



Thematic Report 2013

CHILD PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE, EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

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children

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Iraq, May 2013. Portrait of a young Syrian girl living in the Domiz refugee camp in Northern Iraq. Domiz is situated near the city of Dohuk, about forty miles from the Syrian border. Approximately 40,000 Syrians are living here, in facilities provided for around half that number. April 2013 marked one year since Domiz camp opened in Dohuk, Northern Iraq. In that time it has grown to a tent city of nearly 40,000 Syrian refugees. UNICEF provides services in education, child protection, water, sanitation and hygiene, and health and nutrition.

Executive summary

The UNICEF medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) 2006-2013 consolidated the shift to approaches to child protection that encompass systems strengthening and social change, leading to increasingly sophisticated work globally – both up- and downstream. This includes advances in systemic coordination and programmatic activity and to a more profound conceptualization of the protection agenda and its relationship to children's well-being and to inequity. As the sector has matured, the need for approaches to knowledge-generation that include prevalence data and robust evidence of what works and under what conditions is becoming more apparent to mobilize action and resources.

There have been concerted efforts to strengthen the way the sector works as a whole, with UNICEF playing an instrumental role in catalyzing partnerships, guiding the direction of global policy and action and professionalizing the sector. These shifts are essential in solidifying a strong foundation to protect children from violence, exploitation and abuse. As the post-2015 era beckons and we move towards shaping the future global development agenda, it is clear that child protection must be an integral part of the process and part of articulated goals and targets. Child protection issues are not discriminatory; their impact is felt at all levels of all societies throughout the world.

UNICEF work in child protection has seen significant shifts both in terms of programming direction, and demonstrable results over the MTSP period. Governments are increasingly scoping out their child protection systems and prioritizing areas for strengthening. By the end of 2013, 104 countries had identified the nature of their systems and areas requiring strengthening, and 74 of them now have results reflected in government budgets, policy papers or legislation, potentially benefiting 690 million children. Increasingly, UNICEF work is focusing 'upstream', advocating with Governments and providing technical expertise to enhance service delivery. UNICEF supported at least 54 countries during 2013 to improve children's access to protection, prevention services and delivery mechanisms. UNICEF supported the registration of approximately 30.6 million children's births in 2013, in part through improvements in service and service delivery mechanisms, including integrated approaches. Birth registration was further bolstered by the release of two key global publications providing programming guidance and providing up to date statistical data from 161 countries.

There is now greater understanding of the dynamics of social norms that result in violence, exploitation and abuse and of what works to promote positive norms aimed at ending harmful practices. The 2013 report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on Violence against Children found that since 2006, there has been an increase of almost 50 per cent in the number of countries with policies in place to prevent and address violence. Global attention was further enhanced through the launching of the #End Violence against Children initiative, involving formal launches in more than 60 countries and social media actions taking place in over 190 countries.

More than three years into the Secretary-General's campaign for universal ratification of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, national commitment to end child sexual abuse and exploitation is sustained across all regions. Eighty-six per cent of all United Nations Member States have ratified the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. New global estimates show a decline in child labour of about one third since 2000. Yet, worldwide, about 168 million children aged 5–17 years are still engaged in child labour. Scaling up of interventions to eliminate child labour remains a key priority. In 2013, UNICEF issued a revised global framework on child labour, which aims to improve understanding of its underlying causes and also to address the links between those causes.

UNICEF further strengthened its global and national leadership role in efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C). The Joint Programme on FGM/C, co-sponsored by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF, marked its fifth year in 2013; an estimated 2,538 communities in eight countries now adhere to public declarations to abandon FGM/C. The year 2013 saw UNICEF launch the most comprehensive analysis on FGM/C to date and release an evaluation report on the joint programme. Programme recommendations were disseminated globally to a wide variety of stakeholders and informed the refinement of the programmatic strategy for a second phase (2014-2017) of efforts to end FGM/C through the Joint Programme.

To generate results at scale and invigorate the global movement to end child marriage, UNICEF is intensifying efforts in eight countries with middle to high child marriage prevalence rates that are poised to make progress. At a global level, to intensify international efforts, the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly adopted procedural resolutions on child marriage, calling for a report of the Secretary-General on child, early and forced marriage and a debate at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

UNICEF responded to the protection needs of children in emergencies in more than 50 countries affected by armed conflict and natural disasters, including three large-scale (Level 3) emergencies in Central African Republic, the Philippines and Syrian Arab Republic. Sixteen countries were supported in efforts to release children associated with armed forces or armed groups and reintegrate them into their families and communities, and an additional two countries ratified the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

Overall, global estimates indicate that through UNICEF support, 13,500 children separated during armed conflict or natural disasters were unified with their families during the year. Some 2.5 million children were able to access safe community spaces for socializing, play and learning. More than 7,300 children associated with armed forces or groups were reunited with families and reintegrated into their communities. In addition, approximately 30,000 women and children who have experienced gender-based violence (GBV) were reached, of whom 30 to 40 per cent were children, the majority of them girls.

In 2013, the largest donor to thematic funding for child protection was the Government of Sweden, followed by the Government of Norway and the Dutch Committee for UNICEF. In 2013, UNICEF experienced a 6 per cent decline in global thematic funding relative to 2012. The child protection sector accounts for 5 per cent of overall global thematic contributions.

Strategic context

The year 2013 was pivotal for the child protection sector. As a key period of strategic planning comes to a close, and as UNICEF moves towards the implementation of its Strategic Plan, 2014-2017, UNICEF is now at a critical point where it is increasingly able to put child protection on the legal, policy and finance agendas of partner Governments, and ensure that child protection issues receive the global attention necessary to drive forward strategies to mitigate the devastating impact of violence, exploitation and abuse affecting many girls and boys across the globe.

Shifting the strategic paradigm

The growing space on the global stage afforded to child protection and continued improvements to global learning to shape and guide thinking led to an evolution in the child protection approach during the 2006-2013 MTSP period. The UNICEF 2008 child protection strategy is a standard bearer in shaping this direction. Strengthening of systems has moved the child protection agenda away from ad hoc, project-based responses to a more comprehensive approach focusing on addressing the underlying root causes of violence, exploitation and abuse; promoting children's well-being and protection; and enhancing the role of the family and community.

Child protection services now extend along a continuum of support, ranging from primary services that strengthen the overall capacity of society to care for and protect children, to early intervention actions that mitigate risk factors, to tertiary-level interventions providing support services to a child who has experienced any form of violence, exploitation or abuse.

“The systems approach to child protection clearly has huge added value. This is the direction in which most States are surely moving”

Benyam Mezmur, Chair, Committee of Experts for the African Convention on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 2013

Changes to child protection systems take time to develop and require a complex layer of support, not only in technical competency, but also in implementation of structures and systems, allocation of appropriate budgets and strengthening the capacity of the child protection workforce to provide a range of commodities and services. Implicit in this approach is the need to promote positive norms aimed at ending harmful practices, both within the family and community, and also in society as a whole. It takes time, sometimes over generations, for changes in perceptions and attitudes to take root and affect positive behaviour. These actions all need to be supported by an enabling legal and policy environment, embedded in the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international and regional legal instruments and standards.

UNICEF plays a significant role in responding to child protection issues resulting from large-scale emergencies that is increasingly highlighting the urgent need for strategic investment in strengthening systems. Evidence has shown that strong child protection systems are an important component of emergency preparedness and response. At the same time, emergencies are providing important entry points to strengthen integrated, cross-sectoral programming that at times has translated into better developed elements of the systems in the longer term. For example, psychosocial response serves as an entry point for the development of a mechanism for identifying most vulnerable and at-risk children for referral and case management.

Identifying what works – building up data systems and evidence

Developing the evidence base supporting child protection is a major priority. Globally, work to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation and abuse is hampered by a weak (but improving) evidence base, especially in low- and middle-income countries, and in particular around 'what works, under what circumstances and at what scale'. While interventions following violations are essential, effective prevention – addressing risk factors and preventing violence before it occurs – is increasingly seen in national plans as a key public policy priority.

Meta-analyses demonstrate that different violations may share common drivers and child protection systems must be able to address myriad types of violations. Furthermore, context is

significant – values, social structures, social norms, economic conditions, capacities and resources all have an impact on drivers and manifestations of violence and what might be the priority challenge in any particular setting and should be factored in when developing pathways to change.

Without additional investments in routine disaggregated administrative data on violence, exploitation and abuse of children (including violent deaths and injuries), and in periodic nationally representative sample surveys on prevalence rates, there is a risk that some areas of child protection, notably violence prevention, will continue to lack traction on public policy agendas. As part of efforts to address this gap, an indicator was included in the Strategic Plan, 2014-2017, on the number of countries that collect and publish routine administrative data on violence, exploitation and abuse of children, including violent deaths and injuries. Additional investments will also be made to strengthen other types of data, situation analysis and programme monitoring and evaluation (*see the sections on key result area 4 and future workplan for further details*).

Remaining barriers to achieving improvements in the lives of children

Despite significant advances in improving the lives of children over the MTSP period (see section on results for further details), the sector remains hampered by a number of barriers in each key result area. The hidden, sensitive and clandestine nature of many child rights violations, coupled with deeply entrenched cultural norms and social conventions, impedes the sector in developing systematic global data.

As noted earlier, during the MTSP period, focus has been on supporting the strategic shift towards a systems strengthening approach. Despite major advances, and a large proportion of countries mapping out their child protection systems, a key challenge at a macro level now is how to systematically measure the global impact of child protection systems on the lives of children. Similarly, although there has been an important shift towards improved data and evidence in the areas of violence and harmful practices, many challenges also remain, most notably the need for improved regular collection of administrative data on the incidence of violence as well as sustainable data collection methods as part of national data collection systems. Attention to building more effective data collection of the key indicators in these two key result areas is a significant consideration within the Strategic Plan, 2014-2017.

Data collection on the scale and extent of violations against children in situations of armed conflict and in natural disasters presents complex challenges, in particular due to the lack of access to affected populations, issues of insecurity, and underreporting due to the sensitivity of the information related to violations and other risks concerning stigmatization or in some cases retaliation against victims. The establishment in 2005 of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) for violations against children in armed conflict has helped to address some of these concerns by providing an evidence base for advocacy and response, specifically in relation to grave violations that occur in conflict situations.

Scale and scope of the global child protection context:

Juvenile justice

It is difficult to obtain reliable worldwide data on the number of children in detention. The 2006 'Manual for the measurement of juvenile justice indicators', which was developed by UNICEF and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and outlines 15 juvenile justice quantitative and policy indicators, was a step forward. However, in practice challenges remain to its effective implementation and comprehensive collection of information. The latest global figures (UNICEF,

2008) estimate that around 1.1 million children are detained through justice systems at any one time throughout the world. Around 59 per cent of the children in detention are awaiting trial or sentencing: ultimately only a few of these children end up receiving custodial sentences. For children in conflict with the law, efforts to date have largely engaged in reducing the numbers of children deprived of liberty through the promotion of diversion from judicial proceedings and alternative measures. Challenges remain in addressing the situation of children in contact with justice systems for reasons such as care, custody or inheritance.

Family separation

In 2008, the year for which global figures are most recently available, it was estimated that at least 2 million children around the world are living in care institutions. However, the majority of these children have at least one living parent.¹ Poverty and social exclusion are often the driving forces behind the numbers of children put in institutions, as well as a lack of political and financial commitment by many Governments to provide a range of alternative care options suitable to meeting the needs of individual children. In most countries, residential care is seen as the most straightforward and first-choice response, even though investments in such facilities divert limited and vital resources away from family-based alternatives and the provision of quality social welfare services. The increased number of countries shaping national alternative care policies around the UN-welcomed 2009 Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children is a clear marker that political traction is being gained. However, data challenges continue to exist, since in many countries non-governmental bodies provide such services, and Governments do not always monitor these services.

Unaccompanied and separated children in emergencies

Children in emergency situations are at high risk of becoming separated from their families and caregivers, especially when forced to flee because of armed conflict or when displaced due to natural disasters. Measuring the scale and scope of children unaccompanied or separated in emergencies was identified by the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) in 2013 as a major challenge facing emergency response programmes, in particular because of difficulties in accessing affected and displaced populations during sudden-onset emergencies. The difficulty in identifying and reaching children at greatest risk in turn limits the ability to respond to their needs and prevent further separation. To address those difficulties, new strategies and methodologies are being introduced to identify the scale and scope of the issue of separation to help speed efforts to reach children and their families for identification and reunification. This includes rapid assessment that directly engages communities that are best placed to know and inform the scope of family separation and the driving factors. In acute emergencies, rapid family tracing and reunification are introduced, for example as was the case in the Philippines and South Sudan, to greatly shorten the time needed for identification and reunification, thus helping to prevent the additional risks facing unaccompanied and separated children, such as the inability to access basic services and the high risk of exploitation, recruitment by armed groups, trafficking and sexual violence.

Birth registration

Birth registration is a passport to protection, yet globally around 230 million children under five years of age have not had their births registered. The lowest levels of birth registration are found in sub-Saharan Africa (44 per cent) and South Asia (39 per cent), which is the region with the largest overall numbers of births and children under five years of age. In Eastern and Southern Africa, only 38 per cent of children are registered by their fifth birthday, leaving about 44 million children under five years of age unrecorded. The rate of birth registration in West and Central Africa is slightly higher, at 47 per cent. While there is no difference in the rates of registration

between boys and girls, children from the lowest wealth quintile are less likely to be registered than those from the highest, and children in rural areas are less likely to be registered than those in urban areas.² Despite existing barriers, the increased political attention to birth registration, particularly by regional governmental bodies as a key to good governance, provides the opportunity to make universal and free birth registration a reality. The main challenge is to have a well- functioning birth registration system that is part of a civil registration system and which is universal, compulsory, free, easily accessible, timely and accurate.

Violence against children

Violence against children affects every stratum of society and occurs in many settings – homes, schools, communities, care and justice institutions, workplaces and increasingly, via the Internet. There are numerous studies on specific forms of violence such as physical violence, sexual violence and exploitation, child labour and FGM/C – marking a difference from the situation when the first global study was published in 2006. There is now greater awareness of the harmful impact of violence on the lives of children, and improved understanding that violence affects children's social, physical and emotional well-being and development in the short and long term. This increased knowledge has advanced understanding of the dynamics of social norms that result in violence, exploitation and abuse and of the actions needed to promote positive norms aimed at ending harmful practices. However, barriers remain and there is an urgent need to invest greater efforts in obtaining more robust data, and in strengthening the programmatic response through proven approaches that place greater focus on monitoring for results.

- Each year, it has been estimated that between 133 million and 275 million children witness episodes of violent behaviour between their parents.³
- On average, three in four children between aged 2–14 years are subjected to some kind of violent discipline at home. Although physical punishment is widespread, data show that in most countries the majority of caregivers do not endorse it. On average, only one in four caregivers believe that physical punishment is needed to bring up children properly.⁴
- In a global school-based student health survey carried out in a range of developing countries, between 20 per cent and 65 per cent of school-aged children reported having been verbally or physically bullied in school in the previous 30 days.⁵

Gender-based violence

The problem of addressing GBV in emergencies is compounded by the reality that GBV is a significant challenge around the world. For example, in terms of intimate partner violence, global data demonstrate that worldwide, almost one third of all women who have been in a relationship have experienced partner violence (21 per cent in North America; 33 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean; 29 per cent in Eastern and Central Asia; 40 per cent in the Middle East and North Africa; 43 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa; 30 per cent in East Asia and the Pacific; and 28 per cent in Australia and New Zealand).⁶ Recent population-based surveys on experiences of violence in childhood conducted by the Governments of Kenya, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe with support from UNICEF and partners of the Together for Girls initiative including the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that approximately 27-38 per cent of females had experienced sexual violence before they reached 18 years of age, and well over half of them had experienced more than one incident.⁷ It is difficult to obtain reliable incidence data on GBV in emergencies due to underreporting resulting from the lack of available services, fear of reprisal and stigmatization of survivors, as well as methodological and contextual challenges of researching GBV in humanitarian settings (for example, challenges of conducting research in emergencies on such a sensitive subject matter such as access to survivors and security concerns for survivors and

researchers, and lack of available response services). Even so, a growing body of evidence is bringing to light the sheer scope of what has been characterized as “one of history’s great silences.”⁸

Despite the lack of comprehensive prevalence data, qualitative research and anecdotal reports from around the world suggest that GBV is significantly aggravated during conflict and disasters. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, sexual violence against women and girls – both as a direct tactic of armed groups as well as by opportunists taking advantage of the climate of impunity – has been so extensive that the conflict has sometimes been referred to as “the war against women”.⁹ In addition, a 2012 inter-agency assessment in Mali showed that displaced girls often engage in transactional/exploitative sex to provide for their families.

Despite progress, the global response to GBV in emergencies remains grossly inadequate.¹⁰ Protection and services for survivors are limited and little attention has been paid to developing broad-based prevention programming. In the midst of crises, even the most basic risk-mitigation efforts that could save the lives of children and women are often deemed non-essential and overlooked – locks on latrines, for example, or targeted food distributions, or strategies for monitoring and preventing GBV in formal and informal learning centres. In each new emergency, actors working on GBV are confronted with the need to advocate for this programming.

Armed violence

Armed violence on average kills 526,000 people each year,¹¹ even in countries not typically classified as experiencing conflict, including middle-income countries. The 2014 report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reveals staggering figures. In 2012, there were 90.4 homicides per 100,000 people in Honduras, 53.7 in Venezuela and 31 in South Africa.¹² These are higher rates than in some high-intensity conflicts and over half of the victims are under 30 years of age. In Brazil, the gains made in reducing under-five mortality between 2004 and 2007 were more than offset by homicides among young people aged 14–19 years. Likewise, more women in Latin America and the Caribbean now die of gunshot wounds than in childbirth. Relentless violence and insecurity increases the fragility of government institutions – including those designed to educate and protect children – and impedes sustainable development. Given current trends, it is likely that armed violence also will be an impediment to achieving the post-2015 agenda. The impact on children’s rights will be measured by the long-term effects it has on their education, health, social and economic development.

The Strategic Plan, 2014-2017, promotes reduction of armed violence by lessening children’s vulnerability to being coerced into criminal activity through stronger child protection systems, and by promoting social norms that protect them. Improving the standardization of definitions and data collection on violent deaths and injuries will be a particular focus for programme offices in the next plan period.

Female genital mutilation/cutting

In 2008, 10 United Nations agencies signed a common statement of principles on how to support Governments, civil society and populations affected by FGM/C to promote its total abandonment. The UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on FGM/C remains the largest global effort to stop this practice. Despite 15 countries adhering to public declarations stating their intention to abandon FGM/C, recent 2013 data indicate that more than 125 million girls and women alive today have been cut in the 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East where FGM/C is concentrated, and a further 30 million girls are at risk in the next decade. The practice is almost universal in Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea and Somalia, with prevalence levels above 90 per cent, while it affects only 1 per cent of girls and women in Cameroon and Uganda. The greatest

challenge to ending the practice centres on the fact that FGM/C, as with many traditional practices, is deeply entrenched in community heritage. Overcoming this challenge requires creating an enabling environment for abandonment of FGM/C, including programming that addresses the unique cultural and social dynamics of each community.

