model is also increasingly applied by country offices and is set to expand in scope within and across countries.

The work on climate change is also gaining momentum within the organization. As mentioned above, countries are increasingly reporting that environmental sustainability, including climate change, are important for ensuring child rights, and 118 country offices reported working on environmental sustainability issues in 2014.

Social inclusion interventions help promote resilience, by both helping local actors prevent, plan for and respond to crises and shocks, and helping strengthen social protection systems before, during and after emergencies. These efforts, along with further work around peacebuilding initiatives, will form key parts of the social inclusion workplan at the country, regional and global levels.

The post-2015 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction emphasizes the importance of “empowering local authorities and local communities to reduce disaster risk, including through resources, incentives and decision-making responsibilities, as appropriate.” For UNICEF, strengthening local government capacity in risk assessment and adapting sectoral programming accordingly will remain a country office priority.

**Social protection in fragile and humanitarian contexts:** An area of vital importance for children in humanitarian and fragile contexts is the role that social protection can play in building resilience before crisis, responding in crisis situations and developing longer-term social protection systems. We anticipate that more countries will engage on linking emergency response and social protection programmes and identifying modalities that work. This is an emerging area in which UNICEF can help build the global knowledge base for implementation and provide technical support to countries in these contexts.

Peacebuilding key priorities for UNICEF include better integration of conflict and risk analysis into situation analyses, and integration of indicators related to peacebuilding and resilience into monitor-

ing and evaluation frameworks. UNICEF will have a stronger focus on building the technical capacity of its staff and partners in designing and implementing effective peacebuilding programmes, including working on conflict prevention with young people.

The pace of progress UNICEF is able to maintain in these crucial areas of social inclusion will depend on its ability to mobilize further funding, and in particular flexible thematic funds, that allow us to invest in innovative approaches, scaling up, and generation of evidence. In addition to the areas described above, areas of work that will move forward – should sufficient funding be available in 2015 and beyond – include the following:

- Unifying approaches to child poverty measurement. Great progress is being made in approaches to measuring multidimensional poverty among children, including MODA, the Multidimensional Poverty Index and the Bristol methodology. While these approaches offer a variety of options, they can also cause confusion at the country level. With relatively limited funding, the creation of a partnership promoting a unified approach to the multidimensional measurement of child poverty could unblock a key constraint.
- Generation of evidence and documenting successful examples of operational work on human rights, non-discrimination and participation, looking particularly at the lessons learned and remaining gaps. This will assist in strengthening existing knowledge and developing relevant guidance to deepen the realization of human rights, non-discrimination and participation in countries and regions.
- Creating and applying tools to enhance national efforts to better utilize and monitor public spending for children and child-focused SDGs. This would include piloting the application of a methodology to measure and report on child-focused expenditures inside government financial management information systems and multi-county implementation of strategies for public finance for children to identify and remove public finance-related bottlenecks and barriers to achieving the child-focused SDGs.
- Increasing capacity for work on public financing for children: this would include rolling out an open-source learning programme along with a standardized toolbox of child-focused public expenditure analysis tools to strengthen the capacity of government counterparts, local stakeholders and partners to design and implement budgets that effectively address the needs of all children.



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# EXPRESSION OF THANKS

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UNICEF expresses its sincere appreciation to all resource partners who contributed to its work on social inclusion in 2014, 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 support and to our newer thematic funding donors in Malaysia through the fundraising efforts of the UNICEF country office.

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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<b>C4D</b>	Communication for development	<b>CSO</b>	civil society organization
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>CEE/CIS</b>	Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (UNICEF region)	<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>COAR</b>	Country Office Annual Report (UNICEF)	<b>MODA</b>	Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis
<b>CRC</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child	<b>NGO</b>	non-governmental organization
<b>CRPD</b>	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	<b>PFM</b>	Public financial management
		<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
		<b>SMS</b>	Short message service
		<b>WASH</b>	Water, sanitation and hygiene

