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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

Country programme document

Cambodia

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Cambodia is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of \$18,075,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$77,087,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period March 2024 to December 2028.

* E/ICEF/2024/1.



Programme rationale

1. Cambodia is a lower-middle-income country with a gross national income per capita of \$5,080 in 2022. Nonetheless, Cambodia remains vulnerable to the continuing impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and new shocks, in including rising global energy and food prices, leading to inflation in an underdeveloped financial market.¹ Children and families living in poverty are particularly at risk of not meeting their basic needs. Poverty rates are estimated to have decreased from 26.3 per cent in 2014 to 17.8 per cent in 2020 using the adjusted poverty line.²

2. Cambodia has a young population: 14.2 per cent of people are aged 15–24 years and 32.1 per cent are under 15 years.³ However, the youth population is declining while the population over 60 years is increasing. Urban migration is on the rise; young women seeking work in garment factories may be contributing to rates of rural-to-urban migration that are higher for women (28.7 per cent) than men (18.1 per cent).⁴ An increasing number of peri-urban settlements has implications for poverty reduction strategies amid a rural/urban divide.

3. The incidence of multidimensional child poverty in 2018 was 48.7 per cent, higher in rural areas (54.3 per cent) than urban areas (11.8 per cent), and higher among ethnic minorities and those living in the Mountainous and Plateau zones.⁵

4. Cambodia has made significant progress on Sustainable Development Goals 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17, but many challenges persist. The voluntary national review (2019) of the country's implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlighted three major issues: financing of the Goals; the threat posed by climate change; and governance aspects.⁶ In its 2022 concluding observations, the Committee on the Rights of the Child emphasized the need for increased financial, human and technical resources for programmes for children.

5. Cambodia has already achieved the Sustainable Development Goal targets for under-5 and neonatal mortality. From 2014 to 2022, under-5 mortality decreased from 35 to 16 deaths per 1,000 live births and neonatal mortality decreased from 18 to 8 deaths per 1,000 live births.⁷ Yet, nearly half of under-5 deaths occur during the neonatal period. Improvements in maternal mortality have been slow. Across the country, 9 per cent of women aged 15–19 years have ever been pregnant; teenage pregnancy rates are higher in the lowest wealth quintiles (16 per cent), among women with no education (35 per cent) and in the Stung Treng Province (25 per cent).⁸ Limited access to quality primary health care and inadequate adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, particularly in the north-eastern provinces, are contributing factors. Stunting in children under 5 years old has declined, from 32 per cent in 2014 to 22 per cent in 2021–2022,⁹ but geographical disparities persist. The rate of childhood wasting is 10 per cent, while childhood overweight has doubled,

¹ World Bank, 'Cambodia Economic Update, June 2022: Weathering the Oil Price Shock', June 2022.

² Ministry of Planning (MoP), *Poverty in Cambodia: Setting the New Poverty Line*, Phnom Penh, 2021.

³ National Institute of Statistics (NIS) and Ministry of Health (MoH) and ICF, *Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2021–22: Final Report*, Phnom Penh, and Rockville, Maryland, USA, 2023, p. 20.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 65.

⁵ MoP and UNICEF, *Child Poverty in Cambodia*, Phnom Penh, 2018.

⁶ Royal Government of Cambodia, *Cambodia's Voluntary National Review 2019 of the Implementation of 2030 Agenda*, Phnom Penh, 2019.

⁷ NIS, MoH and ICF, *Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey, 2021–22*, pp. 147–148.

⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 87–88.

⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 217.

from 2 per cent (2014) to 4 per cent (2021).¹⁰ High levels of micronutrient deficiency, anaemia, poor diets and unhealthy feeding practices, exacerbated by gaps in knowledge of nurturing care, remain key bottlenecks.

6. School enrolment has increased over the past decade, yet approximately 300,000 children of primary- and lower-secondary-school age were out of school in 2022.¹¹ Only 52 per cent of children complete lower secondary education, and even fewer, 28 per cent, complete upper secondary.¹² The participation rate for early childhood education (ECE) among five-year-olds is 61 per cent, with participation higher in urban areas.¹³ Quality of learning is low across all grade levels, and learning assessments found large numbers of children without basic proficiency in reading and mathematics.¹⁴ Girls generally outperform boys in assessments, but are underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects (17 per cent) compared to boys (40 per cent).¹⁵ Barriers to quality learning include: inequitable access; inadequate infrastructure; poor learning environments, particularly in rural and remote areas; school violence; inadequate teaching capacity; insufficient support mechanisms for struggling learners; and a lack of inclusive education for children with disabilities.