Child labour

New global estimates released in 2013, based on statistical evidence from UNICEF, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank, show a decline in child labour of about one third since 2000. Yet worldwide, about 168 million children aged 5-17 years are still engaged in child labour, accounting for almost 11 per cent of all children. Around 85 million of these children are involved in hazardous work – one of the worst forms of child labour. While UNICEF traditionally approached child labour issues through an interventionist child protection lens, implementing small-scale, issue-specific projects, many education, health and social protection interventions also contribute to reducing child labour. Over time, UNICEF has emerged as a key provider of technical expertise in delivering services to support children who are vulnerable to child labour, particularly in developing effective referral systems and more effective legislative frameworks. Since the main barrier to eliminating child labour consists of poverty and social exclusion, the UNICEF approach to child labour will in particular seek to address these factors through a comprehensive child protection systems approach that takes into account the full range of vulnerabilities of children in child labour.

Child marriage

Child marriage continues to be a serious global concern.¹³ Prevalence rates vary dramatically, both within and between countries. In terms of both proportions and actual numbers, most child marriages take place in South Asia and rural sub-Saharan Africa. Nearly half of young women in South Asia, and more than one third of young women in sub-Saharan Africa, are married by their 18th birthdays.¹⁴ If current levels of child marriage hold, it is anticipated that during 2011–2020, 140 million girls will marry before the age of 18 years, of whom 50 million will be under 15 years of age.

Strengthening strategic partnerships for action

Starting with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the child protection sector is increasingly guided by resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, guidelines endorsed by the General Assembly and a host of other global and regional standards that were almost non-existent two decades ago. These include, for example, the appointment of three SRSGs with a specific aspect of child protection in their mandates – violence against children, children affected by armed conflict and sexual violence in conflict – as well as the Secretary-General's 2006 study on violence against children.

UNICEF has carved out a niche role as a convener, facilitator and collaborator, catalyzing global advocacy to guide and shape global frameworks and also ensure that international norms and standards are translated into practical, actionable frameworks at the national and local levels. UNICEF is regarded within the United Nations system and beyond as the global leader in the protection of children, and is uniquely placed to leverage this presence and global leadership to ensure that child protection issues attract the requisite attention, investment and action. More specifically, important advances continue towards ensuring the fulfilment of international human rights standards and political commitments protecting children from different forms of violence, abuse and exploitation.¹⁵

In addition to United Nations partnerships, there is now a growing child protection community, in terms of both numbers and effectiveness, comprising Governments, international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), foundations, the private sector, faith-based actors, academia and other civil society organizations and networks, including for example, the Better Care Network, the Day of Prayer and Action for Children and Social Service Workforce Alliance. In relation to violence against children, UNICEF, alongside other United Nations partners, the United States Government, the private sector and foundations, continues its active engagement in the 'Together for Girls', a unique public-private partnership.

Despite significant advances, and the contributions of UNICEF to catalyzing strategic partnership at all levels over the MTSP period, challenges remain in enabling the sector to act 'as a whole'. As UNICEF embarks on its next strategic phase, solidifying existing partnerships and forging a greater global child protection community will be one of a number of key priorities.

Professionalizing the sector

UNICEF invests significantly in building the capacities of the child protection sector at national level and there is a growing cadre of child protection professionals in programming countries. At the same time, it is also essential to ensure that trained child protection specialists continue to emerge from academic and training institutions from around the world, and UNICEF is contributing to this process. For instance, with input from UNICEF, the Harvard School of Public Health and an international advisory committee comprising senior academics from across the globe, a graduate-level programme for mid-career professionals is being designed with the aim of building a much-needed team of interdisciplinary child protection experts around the world. The programme initially will be offered as part of Harvard's Master of Public Health programme, but will be expanded to universities around the world in context-specific forms. To further support capacity-building of child protection specialists able to work in all types of emergencies, a child protection in emergencies diploma is being developed through CPWG, Save the Children, senior academics and the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Within specific areas of professional expertise, advances also continue apace. For example, the major success of the UNICEF two-week course on 'Advances in Social Norms' that was held at the University of Pennsylvania over the past four years has generated an unmet demand not only within UNICEF, but also from a wide array of partners including United Nations partners, the World Bank, government officials, non-governmental partners and donors. As one way to meet this demand, UNICEF is in advanced negotiations with the University of Pennsylvania to move forward with the development of an open source online course that could be available to all. This will be an important part of the continued effort to build capacity in strengthening programmes and policy design and implementation.

In recent years, there also has been an increase in demand for child protection practitioners by UNICEF and other partners in development contexts and humanitarian response. UNICEF is continuing to build the capacity of internal staff to support these and other priorities. To more systematically track the scale and depth of the skills and experiences of UNICEF staff and long-term consultants in child protection, the first-ever skills mapping survey was undertaken to obtain an accurate picture of existing expertise, as well as identify gaps in knowledge and skills. The findings are informing the organization's development of a capacity-building strategy.

The Child Protection Funders Group,¹⁶ UNICEF and WHO play a key conceptual and organizational role in developing a major international learning initiative – 'KNOW Violence: A global learning initiative to build better lives for boys and girls' – on the prevention of

interpersonal violence against children. The initiative aims to synthesize the findings of research and evaluated practice from multiple disciplines and geographical areas on the drivers, prevalence, costs and consequences of violence, and identify what works sustainably to prevent violence affecting children, producing state-of-the-art resources and leveraging policy attention and engagement as it proceeds.

Moving towards the post-2015 period

Child protection issues were not part of the Millennium Development Goals. As 2015 approaches, it is more and more apparent that this is a serious omission; child protection issues impact children from all sectors and all societies. Although countries have made progress towards many of the Goals, such as reducing child and infant mortality, addressing nutrition and increasing access to quality education, these same countries still struggle to protect children from violence, exploitation and abuse.

The post-2015 agenda presents an opportunity to draw more global attention, focus, investment and action to address this imbalance, and to set targets that implicitly respond to child protection needs. This is not only vital in its own right, but it is also critical that actions to achieve child protection targets be woven into policy and programming within all sectors; child protection fundamentally impacts each of these areas. For instance, girls who are married before they reach 18 years of age are statistically most likely not to finish their education, and are at higher risk of pregnancy complications; and a child who witnesses domestic abuse in the home is more likely to perpetuate the cycle of violence in adulthood.

But it is not just individual children or families that are affected; violence against children impacts societies as a whole, resulting in lost productivity, disability and decreased quality of life, all of which can hold back a country's development. Estimates from the United States suggest that an adult victim of childhood maltreatment can cost society almost \$6,000 in lost earnings each year.¹⁷

UNICEF has been active in post-2015 development dialogue processes – both with child-focused agencies and with Member States – to contribute to the ongoing dialogue around prioritizing goals and targets, particularly for a number of key protection and child-related issues, including free and universal birth registration within a civil registration and vital statistics system; concerning violence against children; child marriage; and in goals on rule of law and governance.

Strategic value of thematic funding

A further barrier to achieving targets to improve the lives of children lies in the overall proportionate level of resources allocated to the child protection sector globally, nationally and subnationally. This is in part because child protection issues remain in the 'shadows' of fiscal space that is taken by more visible and quantifiable development issues, as evidenced by the lack of child protection targets embedded in the Millennium Development Goals. Thematic funds are crucial in this regard to provide programmatic space for child protection work to flourish. They are essential to ensure the ability of UNICEF to plan long-term programming, create programmatic cohesion, promote innovative programming and sustain work that may otherwise cease or be stalled. For example, in Sierra Leone, thematic funds were used to support the development of a comprehensive child welfare policy which lays the foundations for a national child protection system that is better able to prevent and respond to all kinds of child protection

issues. UNICEF Sierra Leone also supported the development of decentralized child protection mechanisms through local councils, child welfare committees, traditional and religious leaders and community groups. Without these funds, achievement of planned results would be compromised and programming stalled. Following preliminary analysis on justice for children conducted in 2011, UNICEF and UNODC developed a joint justice for children programme in Cape Verde. The programme, with its focus on technical support for prevention, identification, diversion, investigation, reinsertion and aftercare, is a good example of joint programming with key partners to achieve results for children.

Results

The MTSP 2006-2013 consolidated the shift to approaches to child protection that encompass systems and social change, leading to increasingly sophisticated work globally – both up- and downstream – including advances in systemic coordination and programmatic activity, and to more profound conceptualization of the protection agenda and its relationship to child well-being and inequity. As the sector has matured, the need for approaches to knowledge-generation that include prevalence data and robust evidence of what works and under what conditions is becoming more apparent to mobilize action and resources for areas of work within the sector.

There have also been concerted efforts to strengthen the way the sector works ‘as one’, and UNICEF plays an instrumental role both in cementing strong partnerships to catalyze and shape the direction of global action, and in furthering efforts to professionalize the sector. These shifts are essential in solidifying a strong platform to protect children from violence, exploitation and abuse. As the post-2015 era beckons and we move towards shaping the future global development agenda, it is more and more evident that child protection must be an integral part of the process and part of articulated goals and targets. Child protection issues are not discriminatory; their impact is felt at all levels in all societies throughout the world.

KEY RESULT AREA 1: Protection systems that include national laws, policies and services across sectors, in particular social justice and social protection, to protect all children from violence, exploitation and abuse

While the State has the ultimate responsibility to secure children’s protection, the approach expanded to recognize the many ways children are protected by families, communities and other organized or non-organized groups, as well as placed importance on the context in which the child protection system operates. Recognizing the importance of prevention in the first instance is an important objective, rather than only responding to children already facing violence. There is an acknowledgement that child protection systems can also harm children, notably in places where they discriminate against certain groups of children, highlighting that while it is necessary to look at the system as a whole, it is also important to consider specific risks such as those faced by children separated from their parents, in both humanitarian and development settings, and placed in alternative care or criminal or administrative detention facilities. Over the MTSP period, one finding has been that the focus on the broader boundary of child protection allows for examination of the impacts that some of these subsystems, such as juvenile justice or unsafe migration, have on each other. Systems are not static but are adaptive learning entities.

This shift in the child protection systems approach is detailed in the 2013 report, 'A Better Way to Protect ALL Children: the theory and practice of child protection systems',¹⁸ which provides a global resource on the current understanding of child protection systems. The support for the systems approach to child protection is also illustrated in the joint inter-agency statement 'Strengthening child protection systems in sub-Saharan Africa: A call to action' (2013),¹⁹ which has been welcomed by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

Over the MTSP period, 104 countries scoped out the nature of their systems and areas requiring strengthening, and as of the end of 2013, 74 of those countries now have results reflected in government budgets, policy papers or legislation, potentially benefiting 690 million children.

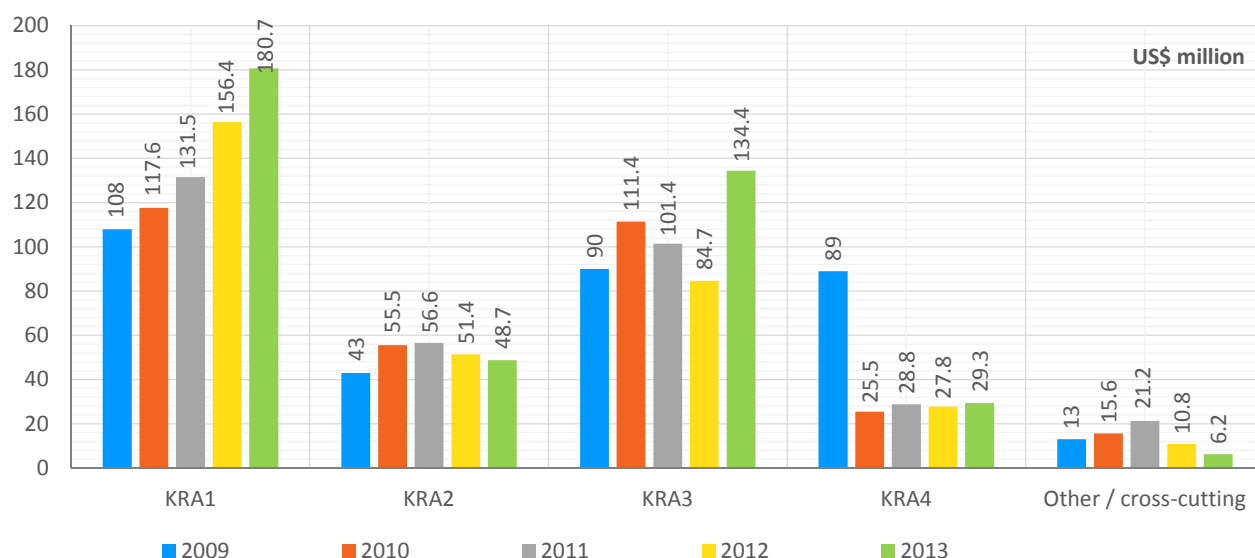
The continued knowledge leadership of UNICEF in systems development is exhibited by the role the organization plays in convening partners and building global consensus among leading regional and global academics, practitioners and decision makers. Its comparative advantage lies in its technical expertise in translating this learning into action for children, both in global forums and at the country level.

The Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, which were welcomed by the General Assembly in 2009, subsequently led to a real impetus in countries responding to the needs of children without parental care and who need alternative care placements. In 2006, 35 countries had an alternative care policy; by 2013, this had risen to 62 countries, with scope to protect potentially 455 million children. While the focus is on protecting all children, UNICEF pays particular attention to those at risk of exclusion, with support to around 76 countries on birth registration, 115 on alternative care, 2 on trafficking and migration and 115 on justice for children – all within an interrelated framework supporting capacity-building, national and community-level services, global norms and standards, national policy and legislative development, and research. Thirteen countries worked specifically on alternative care using a systems approach.

Birth registration is a key protection mechanism for children (and adults) and is the first recognition of a person before the law. The UNICEF focus on birth registration has increased from intervening programmatically in around 60 countries in 2006 to 76 in 2013. Over the MTSP period, support has moved away from isolated campaigns, which evidence shows do not work, towards systematic support to national civil registration systems. The recognition of the advantage of birth registration to achieve the rights of children within and beyond child protection has encouraged the interoperability of the civil registry with other sectors such as health and social protection, as well as the increased use of innovations, including through information and communication technology (ICT).

Since 2008 – the year of the Secretary-General's Guidance Note on the United Nations Approach to Justice for Children – the number of programming countries carrying out justice for children activities has remained relatively stable. However, there is a progressive endorsement of the shift from 'juvenile justice' to 'justice for children'.

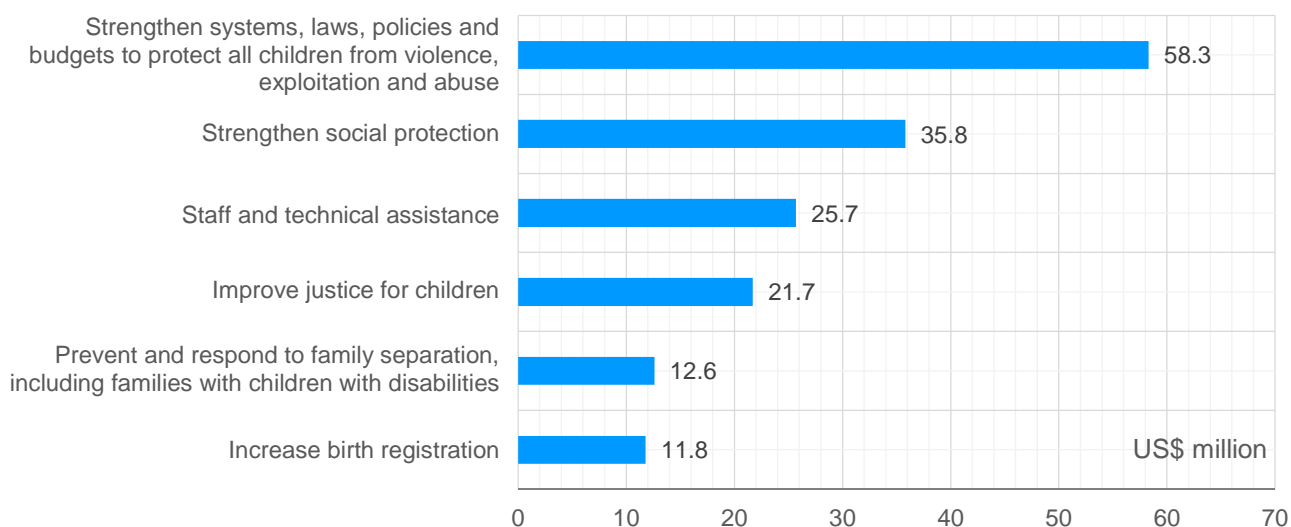
UNICEF Expenditure by Key Results Area for Child Protection from Violence, Exploitation and Abuse (2009-2013)



**Figure excludes funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational and other costs.*

Reflecting on expenditure trends for MTSP focus area 4, the largest area of programming investment is for key result area (KRA) 1. Since 2009, there has been a significant increase in the attention paid to child protection systems, and investment has also increased as countries pay more attention to systems strengthening. The largest growth in targeted investment has been in the past two years, when system assessment has been integrated as a dominant theme in country offices' work. These periods also reflect the roll-out of complementary resources such as the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, and of 'Moving Forward: Implementing the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children', and toolkits for diversion and alternatives to detention and for victims and witnesses.

KRA1 2013 global expenditure



**Figure excludes funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational and other costs.*

The three thematic areas – justice for children, birth registration and prevention of family separation – appear to have lower resource expenditures, but this is misleading as these are also reflected in the overall objective of system strengthening.

Collaboration and coordination

Strengthening collaboration and coordination among child protection system actors is one of the key thrusts of the 2008 UNICEF child protection strategy. At the global level, UNICEF has a fundamental role in ensuring alignment and coordination with other United Nations agencies and international groups to promote harmonization of efforts and ensure results for children. UNICEF engagement with the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group supports the development of reports to the Secretary-General, General Assembly and Security Council on the United Nations' global contribution to the rule of law. This is included as part of the Deputy Secretary-General's annual review of the United Nations system's contributions in the rule of law. UNICEF has an implicit role to ensure the rights of children are integrated in processes contributing to the development of post-2015 targets and indicators in the rule of law.

UNICEF continues to play a role in the implementation of the global focal point arrangement in delivering assistance on the rule of law in post-conflict and crisis situations. For example, trainers in justice for children provided a regional training on the rule of law for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in Uganda in 2013. UNICEF also provided substantial input into 'UNODC guidance on early access to legal aid and violence against children in the justice system.' The Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) continues to work to protecting children from the growing threat of trafficking. ICAT is developing its role as a technical body, and in 2013 produced a paper on international legal frameworks.

Significant networks are developing around the civil registry and vital statistics (CRVS). UNICEF is one of the founders of the Global Working Group on Civil Registration, along with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), International Development Bank, WHO and Plan International. The Working Group advocates for and shares learning for effective CRVS in countries. In the context of the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of CRVS, UNICEF supports the development of in-country plans and implementation that are part of national commitments made at the first ministerial meeting in 2010, supported by UNICEF, the African Union Commission and African Development Bank.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, UNICEF actively collaborates with the Organization of American States and Inter-American Development Bank around birth registration. In Asia and Pacific, UNICEF and partners including ESCAP are working to organize a civil registry government-working group. At the country level, UNICEF is working with, among others, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNFPA, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the European Union to support birth registration within integrated CRVS systems. For example, UNICEF collaborates with ECA to support the development of the CRVS system in South Sudan. UNICEF is partnering in seven countries with private technology providers to develop and promote innovative technology-based services supporting birth registration, including in Pakistan, where UNICEF established a Technical Advisory Group for Children comprising 14 corporations including Google and Intel. This resulted in innovative approaches such as the use of mobile phones for birth registration.