# END NOTES

1. For example, see 'The World We Want 2015', [www.worldwewant2015.org/](http://www.worldwewant2015.org/), accessed 28 April 2015.
2. See United Nations General Assembly, Report of the Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, A/68/970, 12 August 2014, [www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/970&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/970&Lang=E), accessed 28 April 2015
3. For example, see Colombia's National Development Plan, 2014–2018, <https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/Prensa/PND%202014-2018%20Bases%20Final.pdf>; Myanmar's Social Protection Strategy, [https://icon.unicef.org/iconhome/Pages/FullStory.aspx?Title=LinkTitle&List=1699371f-2b32-4333-bdd7-6cc9397808b1&Fulltext=Full\\_x0020\\_Text\\_x0020\\_of\\_x0020\\_S&ItemID=473](https://icon.unicef.org/iconhome/Pages/FullStory.aspx?Title=LinkTitle&List=1699371f-2b32-4333-bdd7-6cc9397808b1&Fulltext=Full_x0020_Text_x0020_of_x0020_S&ItemID=473); and Rwanda's Social Protection Strategy and Implementation Plan, 2011, [https://intranet.unicef.org/dpp/socialprotectionmapping.nsf/0/A341B473D4B2C83B85257A7F006C1233/\\$FILE/Rwanda.%20National%20SP%20Strategy%202011.pdf](https://intranet.unicef.org/dpp/socialprotectionmapping.nsf/0/A341B473D4B2C83B85257A7F006C1233/$FILE/Rwanda.%20National%20SP%20Strategy%202011.pdf). Examples of relevant strategies of development institutions include UNICEF's Social Protection Strategic Framework, 2012, [www.unicef.org/socialprotection/framework/](http://www.unicef.org/socialprotection/framework/); the World Bank's Social Protection and Labour Strategy 2012–2022, [http://siteresources.worldbank.org/SOCIALPROTECTION/Resources/280558-1274453001167/7089867-1279223745454/7253917-1291314603217/SPL\\_Strategy\\_2012-22\\_FINAL.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/SOCIALPROTECTION/Resources/280558-1274453001167/7089867-1279223745454/7253917-1291314603217/SPL_Strategy_2012-22_FINAL.pdf); the ILO's Social Protection Floor's Recommendation, 2012, [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100\\_INSTRUMENT\\_ID:3065524:NO](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:3065524:NO); and the EU's Europe 2020 Strategy, 2010, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:2020:FIN:EN:PDF>. All links accessed 28 April 2015.
4. See UNICEF COAR Strategic Monitoring Questions (2015). The data are based on national estimates, and they are likely underestimates, given the data missing on several countries.
5. Based on information on Transfer Project results ([www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/transfer](http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/transfer)) and 'Children and Social Protection Systems: Building the African agenda', Discussion paper draft, African Union Commission and UNICEF, May 2014, <http://au.int/ar/sites/default/files/Technical%20Discussion%20Paper%20-%20AU%20Experts%20Consultation-28-30%204%202014.pdf>, accessed 28 April 2015.
6. The use of percentage points refers to difference-in-difference impacts, that is, the difference between changes among those participating in the programme and among similar families or households that were tracked over the same period, but that did not participate. Difference-in-difference impacts allow one to examine those changes caused directly by the programme, as opposed to other factors.
7. See [www.unicef-irc.org/publications/742/#ebook](http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/742/#ebook), accessed 28 April 2015
8. UNICEF COAR Strategic Monitoring Questions (2015).
9. Children and Social Protection Systems: Building the African agenda'.
10. The Dominican Republic, Estonia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, State of Palestine and St. Lucia.
11. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ethiopia and Haiti.
12. Andorra, Belgium, Costa Rica, Ireland and Monaco.
13. The countries that ratified in 2014 are Andorra, Angola, Burundi, the Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Georgia, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Japan, State of Palestine, Samoa, Switzerland and Viet Nam.
14. The Ombudsman in Kazakhstan is mandated to request officials to provide any information relating to human rights and freedoms, visit and monitor institutions, including private institutions, and, in cases of great public importance, apply to the president, parliament and Government.
15. The Washington Group on Disability Statistics was formed by the United Nations Statistical Commission to address the lack of comparable quality data on disability worldwide. It includes experts, national statistical offices and other stakeholders. See [www.cdc.gov/nchs/washington\\_group.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/washington_group.htm).
16. Article 9 of the Palermo Protocol stipulates that, as part of their prevention obligations, States parties shall endeavor to undertake measures such as research, information and mass media campaigns and social and economic initiatives to prevent and combat trafficking in persons.
17. The surveys ensure that consistent and reliable survey data are collected and analysed using a single standardized methodology.
18. Save the Children, et al., 'Toolkit for Monitoring and Evaluating Children's Participation', Save the Children Fund, London, 2014.
19. UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa and West and Central Africa Regional Offices, 'Social Budgeting in Mozambique: Mighty oaks from little acorns grow', Economic and Social Policy Newsletter no. 19, March 2014.
20. This has been widely documented in the literature; see, most recently, a review in chapter 6 of the ILO's World Social Protection Report 2014–15.
21. See above on human rights, non-discrimination and participation.
22. See <http://childfriendlycities.org>, accessed 28 April 2015.
23. A UNICEF initiative focused on the digital engagement of young people worldwide, enabling young people in disadvantaged communities to educate themselves and their peers by identifying and advocating for local issues that are affecting their lives. It enables young people to put pertinent issues on a map and encourages social change in communities through leadership and action.
24. UNICEF COAR Strategic Monitoring Questions.
25. Ibid.
26. 2014 COAR.
27. UNICEF COAR Strategic Monitoring Questions.
28. United Nations Children's Fund, 'Press Release: With 15 million children caught up in major conflicts, UNICEF declares 2014 a devastating year for children', [www.unicef.org/media/media\\_78058.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_78058.html), accessed 28 April 2015.
29. Regular resources are not included since they are not linked to any one outcome or cross-cutting area at the time of contribution by a partner. For an analysis of regular resources per outcome or cross-cutting area, see the report section on Financial Implementation.

# Impact and Outcome Indicators

Indicators	Baseline	2017 Target	2014 update or data from most recent year
7a. Number of countries where social protection systems have a positive impact on children's well-being	35† (2013)	53	47 (2014)
7b. Number of 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 OP2 – 165 CRC OP3 – 10 CEDAW – 186 CRPD – 141	193	CRC – 194 CRC OP2 – 169 CRC OP3 – 16 CEDAW – 188 CRPD – 152 (as of February 24, 2015)
7c. Number of children living in extreme poverty	550 million (2010)	447 million	Updated data not available
P7.1 Countries with disaggregated national household survey data on birth registration collected within the preceding 5 years (such as MICS, DHS, etc.)	80	90	66 out of 90 UNICEF programme countries with surveys between 2010 and 2014
P7.2 Countries that expand the number of children covered by social protection systems	NA	52	37 out of 68 UNICEF programme countries with data for 2013 and 2014
P7.3 Countries with improved capacity to develop, implement and finance integrated social protection systems	NA	60	32 out of 133 UNICEF programme countries with data for 2013 and 2014
P7.4 Countries in which social spending on a per capita basis is being maintained or increasing	24	50	38 out of 82 UNICEF programme countries with data (2010–2012)
P7.5 Countries in humanitarian situations that systematically consult affected populations as part of humanitarian interventions ‡	59† (2014)	NA	59