7. Violence against children remains highly prevalent in Cambodia. An estimated 66 per cent of children aged 1–14 years have experienced violent discipline, with slightly higher rates among boys than girls.¹⁶ Emerging risks include online child sexual exploitation and abuse, which affects boys in particular.¹⁷ Harmful gender norms contribute to the acceptance of violence against girls and boys, such as child marriage and child labour, including sexual exploitation linked to child trafficking. Some 17.9 per cent of women aged 20–24 years were first married before the age of 18 years.¹⁸ Poverty, inadequate legislative frameworks and overburdened justice systems pose challenges in protecting children against violence.

8. Data from the World Health Organization/United Nations Children’s Fund (WHO/UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene from 2023 reveal encouraging progress in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).¹⁹ From 2021 to 2023, access to basic water supply increased from 43 per cent to 49 per cent; access to basic sanitation services increased from 38 per cent to 40 per cent; and access to basic hygiene and hand-washing services increased from 76 per cent to 83 per cent. However, to date, only 6 out of 25 provinces have been declared open-defecation-free. Gaps in WASH coverage contribute to increased school dropout rates, particularly among adolescent girls, due to poor water and sanitation in schools.

9. Cambodia is prone to natural disasters, particularly floods, with some 25 per cent of the population living in flood-prone areas. The country is vulnerable to

¹⁰ Ibid., pp. 217–218.

¹¹ UNESCO Institute for Statistics global database extract of the analysis (accessed 31 October 2023).

¹² UNICEF calculation based on the Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey 2021.

¹³ Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), Education Management Information System (EMIS) 2020/2021, Phnom Penh, 2022.

¹⁴ MoEYS, Education in Cambodia: Findings from Cambodia’s experience in PISA for Development, Phnom Penh, 2018; and MoEYS, Grade 6 national learning assessment results, 2021.

¹⁵ MoEYS, Education Congress Report, Phnom Penh, 2023.

¹⁶ NIS, MoH and ICF, Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey, 2021–22, p. 253.

¹⁷ ECPAT, INTERPOL and UNICEF, *Disrupting Harm in Cambodia: Evidence on Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse*, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, 2022.

¹⁸ NIS, MoH and ICF, Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey, 2021–22, p. 75.

¹⁹ WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, 2023.

other climate change impacts and environmental hazards, such as heatwaves, droughts, windstorms and seawater intrusion, and risks related to urbanization, industrialization (despite developmental opportunities) and migration. Children in Cambodia are highly exposed and vulnerable to climate and environmental shocks.²⁰

10. A reported 4.9 per cent of the population has some form of disability.²¹ Families of persons with disabilities experience more poverty than other families; the direct costs of disability are estimated to more than double household poverty rates.²² There are indications that domestic violence is particularly acute among women with disabilities.²³ Data on the determinants of inequality associated with disability are limited. In its concluding observations (2022), the Committee on the Rights of the Child called for establishing a national database on children with disabilities; adopting laws to prohibit all forms of discrimination and violence against them, with monitoring and enforcement mechanisms; and implementing an efficient system for early detection, intervention and support for children with disabilities.

11. Lessons learned from the previous country programme noted UNICEF comparative advantage in working across sectors and the need to strengthen institutional capacities in subnational planning and budgeting. This is in alignment with the Government's decentralization and deconcentration reforms for improving accountability and transparency of public finance for children. The lessons underscored the importance of integration and convergence among programme components to facilitate actions that effectively address overlapping deprivations and inequities.

Programme priorities and partnerships

12. Programme priorities are selected through a consultative process with the Government, civil society organizations, private sector, other United Nations entities and development partners based in Cambodia, as well as children and adolescents. Consultations included analysing lessons learned from the previous country programme evaluation and other recent evaluations and assessments of UNICEF strengths vis-à-vis other United Nations entities and other development partners.