A total of 59 countries collaborated with other partners on social protection and alternative care. This emphasizes the prevention angle of the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, which calls for children to be placed in such care only when this is necessary. One example was

in Armenia, where UNICEF collaborated with the World Bank on developing integrated social centres. The World Bank focused on support to infrastructure and UNICEF on the innovative aspects of the reform process, including case management practices; territorial social planning; and enhancing institutional cooperation among social (health, education, social protection) services around common issues affecting vulnerable children and their families.

In 2013, UNICEF supported more than 88 countries in legislative and policy reform in specific protection areas.

Laws, policies and standards

As part of its strategic mandate, UNICEF plays a key role in acting as a global advocate to ensure that international norms and standards are translated into practical, actionable frameworks at the national and local levels, and to provide a supportive, transformative role to decision makers to help shape national systems development. A compendium of recent action examples in all areas of UNICEF country support is highlighted in Annex A.

A total of 49 countries worked on policies, legislation and standards relating to alternative care. To assist appropriate application of alternative care, an inter-agency guide, 'Moving Forward: Implementing the 'Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children'' was published in seven languages and distributed to key stakeholders. Efforts in Eastern Europe to end the institutionalization of children under three years of age in line with the Guidelines garnered government attention. This initiative has since spread to Latin America, where a call to action was issued in October 2013,²⁰ supported by the Presidents of Costa Rica, Honduras and Paraguay. Given the known effects of residential care, particularly on young children's emotional, social and physical development, this is an important step to help prevent the long-term consequences of such care on the most vulnerable members of society.

In the area of justice for children, 51 countries addressed policies, legislations and strategies, leading to the passing of at least 12 important national laws related to justice for children,²¹ which has the potential to impact 410 million children. Since the Economic and Social Council adopted the United Nations Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime in 2005, important progress has been made to promote their implementation. Tools have been developed and disseminated with UNODC including a child-friendly version of the Guidelines (2006); a model law and related commentary (2009); and a 'Handbook for Professionals and Policymakers' (2009). In 2013, measures to implement the guidelines were noted in 54 countries, an increase of 63 per cent from the 34 countries reporting in 2006.

UNICEF provided technical assistance to 29 countries to develop or improve laws guaranteeing access to birth registration, including in Chad, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan and Uganda, some of the countries that have the lowest overall rates of registration.

Services and service delivery mechanisms

Increasingly, UNICEF work is focused upstream to advocate with Governments for enhancing service delivery. The main challenges in many countries concern the lack of capacity for service delivery, including qualified staff. Approximately 49 countries, an increase of 65 per cent compared to the 32 countries reporting in 2011, worked on the provision of alternative-care services, either directly providing services or working with Governments in developing new types of services, such as community-based services (*see Annex A for a compendium of 2013 country actions*).

In the area of justice for children, 22 countries reported work on implementation of diversion from judicial proceedings, restorative justice approaches and alternatives to deprivation of liberty, in collaboration with communities, police and judicial professionals, and 26 countries promoted legal aid for victims and witnesses. Work continues on the use of child-friendly and gender-appropriate investigation and court procedures. Twenty-six countries reporting such actions are in line with international standards, compared to 16 countries at the start of the MTSP period.

UNICEF supported service provision in 23 countries, working with national civil registration authorities and partners to increase the accessibility and reach of birth registration services. UNICEF supported the registration of approximately 30.6 million children's births in 2013, in part through improvements in service and service delivery mechanisms, including integrated approaches combining birth registration with the health, education and social service sectors. In order to address inequities in registration rates, UNICEF has supported targeted service delivery to children from marginalized or vulnerable populations, and in at least 11 countries UNICEF supported intersectoral cooperation between the health sector and the civil registry to reach remote groups through community health workers.

UNICEF supported at least 54 countries during 2013 to improve children's access to protection, prevention services and delivery mechanisms.

Communication and advocacy

During 2013, at least 94 UNICEF country offices worked on communication and advocacy strategies, predominantly with government and civil society partners, to promote child protection actions. A total of 44 country offices worked on advocacy in relation to alternative care issues, including on topics relating to prevention of family separation, such as advocacy to change perceptions and practices and improve the inclusion of children with disabilities using public events, campaigns and evidence. At least 84 countries worked on advocacy for legislative reform for juvenile for children. In 77 countries it is observed that United Nations agencies working in the justice sector or on security reform have integrated girls and boys into their advocacy and programming efforts on the rule of law, compared to 49 countries in 2008. Thirty-two programme countries worked on initiatives to raise awareness of the importance of birth registration, including through the use of communication for development (C4D) and social media. Awareness was also significantly bolstered by the publication of two major resources, 'A Passport to Protection: A guide to birth registration programming' and 'Every Child's Birth Right: Inequities and trends in birth registration'. The documents are key resources to strengthen national learning and capacity-building.

A Passport to Protection

Birth registration provides a critical step towards safeguarding many of a child's civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Government-led regional initiatives aimed at improving civil registration (of which birth registration is a part) have gained traction in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The percentage of children under five years of age whose births are registered increased from 58 per cent in 2000 to 65 per cent in 2010. However, globally around 230 million children under age five years still have not had their births registered.

In response to a lack of programme guidance on birth registration, in 2013 UNICEF produced a handbook, 'A Passport to Protection: A guide to birth registration programming', detailing the complexities of birth registration policy and programming and for the first time defining the characteristics of a well-functioning birth registration system. Alongside the handbook, a statistical publication, 'Every Child's Birth Right: Inequities and trends in birth registration', presents the largest compilation of birth registration statistics to date, covering 161 countries. Unique additions to previous analyses of data includes: a review of possession of the birth certificate; trend data; and evidence on the relationship between a country's income and ability to achieve full registration. The release of these reports generated major media interest from more than 300 outlets worldwide and triggered action. For example, coverage in all three major Ugandan newspapers led to profiling the UNICEF-supported innovative Mobile Vital Records System (MobileVRS), which is dramatically improving registration rates. There are now calls for MobileVRS to be scaled up across the country.

The report findings define the characteristics of well-functioning birth registration: it should be within the civil registry; be free of charge, universal in coverage, confidential, timely and accurate; and while it may be compulsory, it can be so only when the other characteristics are firmly established. The value of interoperability with other sectors is also highlighted. In Brazil, for example, civil registration processes are deployed in public hospitals, contributing, in part, to an increase of 15 per cent in registration rates between 2000 and 2010. In South Africa, birth registration is needed to obtain social assistance benefits. Digitization and the use of innovation also have a positive impact. In Mbeya region, United Republic of Tanzania, the 2013 roll-out of a mobile phone application to register births to a central data ban, led to a dramatic increase in registration rates after only three months of operation.

More than 15 African countries are developing costed CRVS action reform plans, which are currently under review by regional bodies and governments, and are complementing existing action.

Capacity building

The impact of UNICEF support for bolstering national capacities to develop a strong workforce within the child protection system has increased steadily in recent years. Greater focus is being placed on creating a skilled child protection workforce that can be effective within a specialist area and within the system as a whole. In 2013, UNICEF supported capacity-building activities in at least 100 countries, a significant increase compared to the 54 countries reporting in 2011.

In the area of justice for children, 73 countries undertook capacity-building activities on amenities and staff competencies. In Malawi, probation officers, magistrates, investigators and prosecutors were trained; child protection was integrated in training curricula for police and lay magistrates; and three courts were rehabilitated and equipped with closed-circuit television cameras. In Latin America and the Caribbean, 72 judges, prosecutors and lawyers from 14 countries in the region participated in the sixteenth course on judicial protection on the rights of children. The course was organized with the national schools for judges and prosecutors of the Dominican Republic and Chile's Universidad Diego Portales to strengthen the application of international human rights treaties in the judicial processes involving children and adolescents.

In 54 countries, a range of trainings took place and curricula on justice for children were developed for a number of recognized training institutions. UNICEF supports not only professionals working with children but also the media, as they play a vital role in the child protection system. In Republic of Moldova, journalists were trained on ethical reporting on children in conflict with the law, and child-friendly reporting was introduced into the journalism degree at the University of Montenegro.

More than 73 country offices implemented capacity-building action to improve the skills of alternative care services and support family strengthening activities. For example, in Indonesia some 30 lecturers from the Bandung School of Social Work and some member universities of the Indonesian Association of Social Work Education were trained as trainers in child protection and child care. In Yemen, 2,047 community volunteers were trained in interpersonal skills and family child care practices. Thirteen countries provided training for front-line community and health workers on the promotion of birth registration and birth notification procedures. In over 20 countries, UNICEF worked with government partners to perform reviews and analysis of the birth registration systems in their countries, including through the use of bottleneck analyses in at least eight countries.

KEY RESULT AREA 2: Dialogue stimulated among social networks and nationally that reinforces social conventions, norms and values that favour the prevention of violence, exploitation, abuse and unnecessary separation for all children and lead to questioning of child rights violations including harmful conventions and practices, while ensuring respect for the views of children and building on young people's resilience

Attention to violence against children has grown significantly since the start of the MTSP in 2006. There is greater awareness of the harmful impact of violence on the lives of children – and improved understanding that violence affects children's social, physical and emotional well-being and development – in the short and long term. This increased knowledge has advanced understanding of the dynamics of social norms that result in violence, exploitation and abuse and the actions needed to promote positive norms aimed at ending harmful practices. However, it also reveals the urgent need to invest greater efforts in obtaining more robust data, and in strengthening the programmatic response through proven approaches that place greater focus on monitoring for results. Advocacy efforts have been greatly expanded and partnerships with government leaders, key religious or civil society leaders and community leaders have been forged in the area of preventing and responding to violence and harmful practices.

In 2013, UNICEF launched the #ENDviolence against Children initiative to 'make the invisible visible' and spur greater attention and action to address the global problem of violence against children. Drawing on UNICEF strengths in communication and child protection programming, this multi-year initiative serves as a platform not only for catalyzing social change but also for strengthening national protective systems. To date, over 60 countries have participated in the initiative online and it has attracted over 20 million Facebook visits.

Central to improved programming are national and community-level education and communication strategies that focus on community values and aspirations and human rights. The process of changing social norms related to forms of violence, exploitation and abuse is time- and resource-intensive, but it does lead to positive and lasting change. In recent years this is evidenced by the abandonment of FGM/C in a number of communities and decreases in child marriage and violence. This work is crucial for sustained improvements in children's lives.

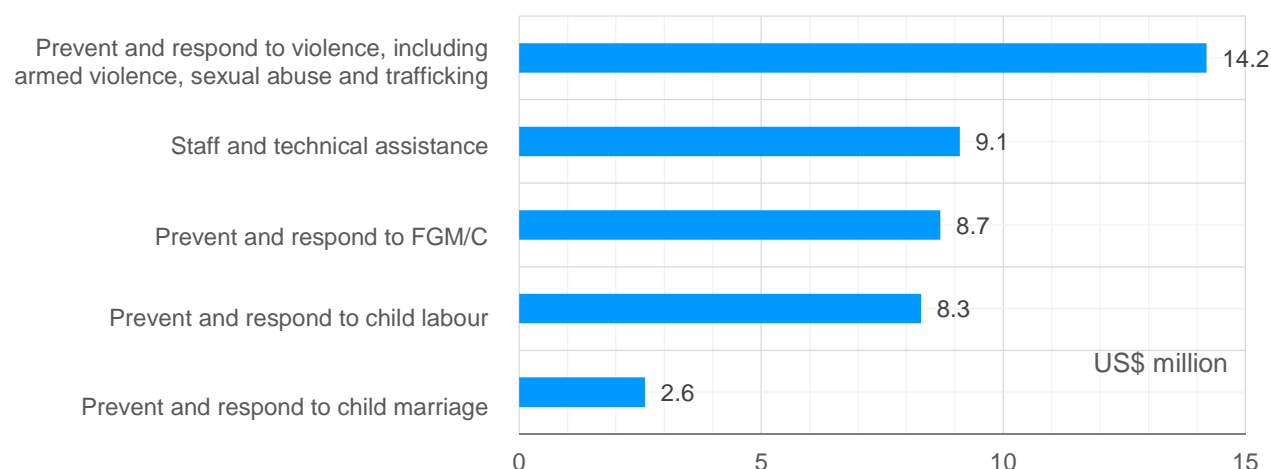
A number of key global and regional partnerships are now in place to support Governments' compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols and other international norms and standards. Some key examples include the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on FGM/C; 'Understanding Children's Work', a joint partnership between the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF and the World Bank, to support research and improve data on child labour; and the 'Together for Girls' initiative with its focus on violence against children. Examples of regional partnerships include those with the South Asian Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Children and Women; the Latin American and Caribbean Chapter of the Global Movement for Children in Latin America; and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children.

Increasing the availability and quality of child protection data collection at country level is seen through a growing number of routinized surveys, notably the multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS) which provide key data on child marriage, child labour and FGM/C, as well as information on violent discipline. The number of countries applying a MICS module on violent discipline increased from 37 in 2006 to over 57 in 2013. Furthermore, national household surveys on key forms of violence against children are being carried out more systematically with support from UNICEF. Since the first national household survey was undertaken in Swaziland in 2007 in collaboration with the Swazi Government and CDC, seven additional countries have completed surveys on violence against boys and girls, three more are underway and four were initiated in 2013, in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malawi, and Nigeria.

Also notable is the 2013 report, 'Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: a statistical overview and exploration of the dynamics of change', which provides the most comprehensive analysis to date of household survey data on FGM/C. Public policies to address violence against children have increased since the start of the MTSP period. The 2013 report of the SRSG on Violence Against Children, 'Toward a World Free from Violence: Global Survey on Violence against

Children,' found that more than 80 countries now have policies in place to prevent and address violence – an increase from the 47 countries identified in 2006. UNICEF continued to work to improve policy and programme responses to address violence as a key component of its country programmes.

KRA2 2013 global expenditure



**Figure excludes funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational and other costs.*

In 2013, programme investment in social norms was largest in the area of violence prevention and response, including armed violence, sexual abuse and trafficking; 123 UNICEF country offices supported Governments and civil society to address physical and sexual violence against children. Commonly, programmes focus on raising awareness of the impact of violence and on working with parents, teachers, health professionals and community leaders to build capacities to identify and respond to violence against children.

Additional expenditures were made to support efforts to eliminate FGM/C, where UNICEF further strengthened its global and national leadership role. Investment in the areas of child labour and child marriage was focused on advocacy, support for improving the legal and regulatory framework and programme efforts in key countries. Both areas anticipate an increase in programme funding and attention in the next Strategic Plan period, stemming from commitments made in global forums during 2013.

Increasingly, it is emerging that UNICEF programme countries are gaining a better understanding of violence being rooted in cultural and social beliefs, practices and norms, and efforts are needed to assess the social and cultural determinants of violence in order to shift societal perceptions towards children and violence. In 2013, 123 countries across all seven regions undertook various interventions, ranging from policy and legal reform to promoting behaviour and social change.

Advocacy and partnerships for change

UNICEF works closely with the SRSG on Violence Against Children at national, regional and global levels on multiple, highly visible and effective advocacy, including joint advocacy efforts to ensure that the post-2015 global development agenda includes attention to the protection of children from violence. This is a priority of the Special Representative, who further reaffirmed this critical concern during a high-level event organized in March 2013 in conjunction with UNICEF, the Governments of Canada, Liberia and Sweden and a network of civil society partners.

The year 2013 was also marked by significant investments at global level to ensure that the issues received high visibility in international forums. The agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its 57th session on the elimination and prevention of violence against women and girls, urged States to comply with their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition, an important precedent was set through the references highlighting the use of a life-cycle approach to end discrimination and violence against women and children, the adoption of positive child-rearing and parenting practices and recognition of the protective roles of the family to prevent violence. Member States also renewed the mandate of the SRSG on Violence against Children in 2013, highlighting the importance of having an independent global advocate for the protection of children from violence.

The role of UNICEF in catalyzing action and leveraging support is highlighted through partnerships such as the 2009 'Together for Girls' initiative, focusing on 15 countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and South-East Asia and the Pacific. This initiative seeks to improve the availability of national-level data on violence to inform evidence-based policy development and response planning. These efforts continue to yield results. In United Republic of Tanzania, the multi-sector national action plan focused recent efforts on building the capacities of an estimated 4,000 social welfare officers, community development officers, teachers, health workers, police and district justice officials on child protection. Plans are underway to extend the reach to a projected 581,163 children and 568,855 parents, caregivers and community members in four districts. Swaziland launched a database to track cases of violence, and is scaling up post-rape care through one-stop centres and establishing child- and women-friendly courts. Zimbabwe is conducting a national campaign on child sexual abuse to combat social norms that sanction violence against children. Each of these actions was triggered by UNICEF-supported data surveys on the prevalence and impact of violence on the lives of children.

The year 2013 also saw increased efforts to address violence against children using a life-cycle approach. Around 41 countries have specific programmes addressing violence in schools and promoting safe learning environments. Thirty-seven countries report work towards promoting positive discipline in schools and in the home. As part of efforts to improve the evidence base on positive parenting programmes, UNICEF, WHO and the University of Cape Town developed a guidance document for field practitioners, 'Preventing violence: Evaluating outcomes of parenting programmes'.

UNICEF has played an important role in ensuring that countries have in place a protective legal framework in relation to child discipline. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is the most recent country to date to achieve legal reform prohibiting all corporal punishment of children in all settings including the home, bringing to 36 the total number of States to do this worldwide. In schools, there has been an increase in the number of countries prohibiting corporal punishment from 117 in 2012 to 122 in 2013.

Due to their influential role in shaping and guiding community behaviours, UNICEF is increasingly engaged with religious and faith-based organizations on stopping violence against children, particularly as part of the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children. These efforts have gained new traction both at country and global levels. In 2013, UNICEF was engaged in at least 25 countries in support of activities related to the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children initiative, mobilizing religious communities on and around 20 November – the anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child – to stop violence against children at home, in schools and the community, with a specific focus on promotion of positive parenting and non-violent discipline, birth registration and ending child marriage.

UNICEF initiated collaboration with Drexel University to analyze C4D approaches to violence prevention, aimed at providing insights towards strengthening programme design, implementation and monitoring mechanisms. While the review showed that the use of C4D approaches to address violence against children has increased steadily since 2000, it also found a paucity of robust and rigorous evaluations, notably a serious lack of evaluation data on the effectiveness of interventions and readily available local indicators. The report, presented at a regional meeting in Dakar, Senegal in October 2013, brought together C4D and child protection teams to explore best practices and outcomes of programme communication efforts to prevent violence against children.

A comprehensive approach to protecting children from violence, abuse and exploitation: lessons from Papua Province, Indonesia

In Indonesia, where violence against children is considered a serious challenge, the Government is supporting innovative and multi-sectoral interventions to more effectively address the problem. According to data from 2011, emotional and physical punishment is very common: 90 per cent of children between aged 2–14 years have experienced violent punishment and one out of every four adults admitted to using severe physical punishment against children. A number of child protection indicators are strikingly high in Papua Province, where more than half of the women believe domestic violence is justified.

Working with academic and local government partners, UNICEF implemented a school and community education initiative in Papua in 2012-2013. The 'Safe and Strong Schools' (*Aman dan Kuat*) teacher training and classroom curriculum programme includes training in positive disciplinary approaches for teachers, and a social and emotional skills curriculum for primary and secondary students that focuses on developing the skills needed for positive relationships. While the impact of the programme is still being analyzed, the work is yielding results. Local authorities are already exploring the integration of positive discipline and life-skills approaches into the new education curricula and pre-service training for all teachers.