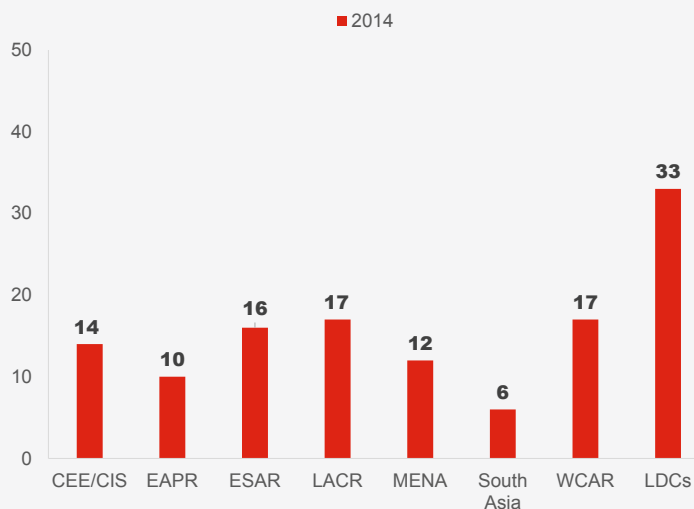
# Output Indicators

## P7.a.1

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

Baseline † / 2014 update 92

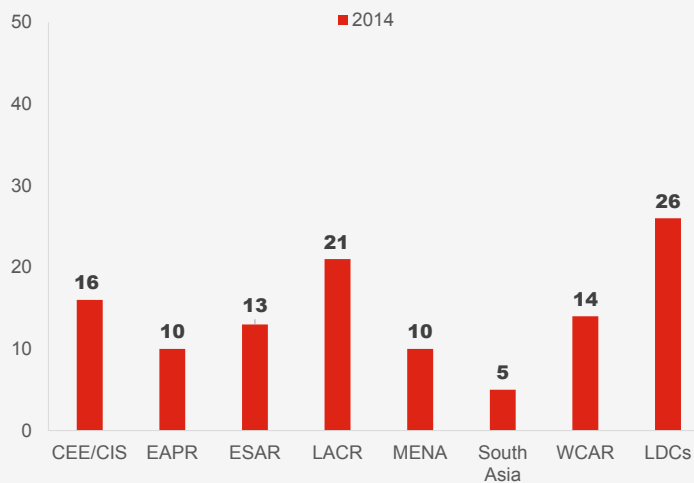
2017 Target 47



## SPPL

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 89



Source: UNICEF country offices, 2014.

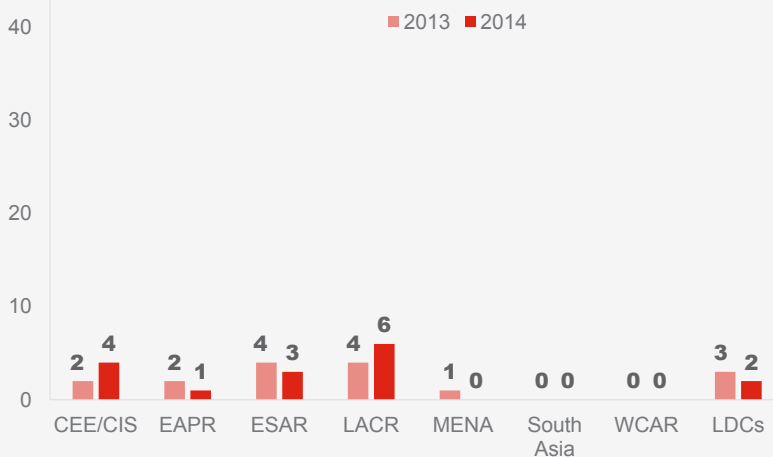


### P7.b.1

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

**Baseline** † 13    **2014 update** 14

**2017 Target** 78

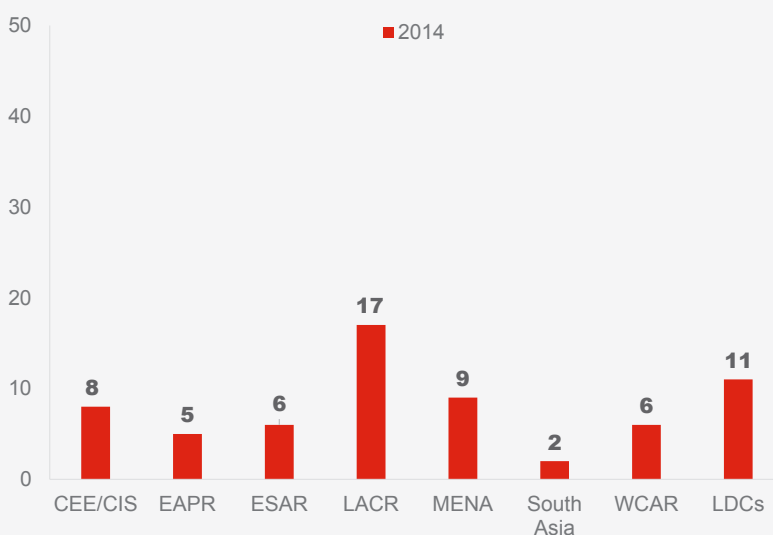


### P7.b.2

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

**Baseline** † / **2014 update** 53

**2017 Target** TBD



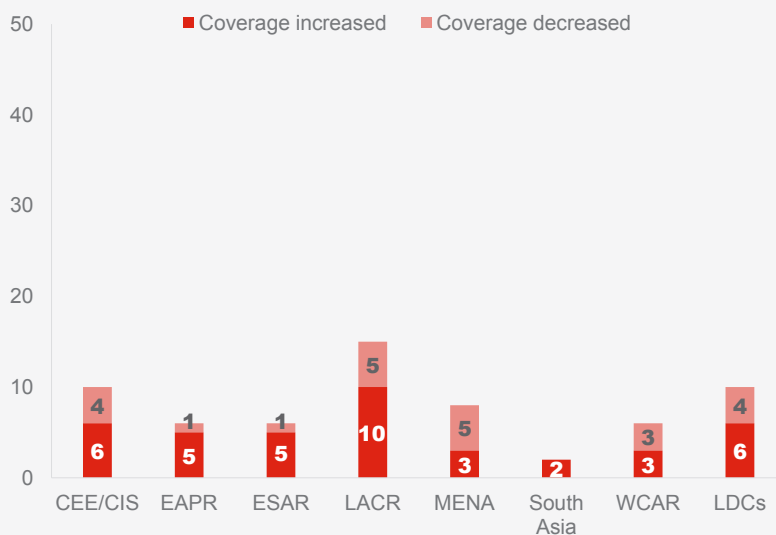
### SPPL

**Countries that progressively expand access to affordable quality child care**

**2014** 34

**Source:** Countries are considered 'with expanded access' if percentage of young children with access to affordable quality child care increases from previous year.