13. The overarching theory of change for the country programme, March 2024–December 2028, is that children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, will have equal opportunities to grow, develop and reach their full potential if: innovative solutions and models are developed, financed, tested, adapted and scaled up, by integrating these solutions and models into sector policies and programmes for children; national and subnational systems are strengthened to improve quality, equity, disability-inclusive, gender-sensitive and climate-resilient infrastructure and services targeting the most vulnerable and marginalized; children, adolescents, caregivers and communities are mobilized, engaged and participate in social actions that promote improved positive social norms, practices and behaviours; policymakers, development partners and private sector entities are engaged to support and further child rights through their plans, budgets, programmes and activities; and public and private investments increase and sustain the partnerships that contribute to scaling up solutions in social protection, protection against violence, abuse and exploitation,

²⁰ UNICEF, Analysis of the CCRI for Least Developed Countries, New York, 2023.

²¹ NIS, General Population Census of Cambodia, NIS and Ministry of Planning, Phnom Penh, 2019, p. 98.

²² Palmer, M., J. Williams and B. McPake, 'The Cost of Disability in a Low Income Country', SSRN, 14 October 2016.

²³ NIS, General Population Census of Cambodia 2019: Thematic Report on Gender, NIS and Ministry of Planning, Phnom Penh, 2021, p. 8.

quality education, health, nutrition, WASH, and climate mitigation and adaptation for resilience.

14. The UNICEF country programme aligns with and contributes to the country's Pentagonal Strategy Phase 1 (2023–2028), and its vision to transition to an upper-middle-income country by 2030 and a high-income country by 2050. It corresponds to the four pillars of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF): (a) human development; (b) economic transformation; (c) environment; and (d) social transformation. Examples of collaboration include working with WHO on disease surveillance, with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on food security, and with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to address issues on violence against children.

15. The country programme is informed by the December 2022 gender programmatic review, which underlines the importance of addressing discriminatory social norms. Gender-targeted actions will focus on: strengthening access to and demand for quality maternal and child health for adolescent girls and women, including sexual and reproductive health and menstrual hygiene services; advancing girls' education, learning and skills, including STEM and digital skills; and addressing harmful gender norms and practices.

16. Responding to the observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the universal periodic reviews by the Human Rights Council, UNICEF will support the Government in prioritizing the most urgent recommendations on strengthening national human rights institutions and accountability mechanisms for child rights, engaging in high-level advocacy with stakeholders and accelerating implementation of child rights-based policy reforms while ensuring increased public finance for children and adolescents.

17. Guided by the imperative to 'leave no one behind', the programme will be implemented primarily at the national level and emphasize multisectoral approaches at the subnational level, particularly in prioritized provinces, to address overlapping inequities, discrimination and exclusion for the most vulnerable children. UNICEF will partner with provinces on child-friendly social services and support planning and budgeting with a focus on children's vulnerabilities. UNICEF will support the design of a more holistic capacity-development plan for subnational administration service delivery.

18. Digital transformation and innovations will be leveraged to improve the effectiveness of social services and systems through strengthening feedback mechanisms, community engagement and real-time monitoring, and by scaling up innovative models to expand coverage, particularly in provinces with the least access to services. Strengthening information management systems will also contribute to fill data gaps and accelerate progress towards achievement of the child-related Sustainable Development Goals.

19. Risk-informed programming is embedded in all programmes and in line with the country office's climate and environment strategy. UNICEF will support communities, systems and institutions to prepare for external shocks, disasters and stresses and strengthen their resilience to climate-related and environmental risks. The Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action and the Accountability to Affected Populations Framework will guide UNICEF emergency responses to ensure they are child-sensitive and gender-inclusive.

20. Driven by the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the programme will advocate for child-friendly business practices and for reducing children's risk of online violence, trafficking and the impacts of climate change. UNICEF will build shared-valued partnerships, including with the private sector, to accelerate connectivity, digital health and learning platforms; scale up twenty-first century skills; raise awareness of online safety; and promote positive social norms and behaviours.

21. The country programme components are health and nutrition, education, child protection, WASH, and policy and public finance for children, all bolstered by the programme effectiveness component.