At the same time and recognizing the need for a more national, country-wide approach to measuring and addressing violence against children, UNICEF and the Government of Indonesia have simultaneously invested in a national household survey on violence against children that covers physical, emotional and sexual violence. Findings from the survey are currently being analyzed and a costed response plan is under development. The response plan will aim to foster national investment in proven prevention and response strategies to protect children from violence, like the positive discipline work in Papua Province. It will be accompanied by a national costing, monitoring and evaluation plan that measures change in health-seeking behaviour for survivors, shifts in attitudes and beliefs about violence against children and ultimately a reduction in the prevalence of

violence. It will also link to a broader effort to strengthen child protection systems, a priority of Indonesia's forthcoming national strategic plan for 2015-2019.

These efforts serve as an illustration of a concerted effort by the Indonesian Government and partners to aim for a holistic and evidence-based approach to address violence against children. This approach is important to achieve sustainable and long-term success.

Sexual abuse and exploitation

Five years after the Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Call for Action to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children (2008), and more than three years into the Secretary-General's campaign for universal ratification of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,²² national commitment to end child sexual abuse and exploitation is sustained across all regions. Steady progress is being made towards universal ratification of the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography as a result of the Secretary-General's campaign,²³ resulting in 86 per cent of all Member States having ratified the Optional Protocol at the end of 2013, compared to two thirds at the time of the 2010 campaign launch. UNICEF work at all levels is instrumental in sustaining commitment and progress. Over the past MTSP period, a shift was noted in the number of countries focusing on strengthening systems to address sexual exploitation and abuse of children and on prevention efforts targeting communities and other stakeholders to address attitudes, social norms and behaviours. UNICEF increasingly promotes a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach involving the justice and social welfare sectors, as well as health and education and non-traditional sectors such as travel and tourism and ICT. While concerted efforts have been made to improve data collection, challenges persist in capturing all forms of sexual violence due to the hidden nature of the problem, stigma and discrimination. This calls for the importance of refining data collection methodologies (with some important results of efforts made at global level in 2013), as well as calls for sustained efforts to address attitudes, social norms and behaviours that contribute to sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

UNICEF is currently supporting government and civil society efforts to translate international commitments to stop and prevent sexual exploitation into national action in at least 68 countries.

Legal and policy reforms (national or sector-specific plans) have been adopted or are in process in at least 15 countries.²⁴ Over 90 per cent of government responses to the 2013 global survey on violence against children indicated the existence of legal prohibition of sexual violence against children, and over 96 per cent indicated that a prohibition of sexual exploitation of children, including in prostitution, is in place.²⁵ However, in at least one third of countries, legal provisions on sexual violence are inadequate as they fail to criminalize the sale of children or define various forms of sexual exploitation, and at least half of the countries need to review the legislation in relation to sexual exploitation, including the protection of boys. Enforcing existing legislation is, however, the most pressing challenge.

Institutional capacity to prevent and protect children from sexual violence was improved in at least 31 countries during 2013 through the development of sector-specific and/or inter-institutional protocols for the detection and handling of cases, and training of professionals across a range of sectors (social welfare, justice, health, education, ICT and tourism).²⁶ Data and research on the magnitude, nature and drivers of sexual violence, either as part of specific research or broader studies on violence against children, were generated in at least seven additional countries.

UNICEF also supports social mobilization, education and awareness-raising efforts with children, families and communities, religious leaders (and communities), the private travel and tourism sector and the media to challenge attitudes, social norms and behaviours contributing to and/or upholding different forms of sexual violence. In 2013, at least 30 countries conducted socialization activities, compared to 25 countries in 2012.²⁷ Greater emphasis is being placed on setting up systems to measure impact, including change of attitudes and social norms.

Child labour

Scaling up of interventions to eliminate child labour is indispensable. The move by UNICEF towards a 'systems approach' to child protection – to create an environment where girls and boys are free from violence, exploitation and unnecessary separation from family, and where laws, services, behaviours and practices minimize vulnerability, address known risk factors and strengthen the resilience of children – has facilitated the shift towards a more multidisciplinary integrated approach to child labour, bringing together its expertise in child protection, education, health, social protection and data collection.

In 2013, 49 countries addressed issues relating to child labour, through coordination and partnerships with various actors, advocacy and awareness-raising, capacity-building and development, policy and legislation, research, monitoring and evaluation.

Child labour featured high on the international agenda in 2013 with the adoption of the Brasilia Declaration on Child Labour at the Third Global Conference on Child Labour, held in Brazil in October. With over 150 countries, international and regional organizations, NGOs and other civil society actors attending, it provided a global platform to take stock of progress made since the 2010 Hague Global Child Labour Conference. The Brasilia Declaration reaffirmed and further strengthened the commitments made in the Hague Roadmap for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016, including exchanges of experiences among countries, addressing poverty, investment in education and job security, reducing inequalities, strengthening legislation and galvanizing political commitment to move forward in tackling child labour. In following up, UNICEF issued a revised global framework on child labour, detailing the current approach which aims to improve understanding of the underlying causes of child labour and also to address the links between those causes.

Specific legal reforms to strengthen protection of children from child labour are noted in nine countries: Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ghana, Kenya, Mongolia and Oman. Over the MTSP period, 60 per cent of programme countries have legislation in place, in line with ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Twelve countries undertook research, studies and reports to collect data and strengthen advocacy, policy and programme implementation. Eight countries report monitoring and evaluation design and implementation activities.

A number of key sectors with a high prevalence of child labour continued to receive specific attention in UNICEF programming. In agriculture, which accounts for some 59 per cent of all child labour worldwide, UNICEF focused on such key sectors as sugar, cotton and cocoa production. UNICEF engaged with the International Cocoa Initiative to support its activities to combat child labour in the cocoa sector in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

Another emerging trend during the MTSP period was a growing engagement with the private sector. Building on the Children's Rights and Business Principles developed by UNICEF, the United Nations Global Compact and Save the Children, corporate social responsibility (CSR) actions consider how business can address and mitigate child labour. During 2013, the mining industry was a key focus of CSR action, both in mapping the impact of extractive industries on children and their communities, and improving overall business practices, including the elimination of child labour. At least eight country offices are currently targeting CSR efforts in the mining industry.

Female genital mutilation/cutting

UNICEF further strengthened its global and national leadership role in efforts to eliminate FGM/C in 2013. UNICEF was active in all 29 countries²⁸ where the practice is concentrated and focused on accelerating abandonment in the 15 countries²⁹ participating in the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on FGM/C. Now recognized as the largest programmatic effort to end FGM/C globally, the Joint Programme marked its fifth year in 2013 with an estimated 2,538 communities in eight countries adhering to public declarations stating their intention to abandon FGM/C. Beyond the Joint Programme, 24 of the 29 countries where the practice is concentrated have enacted decrees or legislation related to FGM/C.

In July 2013, UNICEF launched the most comprehensive analysis on FGM/C to date in the report 'Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A statistical overview and exploration of the dynamics of change'. The report outlined a number of programme recommendations based on the report findings that have been incorporated into UNICEF programmes.

Child marriage

Child marriage is increasingly recognized as a violation of the rights of girls, which restricts their access to education and places them at greater risk of violence, abuse and exploitation. Complications from pregnancy and childbirth are the leading causes of death for girls aged 15-19 years in developing countries. Of the 16 million adolescent girls who give birth every year, about 90 per cent are already married. To respond more effectively to the devastating impact of child marriage on girls, UNICEF programming is moving toward a comprehensive approach that draws on strategies from multiple sectors to address the complex problem of delaying marriage. Over time, data to determine the scale, scope and impact of child marriage have improved, leading to a stronger understanding of the specific intersectoral interventions needed to delay marriage and improve opportunities for girls and women. Current focus ranges from work at community level, including educational dialogues and social mobilization actions to encourage promotion of the norm of delaying marriage, to enhancing educational access and legal reform to increase the minimum age at marriage.

In 2013, 42 programme countries in six regions reported specific actions to address the issue of child marriage, up from 34 countries in 2011.

As part of the effort to generate results at scale and invigorate the global movement to end child marriage, UNICEF is intensifying efforts in eight countries with medium to high child marriage prevalence rates that are poised to make progress. Using its convening capacity across sectors, UNICEF is partnering with Governments and NGOs in a year-long collaboration to develop resourced strategic plans to end child marriage in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, India, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone and Uganda.

To intensify international efforts at the global level, UNICEF provided technical inputs to the resolutions on child, early and forced marriage adopted by the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly in 2013, which called for a Secretary-General's report on child, early and forced marriage and a debate at the 69th session of the General Assembly.

KEY RESULT AREA 3: Better protection of children from the immediate and long-term impact of armed conflict and humanitarian crises

The evolving strategic approach to child protection in emergencies has witnessed fundamental shifts since the start of the 2006-2013 MTSP period, with a significant departure from more traditional humanitarian response actions that focus on emergency response and lifesaving interventions, towards a greater focus on strengthening the enabling environment for child protection. This is characterized by a longer-term, more sustainable approach to emergency response.

Actions to mitigate the impact of child rights violations at a time of emergency are emerging as an entry point to bridge the humanitarian-development continuum, supporting sustainable longer-term child protection system strengthening. For example, the identification of children most at risk – whether in need of family tracing or psychosocial support or in response to GBV – is the basis for identifying specific needs and provision of services over a longer term, generating a system for referral and case management. Child protection also serves as an entry point for integrated response and access to a range of diverse services. In Lebanon and the Philippines, safe spaces were established as an entry point for an integrated response to protection services and psychosocial responses, together with multisectoral service delivery.

In the past decade, improvements have been made to better track data and build up a body of evidence to inform effective interventions and UNICEF and partners are increasingly contributing to the improvement of outcomes for children and women facing the devastating impact of armed conflict and humanitarian crisis. UNICEF support to the development of guidelines on evaluating psychosocial support programmes and to the World Vision-led initiative on evaluation of child-friendly spaces are examples of how monitoring and evaluation are increasingly used to build an evidence base and to measure the impacts of emergency response on the lives of children, both in the short and longer term.

Global estimates indicate that approximately 13,500 separated children were reunified with families and caregivers during 2013. Some 2.5 million children were able to access safe community spaces for socializing, play and learning. More than 297,000 children were reached in Lebanon, 567,000 children in Yemen and 142,000 children in Syrian Arab Republic. More than 7,300 children associated with armed forces or groups were reintegrated into their families and communities.³⁰

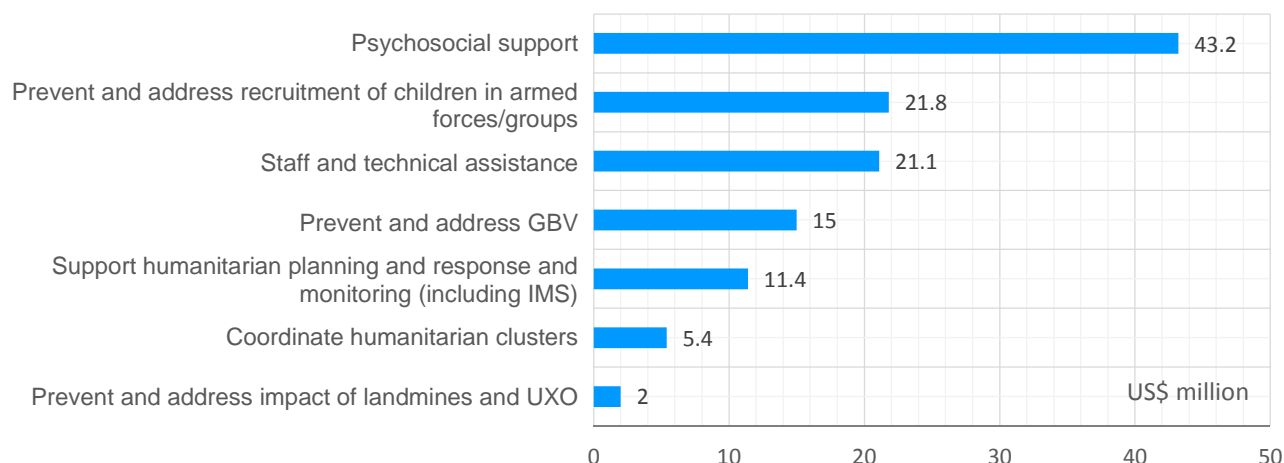
Overall, UNICEF responded to the protection needs of children in emergencies in more than 50 countries affected by armed conflict and natural disasters, including three large-scale (Level 3) emergencies in Central African Republic, the Philippines and Syrian Arab Republic. UNICEF supported 16 countries in efforts to release children associated with armed forces or groups and reintegrate them into their families and communities. Cameroon and Zimbabwe ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, bringing to 152 the total number of ratifications at the end of 2013.

In Syrian Arab Republic, efforts included the preparation of the #NoLostGeneration strategy, focusing on the importance of education and child protection for the more than 5.5 million children affected by the crisis, including psychosocial support; contributing to the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) and regional response plan; and identifying 'surge' human resource support.³¹ In the Philippines, the child protection response to Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda focused on identification, documentation and family tracing and reunification of unaccompanied, separated and missing children, psychosocial support and strengthening sustainable systems for child protection, including the deployment of 'RapidFTR', an innovative tool developed to expedite the family tracing and reunification process by collecting and sharing information on unaccompanied, separated and missing children. In the Central African Republic, support focused on setting up systems for identification, documentation, family tracing and reunification; responses to sexual violence; and establishing safe spaces to provide services, including psychosocial support. Approximately 14,750 vulnerable children in that country benefitted from psychosocial support in 2013, far exceeding the original planned target of 7,900 children.

In 2013, there were an increasing number of attacks on schools resulting in deaths and injuries to students and teachers, as well as destruction and damage to schools and loss of learning opportunities. Advocacy to stop attacks on schools and to promote the draft Lucens Guidelines for protecting schools and universities from military use during armed conflict are examples of cross-sectoral prevention and advocacy efforts by Child Protection and Education Sections of Programme Division, working in close collaboration with the Office of Emergency Programmes. Country level results include the adoption on 15 June 2013 of the 'Guidelines on the Conduct of Activities in Schools and Hospitals' by the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the improved monitoring of attacks on schools in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which informed advocacy with concerned parties to the conflict.

Reflecting on expenditure trends for UNICEF global action for child protection in emergencies, over half of global expenditure in 2013 was allocated to psychosocial programming in emergencies. The high allocation of expenditure for psychosocial support results from the large number of children reached each year by such programming, relative to other programming. Psychosocial support programmes also have a long-term perspective in strengthening national systems for child protection and promoting a more community-based approach that builds on existing community resilience.

KRA3 2013 global expenditure



**Figure excludes funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational and other costs.*

Psychosocial support helps children to cope psychologically and to the extent possible, to normalize their lives after the devastating effects of an emergency. According to the IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, mental health and psychosocial support are understood as any type of local or outside support that aims to protect or promote psychosocial well-being and/or prevent or treat mental disorder. 'Psychosocial' refers to the relationship between the psychological and social effects of an event, and the impact on their social world, specifically their environment, culture, traditions, spirituality and interpersonal relationships with family, community and friends and life tasks such as school or work.

Improved coordination structures

The Global Protection Cluster includes five 'Areas of Responsibility' that address specialized protection issues in order to facilitate inter-agency response in the respective areas. These Areas of Responsibility function under the umbrella of the Protection Cluster. UNICEF continued to fulfil its humanitarian Cluster responsibilities for the Child Protection and GBV Areas of Responsibility in emergencies, both globally and at country level, and to support multi-sector coordination and ongoing capacity-building for UNICEF staff and partners on child protection in emergencies including GBV, mental health and psychosocial support, mine-risk education (MRE) and the MRM.

In 2013, UNICEF led or co-led Areas of Responsibility or sectors for child protection in 46 countries with 14 dedicated coordinators, and for gender-based violence in 18 countries, including one dedicated coordinator.

Support was provided in the following areas of work: standard setting and implementation (Save the Children and Terre des homes); building response capacity (UNICEF Programme Division); assessment and measurement (Save the Children and Columbia University); and operational support and advocacy (Childfund International). Direct in-country support combined with remote support was provided to six countries, and tailored remote support was provided to an additional 18 countries. UNICEF supported the CPWG Rapid Response Team, which was deployed on 10 occasions, including to Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Jordan (twice), Lebanon (with extension), Mali, the Philippines (twice), Senegal and southern Turkey, significantly contributing to the child protection programme response.

In Myanmar in 2013, UNICEF supported groundwork for the launch in early 2014 of the Child Protection in Emergency Working Group at national level and in Rakhine and Kachin states, both of which have been affected by ongoing internal conflict since 2011 and 2012 respectively. In Kenya, UNICEF supported the contextualization of the Minimum Standards for Humanitarian Action in Child Protection, developed a costed work plan and established a framework for information management through the introduction of humanitarian ranking.

In 2013, five new members joined the Global Child Protection Area of Responsibility and formal letters of commitment were received from 11 cluster partners. In 2013, the Global GBV Area of Responsibility selected a UNICEF deputy coordinator and UNFPA coordinator, and the division of responsibility is being agreed on. In addition, the new work plan was developed and GBV guidelines are in the process of being revised. An advocacy proposal has been submitted by the International Red Crescent, a knowledge and information management strategy in line with the Global Cluster Coordination Unit guidelines has been developed and an information management member recruited for the rapid response team.

Strengthening global partnership, leadership and learning tools

UNICEF and humanitarian partners continue to play a pivotal role in providing inter-agency global leadership on child protection in emergencies. Following a high-level joint mission to Mauritania by UNHCR and UNICEF in November 2012, the two agencies agreed to identify ways to improve strategic engagement and effective responses at the country level. In 2013, a joint mission to Jordan and Lebanon explored how country-level child protection cooperation in the Syrian emergency can inform discussions on a strengthened partnership. A jointly convened regional child protection meeting in Dakar, Senegal explored the nature and scale of the protection and assistance needs of children affected by the crisis in Mali in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger (known as 'Mali+3'), and developed recommendations for improving the inter-agency and cross-border responses.

Support to CPWG continues through strategic leadership of various task forces and working groups. UNICEF is currently leading the two-year process to update the 2005 IASC guidelines on GBV for all humanitarian sectors/clusters and the 2010 provisional version of the GBV

coordination handbook. UNICEF developed a checklist on mine action for CPWG in order to raise understanding about what needs to be taken into account when undertaking child protection activities in areas contaminated by landmines and explosive remnants of war. UNICEF also supported the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Reference Group and regional capacity-building for UNICEF and partners on mental health and psychosocial support in the South Asia and Middle East and North Africa regions.

With UNICEF serving as chair in 2013, the Inter-Agency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children pilot tested the new version of the inter-agency field handbook and training materials on unaccompanied and separated children in emergencies (to be launched in 2014); finalized and tested the new inter-agency registration forms for these children (available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish); and launched the Alternative Care in Emergency Toolkit. The CPWG Assessment and Measurement Task Force, with the Inter-Agency Working Group, embarked on the 'Measuring Separation in Emergencies' project with the objective of developing a field-tested assessment tool to measure the nature and scale of family separation in emergencies.

UNICEF and the SRSG for Children and Armed Conflict continued to develop joint guidance on Security Council resolution 1998 (2011) on attacks on schools and hospitals, and undertook joint missions to Afghanistan, Chad, Israel, Mali, Myanmar, State of Palestine, the Philippines and Sudan. This led to concerted and complementary efforts to accelerate compliance with MRM action plans (see *KRA 4 for further results on MRM*).