**Source:** UNICEF country offices, 2014.



### P7.c.1

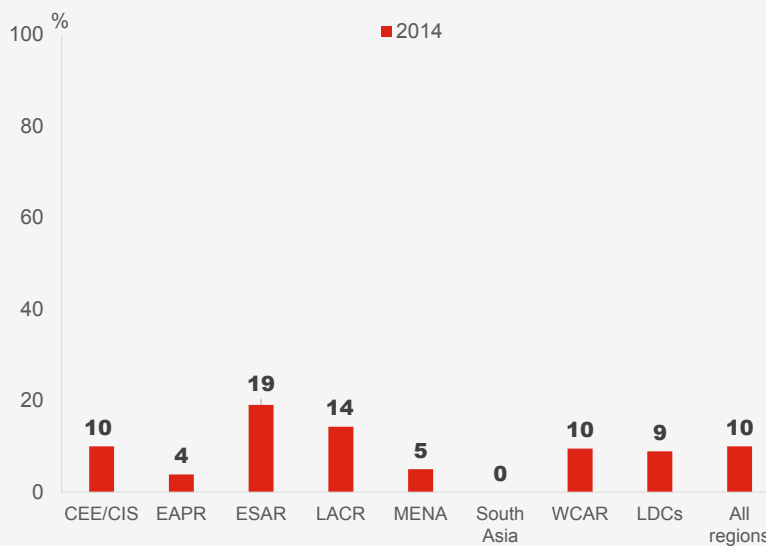
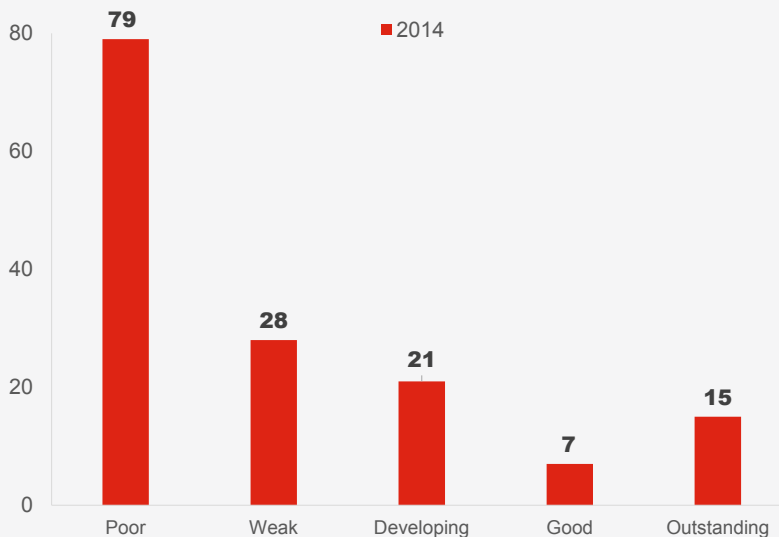
#### Countries with policy and/or budgetary frameworks that explicitly address child poverty and disparities

Baseline † / 2014 update 15 ("outstanding")

2017 Target 79

Number of countries by ranking (the extent to which policy and budget frameworks address child poverty and disparities) »»

Percentage of countries that are rated "outstanding" »»»

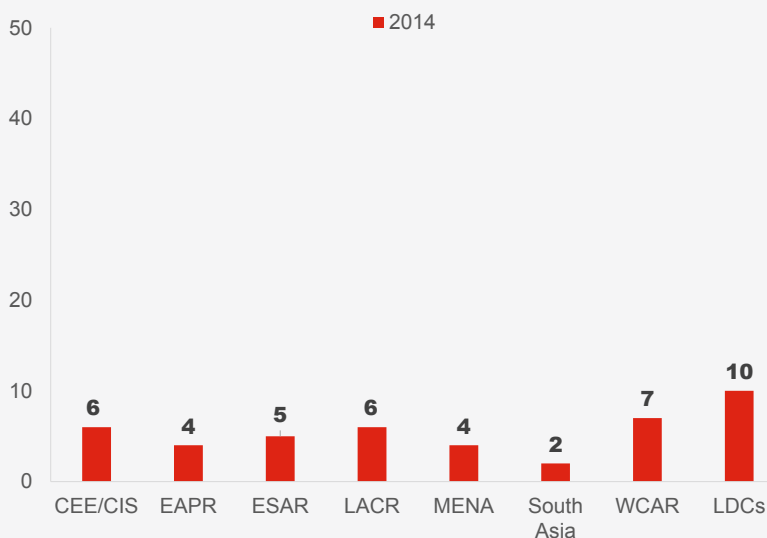


### P7.c.2

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

Baseline † / 2014 update 34

2017 Target 40



Source: UNICEF country offices, 2014.

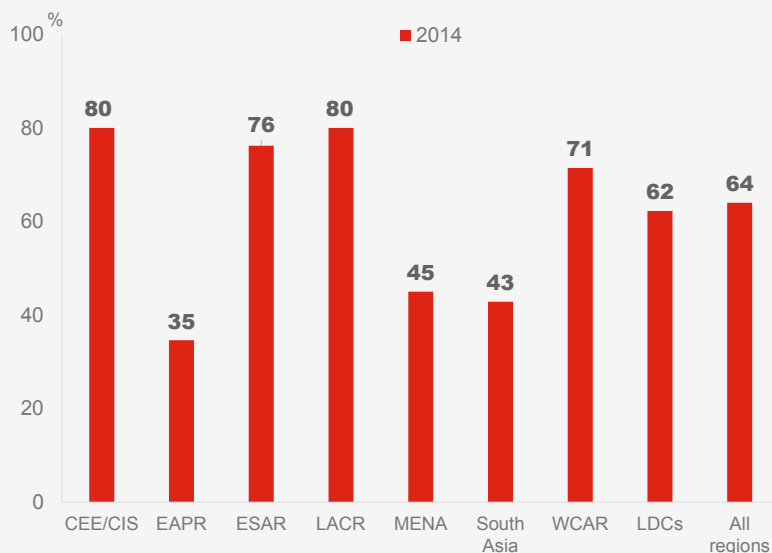
### P7.d.3

Percentage of countries with planning and monitoring systems that explicitly address risks (a) at national level; and (b) at subnational level ‡

