



## GOAL AREA 1

Every child survives  
and thrives

Global Annual  
Results Report 2019

unicef   
for every child

Cover image: © UNICEF/UN0317965/Frank Dejongh  
A mother is washing and cuddling her baby, in the village of  
Tamroro, in the centre of Niger.

In Niger, only 13 percent of the population has access to basic  
sanitation services.

Expression of thanks: © UNICEF/UN0303648/Arcos  
On 23 April 2019, in Cucuta in Colombia, a baby undergoes a health  
check at the UNICEF-supported health centre.



## Expression of thanks

UNICEF is able to support the realization of children's rights and change children's lives by combining high-quality programmes at scale, harnessing innovation and collecting evidence, in partnership with governments, other United Nations organizations, civil society, the private sector, communities and children. It leverages wider change nationally and globally through advocacy, communications and campaigning. UNICEF also builds public support around the world, encouraging people to volunteer, advocate and mobilize resources for the rights and well-being of children, and works with a wide range of partners to achieve even greater impact.

UNICEF's work is funded entirely through the voluntary support of millions of people around the world and our partners in government, civil society and the private sector. Voluntary contributions enable UNICEF to deliver on its mandate to support the protection and fulfilment of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs, and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

We wish to take this opportunity to express deeply felt appreciation to all our many and varied resource partners for support to Goal Area 1 in 2019, and particularly those that were able to provide thematic funding. The flexibility of such funding provides for long-term planning and the sustainability of programmes, and allows UNICEF to offer strategic, technical, operational and programming support to countries in all regions for both upstream and decentralized work. Thematic funding reflects the trust that resource partners have in the capacity and ability of UNICEF to deliver quality support under all circumstances, and makes a vital contribution to positive change in the lives of marginalized children and communities worldwide, as described in this report.

*"I'm proud the UK supports UNICEF and its vital work to give every girl 12 years of quality education and end preventable maternal, new-born and childhood deaths. As we tackle the coronavirus pandemic, the importance of global cooperation has never been more apparent. By working together, we can improve and save lives around the world, creating a future where every girl is in school and can realise her full potential."*

– UK International Development Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan

Seventy-three years after UNICEF was established and 30 years since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the organization's mission to promote the full attainment of the rights of all children is as urgent as ever.

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

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

The following report summarizes how UNICEF and its partners contributed to Goal Area 1 in 2019 and reviews the impact of these accomplishments on children and the communities where they live. This is one of eight reports on the results of efforts during the past year, encompassing gender equality and humanitarian action as well as each of the five Strategic Plan goal areas – 'Every child survives and thrives', 'Every child learns', 'Every child is protected from violence and exploitation', 'Every child lives in a safe and clean environment' and 'Every child has an equitable chance in life' – and a supplementary report on Communication for Development (C4D, also referred to as social and behaviour change communication, SBCC). It supplements the 2019 Executive Director Annual Report, UNICEF's official accountability document for the past year.

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# Executive Summary

Animata Diallo is cuddling her newborn baby in the PMI health center of Odienné, Cote d'Ivoire.

Thirty years ago, a promise was made to the world's children. That promise, crafted by global leaders and enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, states that all children have rights that are universal, inalienable and indivisible. All of UNICEF's actions emanate from that promise and the dedicated aim to see it fulfilled for every child.

UNICEF Goal Area 1 seeks to fulfil that promise by working across four interconnected sectors – health, nutrition, HIV/AIDS and early childhood development (ECD) – so that each child has the best possible chance to survive early childhood, be nourished and stimulated as they grow, and

benefit from the diets, services and practices they need to thrive through adolescence and into adulthood. At the core of Goal Area 1 is a strategy aimed at strengthening health, food and social protection systems as platforms for achieving child survival, growth and development outcomes that contribute to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2, 3, 4 and 5.

In 2019, programme expenses across 152 countries in Goal Area 1 totalled US\$2.15 billion or 38 per cent of UNICEF's total expenses. This included US\$950 million for humanitarian action in 82 countries.

## Key results achieved in 2019

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Throughout the year, the programmes represented in Goal Area 1 employed a multisectoral approach aimed at ensuring life-saving and life-changing services for children and their families. Through these programmes, 27.4 million children were born in UNICEF-supported health-care facilities in 52 focus countries. UNICEF and partners supported the vaccination of 65.7 million children with three doses of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTP)/pentavalent vaccine in 64 priority countries, and in 25 countries with high pneumonia prevalence, 9.5 million children with suspected pneumonia received appropriate antibiotics. Some 307 million children under 5 were reached with services to prevent stunting and other forms of malnutrition, 60 million adolescents were reached with services to prevent anaemia and other forms of malnutrition, and about 5 million children benefitted from services for the early detection and treatment of severe wasting and other forms of severe acute malnutrition. Some 45 countries have multisectoral ECD packages on track for sustainable scaleup; up from 33 in 2018. And UNICEF-supported programmes provided antiretroviral treatment (ART) to almost 1 million pregnant women living with HIV to prevent its transmission to their child.