Building capacity for child protection programming in emergencies

Under UNICEF leadership, the CPWG Capacity-Building Task Force aims to improve capacities within the child protection in emergency sector. It focuses on developing a pool of high-quality, deployable personnel and on strengthening investment in national child protection systems. Ultimately this led to the development of the child protection in emergencies post-graduate diploma curriculum, in partnership with the CPWG and the University of Kwazulu-Natal. In 2013, a timeline to finalize the development of the curriculum was determined.

In 2013, a number of inter-agency tools and trainings were also developed including training on rapid assessment, unaccompanied and separated children, coordination and child-friendly spaces. Countries supported with the new tools include the Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Mali, Nepal, Philippines, Sudan and Syrian Arab Republic, as well as countries in the Pacific region.

As part of the strategy to build the capacity of UNICEF staff and standby partners to effectively support child protection in emergencies, over 200 participants attended global and regional trainings in 2013. UNICEF also conducted its annual roster partnership training on programming to address GBV in emergency contexts for approximately 20 roster partners and UNICEF staff from key countries affected by emergencies.

Training of peacekeepers on child rights and child protection is mandated by Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict. In 2013, UNICEF and DPKO supported a specialized training module on child protection for United Nations peacekeepers. To date, the training has been piloted and endorsed by 34 Member States.

UNICEF supported the New York launch of the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, hosted by the group, Friends of Children and Armed Conflict and the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations. UNICEF is also supporting a global roll-out strategy, including country-specific contextualization. The website on MRM tools, a joint project

of DPKO, the Office of the SRSG on Children and Armed Conflict and UNICEF, has been finalized. The new website will provide MRM-related guidelines and other support documents, forming the heart of a community of practice for MRM practitioners in the field. UNICEF and the Office of the SRSG also contributed to the development of a guidance note for field practitioners on the implementation of the Security Council resolution on child protection and GBV resolution 1998 (2011), focusing on attacks against schools and military use of schools.

Improved monitoring and information management mechanisms

At the start of the MTSP period, information management for protection-related work such as GBV, family tracing and reunification and children and armed conflict was ad hoc, had little global oversight and was often of little practical utility. Subsequently, the sector has been working to introduce new information management systems on child protection and GBV so that country programmes are producing compatible data and data aggregation is emerging at regional and global levels. Although still in use, these systems face challenges of interoperability and scalability. Protection-related information management is a critical issue because of the sensitivity of data, the demand for improved system interoperability and the nature of new mandates such as MRM and Monitoring Analysis and Reporting Arrangements.

In 2013, UNICEF and partners moved forward with the development of next-generation applications to support protection-related information management. The project, Protection Related Information Management for Emergency Response Operations (PRIMERO), is a new software application to securely and safely collect, store, manage and share data for protection-related incident monitoring and case management in emergency contexts. These applications will be flexible and adaptable to accommodate a broad range of protection concerns including GBV, case management for unaccompanied and separated children and grave violations of children's rights in situations of armed conflict. This project, currently in the design phase, is being managed in close collaboration with the Inter-Agency Child Protection Information Management (CPIMS) System Steering Committee, the Gender-based Violence Information Management System Steering Committee and the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism Information Management System Working Group.

Using RapidFTR to respond to Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda in the Philippines

In every emergency, whether a natural disaster or an armed conflict, children often can often be separated from their families. Timing is critical: the longer a child is separated, the more difficult it is to locate his or her family and the greater the risk factor. Traditional family tracing and reunification practices can be time consuming, as often information frequently is recorded and transferred manually.

The RapidFTR is a versatile, open-source mobile phone application and data storage system that seeks to expedite the family tracing and reunification process by collecting and sharing information on unaccompanied, separated, and highly vulnerable children. RapidFTR has been successfully deployed in varying emergencies, starting with the influx of refugees from Democratic Republic of the Congo into Uganda in 2012, internally displaced persons in South Sudan and more recently in response to the devastating impact of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

Typhoon Haiyan (known locally as “Yolanda”) affected over 14.1 million people: more than 6,000 people died, and 4.1 million people were displaced, including 1.7 million children. All affected regions are known locations for trafficking of women and children and other forms of GBV. RapidFTR was seen as the most appropriate response, both to address the immediate concerns of unaccompanied and separated children, and also to building longer-term capacity of partners by incorporating RapidFTR into the national emergency response mechanisms.

In the Philippines, the old paper-driven family tracing and reunification system required forms to be sent to Manila for digitization and subsequent follow-up, taking up to three weeks on average to process. In comparison, with RapidFTR social workers and child protection staff were able to follow up within 24 to 72 hours of registration. To date, the system has supported efforts in 31 municipalities, and more than 130 children were identified and registered as unaccompanied or separated from their primary caregivers.

In South Sudan, UNICEF and partners use the CPIMS to provide case management to the most vulnerable children, including for referral to services. This includes the recent interoperability of the CPIMS with RapidFTR to speed the process of registering children who are unaccompanied, separated or missing in the chaos of the recent violence, and to help reunite them with their families. The PRIMERO project provides a comprehensive approach to information management for child protection, and expands to include other information management systems, specifically for child survivors of GBV and other grave violations of their rights.

Gender-based violence

Overall UNICEF was engaged in GBV-related work in 20 countries, with particular emphasis on programmes for lifesaving GBV prevention and response in eight countries: Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Mali, the Philippines, Somalia and South Sudan. UNICEF prioritized safe access to health services, psychosocial support and other critical services, including delivery of 'dignity kits', physical protection through the provision of safe spaces, and awareness-raising.

Approximately 30,000 survivors of GBV – 30 to 40 per cent of them children and the majority girls – in four emergency-affected countries³² were reached with medical care, psychosocial support services and/or legal accompaniment.

The year 2013 also saw the launch of a two-year programme, 'Communities Care: Transforming Lives and Preventing Violence'. The programme, underway in Somalia and South Sudan, focuses on building community-level prevention and response strategies to GBV (particularly sexual violence) that have the potential to reduce levels of sexual violence committed by

members of the community during and following conflict. These strategies may also, over the long-term, serve to build positive social norms that promote respect for girls and women, and help prevent sexual violence as an inevitable and acceptable part of war. Research documenting the impact of the programme is a key component of the work, and will be conducted in partnership with The Johns Hopkins University. To kick start this innovative programme, the programming toolkit was finalized, baseline tools were piloted, research materials developed and in-country training provided for approximately 30 project staff in 2013.

Psychosocial support and community-based child protection

Psychosocial support is an area of major fiscal investment for UNICEF child protection in emergencies programming, yet faces challenges in terms of a less than robust evidence base. In recent years, there has been a growing consensus on the need for strengthening evidence in mental health and psychosocial support programming, and 2013 saw concerted efforts by UNICEF and partners to redress this limitation. Examples include the CPWG-led mapping of the 'Methodologies and Tools for Measuring the Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing of Children in Humanitarian Contexts'; the World Vision-led Child Friendly Spaces in Emergencies Research and Learning Project; and the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for the IASC guidelines on mental health and psychosocial support in emergency settings, led by the IASC Reference Group on this issue. These efforts are making substantial contributions to the way mental health and psychosocial support programmes are monitored and evaluated. UNICEF supported evaluations in Iraq and Jordan in support of the World Vision project and continues to provide leadership to the Reference Group.

The majority of emergency responses in 2013 included psychosocial support, including in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Philippines and Syrian Arab Republic that established comprehensive programme responses. The work in Lebanon in particular made special efforts to integrate psychosocial support across other sectors. UNICEF trainings in Lebanon and Jordan addressed the capacity gaps in psychosocial support. A regional training in Nepal brought together staff and partners from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to improve the local cadre of trained personnel on mental health and psychosocial support. Each country subsequently developed an action plan. On behalf of the CPWG, UNICEF also supported the development of a training and resource package on child-friendly spaces that was used extensively by the Regional Office for South Asia and in the Philippine and Syrian contexts, both for capacity-building and for responding to emergencies. Innovative approaches such as online discussions on monitoring and evaluation were organized to support field staff.

Child-friendly spaces or safe spaces have become a key area of programming in emergencies, although assessing their effectiveness remains challenging as it involves measuring psychosocial well-being, on which little guidance is available globally. UNICEF is working with a number of global partners to address this gap. The World Vision-led inter-agency initiative has developed a number of country case studies in the recent past. UNICEF supported studies in Iraq and Jordan and developed a report on Iraq, which alongside previous studies from Uganda and Ethiopia, spells out areas for improvement in the establishment and running of child-friendly spaces. These findings are being made available to a larger group of agencies, including UNICEF.

Protecting children from armed violence, landmines and other explosive remnants of war

UNICEF work in armed violence and weapons issues spans both conflict and non-conflict settings. In mine action – a term that describes all activities intended to mitigate the impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war on civilians – UNICEF is providing support to over 20 countries. The key interventions are MRE, support to survivors, strengthening injury surveillance systems and advocacy. In 2013, UNICEF expanded its work in support of the Government of Myanmar to strengthen and expand its nascent mine action programme through MRE, development of national standards and the conduct of the first knowledge, attitudes and practices survey that will provide a baseline for future work. In Syrian Arab Republic and Mali – where 57 per cent of victims of explosive remnants of war were children – UNICEF continued to respond to the protection needs of children and families. In a striking example of the longevity of this issue, flash floods in Cambodia brought to the surface landmines in areas previously thought to have been cleared of all threats. UNICEF worked with the Cambodian National Mine Action Authority on a rapid assessment and response within days of the crisis.

UNICEF armed violence reduction activities generally are not conducted in what would be considered emergency settings and focus more on strengthening the protective systems and promoting positive social norms in countries with high rates of armed violence – many of them middle-income countries. In 2013, UNICEF launched a regional programme to approach this issue in a coherent manner in Central America and the Caribbean, involving Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua and Panama. Interventions focused on areas as diverse as providing Governments with alternative strategies for protecting children from potential coercion into criminal activities through justice for children, and peer-to-peer counseling and community mobilization to give children and adolescents the skills to address interpersonal conflicts in non-violent ways. The programme is being accompanied by a strong monitoring component to examine programme results in order to expand lessons on 'what works' to other countries. Throughout, UNICEF has worked closely with the Office of the SRSG on Violence Against Children to leverage advocacy with programming.

A considerable focus of UNICEF efforts is the development of a technical training package and course focused on strengthening national injury surveillance systems. Organized in partnership with the CDC and building on the experiences of the Field Epidemiology for Mine Action Course, the first one-week course was piloted in September 2013. With a view to strengthening systematic data collection and analysis to ensure that mine action and armed violence prevention and reduction programmes are informed through a sound evidence base, the pilot training targeted government stakeholders (ministries of health and social welfare and the police, among others), UNICEF and international NGOs implementing programmes in 10 countries: Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Eritrea, Iraq, Mali, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The training culminated in the development of country-specific multi stakeholder injury surveillance action plans, which continue to be implemented in 2014 with UNICEF support.

Advocacy and coordination in relevant international forums also continued as a strong element of work, for example through existing instruments such as the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Regarding the latter, UNICEF was invited for the first time to address its Group of Experts on how to provide risk education against improvised explosive devices. UNICEF continued to work on initiatives to reduce the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, including through participation in a meeting at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (United Kingdom) that resulted in a plan of work to document how various military forces have adapted their rules of engagement to reduce harm to children and all civilians. This in turn can be integrated into lessons learned for action plans on ending patterns of killing and maiming of children, as mandated by Security Council resolution 1998 (2011).

KEY RESULT AREA 4: Improved country-level monitoring, research, evaluation and use of data on child protection

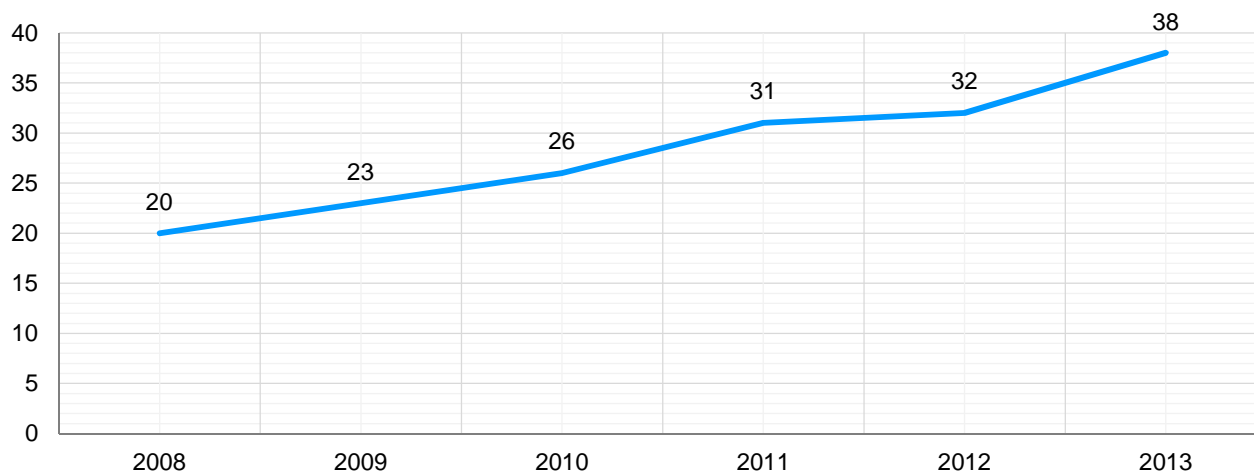
UNICEF and partners are actively working to put in place a structured and systematic approach to the generation and use of evidence (including through monitoring, research, evaluation, generation and use of data) across priority areas of work – external to and within UNICEF. Since the adoption of the 2008 child protection strategy, UNICEF increasingly applies upstream and downstream work to achieve lasting results for children. Noting that learning and adapting are part of this process, UNICEF seeks to provide and contribute to forums for disseminating data and generating dialogue on key child protection developments.

As the sector has grown, the need for approaches to evidence-generation that encompass quality research as well as monitoring, evaluation, knowledge management, programme guidance and capacity-building, has become clear. UNICEF has a comparative advantage in this regard in its role as a global leader in many areas of child protection data collection, as well as technical programming expertise and policy response, for example, as seen in its recently published reports on birth registration and FGM/C. In addition to providing the most up-to-date global figures on prevalence, these results (including through evaluation, as in the case of FGM/C) are informing future programming frameworks.

In 2013, 38 countries incorporated disaggregated baseline data on child protection indicators in national development plans and other reports, compared to 32 the previous year.

The development of systematic evidence on what works to prevent and respond to violence against children is still growing, and challenges remain at all levels to the collection, management and use of evidence, and to encouraging the culture of evaluation. UNICEF is nevertheless at the forefront of efforts to bring key global experts together to share, exchange and generate attention and action. For example, in 2013, Research Watch, an initiative of the UNICEF Office of Research, featured a televised episode with global experts on violence against children to debate solutions to violence.³³

Countries that have disaggregated data on child protection indicators in their National Development Plan or equivalent



Strengthening research, documentation and evidence generation

Within UNICEF, a 'joined up' approach to evidence-generation is being put in place in partnership between Programme Division, UNICEF's Office of Research, regional offices and select country offices.

In 2013, advocacy and consultation secured general consensus around violence against children as a global evidence priority. Key areas of recent strategic research led by the Office of Research include work with national statistical offices and other government departments, the University of Edinburgh, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Young Lives: an International Study of Childhood Poverty on a multi-country study on the prevention of violence against children. The study focuses on drivers of violence and effective approaches to prevent it in four countries, Italy, Peru, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe, with work presently underway in Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

Strengthening evidence-based programming and results on the elimination of female genital mutilation/cutting

FGM/C is a traditional practice with severe health consequences for girls and women. As with many traditional practices, FGM/C is carried out by communities as part of their cultural heritage and is often associated with religion or ethnic identity. Where it is widespread, it is typically upheld by a social norm and families believe that it is required for the girls and the family to be socially accepted.

Two new reports, the 2013 study, 'Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: a statistical overview and exploration of the dynamics of change' and the 'Joint Evaluation of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change,' are now available to support and validate the programmatic approach implemented by UNICEF, including in 15 countries covered by the Joint Programme.

The statistical overview offers new baselines, analyzing changes over time and providing key programmatic insights. The report examined over 70 surveys conducted in the past 20 years and estimates that 125 million girls and women have experienced FGM/C in the 29 countries where the practice is concentrated and a further 30 million girls are at risk in the next decade.

The evaluation of Phase 1 of the Joint Programme shows that the programme has contributed to changes at individual, collective and national levels in the social norms around the practice. During 2008–2013, there was an increase in FGM/C information uptake by national health systems, increasing denunciation of the practice by religious leader and swelling political commitment at national and district levels, most notably in 2012 when the General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution 67/146 of 20 December 2012 on intensifying global efforts to eliminate female genital mutilations.

In 2013, an estimated 2,538 communities in eight countries adhered to public declarations stating their intention to abandon FGM/C, bringing the cumulative total to some 12,700 communities in 15 countries since 2008. All told, 24 of the 29 countries where the practice is concentrated have enacted decrees or legislation related to FGM/C, at least five of them in the past two years.

Programme recommendations from both reports were disseminated globally to a wide variety of stakeholders and informed the refinement of the programmatic strategy for Phase 2 (2014-2017) of the efforts to end FGM/C through the Joint Programme.

With a focus on 'what works', the UNICEF Office of Research and the Brooks World Poverty Institute at the University of Manchester concluded a study that revealed evidence of the direct impact of some forms of social transfers on birth registration, child labour, child marriage and involuntary family separation. This work was undertaken in Indonesia, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi, Mozambique, the Philippines and Zimbabwe and is influencing UNICEF support to Governments.

Work has also commenced with the University of Oxford to review approaches to parenting and family support, with the aim of generating evidence, particularly from low- and middle-income countries, on family-oriented policies and programmes that are effective at enhancing child well-being, and of showcasing the best evidenced practice models, with a particular interest in those which include a specific child protection objective.

Another strand of continuing research is on aspects of systems governance. UNICEF published the final series in a multi-year research programme 'Championing Children's Rights: A global study of independent human rights institutions for children' examining the role and effectiveness of the more than 200 independent human rights institutions for children as national accountability mechanisms supporting the protection of child rights. The series of publications provides comprehensive guidance for those seeking to establish and support independent human rights institutions for children. To date, the findings are being used in Canada, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and Zambia.

The year 2013 also saw the launch of a global compendium of child protection case studies to highlight evidence of positive results from diverse initiatives, and the finalization of the first systematic review to showcase the breadth and depth of UNICEF research, 'Research for Children 2013: From Evidence to Action'. Ten examples of research for children were selected from 90 initial submissions, including four on child protection issues: child protection governance (East Asia and the Pacific); child abuse (Chile); repatriation (Austria, Germany and Kosovo³⁴) and child support grants (South Africa). An independent external review panel selected three of the ten case studies for special commendation and recognition, including the studies on repatriation and child support grants.³⁵

To complement continuing efforts to strengthen the evidence base, UNICEF is also exploiting the full potential of new and innovative data collection methods such as crowd-sourcing via SMS technology, social media, geospatial mapping, participatory approaches to capture children's voices and perception surveys to track public opinion, as well as the more traditional rapid surveys, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions that assist Governments to conduct more comprehensive quality monitoring of their prevention programmes.

How innovations are shaping social mobilization around child protection issues

'U-report' in Uganda is a communications technology that equips mobile phone users with the tools to establish and enforce new standards of transparency and accountability in development programming and services.

UNICEF and nine partner organizations regularly identify issues to discuss with Uganda's youth, who make up the majority of U-reporters. Topics are wide-ranging and have included protection-related issues such as FGM/C, birth registration, early marriage and corporal punishment. Once a topic is decided, UNICEF sends a question via SMS message to U-reporters, who can respond either with a simple menu-based reply or with

personal messages. The UNICEF team analyzes and interprets the responses, sharing the results and often following up with additional questions or suggestions.