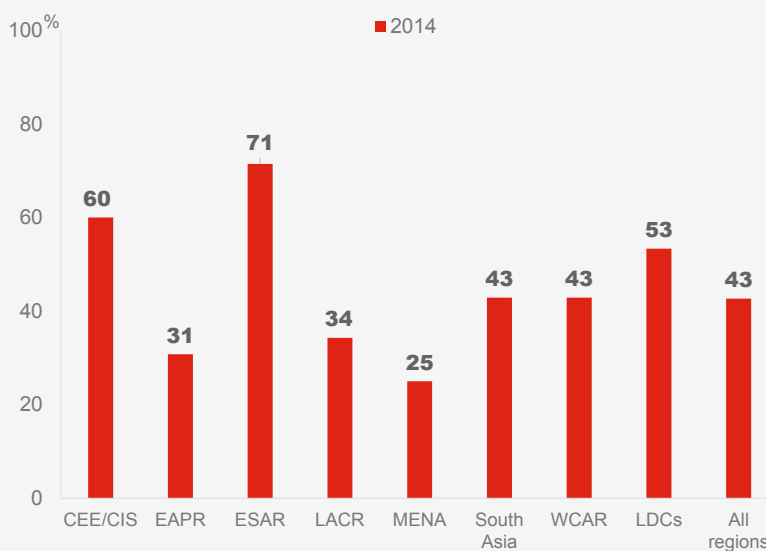
Baseline † / 2014 update

a) 64%  
b) 43%

2017 Target 100%



#### National level



#### Sub-national level

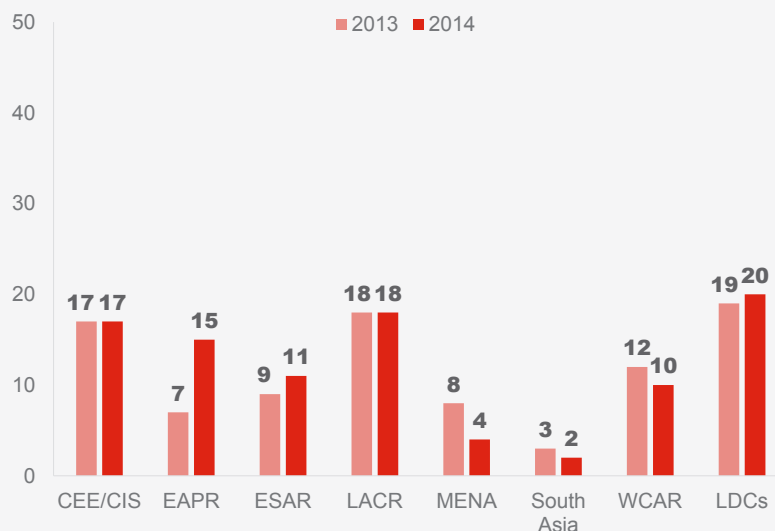
**Note:** This indicator has been moved from output category d to c.

### SPPL.

Countries that have a legal framework which promotes non-discrimination: national laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, ethnicity, disability and religious affiliation; and the absence of laws criminalizing or penalizing a given sexual orientation

2013 74

2014 77



**Source:** UNICEF country offices, 2014.

### P7.d.1

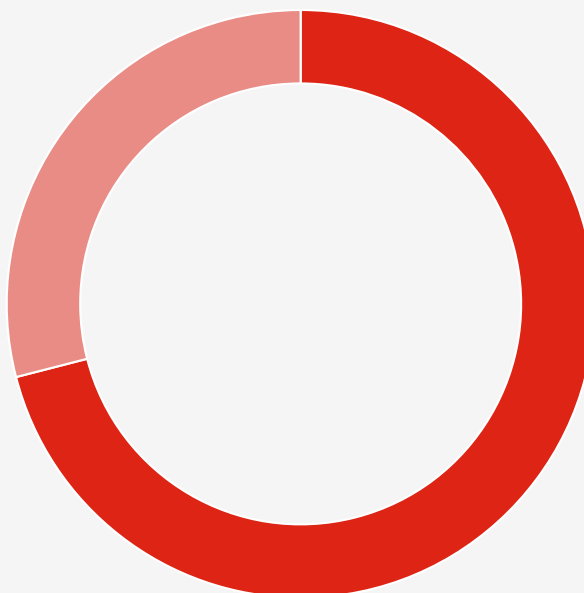
#### UNICEF country offices with an Early Warning/ Early Action (EWEA) system that was updated in the past 12 months ‡

**Baseline † / 2014 update**  
93/131  
(71%)

**2017 Target** 100%

**Note:** Number of countries achieving a high level of compliance in UNICEF's online preparedness platform (Early Warning Early Action) in 2014 according to established criteria

- Achieved a high level of compliance in Early Warning Early Action
- Did not meet established criteria



### P7.d.2

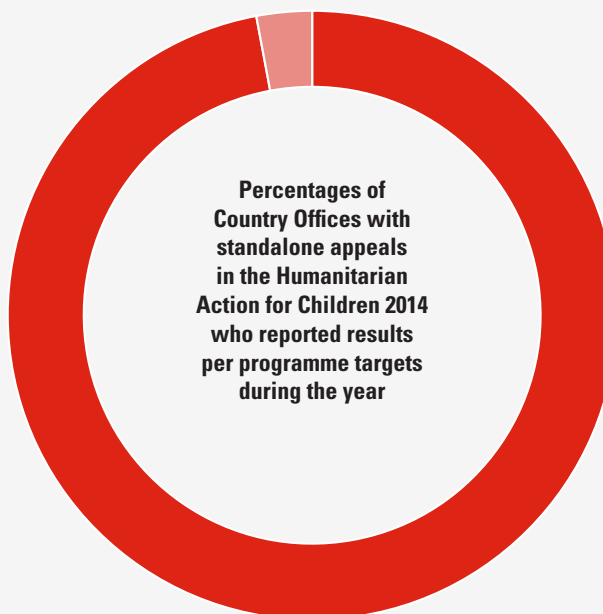
#### Percentage of countries in humanitarian situations with systems to monitor UNICEF humanitarian results ‡

**Baseline** NA      **2014 update**  
97%

**2017 Target** 100%

**Note:** Percentages of Country Offices with standalone appeals in the Humanitarian Action for Children 2014 who reported results per programme targets during the year

- Reported results
- Did not report



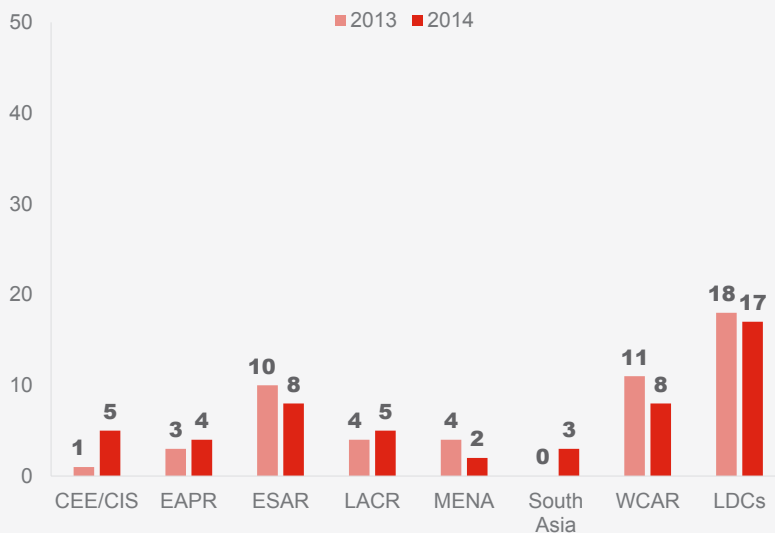
**Source:** UNICEF Headquarters, 2015.