At the output level, UNICEF progress rates were over 90 per cent for all nine of the results areas under Goal Area 1.

To improve the quality of care, UNICEF supported water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in 3,008 health-care facilities that were lacking basic infrastructure. Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo eliminated maternal and neonatal tetanus. In humanitarian situations, UNICEF and partners supported measles vaccination of 41.3 million children, 1.69 million people received insecticide-treated nets, and UNICEF responded to 74 public health emergencies worldwide including Ebola, Zika and measles. Sixty-seven countries had inclusive, multisectoral and gender-responsive national plans for adolescent health, 31 of which were supported by UNICEF.

Nutrition programmes continued to expand in 2019, with more children and caregivers reached with interventions to prevent malnutrition in all its forms and treat severe acute malnutrition in early childhood, often through the strategic integration of actions across the food, health, education and social protection systems. For example, the number of caregivers receiving counselling on infant and young child feeding through facility- and community-based platforms rose to 24 million in 2019, and 17.7 million children benefitted from home fortification programmes to improve the nutrient quality of complementary foods. The number of countries with programmes to improve the diversity of children's diets reached 114, the number of countries implementing mandatory iodized salt, vitamin A fortified oil, and/or wheat or maize flour fortified with essential micronutrients reached 147, and 250 million children benefitted from UNICEF-supported vitamin A supplementation programmes. Access to maternal nutrition services improved, with the number of countries integrating nutrition counselling with antenatal care programmes reaching 68 in 2019. UNICEF supported the scale-up of services to treat children with severe wasting in 69 countries across seven regions, reaching about 5 million children, with 88 per cent of them recovering.

UNICEF supported testing of over 600,000 infants born to pregnant women living with HIV within their first 2 months of life, providing caregivers the information they needed to initiate life-saving ART for the infant. Some 13.5 million adolescent girls and 9 million adolescent boys were tested for HIV through UNICEF support and all UNICEF priority countries implemented policies and/or strategies integrating key HIV interventions into child-centred service points. Sri Lanka joined the list of 13 countries validated for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The shift towards employing multisectoral ECD packages, essential in ensuring that children have the best chance to thrive as they grow, continued in 2019. Forty-five countries reported having reached at least 'established' status to scale up multisectoral ECD programmes (having Government ownership plus costed action plans), exceeding the milestone of 24 set for 2019. Eighty-three countries, 16 more than last year, reported having a national ECD policy or action plan, which provide an enabling policy environment as the foundation for sustainable scale-up of ECD interventions. UNICEF delivered organized ECD programmes to more than 610,000 children under 5 years of age affected by humanitarian situations, reaching 76 per cent of the targeted population (exceeding the Strategic

Plan milestone for 2019 of 75 per cent). The number of countries that reported on ECD in Emergencies (ECDiE) programming increased from 38 in 2018 to 46 in 2019, reflecting the growing recognition of ECDiE as integral in humanitarian response programming.

Throughout the world, UNICEF remained at the forefront of humanitarian responses. To fulfil its dual protection and assistance mandate, UNICEF actively strengthened, and continues strengthening, the humanitarian–development nexus by integrating proactive risk reduction, emergency preparedness and response with longer-term resilience-building.

Nowhere is UNICEF's integrated service approach, buttressed by its extensive field presence, exemplified more clearly than in Yemen. The protracted conflict has severely compromised the availability, quality, access and utilization of health and nutrition services – fundamentally threatening children and their families' rights to health and survival.

Through the World Bank-funded Emergency Health and Nutrition Project, UNICEF and the World Health Organization work with local authorities to strengthen the country's capacity to provide basic health and essential nutrition services to the population – using the existing health system, while simultaneously building rural community resilience by establishing a network of community health workers. This approach provides immediate support while creating the foundations for a post-conflict rehabilitation phase. Practically, this means that investments are strengthening human capital, restoring and equipping health-care facilities and improving their functionality, along with water and sanitation services, particularly in areas at high risk of malnutrition and disease.

## Looking ahead

The end of 2019 saw the emergence of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), which has since become an unprecedented global pandemic. UNICEF's mandate to protect the rights of children, its capacity to act quickly

nutrition, and development, they need to be supported as much as other front-line workers. And while UNICEF is actively supporting the pandemic response, it has the significant challenge of ensuring that children, adolescents

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