U-report is revolutionizing social mobilization, monitoring and response efforts in Uganda. The latest figures show that the number of U-reporters had grown to more than 258,377 by March 2014.

In recognition of its own barriers to more effectively assess the scale and scope of programming impact, UNICEF has invested significantly in recent years in strengthening its monitoring and evaluation frameworks and planning processes, including through development of the Monitoring Results for Equity System (MoRES) framework and related activities. Development of toolkits to inform programme planning and monitoring across the areas of work encompassed in child protection is constantly evolving.

Improving knowledge management and capacity-building

Knowledge management refers to the generation, compilation, use, dissemination and uptake of knowledge. In UNICEF this is undertaken in various ways.

A webinar series on child protection systems launched in November 2013 aims to share recent knowledge and practices. With learning sought from a range of stakeholders, including government ministers, academics and UNICEF staff, the first webinar was on the Scope of Child Protection Systems Work, and a second on Beginning with Mapping. A site has been established to access supporting documents for each presentation and the recorded sessions.³⁶

The UNICEF website continues to be an effective platform for sharing knowledge related to child protection initiatives. The global child protection pages received 24 per cent more visitors than in 2012, with the child labour, child trafficking and child marriage pages being the most visited.

Following the launch of the FGM/C statistical overview (July 2013), media coverage was extensive, with reports positioned on the front pages of the New York Times, The Guardian (UK) and BBC websites on the day of the launch. Overall, the study generated 87 stories in 78 news outlets across 21 countries. Within one week of the launch of the statistical analysis and handbook on birth registration, the publication had a download rate of 13.5 per cent, which is 350 per cent higher than the industry average. Through social media, it was sent to over 2,955 followers, generating multiple retweets and shares from Twitter followers. More than 300 media outlets in the Americas, Europe, Asia, Middle East and Africa picked up the story. From 10 December 2013 to 16 January 2014, the press release received 4,924 hits. This was the second highest during the time period, with only the press release on the attacks in the Central African Republic having received more hits.

Through social media platforms, the Child Protection Section has enhanced communication and knowledge-sharing with UNICEF staff at headquarters, country and regional offices and with National Committees for UNICEF, child protection practitioners and networks, NGOs, United Nations and development agencies, media outlets and the general public. By the end of 2013, the number of Twitter and Facebook followers on child protection issues had risen to roughly 3,000, up from 1,100 in the six months following the 2012 launch of those platforms. The 2013 launch of the #End Violence against Children initiative (including on the UNICEF Twitter and Facebook platforms) gained momentum globally with over 60 countries formally launching the initiative, and related social media actions taking place in over 190 countries. On Facebook, the initiative was seen by more than 20 million users, and received over 325,000 mentions on Twitter. Of note, following the launch of the initiative, the UNICEF 'klout' score reached 99, an unprecedented score for a multilateral agency.³⁷

Regarding capacity-building, after more than one year of preparatory work, the first global capacity mapping of staff and long-term consultants was completed in 2013, achieving a 51 per cent response rate from UNICEF child protection practitioners. Designed to more systematically track the scale and depth of the skills and experiences of UNICEF staff and long-term consultants in child protection, the skills mapping survey was able to obtain an accurate picture of existing expertise in child protection across the board while identifying gaps in knowledge and skills. The findings are informing the development of a capacity-building strategy that will encompass a variety of strategies, including training and on-the-job mentoring to target identified needs.

In addition to efforts to strengthen internal capacities, UNICEF contributes to sector-wide learning and capacity-building. For example, UNICEF is working with partners in the development of a post-graduate-level child protection programme (in partnership with Harvard University and an International Advisory Committee comprising senior academics from across the globe) and a diploma on child protection in emergencies (through CPWG, Save the Children, senior academics and the University of KwaZulu-Natal) (*see also strategic context for further details*).

Child Protection Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group

Over the past four years, UNICEF has interacted with a global range of international NGOs and academics and other partners, such as ILO and the United States Agency for International Development, to develop the Child Protection Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group, building on the lessons learned from similar groups, particularly around ensuring strong partnerships (including practitioners) and building up a strong body of focused work on the topic. Initially co-chaired by Save the Children and UNICEF, in 2013, the Reference Group was sufficiently well-established that co-leadership successfully migrated to the Save the Children Federation and World Vision.

Skills and capacities in monitoring and evaluation – across the sector as a whole, including in UNICEF – remain weak, although there is a shared interest and commitment to strengthen this area. In September 2013, the second annual virtual meeting of the Reference Group took place, with a focus on expanding the number of technical working groups, including on programme monitoring and evaluation, and putting in place an endorsed knowledge management strategy. UNICEF contributes to the Reference Group both technically and in its secretariat role, particularly through the knowledge management functions, which are responsible for maintaining the website and producing a quarterly newsletter disseminated to over 200 practitioners and academics focusing on the niche area of child protection monitoring and evaluation. Three technical notes were produced in 2013 on survey programmes and data repositories; data collection tools; and developing child protection indicators. The Technical Working Group on data collection on violence against children produced a paper, 'Ethical principles, dilemmas and risk in collecting data on violence against children: a review of available literature.'

Strengthening frameworks to improve monitoring

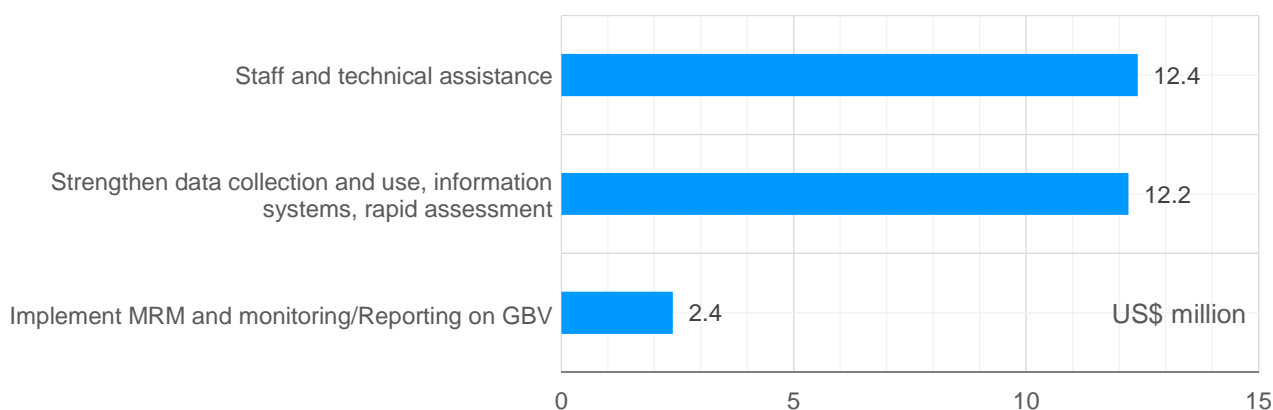
The roll-out of MoRES continued, with countries across all regions systematically reviewing the logic and rationale for their respective programmes and monitoring frameworks, and adjusting them against identified barriers and bottlenecks.

In 2013, the governance indicator framework for child protection systems was aligned with MoRES and piloted in Indonesia, the Philippines and a number of Pacific Island States. This is indicative of how the findings from robust evidence inform programming and policymaking for results for children on the ground. Response from government counterparts – the main intended users – has been positive, and preliminary findings indicate that it supports child protection systems-building.

UNICEF supports the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics to facilitate efforts to achieve universal birth registration. A CRVS assessment, recommended by the 2012 Second Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration in Durban, led to a resolution by all African Governments to develop 5–10 year CRVS costed reform action plans. Contributing to these processes, UNICEF integrated the new MoRES framework into the development of comprehensive CRVS assessment and planning tools being finalized by the Africa Programme secretariat. More than 15 countries throughout Africa are currently at various stages of conducting assessments and developing action plans.

Strengthening monitoring, research, evaluation and use of data on child protection is one of the pillars of the child protection strategy, yet it is still arguably the one area of work with the least amount of resources and prioritization across four KRAs. In 2013, investment in KRA4 amounted to 7.3 per cent of total investment across all result areas for child protection. Greater attention to continued improvements in this area of work is a key priority in the Strategic Plan, 2014-2017.

KRA4 2013 global expenditure

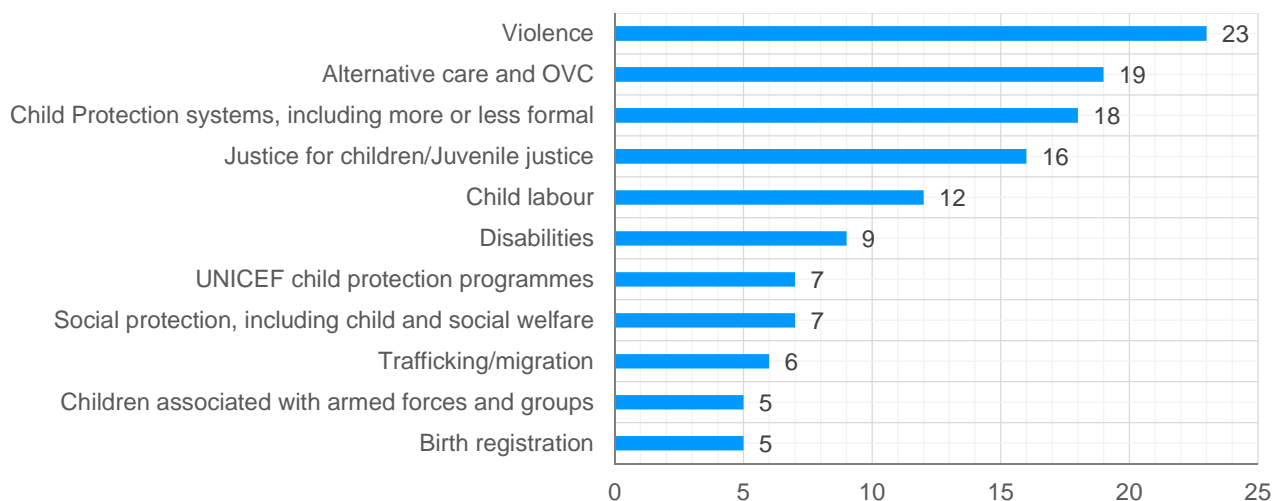


**Figure excludes funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational and other costs.*

A key outcome of the 2012 meta-analysis review of 52 evaluations of UNICEF child protection programmes is the need for better monitoring and evaluation practices in sector programming. To strengthen the synergy between the sector and agency-wide monitoring and evaluation planning process, a resource pack on child protection planning and monitoring and evaluation was finalized in 2013, to ensure alignment with global guidance, tools and frameworks, including MoRES. Prioritizing evidence-building, particularly using evaluation and other evidence-based tools to build up a documented body of evidence of what works under what conditions, needs to be further strengthened and funded in the coming years. This will contribute to the growing maturity of the sector, along with promoting accountability to beneficiaries and donors.

Improving the quality and use of evaluations

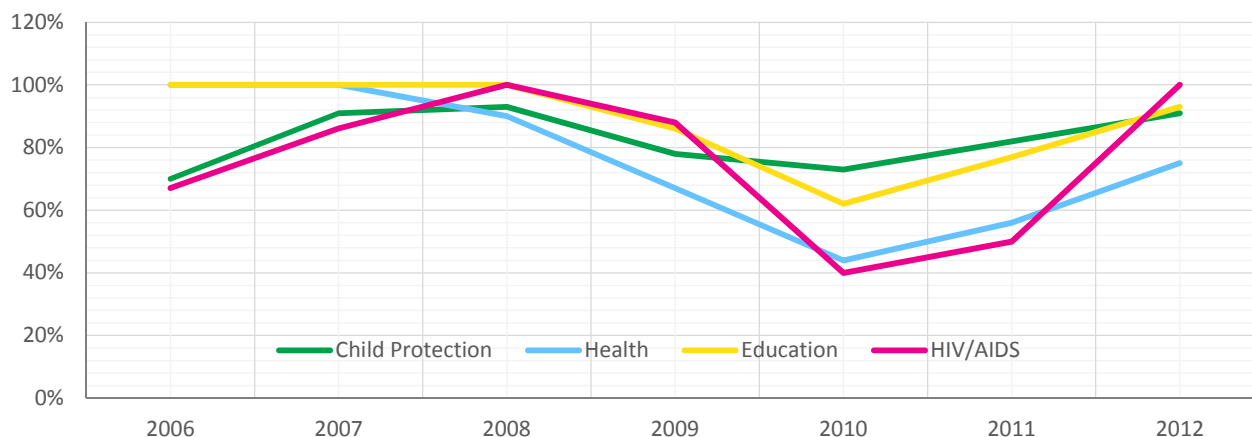
Child Protection evaluations (2006-2013)



Although the culture of evaluation is still weak, there has been a steady increase in recent years in the number and quality of evaluations in key areas of child protection programming. Notably in 2013, the evaluation of the Joint Programme on FGM/C along with the first global evaluation of UNICEF child protection work in pre-crisis, crisis and post-crisis settings were completed and will be presented to the UNICEF Executive Board in 2014. The first global evaluation of UNICEF efforts to address violence also began.³⁸

UNICEF evaluations are assessed and ranked independently by the UNICEF Evaluation Office. In 2009, a new and more robust ranking system in line with the United Nations Evaluation Group standard was introduced. The Global Evaluation Report Oversight System provides an independent assessment of the quality and usefulness of evaluation reports, and is aimed at strengthening internal evaluation capacity and contributing to corporate knowledge management and organizational learning. Since 2009, there has been a steady and consistent improvement in the number and ranking of child protection evaluations compared to other sectors.

Of all ranked evaluations, proportion of the ones ranked as best, highly or mostly satisfactory (2006-2012)



Monitoring and reporting on grave violations

In 2013, UNICEF continued to provide technical support to countries to implement and strengthen the MRM. Support was provided in particular to the establishment of the MRM in Mali, the conceptualization and roll-out of the regional MRM for the Syrian crisis (including surge staffing support for regional coordination, data collection and drafting of the first report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Syrian Arab Republic) and the reinforcement of the MRM in Central African Republic, Chad, the Philippines and Sudan. Finally, UNICEF supported the preparations for the visit to Myanmar of the SRSG on Children and Armed Conflict to monitor compliance with the action plan, as well as to promote inclusion of child protection issues in the peace process (as appropriate), while also promoting negotiations on action plans with the non-state actors.

In 2013, eight action plans were being implemented by parties to conflict in seven countries: Afghanistan; Chad; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Myanmar; Philippines (the one country with an action with an armed group); Somalia (with one action plan on recruitment and one on killing and maiming) and South Sudan. Technical support and strategic guidance were provided in particular for advocacy with parties to conflict to adopt action plans to end the recruitment and use of children in Yemen and for the implementation of previously signed action plans. An action plan is nearly finalized in Yemen and similar discussions are underway with the Government of Sudan.

While no new action plans were signed in 2013, UNICEF worked to accelerate the implementation of signed action plans and to advocate for measures to protect children in countries where there is no action plan. To this end, UNICEF and the Office of the SRSG undertook joint technical missions to Afghanistan, Chad and the Philippines where roadmaps with key indicators for compliance were developed and agreed upon to accelerate and finalize the implementation of action plans. A joint mission to Sudan provided guidance on the implementation of the MRM, including on dialogue with the various parties to conflict listed. Finally, UNICEF also provided support to and participated in the three-week visit of the SRSG to Syrian Arab Republic and countries hosting refugees to assess the impact of the conflict on children and advocate for the protection of Syrian children. In addition, support was provided to the development of MRM knowledge-sharing and capacity-building documents and tools. UNICEF and the Office of the SRSG contributed to the development of a guidance note for field practitioners on the implementation of the Security Council resolution 1998 (2011), focusing on attacks against schools and military use of schools. Also in 2013, Arabic and Spanish translations of the MRM Good Practices Study were completed. This practical reference guide brings together innovative good practices developed at field level by the MRM task force co-chairs and child protection practitioners. Finally, the joint MRM tools website has been finalized by DPKO, the Office of the SRSG and UNICEF. The new website, to be launched in 2014, will provide MRM guidelines and other support documents and also form the heart of a community of practice for MRM practitioners in the field.

Resources

From 2006 to 2013, several resource partners chose to give flexible funding to thematic pooled funds for the five focus areas of the UNICEF MTSP and humanitarian response. In 2013, UNICEF received almost \$17 million in thematic contributions for Child Protection from Violence, Exploitation and Abuse, amounting to 5 per cent of the total thematic contributions received in 2013 (\$359 million) for the five focus areas and humanitarian response.³⁹

Due to the extraordinary response to the funding appeals for the Syrian crisis, and South Sudan in the latter half of the year, two fifths of thematic funding in 2013 went to humanitarian response, with the majority of contributions made to the new 2014-2017 thematic funding pool, which opened on 1 October 2013. Total thematic funding for the five MTSP focus areas in 2013 was \$211 million, 6 per cent more than the corresponding funding in 2012. This narrow funding base continues to be a challenge for UNICEF, as resources and efforts have necessarily shifted to preparing project proposals and reporting for earmarked contributions.

The thematic funding received for child protection in 2013 represented a 6 per cent decline relative to the 2012 contribution of almost \$18 million, and the second lowest contribution rate since 2011.

What is thematic funding?

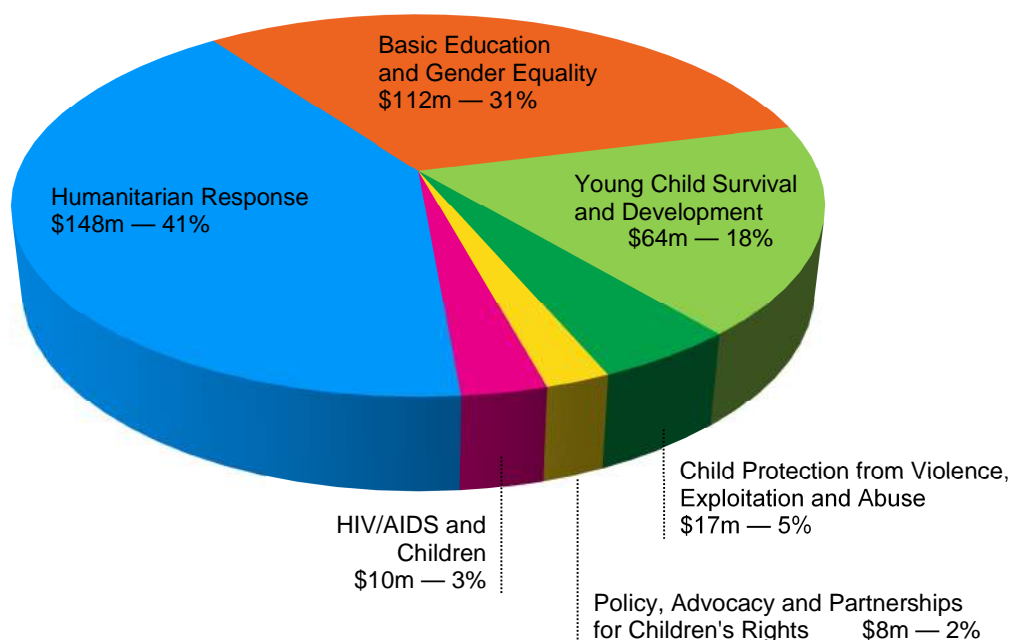
Thematic funding was created after the adoption of the UNICEF MTSP 2001–2005 as an opportunity for resource partners to support the goals and objectives of the MTSP and to allow for longer-term planning and sustainability of programmes. While regular resources continue to be UNICEF's preferred type of funding, thematic contributions are the next best option because they have fewer restrictions on their use than traditional 'other resources'.