Health and nutrition

22. This programme component will seek to ensure that women, young children, adolescents and caregivers, especially the most disadvantaged, live in healthier and safer environments, utilize good quality reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition services and consistently practice nurturing care. It will contribute to UNSDCF pillar 1 (outputs 1.1 and 1.2), Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 3, the Health Strategic Plan (2023–2033) and the National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (2024–2028).

23. UNICEF will support the generation of evidence in emerging areas such as non-communicable diseases and injuries, climate change, food policy for children, environmental health, and child and adolescent mental health, to influence policies, strategies, national standards and guidelines for improved planning and financing. The goal is to achieve better health and nutrition outcomes for women, adolescents and children.

24. UNICEF will collaborate with WHO, the World Bank and other partners to strengthen public finance management for health and nutrition, and to build subnational capacities to plan, budget and deliver services for scale up. Focus will be placed on enhancing government and community health coordination and supporting government efforts to improve equitable access to quality integrated primary health-care services for children through local solutions, particularly in “zero dose” communities. This includes strengthening inter-ministerial coordination, the supply chain and data systems. Quality standards for maternal and newborn care, nutrition counselling and the management of acute malnutrition in children, focusing on preventive and promotive services, will be prioritized. Intersectoral collaboration will address the underlying root causes and risk factors of malnutrition and child mortality.

25. Community engagement and social and behaviour change strategies and platforms will be used to address social norms that have hindered gender equality and disability inclusion, to promote good health and nutrition practices, and to create demand for equitable access to essential services.

Education

26. This programme component will seek to ensure that children and adolescents, especially the most disadvantaged, complete quality ECE and basic education in inclusive, safe, protective and stimulating environments. It will contribute to UNSDCF pillar 1 (output 1.4) and the Education 2030 Roadmap, the Education Strategic Plan 2024–2028, the Teacher Policy Action Plan 2024–2030, and the National Action Plan on Early Childhood Care and Development 2022–2026.

27. UNICEF will strengthen the education system to address school dropout and poor learning outcomes, focusing on vulnerable girls and boys. This includes enhancing data quality and use of the Education Management Information System and

learning assessments for advocacy, and to inform policy changes aimed at promoting equitable school completion rates and improved learning outcomes.

28. The programme will strengthen inclusive, equitable and quality teaching and learning at the national and subnational levels, focusing on vulnerable boys and girls, including children with disabilities and children living in disaster-prone provinces. UNICEF will support teachers' professional development through pre-service training, capacity-building and leadership development. Innovative education models will be scaled up for improved community preschools, disability-inclusive and gender-responsive teaching, and twenty-first-century skills, including STEM and digital skills through public-private partnerships.

29. Community-based approaches and social and behaviour change interventions, including the strengthening of parenting programmes that promote nurturing care, will be supported to increase the demand for school completion and quality gender-transformative education, family and community engagement, and overall support for children's learning. These initiatives will also promote the holistic development of young children, focusing on early stimulation and learning to ensure school readiness.

30. Through its leadership in the education sector working group, UNICEF will utilize partnerships and programmes to enhance integration efforts aimed at improving teacher development, creating safe, conducive and resilient learning environments that accelerate learning recovery and strengthening environmental education.

Child protection

31. This programme component will seek to ensure that children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, live in safer environments that promote positive cultural and social norms, and benefit from resilient, gender-inclusive and disability-friendly child protection services. It will contribute to UNSDCF pillar 4 (outputs 4.1, 4.3 and 4.4), and the National Policy on Child Protection System (2019–2029).

32. The programme will support evidence-based policy and legal framework changes aligned with human and child rights standards. UNICEF will advocate for adequate resources to prevent violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, both online and offline, and for an effective response, including support to children in conflict with the law. UNICEF will engage broader partnerships, including with the private sector, to address cross-border issues like unsafe migration, child trafficking, online exploitation and abuse. UNICEF will support national efforts to strengthen the social service workforce, and support sector coordination for justice, protection, education and health.

33. Social and behaviour change and gender-transformative approaches will be implemented, engaging adolescents, young people, government authorities, religious leaders and service providers to promote positive gender socialization, encourage positive masculinities and help to eliminate harmful practices such as child marriage. Technology for development solutions, including through traditional and social media, will be explored to promote positive norms while challenging the negative norms underpinning violence against children and women.