**Countries in which humanitarian action has contributed to the development of social protection programmes/ systems or in which UNICEF-supported social protection programming has contributed to humanitarian action responses**

Country offices that supported government to include emergency prevention, preparedness, and response in its social protection system/ programmes »»

**2013** 33

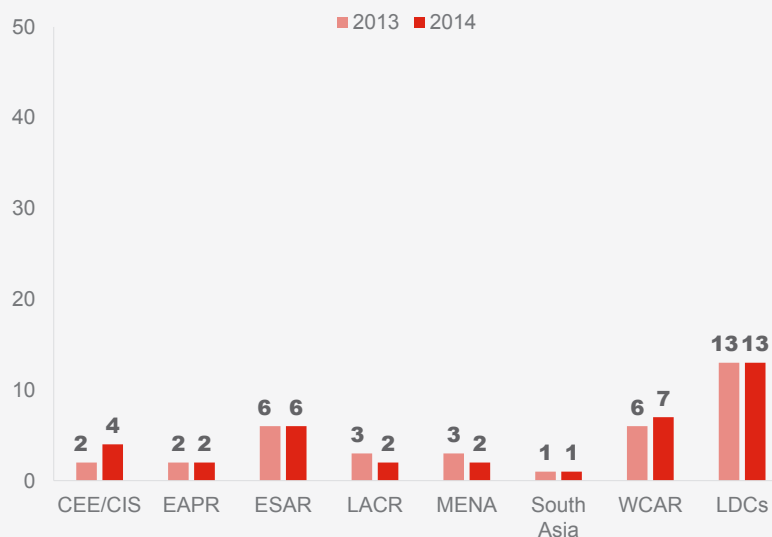
**2014** 35



Country office that supported programming for humanitarian action that supports sustainable social protection system building »»

**2013** 23

**2014** 24



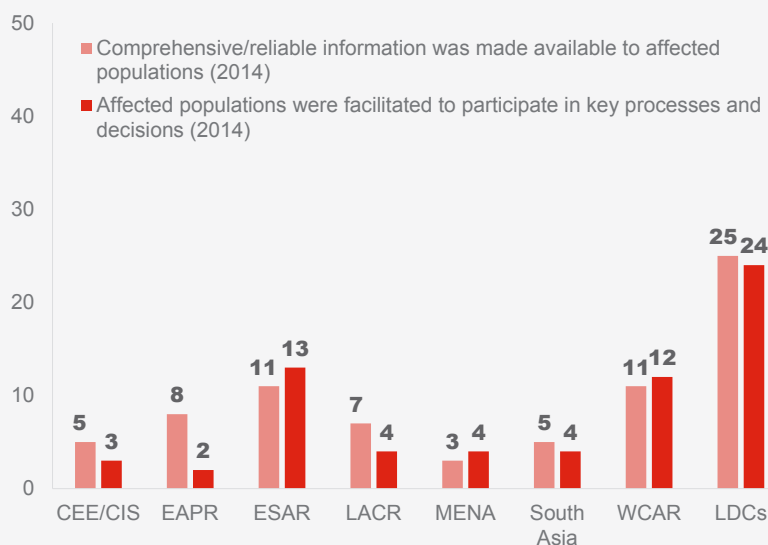
Source: UNICEF country offices, 2014.



**SPPL.**

**Countries with communication strategies that engage affected communities on the promotion of life saving and protective behaviours (NB only in humanitarian situations)**

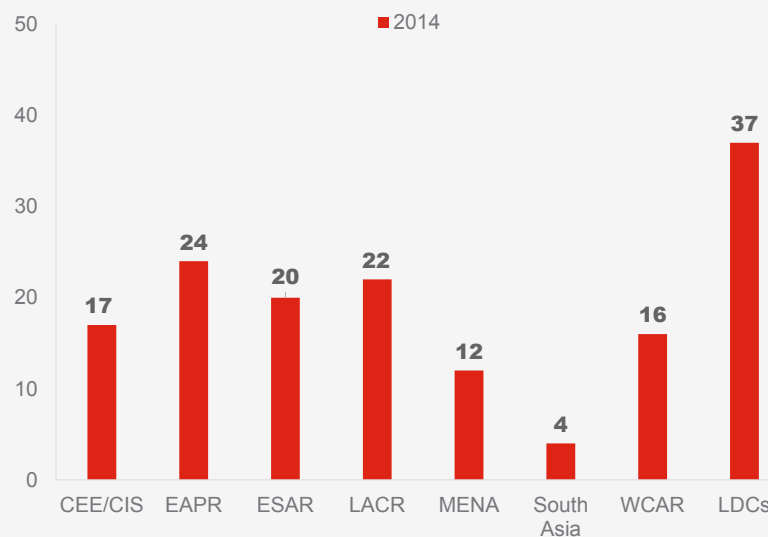
**2014** 50 (information available)  
42 (participation)



**SPPL.**

**Countries with planning and monitoring processes that explicitly address risks, child poverty and discrimination, and that focus on building resilience**

**2014** 115



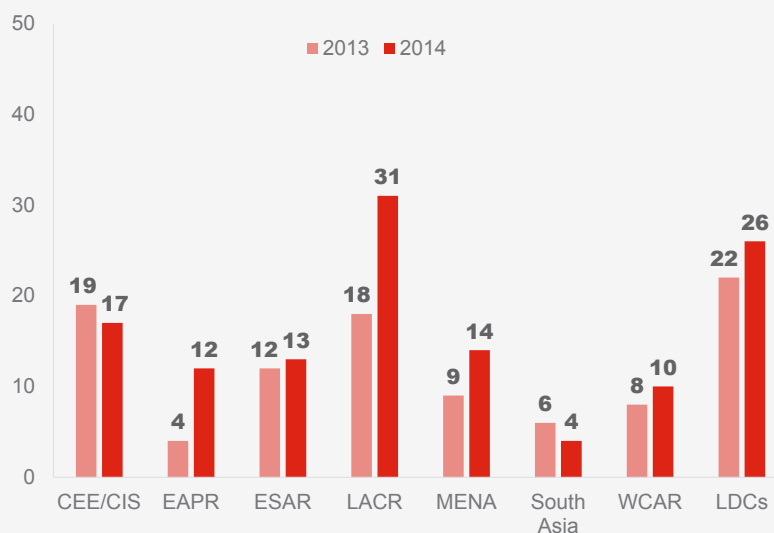
Source: UNICEF country offices, 2014.