From 2006 to 2013, resource partners could allocate thematic funds to the five MTSP focus areas and humanitarian response as follows:

- **Focus area 1:** Young child survival and development
- **Focus area 2:** Basic education and gender equality
- **Focus area 3:** HIV/AIDS and children
- **Focus area 4:** Child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse
- **Focus area 5:** Policy advocacy and partnerships for children's rights
- **Humanitarian response**

Thematic contributions are provided at the global, regional or country level. Contributions from all resource partners to the same focus area are combined into one pooled-fund account with the same duration, which simplifies financial management and reporting for UNICEF offices. As funds are pooled, UNICEF cannot track individual resource partners' contributions. A single annual consolidated narrative and financial report is provided that is the same for all resource partners. Due to reduced administrative costs, thematic contributions are subject to a lower cost recovery rate: 5 per cent (compared with the standard 7 per cent) during the 2006-2013 MTSP period.

**Thematic contributions to MTSP Focus Areas and Humanitarian Response, 2013:
\$359 million**



In 2013, 78 per cent of the contributions were from government partners, 18 per cent from National Committees for UNICEF and the remaining 4 per cent from private sector fundraising by country offices. The largest thematic resource partners to this focus area were the Governments of Sweden, contributing 48 per cent of funding, and Norway, providing 25 per cent, followed by the Dutch Committee for UNICEF and the Government of Australia.

Throughout the 2006-2013 MTSP period, Sweden and Norway have been the largest and most constant supporters of child protection, followed by Spain, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Germany.

**Thematic contributions by resource partners to MTSP Focus Area 4:
Child protection, 2013**

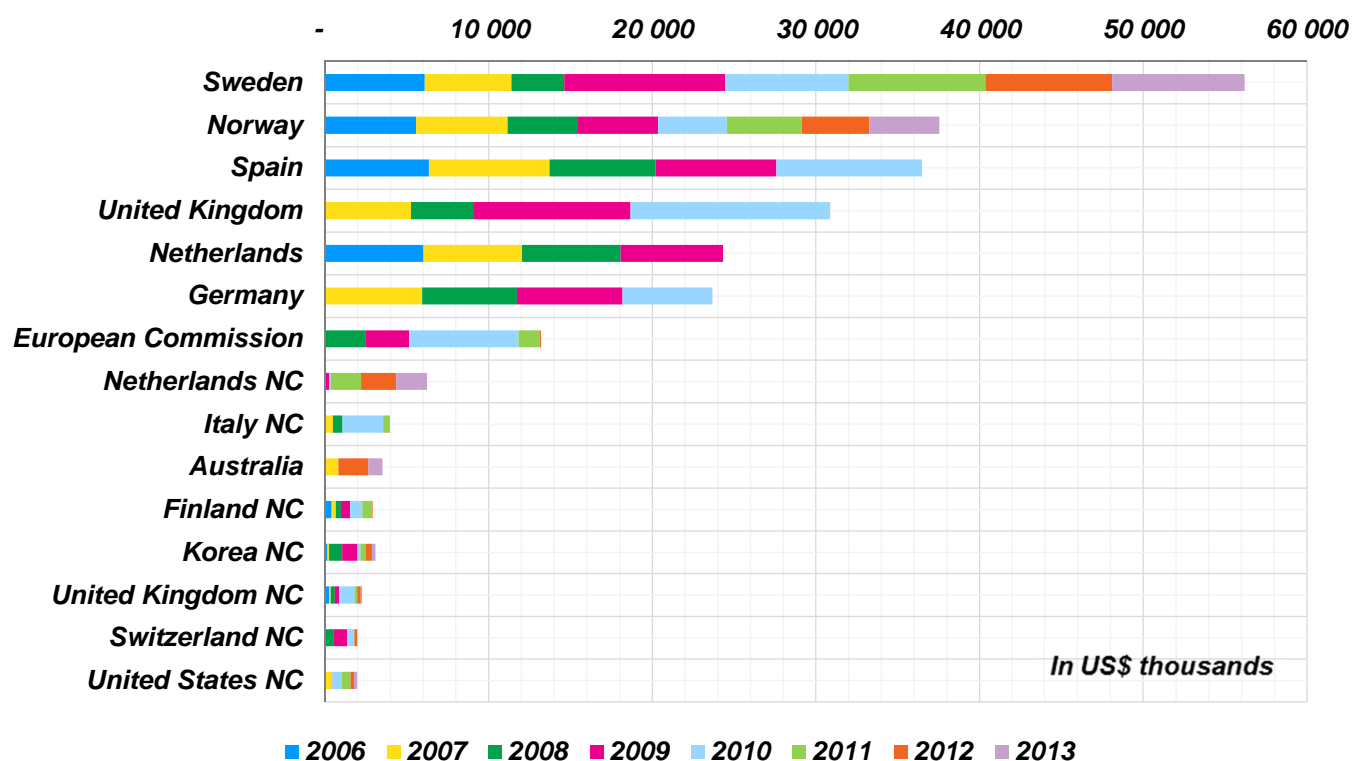
Resource partner type	Resource partner	Amount (in US\$)
Government	Sweden	8,093,766
	Norway	4,273,500
	Australia	862,069
	Canada	876
National Committee	Dutch Committee for UNICEF	1,868,544
	Norwegian Committee for UNICEF	463,861
	Korean Committee for UNICEF	200,000
	United States Fund for UNICEF	182,780
	Icelandic Committee for UNICEF	100,000
	United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	75,873
	Polish Committee for UNICEF	65,312
	Danish Committee for UNICEF	54,909
	Canadian Committee for UNICEF	51,367
	Australian Committee for UNICEF Ltd	35,197
	Czech Committee for UNICEF	9,988
	Spanish Committee for UNICEF	5,133
	Japan Committee for UNICEF	4,130
Private Sector Field Office Fundraising	UNICEF Malaysia	300,000
	UNICEF Thailand	300,000
	UNICEF Azerbaijan	29,337
	UNICEF Sri Lanka	14,097
	UNICEF United Arab Emirates	9,801
Grand Total		17,000,539

Top 15 resource partners to thematic Focus Area 4: Child protection, 2006-2013*

Resource Partner	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total 2006- 2013
<i>in US\$ thousands</i>									
Sweden	6,091	5,304	3,233	9,821	7,543	8,366	7,739	8,094	56,191
Norway	5,573	5,597	4,298	4,887	4,194	4,583	4,133	4,274	37,539
Spain	6,345	7,375	6,477	7,396	8,895		(55)		36,433
United Kingdom		5,258	3,844	9,569	12,201				30,872
Netherlands	6,024	6,024	6,024	6,246					24,318
Germany		5,934	5,803	6,446	5,501				23,684
European Commission			2,493	2,638	6,704	1,305	64		13,204
Dutch Committee for UNICEF			31	231	88	1,851	2,165	1,869	6,235
Italian Committee for UNICEF		489	582		2,485	413			3,969
Australia		826					1,821	862	3,509
Finnish Committee for UNICEF	403	265	311	567	734	563	64		2,907
Korean Committee for UNICEF	150	100	800	950	160	325	395	200	3,080
United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	243	115	237	261	958	163	203	76	2,256
Swiss Committee for UNICEF			498	867	436		168		1,969
United States Fund for UNICEF	28	399		22	561	557	215	183	1,965

*Change in accounting policy from United Nations System Accounting Standards to International Public Sector Accounting Standards on 1 January 2012 does not allow comparisons between 2012 figures and prior years.

Top resource partners to thematic Focus Area 4: Child Protection, 2006-2013*



*Change in accounting policy from United Nations System Accounting Standards to International Public Sector Accounting Standards on 1 January 2012 does not allow comparisons between 2012 figures and prior years.

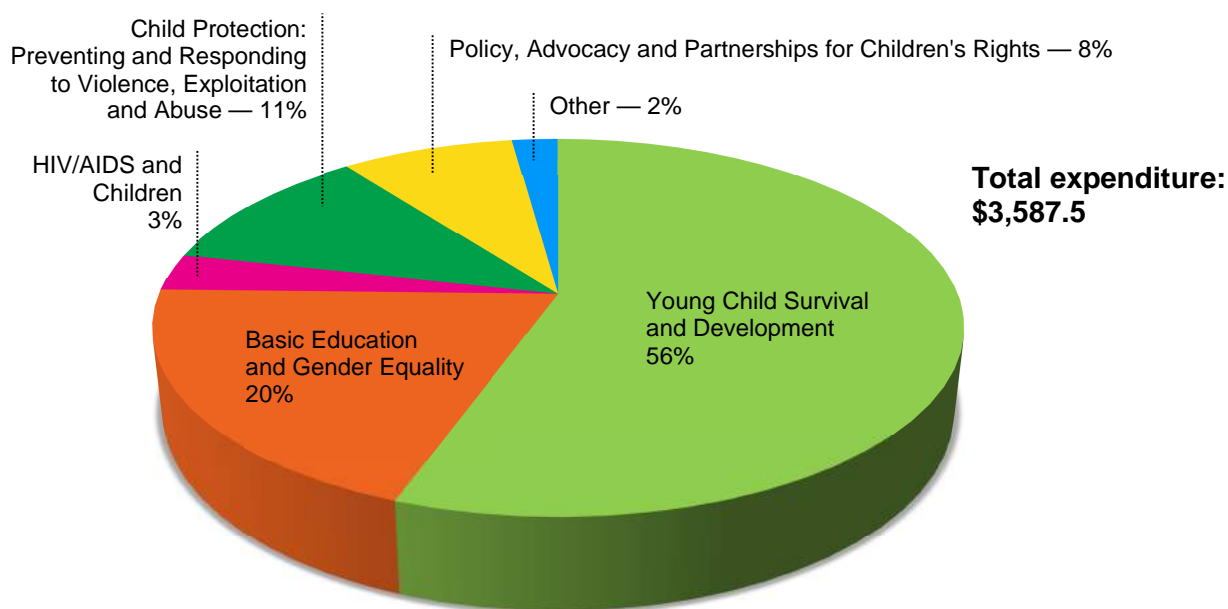
Financial implementation

UNICEF expenditure for focus area 4 was \$399.3 million in 2013, representing 11.1 per cent of the organization's total programme expenditure.⁴⁰

Total expenditure by MTSP Focus Area, 2013 (all funding sources)

MTSP Focus Area	Expenditure (in US \$ million)	Expenditure (%)
Young child survival and development	1,991.8	55.5%
Basic education and gender equality	712.6	19.9%
HIV/AIDS and children	111.9	3.1%
Child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse	399.3	11.1%
Policy advocacy and partnerships for children's rights	294.6	8.2%
Other	77.4	2.2%
Total	3,587.5	100%

Total expenditure by MTSP Focus Area, 2013 (in US\$ millions)



Within child protection, the greatest expenditure in 2012 was on KRA 1, accounting for 45.2 per cent of the total.

Expenditure by key result area for child protection, 2013

Key result area	Expenditure (in US \$ million)	% of focus area expenditure
KRA1 - Better child protection systems that include national laws, policies and services across sectors, in particular justice and social protection, to protect all children from violence, exploitation and abuse	180.7	45.2%
KRA2 - Dialogue stimulated among social networks and nationally that reinforces social conventions, norms and values that favour the prevention of violence, exploitation, abuse and unnecessary separation for all children; and leads to questioning of child rights violations including harmful conventions and practices, while ensuring respect for the views of children and building on young people's resilience	48.7	12.2%
KRA3 - Better protection of children from the immediate and long-term impact of armed conflict and humanitarian crises	134.4	33.7%
KRA4 - Improved country level monitoring, research, evaluation and use of data on child protection	29.3	7.3%
Cross cutting*	6.2	1.5%
Total	399.3	100%

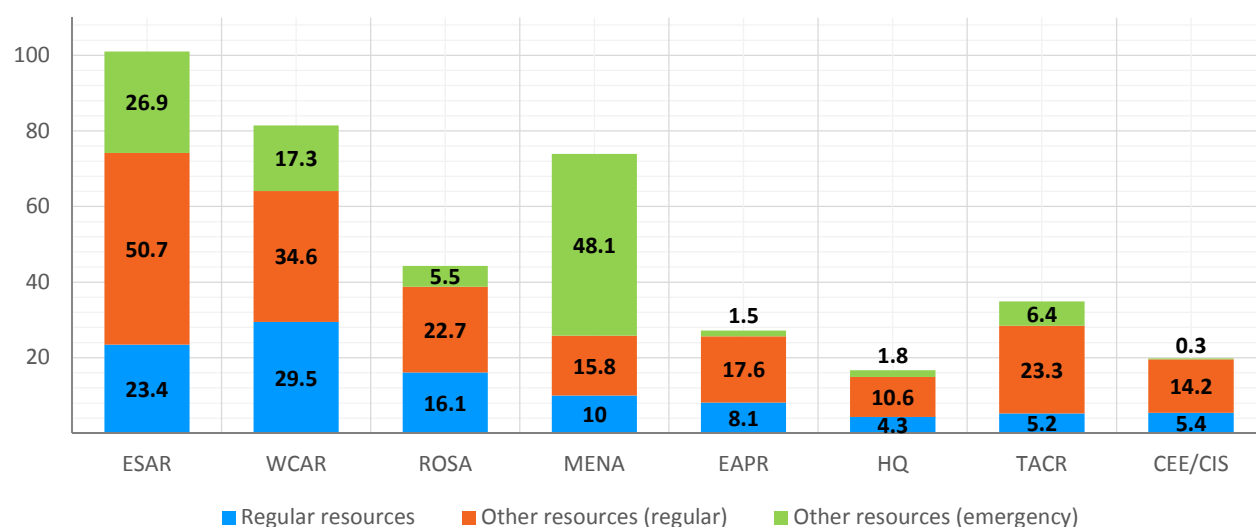
*Figure includes funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational costs. Without such cross-thematic and operational usage, outcome area results would often be compromised or not achieved

In 2013, the largest expenditure for child protection was in the Eastern and Southern Africa region, followed by the West and Central Africa region. Together these regions accounted for 45.8 per cent of total expenditure for child protection.

Total expenditure by region and funding source for child protection, 2013

Region	Regular resources	Other resources (regular)	Other resources (emergency)	Total expenditure	Total expenditure (%)
	<i>(in US\$ millions)</i>				
Eastern and Southern Africa	23.4	50.7	26.9	101.0	25.3%
West and Central Africa	29.5	34.6	17.3	81.4	20.4%
South Asia	16.1	22.7	5.5	44.3	11.1%
Middle East and North Africa	10.0	15.8	48.1	73.9	18.5%
East Asia and the Pacific	8.1	17.6	1.5	27.2	6.8%
UNICEF headquarters	4.3	10.6	1.8	16.7	4.2%
Latin America and the Caribbean	5.2	23.3	6.4	34.9	8.7%
Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States	5.4	14.2	.3	19.8	5.0%
All regions	102.0	189.5	107.8	399.3	100.0%

Total expenditure by region and funding source for child protection, 2013



Future workplan

Using lessons learned from the notable omission of targets or indicators on violence and other protection-related issues in the Millennium Development Goals, the post-2015 agenda presents an opportunity to redress this imbalance and ensure that the global sustainable development goals take into account the universal impact of violence and other protection issues on children and on the societies in which they live. Reflecting on its Strategic Plan and Gender Action Plan for 2014-2017, UNICEF will intensify support to national, regional and global action, and continue the process of dialogue advocating for the inclusion of key indicators in the post-2015 agenda in order to maintain visibility and accountability on child protection issues over the next decade. Areas of note will include birth registration, data on violent injuries and advancements in halting child marriage.

Understanding and developing effective pathways to change involves rigorous monitoring, evaluation and research on drivers and determinants, and recognizing that context matters, both in defining what underlies violations and what systemic approaches may be required and are possible. The Strategic Plan, 2014-2017 presents a timely and much needed opportunity for UNICEF to invest in the evidence base to ensure that robust and regularly collected and disaggregated data on violence and exploitation of children are part of all countries' data collection efforts, including linking with public health and other related and relevant surveillance systems (such as injury surveillance). In addition to large-scale household surveys, specific studies or research are required to complement data from national household surveys and administrative data. A particular area of focus in the new Strategic Plan will be work with national statistical offices, ministries and other partners to mine data collected through administrative records (to help contextualize the figures) and through qualitative studies and ad-hoc surveys. Stronger human resource capacities in the areas of planning, monitoring and evaluation are also requirements for this work.

UNICEF is increasingly seeking to develop an investment case for child protection. In the latter half of 2013, UNICEF engaged renowned economists on applying the 'cost of inaction' economic framework to child protection. This engagement is culminating in a conceptual paper on the cost of not taking action on violence against children. The paper, to be completed mid-2014, will illustrate the complexity of violence and make a case for investing in prevention. It will outline the significant long-term, positive effects beyond the inherent value of protecting children, including costs saved from responding to a lower incidence of violence, stronger families and communities and other direct and indirect benefits that reach all segments of society.

Strengthening management for results is a key priority moving forward. UNICEF will work towards continued improvements in maximizing its role, contribution and accountability to children and their families, as well as the broader child protection community, including donor constituents. Learning lessons from the outcome of global evaluations, including the global evaluation on child protection in emergencies, has significant implications for UNICEF work at global, regional and country levels in terms of advocacy, programming, management and reporting on results. In 2014, UNICEF will release an evidence review on effective strategies to prevent and respond to sexual abuse and exploitation in development and humanitarian emergency contexts. In addition, a global study on programme communication to prevent violence against children will be launched, as will a position paper on child labour. The results from these comprehensive reviews and reports will be used to develop evidence-based programme guidance for field staff and partners to combat violence against children, sexual exploitation, harmful practices and child labour.

At a regional and country level, UNICEF continues to invest in strengthening results for children. For instance, the planned justice for children evaluation and the evaluation of UNICEF work on children and institutions in the Central and Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States region will provide essential feedback to strengthen the role and contribution of UNICEF in these areas of work. A global meeting, 'From Research to Action: Advancing Prevention and Response to Violence Against Children', to be held in May 2014 in partnership with the 'Together for Girls' initiative, will bring together key experts and Governments that have carried out (or will be implementing in 2014-2015) the violence against children survey and are carrying out national action plans based on the survey results. The ground-breaking meeting will provide a forum for South-South knowledge-generation and develop a common set of indicators and results framework to track progress in the coming years among the Together for Girls partners, which currently include 15 UNICEF country offices plus regional and global partners from Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

Over the MTSP period, there was a focus on identifying and strengthening the child protection system and the tools for addressing some of the risks that children face. In the next strategic plan period, attention will focus on the intersection of systems and norms in achieving results for children. Ongoing work continues to explore child protection typologies, and aims to show how the cultural (country) context dictates the way in which a child protection system operates. In addition, UNICEF will continue to build on efforts to date to strengthen capacities both at national level and across the child protection sector as a whole. Plans include initiating a consultation process with other leading child protection organizations to identify skill sets and competencies required in differing contexts, including humanitarian crises. Capacity-building of child protection staff in planning and monitoring and evaluation will remain a priority.