34. In collaboration with other United Nations entities, UNICEF will promote the establishment of an independent child rights accountability mechanism and complaint procedures, in line with recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

35. This programme component will seek to ensure that more children and their families in rural and urban settings, especially those living in challenging environments, increasingly benefit from safely managed WASH services that enhance their adaptive capacity to external shocks. It will contribute to UNSDCF pillars 1 (output 1.4) and 3 (outputs 3.2 and 3.4) and align with the National Policy on Water and Sanitation (2003) and related National Strategic Plan for Rural Water Supply Sanitation and Hygiene (2014–2030).

36. The programme will support the generation and use of evidence on sector fiscal analysis and climate resilience risk assessments to explore innovative WASH financing solutions, partnerships and approaches. UNICEF will strengthen inter-ministerial collaboration to improve coordination on policy analysis and capacity development at the provincial and subnational levels, in alignment with decentralization and deconcentration reforms, to enhance sector planning and budgeting of WASH interventions.

37. UNICEF will partner with the private sector to promote market-based solutions to address gaps in public water and sanitation services. Private investors and operators will be engaged to foster technological and financial innovations for scaling up pro-poor WASH programming. The focus will be on both urban and rural areas, ensuring gender sensitivity and accessibility for persons with disabilities.

38. UNICEF will support the Government at the national and subnational levels to tackle open defecation, shifting to safely managed sanitation services, including support for climate-resilient service chains, faecal sludge management and city-wide sanitation approaches that are inclusive and adhere to the principles of reduce, reuse and recycle. Social and behaviour change strategies will also be used to increase the demand for improved climate-resilient services.

Policy and public finance for children

39. This programme component will seek to ensure that more children, adolescents and caregivers, particularly the poor and vulnerable, utilize harmonized, inclusive, equitable, shock-responsive and well-resourced social protection and social services, contributing to reduced vulnerabilities and enhanced resilience. It will contribute to UNSDCF pillar 1 (output 1.1), pillar 2 (outputs 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4), and pillar 4 (outputs 4.1, 4.2 and 4.4), and is aligned with the National Social Protection Policy Framework 2016–2025, the Public Management Reform Programme Phase 4 (2023–2027) and the National Program on Sub-National Democratic Development Phase 2 (2021–2030). Public finance for children will contribute to the achievement of multiple results under the other four programme components through cross-sectoral collaboration.

40. UNICEF will strengthen the national social protection system to expand its scope, enhance its shock-responsiveness and ensure disability inclusion, climate adaptation and harmonization with other social protection programmes. Priority will be given to tackling multidimensional child poverty among vulnerable groups, through family packages with ‘cash plus’ initiatives, better digital system interoperability, and improved referrals between social protection and other services, especially at the local levels.

41. UNICEF will provide technical assistance and advocate to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of budget allocations for social services. This will include sector budget analyses and programme costings to improve budget allocative efficiency, planning and execution, and capacity-building for national and subnational

administrations on performance-informed budgeting. UNICEF will also collaborate on innovative financing solutions for the social sectors with other United Nations agencies.

42. UNICEF will build the capacities and skills of national and subnational partners to deliver their assigned functions in addressing multidimensional child poverty. This will include support for the development and implementation of improved inclusive local planning and budgeting guidelines and related monitoring and evaluation tools, including risk-informed and climate-resilient planning and budgeting, in line with decentralization and deconcentration and public finance management reforms.

43. UNICEF will promote citizen engagement and the integration of mechanisms that support the participation of children, adolescents and young people in local planning and budgeting processes.

Programme effectiveness

44. The programme effectiveness component will support coordination, communication, public advocacy, public-private partnerships, social and behaviour change, technology for development and operational support to ensure the achievement of quality programming standards and results for children. It will promote an integrated approach to subnational programming and strengthen cross-cutting priorities, such as early childhood development, adolescent and youth programming, gender, disability inclusion, and environment and climate change actions across all programme components.