## P7.e.1

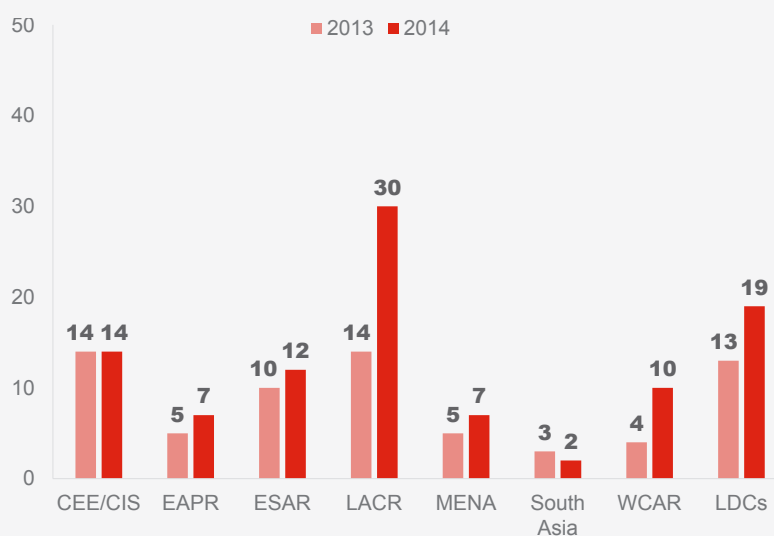
Countries that have revised domestic legislation and administrative guidance in line with the concluding observations of the i) CRC, ii) CEDAW and iii) CRPD committees

Baseline †	2014 update
i) 74	i) 101
ii) 55	ii) 82
iii) 23	iii) 43

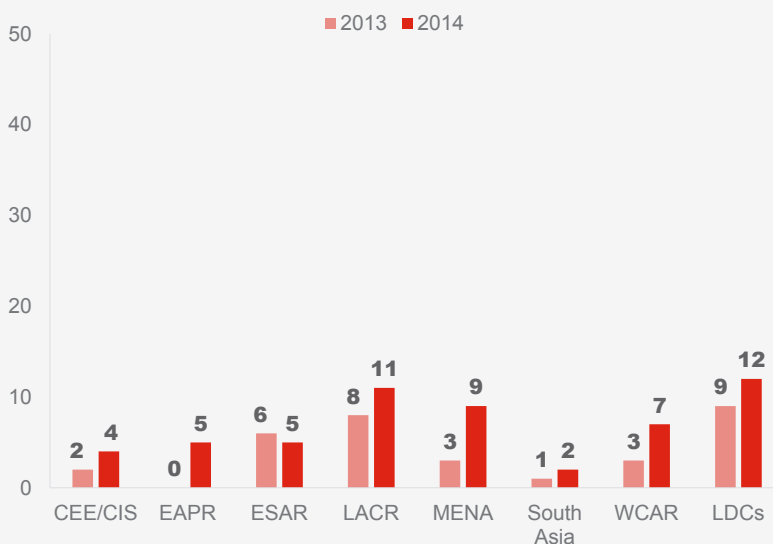
**2017 Target**  
157



### CRC



### CEDAW



### CRPD

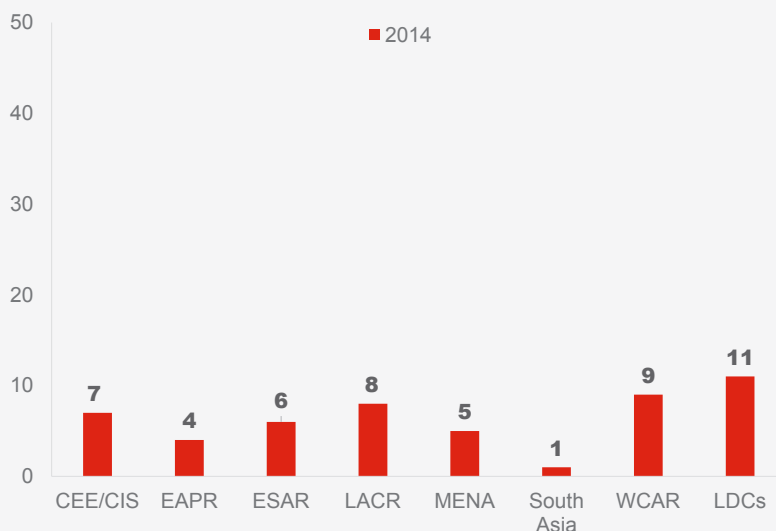
Source: UNICEF country offices, 2014.