Summary budget table

<i>Programme component</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Health and nutrition	1 710	17 376	19 086
Education	1 710	26 116	27 826
Child protection	1 710	12 246	13 956
Water, sanitation and hygiene	2 075	6 460	8 535
Policy and public finance for children	2 662	6 206	8 868
Programme effectiveness	8 208	8 683	16 891
Total	18 075	77 087	95 162

Programme and risk management

45. This CPD outlines UNICEF contributions to national strategies, plans and UNSDCF outcomes, and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures. The Council for the Development of Cambodia plays a key role in UNSDCF coordination and oversight through joint coordination mechanisms. The Ministry of Planning is the main coordinating body providing strategic direction for government cooperation with UNICEF.

46. Key external risks to the programme related to the country's vulnerability to climate change, environmental hazards and natural disasters will be mitigated through regular situation monitoring, strengthening of UNICEF and inter-agency early warning and emergency preparedness platforms, and support to national risk-reduction and climate-resilience initiatives, in line with the UNICEF Cambodia climate and environment strategy. Internal risks related to implementing partnerships will be monitored through the harmonized approach to cash transfers. Additional measures will be implemented to strengthen accountability mechanisms for affected populations and to safeguard children from sexual exploitation and abuse.

47. UNICEF will explore innovative approaches to supplement its regular (core) resources by increasing domestic contributions from the public and private sector, and by leveraging partnerships with the private sector, the United Nations system and bilateral and multilateral donors. Efforts will be made to enhance the effectiveness of public finance for children initiatives.

Monitoring and evaluation

48. UNICEF programme monitoring and evaluation will align with the results and resources framework and the costed evaluation plan. This will include supporting independent evaluations for learning, accountability and informing national policies and programmes. In line with UNSDCF monitoring and evaluation plans, collaboration with United Nations agencies and partners will be strengthened to enhance national statistical systems, track progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and address data gaps. Efforts will focus on addressing data gaps related to multidimensional poverty, climate change impacts and a lack of disaggregated data (age, sex and disability).

49. Midyear and annual reviews, and field and humanitarian performance monitoring visits, will be conducted with implementing partners to monitor progress against programme targets and to guide strategic programme adjustments. UNICEF will leverage innovative digital monitoring systems to optimize real-time monitoring, enhance feedback mechanisms and ensure greater accountability to affected populations.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Cambodia – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, March 2024–December 2028

Convention on the Rights of the Child: 1–40
National priorities: Sustainable Development Goals 1–6, 8, 10, 13, 16, 17; and National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2024–2028
United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) outcomes involving UNICEF: Pillars 1–4
Related UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025, Goal Areas: 1–5

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T) for 2028	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
1	1. Women, young children, adolescents and caregivers, especially the most disadvantaged, increasingly live in healthier and safer environments, utilize quality reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH&N) services and consistently practice nurturing care.	<p>Proportion of children under the age of 5 years receiving diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP) containing vaccine (third dose)*</p> <p>B: (2021–2022): 73.8% T: 82%</p> <p>Proportion of women who attended antenatal care at least four times during their pregnancy by any provider*</p> <p>B: (2021–2022): 86.1% T: >90%</p>	Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey (CDHS)	<p>1.1 Government institutions at national level have increased capacity to equitably resource, implement and monitor and scale up multisectoral plans, legislation and regulations more effectively, for maternal, adolescent and child health and nutrition.</p> <p>1.2 Health systems at subnational levels in targeted provinces have increased management, coordination and</p>	Ministries of Economy and Finance (MEF); Health (MoH) and Women’s Affairs (MoWA); Council for Agricultural and Rural Development; United Nations agencies; GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance; Scaling Up Nutrition; subnational governments; communes, civil society organizations (CSOs) and international financial institutions (World Bank, Asian Development Bank)	1 710	17 376	19 086

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T) for 2028	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
		<p>Proportion of children under the age of 5 years with severe wasting having access to treatment*</p> <p>B: (2022): 10% T: 25%</p>	<p>National Nutrition Programme database</p> <p>Health Information System</p>	<p>technical capacities to provide and scale up inclusive, quality RMNCAH&N services across the life cycle as part of primary health care.</p> <p>1.3 Government, CSOs, media and community structures have increased capacity to design, deliver and scale up effective social and behaviour change interventions for improved physical, mental and social well-being across the life cycle.</p>				
1	2. An increasing proportion of children and adolescents, especially the most disadvantaged, complete quality early childhood education and basic education in inclusive, safe, protective and stimulating environments.	<p>Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary school entry age) (SDG indicator 4.2.2)</p> <p>B: (2022–2023): Total: 64.8% Female (F): 64.4%; Male (M): 65.5%</p> <p>T: Total: 81.5%</p>	<p>Education Management Information System (EMIS)</p>	<p>2.1 Education system at all levels has enhanced capacity to develop, implement and monitor policies and programmes to promote school completion rate equitably and stimulate improved learning outcomes.</p> <p>2.2 Schools and education authorities at subnational level, especially in educationally disadvantaged and disaster-prone provinces, have enhanced capacity to replicate relevant,</p>	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) and MoWA; education sector working group; private sector	1 710	26 116	27 826
		<p>Completion rate (SDG indicator 4.1.2), girls and boys:</p> <p>Primary: B: (2021): Total: 83.8% F: 86.4%, M: 81.1%</p> <p>T: Total: 89.7%</p>	<p>Cambodia Socio-Economic Surveys</p>					

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T) for 2028	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
		<p><i>Lower secondary:</i> B: (2021): Total: 51.9% F: 56.5%, M: 46.8%</p> <p>T: Total: 58.7%</p> <p><i>Upper secondary:</i> B: (2021): Total: 28.4% F: 30.0%, M: 26.7%</p> <p>T: Total: 41.4%</p>		<p>effective and inclusive programmes to promote learning outcomes.</p> <p>2.3 Families and communities, especially in educationally disadvantaged and disaster-prone provinces, have increased awareness and capacity to support school readiness, retention, completion and effective learning.</p>				
		<p>Proportion of children and adolescents achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading and mathematics (SDG indicator 4.1.1)*</p> <p><i>Grade 3 Reading:</i> B: (2018): Total: 49.5% F: 56.0%, M: 43.1%</p> <p>T: Total: 62.7%</p> <p><i>Grade 3 Mathematics:</i> B: (2018): Total: 59.1% F: 61.9%, M: 56.4%</p> <p>T: Total: 63.6%</p> <p><i>Grade 6 Reading:</i> B: (2021): Total: 63.7% F: 70.6%, M: 55.6%</p> <p>T: Total: 81.9%</p> <p><i>Grade 6 Mathematics:</i> B: (2021): Total: 25.7% F: 27.7%, M: 23.5%</p> <p>T: Total: 65.0%</p>	National Learning Assessments					

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T) for 2028	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
		<p>Percentage of teachers qualified according to national standards, by education level.</p> <p><i>Pre-primary:</i> B: (2021–2022): 70% T: 76.8%</p> <p><i>Primary:</i> B: (2021–2022): 77.8% T: 81.6%</p> <p><i>Lower secondary:</i> B: (2021–2022): 86.3% T: 96.6%</p>	EMIS					
4	3. Children and adolescents are better protected from violence, abuse and exploitation through positive social and gender norms and a strengthened, inclusive and resilient child protection system.	<p>Level of maturity of the child protection system</p> <p>B: (2022): Integration T: Maturity in three domains</p>	UNICEF core standard indicators	<p>3.1 National and subnational institutions and partners have increased capacity to implement and monitor rights-based and gender-responsive child protection policies and budgets.</p> <p>3.2 National and subnational institutions have increased capacity to deliver gender-responsive prevention of and response to violence and other child rights violations for the most vulnerable boys, girls and women, including children with disabilities.</p> <p>3.3 Communities, families, children and adolescents, especially</p>	Ministries of: Interior (MoI); Justice; Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY); Cults and Religions; Post and Telecommunications (MOPT); MoWA; Cambodia National Council for Children (CNCC)	1 710	12 246	13 956
		<p>Proportion of children aged 1–14 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month (SDG 16.2.1)*</p> <p>B: (2021–2022): Total 66% F: 65% M: 68% T: Total 60%</p>	CDHS					
		<p>Percentage of primary caregivers who think that physical punishment is necessary to raise/educate children</p>						