## P7.e.2

**Countries with a national social protection strategy or plan that include elements focused on gender ‡**

**Baseline † / 2014 update** 40

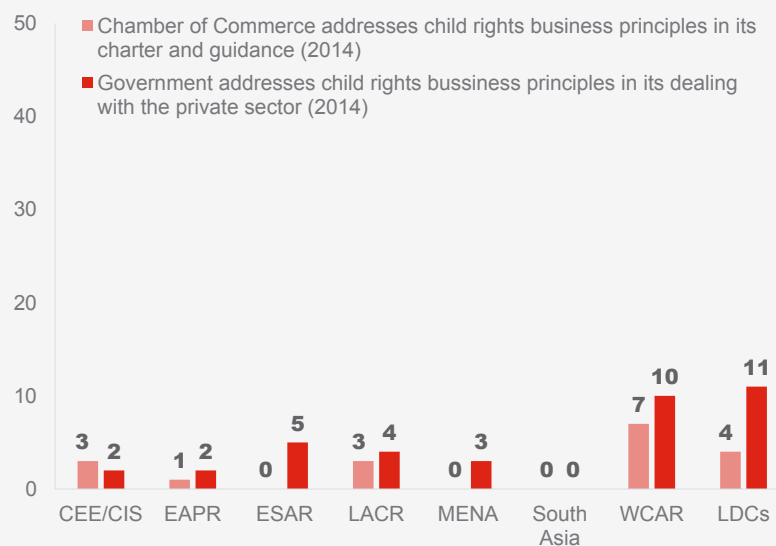
**2017 Target** 60



## SPPL

**Countries where child rights business principles are progressively addressed by the private sector and government**

**2014** 14 (Chamber of Commerce)  
26 (Government)

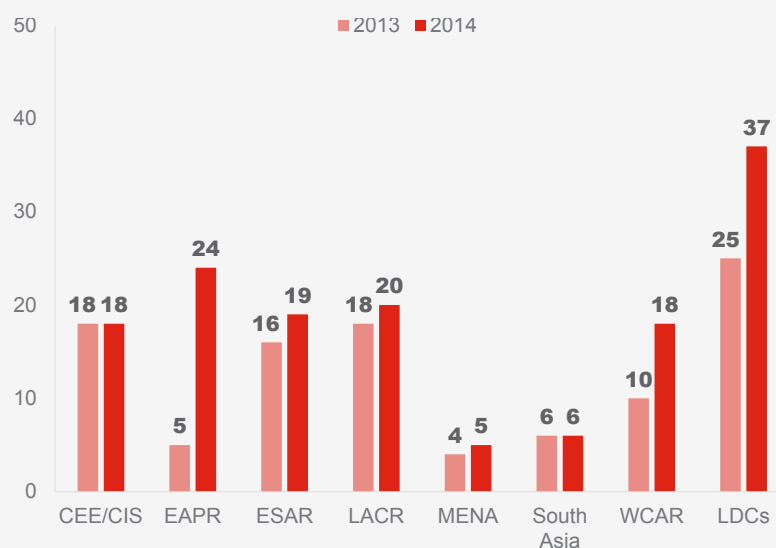


## SPPL

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

**2013** 77

**2014** 110



Source: UNICEF country offices, 2014.

## P7.f.1

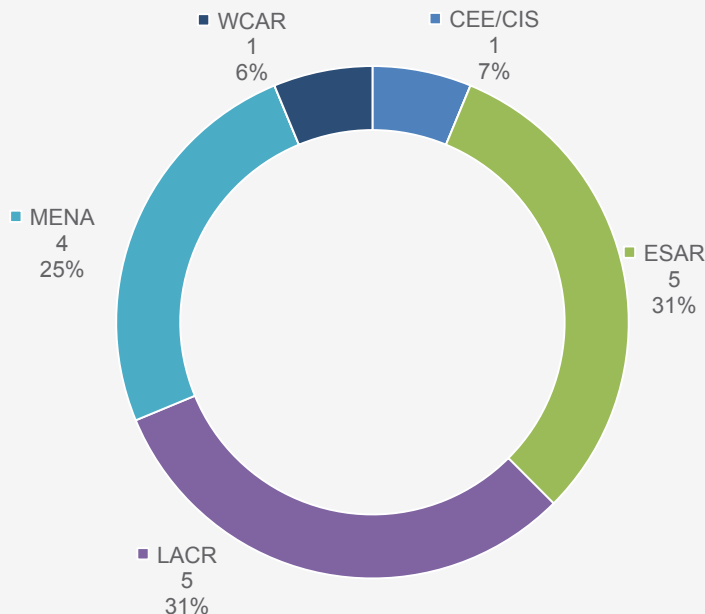
**Number of peer-reviewed journal or research publications by UNICEF on social protection, social inclusion, social policy, child poverty, and human rights**

**Baseline † / 2014 update** 16

**2017 Target** TBD

**Note:** Data reflect number of papers that UNICEF country offices have authored or co-authored in peer-reviewed journal in 2014.

**Source:** UNICEF country offices, 2014.



## P7.f.2

**Number of 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**

**Baseline** 11 **2014 update** 10

**2017 Target** 19

**Source:** UNICEF Headquarters, 2015.

### Global initiatives

- Child poverty coalition
- Social Protection interagency cooperation board

### Regional initiatives

- Initiatives on child poverty advocacy, coordinated by a working group including Natcoms and supported by HQ
- Child poverty measurement with UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean - ECLAC (LACR)
- Measurement of public investment in early childhood with Sistema de Informacion de la Primera Infancia (SIPI) with IIPE / UNESCO Buenos Aires (LACR)
- Multi-country social protection initiative in Central America (LACR)
- Formal MoU between Morocco, Tunisia and Mexico around multi-dimensional (child) poverty measurement and social policy evaluation
- UN to UN agreement between UNICEF MENARO and IPC-IG (Government of Brazil/ UNDP) to provide high-impact technical support to MENA countries and also facilitate SSC between MENA and other relevant countries on child sensitive social protection
- Regional initiative of ESARO, MENARO and the Africa Union on Social Protection
- ESAR and WCAR Community of Practice on cash transfer process with the World Bank

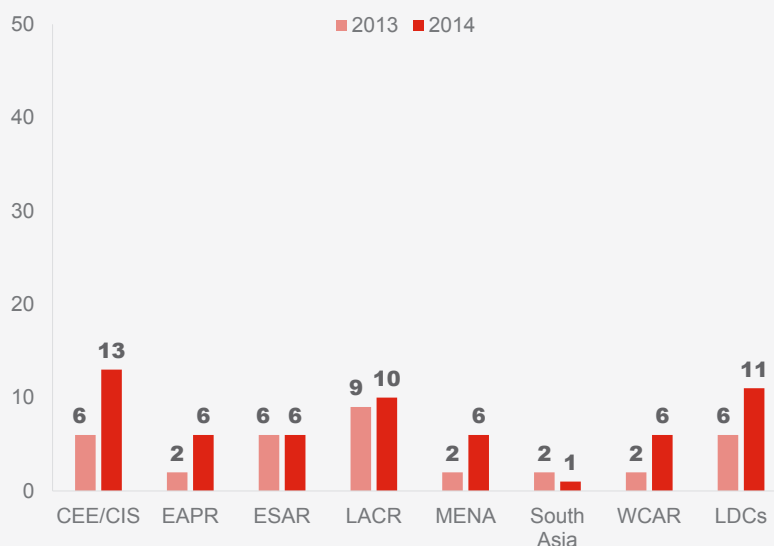
## SPPL

**Countries that routinely monitor and report on a set of key indicators related to children and poverty**

**2013** 29

**2014** 48

**Source:** UNICEF country offices, 2014.





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