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T) for 2028	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
		<p>B: (2021–2022): Total 27% F: 28% M: 25% T: Total 22%</p> <p>Percentage of children in conflict with the law who are subject to a diversion order or non-custodial measure</p> <p>B: (2022): 24% T: 30%</p>	Ministry of Justice report	the most vulnerable, have increased capacity to prevent violence, including unsafe migration.				
1 and 3	4. More children and their families, including children with disabilities, in rural and urban settings, live in safe environments that are resilient to climate change impacts and benefit from safely managed water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services that are adaptive to external shocks.	<p>Proportion of people with access to safely managed water supply services</p> <p>B: (2022): 29% T: 62%</p> <p>Percentage of population (households) with safely managed sanitation services</p> <p>B: (2022): 36% T: 50%</p> <p>Percentage of population (households) with basic sanitation services*</p> <p>B: (2024 estimate): 81.83% T: 93.62%</p> <p>Percentage of public schools with basic sanitation facilities</p> <p>B: (2022–2023): 36.9% T: 87%</p>	WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene reports	<p>4.1 WASH sector government agencies and partners at national and subnational levels have enhanced capacity to develop, implement and monitor relevant sector policies, regulatory frameworks, standards and guidelines in a coordinated manner and that leverage resources to achieve sector targets.</p> <p>4.2 Girls, boys, women and men, including those with disabilities, in communities and institutions, in urban and rural areas, with particular focus on north-eastern provinces and those impacted by climate change, have improved access to</p>	Ministries of: Rural Development; Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation; Public Works and Transport; Environment; MoH; MoEYS; MoWA non-governmental organizations; academia; private sector	2 075	6 460	8 535

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T) for 2028	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
		Percentage of health centres with a year-round water supply B: (2016): 48% T: 80%	National Assessment of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Health Care Facilities	safely managed, climate-resilient and market-based WASH services.				
1, 2 and 4	5. More boys, girls, adolescents and caregivers, particularly the poor and vulnerable, utilize harmonized, inclusive, equitable, shock-responsive, and well-resourced social protection and social services contributing to reduced vulnerabilities and enhanced resilience.	Percentage of poor and vulnerable children covered by social protection schemes* B: (2022): 10% T: 30% Budget allocation for social services as a proportion of nominal GDP, disaggregated by key social ministries and institutions: Ministry of Education B: 2.7% T: 3.5% Ministry of Health B: 1.9% T: 2.5% General Secretariat - Social Protection Council B: 3.0% T: 3.0% Proportion of average subnational administration (SNA) budgets allocated for child-focused social services addressing multidimensional child poverty:	Administrative data (National Social Assistance Fund (NSAF) and National Social Protection Council (NSPC)) Mid-Term Review of the National Social Protection Policy Framework Budget data (MEF, MOI)	5.1 National social protection institutions have increased capacity to develop policies and programmes and to support subnational delivery systems that are harmonized, equitable, child-friendly and disability- and gender-sensitive and that increase resilience to life-cycle socio-economic risks and shocks.* 5.2 Social sector ministries and SNAs have improved policy and system tools, technical capabilities and resources to enable innovative, equitable and evidence-based budget allocations that prioritize delivery of social services and social protection for children and their caregivers.* 5.3 Responsible line ministries and capital/provincial	NSPC; Ministry of Planning; MoH; MoI; MEF; MoSVY; MoEYS; MoWA; NSAF; National Social Security Fund; provincial administrations.	2 662	6 206	8 868

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T) for 2028	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
		B: 6.6% T: 10%		administrations have strengthened ability to promote effective decentralized governance and delivery of integrated social services and social protection that institutionalizes social accountability and feedback mechanisms.*				
1,2,3 and 4	6. The country programme is efficiently designed, coordinated, managed and supported to meet quality programming standards in achieving results for children.	Performance scorecards meet organizational benchmarks	Performance scorecards/ inSight	6.1. Programme coordination, planning, monitoring and evaluation, communication and advocacy strategies to address cross-cutting issues and operations support.	Planning, monitoring and evaluation, communications and operations units	8 208	8 683	16 891
Total resources						18 075	77 087	95 162

* Outcome indicators aligned with UNSDCF indicators (i.e., the age group is slightly different than the actual Sustainable Development Goal indicator).