Noting that 2014 marks the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF continues to have a responsibility to promote children's rights to protection. This role will be exercised not only in programme countries but also through partnerships with regional and global initiatives to address, among others, CRVS, alternative care, child labour, child marriage, FGM/C, juvenile justice, trafficking and migration and the prevention of violence and exploitation. UNICEF will also continue to harness United Nations inter-agency cooperation in assistance around the rule of law – through mechanisms such as the global focal point – to mainstream justice for children initiatives into larger judicial sector reform programmes. UNICEF will strengthen its position as a global leader in social norms through collaboration with the World Bank on the 2015 World Development Report, which will focus on social and behavioural foundations of economic development. A national strategy guide on child online protection will be developed in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union, and the Guidelines for Industry on Child Online Protection will be disseminated.

UNICEF will continue to strengthen and expand efforts to address violence against children through both systems-building and challenging harmful norms and practices, taking advantage of the renewed global interest in addressing child marriage, FGM/C and violence in general that has been expressed in both the #ENDViolence initiative and in many global and regional-level efforts. Programme efforts will focus on improving parenting, school and community-based programmes as well as services and systems to protect children from violence –with increased attention to monitoring and evaluation of programmes. In partnership with UNFPA, UNICEF will pursue a second phase (2014-2017) of the Joint Programme on FGM/C, accelerating change in 17 countries. UNICEF will facilitate the implementation and roll-out of its revised framework for the elimination of child labour, through providing access to basic services including education and social protection initiatives, strengthening national child protection systems and promoting social change.

UNICEF will continue to promote diversion and alternatives to detention, including through continued implementation of the Diversion Toolkit, and development of Legal Aid guidance. To support strengthened monitoring of the implementation of the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, a global count of children in formal care will be undertaken through use of the 'Manual for the Measurement of Indicators for Children in Formal Care. Building on earlier work, there will be the continued roll-out of justice for children programming, including through greater provision of legal aid and specialized procedures and personnel in civil as well as criminal systems. A specific focus of birth registration will be on leveraging existing regional initiatives to strengthen the capacity of national civil registration systems. In addition, the use of innovations will be explored, including ICT to reach the majority of children (as in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia) as well as those who are excluded (as in Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe).

UNICEF will continue to provide support to global and national advocacy to eliminate violence including work with partners and country offices implementing the #ENDViolence initiative. The initiative will work at the global level and local levels, supporting programmes designed to address violence and documenting progress. A global policy paper will be launched to complement the existing communication and programme efforts initiated in 2013. This report will contribute to a common understanding of the extent and prevalence of violence as well as the state-of-the-art approaches to address violence against children, seeking to communicate the challenges and the vision behind this work and provide a platform for advocacy with global and national leaders.

As part of a broader strategy to ignite efforts towards protecting children from the effects of armed conflict, UNICEF and partners will implement the 'Children, not Soldiers' campaign to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by national security forces by 2016. The campaign will also generate visibility and attract resources for ongoing efforts to engage armed groups/non-state entities (NSEs) to prevent recruitment and use of children. The initiative, jointly led by the Office of the SRSG on Children and Armed Conflict and UNICEF, will accelerate the implementation and the compliance of the provisions of the action plans with the parties to the conflict (as envisioned in Security Council resolutions 1539, 1612 and 1882), with particular emphasis on those signed with the Governments. Full compliance with the provisions of the action plans by the security forces will result in the identification and release of children within the ranks of security forces; the prevention of further recruitment and use of children; the penalization and prosecution of child recruitment and other grave violations against children; and the adoption of effective strategies to reinforce birth registration.

An important action regarding GBV will be the roll-out of the revised IASC GBV Guidelines across all UNICEF emergency responses and sectors, with initial focus on 12 key countries. Following the initial success of the IASC Safe Access to Firewood and alternative Energy ('SAFE') framework, the initiative will be taken to scale in at least two priority countries in 2014. The year 2014 will also see the launch of the 'Social Norms and Community-based Care' toolkit in Somalia and South Sudan. Building on the success of the use of combined dignity/WASH kits, developed jointly by UNICEF child protection and water, sanitation and hygiene staff, these kits will be further rolled out to provide access to essential items for women and girls at risk of GBV in emergencies. To advance work to mitigate risk of sexual violence against adolescent girls, a programme will be rolled out to five key countries. Work supporting unaccompanied and separated children will focus on the development of a roll out plan for RapidFTR. The new field handbook and training materials for unaccompanied and separated children will be launched and rolled out, and new inter-agency registration forms will be rolled out. To advance CPIMS, advance field testing of both the case management and incident-monitoring modules of PRIMERO will be prioritized in three locations prior to the end of 2014. A deployment strategy, including a data migration plan, will also be finalized in 2014.

Expression of thanks

UNICEF expresses its sincere appreciation to all resource partners who contributed to the work on child protection throughout the 2006-2013 MTSP period through this thematic funding window. It is because of thematic funding that UNICEF has been able to provide technical, operational and programming support to countries in all regions for upstream work that helps to deliver quality services for the protection of children. Thematic funding provides greater flexibility, longer-term planning and sustainability of programmes. It reflects the trust resource partners have in the capacity and ability of UNICEF to deliver quality support under all circumstances and has made possible the results described in this report.

Special thanks go to the Governments of Sweden and Norway for providing consistent and generous contributions for the protection of children.

ACRONYMS

C4D	Communication for Development
CDC	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CPIMS	Child Protection Information Management System
CPWG	Child Protection Working Group
CRVS	Civil registry and vital statistics
CSR	Corporate social responsibility
DPKO	United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
ESCAP	United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FGM/C	Female genital mutilation/cutting
GBV	Gender-based violence
ICAT	Inter-agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons
ICT	Information and communication technology
ILO	International Labour Organization
MICS	Multiple indicator cluster surveys
MoRES	Monitoring Results for Equity System
MRE	Mine-risk education
MRM	Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism
MTSP	Medium-term strategic plan
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PRIMERO	Protection Related Information Management for Emergency Response Operations
SRSG	Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WHO	World Health Organization

Compendium of country action examples: child protection 2013

Key result area 1	Protection systems that include national laws, policies and services across sectors, in particular social justice and social protection, to protect all children from violence, exploitation and abuse
STRENGTHENING LAWS, POLICIES AND STANDARDS	
Haiti	Child protection saw the vote and promulgation of the Law on Adoption. Haiti's ratification of the 1993 Hague Convention was deposited in December 2013.
Montenegro	A new national law on social and child protection was adopted, paving the way for accelerated reforms of the child protection system, including a clause prohibiting placement of boys and girls under the age of three years in large-scale institutions. The first child protection database was established, and a nationwide foster care campaign, 'Every Child Needs a Family', was launched, resulting in a significant increase in foster parent applications.
State of Palestine	The Amended Child Law came into force in 2013 after many years of advocacy by UNICEF and partners. An important result is that the minimum age of criminal responsibility was raised from 9 to 12 years.
Senegal	The political validation of the national strategy for the protection of vulnerable children represents a key milestone towards building a protection system for the most vulnerable. Its action plan will guide government institutions and partners to address major issues related to violence against children by promoting integrated services, decentralized and multi-sectoral coordination, and a social change approach to stimulate positive practices.
Jamaica	UNICEF advocacy contributed to the successful removal of the 'uncontrollable behaviour' label that resulted in children being sentenced in the judicial system (including 28 per cent of 192 children in juvenile institutions in 2012). Instead, emphasis will be on providing non-custodial options for their care.
SUPPORTING SERVICES AND SERVICE DELIVERY MECHANISMS	
Kazakhstan	A referral protocol for identification and responding to families at risk of abandoning their child, and the introduction mechanism to prevent abandonment of children under age three years in the city of Semey led to the prevention of around 40 per cent of potential child abandonment cases. This pilot led to the mainstreaming of the protocol into the Ministry of Health's policies, and boosted cross-sectoral social work strengthening and improvements to day-care facilities supporting families at risk of child abandonment and neglect.
Kenya	Under the UNICEF-supported programme for orphans and vulnerable children's, concerted advocacy resulted in the Ministry of Labour absorbing an additional 11,000 households in the planned scale-up of the programme, to a total of 350,000 households.
Republic of Moldova	A regional conference was co-hosted by UNICEF and the European Commission, attended by over 130 high-level representatives from 21 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. This resulted in the Government identifying juvenile justice as a priority area of work and led to a commitment to shift from a punitive to a restorative approach.
United Republic of Tanzania	Thanks to a UNICEF-supported legal aid programme, 100 per cent of children appearing in the nation's only juvenile court had their right to legal representation upheld and all children in detention received legal help, resulting in 240 children being released from detention over a 12-month period. Children were included as a priority group in the Legal Aid Bill.
United Republic of Tanzania	Thanks to a UNICEF-supported legal aid programme, 100 per cent of children appearing in the nation's only juvenile court had their right to legal representation upheld and all children in detention received legal help, resulting in 240 children being released from detention over a 12-month period. Children were included as a priority group in the Legal Aid Bill.
Uganda	UNICEF supported integrated programming that saw the percentage of children under age five years registered at birth increase from 30 per cent in 2011 to 49 per cent in 2013 as a result of the Birth and Death Registration (BDR) policy; use of technology to improve timely delivery of BDR services; and the integration of birth registration services during Family Health Days.
Zambia	UNICEF supported the Ministry of Home Affairs and Health to integrate birth registration and health services through birth registration desks in health facilities located within communities. As a result, 5,158 children were registered in 67 health facilities with registration desks, compared to 299 registered in 2012 through the traditional district registration offices.
COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY TO SUPPORT SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING	
Armenia	As a direct consequence of UNICEF advocacy work during the last two years, significant progress was achieved with the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Education around child care reform, specifically greater de-institutionalization through transformation of residential care institutions and expanding/setting up alternative care services.
Nicaragua	An open 'crowd sourcing' initiative used social media to solicit suggestions on how to increase demand for birth registration, with 28 proposals being solicited, as part of awareness-raising on birth registration. As a result, the winning strategy - A weeklong event "Yo existo (I Exist)" - was implemented in the municipality of Puerto Cabeza. Over 100 girls and boys obtained their birth certificates during the event, four times greater than the average.
Pakistan	A national birth registration campaign in 2013 in partnership with the National Database and Registration Authority and local governments, using television commercials and print media testimonials from renowned personalities, reached an estimated 30 million people across Pakistan.
Iraq	42,600 educational comic books and 22,150 posters on the processes concerning the detention of children were produced in Arabic, English and Kurdish and distributed to children at risk of being in contact with the law, with the support of the Ministry of Labour, Social Welfare and Juvenile Care Council.
Ghana	An advocacy plan was drafted to accompany the development of the new child protection policy. This resulted in the Minister mentioning the upcoming policy in speeches and public addresses as well as holding a session with the Parliament Select Committee on Children's Issues. The Minister of Finance also highlighted this initiative in the 2014 budget.

BUILDING CAPACITY	
Kyrgyzstan	Addressing critical gaps on identification, registration and gatekeeping mechanisms for vulnerable children, UNICEF trained 317 social protection and 559 child protection specialists in 30 municipalities.
Indonesia	Approximately 30 lecturers from the Bandung School of Social Work and member universities of the Indonesian Association of Social Work Education were trained as trainers in child protection and child care as part of the action plan to strengthen pre-service training on child protection and social welfare.
Chile	To improve the abilities of professionals and specialists working with the most high-risk families, over 750 early childhood care professionals were trained in key areas, including parental skills, childcare and methods and approaches to their work with families.
Honduras	UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry for Social Development, inter-municipal networks, municipalities and NGOs, provided training, technical assistance and tools to support the expansion of the National Early Childhood Register, resulting in the registration of births and monitoring of the health and nutritional status of 74,000 children in five districts (departments) with the highest rates of poverty.
Iran, Islamic Republic of	With the ratification of the revised Islamic Penal Code in 2013 having improved juvenile justice, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Judiciary, trained 175 judges, prosecutors, lawyers, and social workers in the seven provinces with the highest numbers of juveniles deprived of liberty. This contributed to reducing the number of children deprived of liberty from almost 2,000 in 2012 to almost 1,000 at the end of 2013. Further, the Judicial Sciences University launched a Master's course on Criminal Law for Children.
Georgia	UNICEF and Ministry of Justice developed modules on diversion programmes for children for use in training institutes, and conducted a training of trainers for 130 professionals (prosecutors, social workers and mediators). As of 2013, over 500 children have successfully avoided criminal sentences and the number of children in prisons has been reduced from 160 to 60, with an individual sentence planning approach in both probation and penitentiary systems.
Uganda	Sixteen District Justice Law and Order Sector Chain Linked Committees initiated a 'preliminary inquiry' process under which the police, probation officers, Resident State Attorney and a community representative jointly review cases of children in contact with the justice system. As a result, the number of petty offenders diverted from the justice system and children's cases being fast-tracked increased.
Chile / Dominican Republic	In partnership with the Dominican Republic's National Schools for Judges and Prosecutors and the Chilean Universidad Diego Portales, UNICEF organized the XVI Course on Judicial Protection on the Rights of Children in Santo Domingo, to strengthen the application of international human rights treaties in the judicial processes involving children and adolescents. 72 judges, prosecutors and lawyers from 14 Latin American countries participated. The new programme should serve as a base for the training plan of the Ibero-American Network of Judicial Training Schools.
Guatemala	Guatemala created 12 child protection offices at department level, reaching 60 per cent national coverage; opened four new specialized children's courts (which deal with a range of child protection concerns including alternative care placement) reaching 85 per cent of the country; and created a virtual interpretation centre, ensuring that children attending the system can file complaints and statements in their own language.
Middle East & North Africa Regional Office	Triggered by a UNICEF review of existing collaboration with specialized police family and child protection unit, a regional meeting on justice for children was organized in Jordan with 23 delegations from nine countries, in collaboration with the International Bureau for Children's Rights, resulting in shared knowledge and experience about justice and children. This will feed into strengthened police systems to respond to child victims.
SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION TO STRENGTHEN SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	
Intra-regional	
Libya and Algeria	UNICEF supported the participation of 10 judges/prosecutors and one social worker from Libya in a study tour to the Higher Judicial Institute in Algeria. Upon their return, and building on previous work undertaken by UNODC and UNDP, and with UNICEF technical support, the participants led the drafting of a juvenile justice law that was later submitted to the General National Congress for consideration.
Zimbabwe and South Africa	In 2012, the National Pre-Trial Diversion Steering Committee from Zimbabwe undertook a learning tour to South Africa, which has one of the region's most well-established pre-trial diversion programmes for young people. Using lessons learned national guidelines were finalized, with greater emphasis on efforts to reduce pre-trial detention and a clearer role for civil society partners.
Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam	The Cambodian National Training on Human Trafficking was organized and funded through an inter-agency approach including the Cambodian government and law enforcement agencies, United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking, International Organization for Migration and the Somaly Mam Foundation. The training supported an inter-country memorandum of understanding on human trafficking and victim protection between the Governments of Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam.
Inter-regional	
Mozambique and Brazil	Collaboration on child protection included technical assistance from Brazil to implement a Maputo-city based multi-sectoral pilot programme on community work as an alternative to imprisonment for children in conflict with the law. Its implementation and collaboration between health and nutrition courts, social welfare and the Attorney General led to 8,267 institutionalized children being placed in family care.
Brazil as partner	UNICEF Ghana brokered a partnership between the Governments of Brazil and Ghana on social protection, in order to draw on and learn from Brazil's progress in implementing cash transfers. UNICEF Algeria facilitated a first inter-ministerial team visit to Brazil, to observe the social transfer system, and provide Algerian ministry partners with a perspective around alternative social transfer structure.
Key result area 2	Dialogue stimulated among social networks and nationally that reinforces social conventions, norms and values that favour the prevention of violence, exploitation, abuse and unnecessary separation for all children; and leads to questioning of child rights violations including harmful conventions and practices, while ensuring respect for the views of children and building young people's resilience

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN	
Burkina Faso	Action plans for better care of child victims of violence and trafficking, promoting the exchange of experiences and strengthened child protection networks at local level, as well as the training of social workers to provide better support to child victims of violence, exploitation and abuse are all beginning to yield results. In 2013, the number of vulnerable children at risk or victims of abuse, exploitation and violence receiving holistic support increased by 140 per cent (26,990 children compared to the target of 18,000).
Côte d'Ivoire	The global #ENDViolence initiative was adapted for the country context, and radio messages developed in five languages. Public service announcements were broadcast on 70 community radios across the country. In two of the targeted communities, a rapid evaluation concluded that over 80 per cent of the population had listened to one or more of the messages played on radio.
Gulf Area subregional programme	UNICEF efforts resulted in the increased capacity of a network of 140 school teachers to serve as trainers on early detection of abuse cases at school level, with the aim of reaching an additional 10,500 school teachers during 2014 through the 140 trainers.
Serbia	Following a 2012 study on digital violence, UNICEF and its corporate partner Telenor started a multifaceted campaign on social media through youth-led blogs and a Facebook page 'Choose words, prevent hate', reaching more than 11,000 people and actively engaging more than 1,200, 60 per cent of whom are below 24 years of age. To complement the social media efforts, a school-based programme on prevention of digital violence commenced in 10 schools.
Zimbabwe	The Government released a national baseline survey on violence against children, finding 33 per cent of girls report experiencing sexual violence before their 18th birthday, although fewer than 3 per cent accessed specialist services. In response, the Government has finalized standard operating procedures for supporting survivors and developed a girl's empowerment framework to guide immediate prevention and early intervention efforts. In 2014, secondary analyses and social determinants research will contribute to a broader evidence-based prevention strategy.
Mongolia	UNICEF supported the organization of a series of consensus-building consultations and development of legal amendments to address the safety and protection of children jockeys in horse racing, with a view to ultimately eliminate this practice.
Uzbekistan	UNICEF's sustained advocacy with other international partners and work to eliminate forced child labour in the cotton harvest resulted in the virtual elimination of this practice, corroborated by an ILO Monitoring Mission that found no significant child labour problems during the 2013 harvest.
FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING	
Egypt	In Egypt, UNICEF actively responded to the death of a girl who was cut by a medical professional, garnering national media attention and discussion. National media are also an important tool for disseminating information on influential leaders declaring their denunciation of FGM/C.
Ethiopia	Ethiopia launched a new National Strategy on Harmful Traditional Practices including a national Alliance to End Child Marriage led by the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs.
CHILD MARRIAGE	
Jordan and Lebanon	In Jordan and Lebanon, UNICEF deployed behaviour change communications interventions to prevent child marriage and violence against children, including among Syrian refugees and host communities.
Nepal	UNICEF Nepal supported data collection on child marriage. A 2013 study found that three of the five main reasons given by respondents for marriage under 18 years of age were social pressure, culture and because "it is normal – everyone does it".
Sierra Leone	The National Teenage Pregnancy Reduction Strategy (2013-2018) launched by the President also addressed child marriage through multiple ministries and a large number of stakeholders.
Key result area 3	Better protection of children from the immediate and long-term impact of armed conflict and humanitarian crises
Democratic Republic of the Congo	In its role as lead of the multi-sectoral assistance pillar under the national strategy against GBV, UNICEF together with partners provided psychosocial support to more than 17,600 child and women survivors of sexual violence and other forms of GBV. Of these 17,600 survivors, just over 6,000 (34 per cent) were children, the majority of them girls. UNICEF and partners also provided medical care to approximately 11,250 GBV survivors, including more than 3,500 children, mostly girls.
Ethiopia	Two centres have been established in Adama and Addis Ababa to provide services to 1,300 survivors of GBV, of whom 994 are children and 310 are women. More than 75,000 children received HIV-related sexual and reproductive health information, knowledge and services. Support for income-generating activities was provided to some 2,944 children (70 per cent girls), including mitigating risk to sexual exploitation.
Jordan	As part of its GBV prevention and response programme, UNICEF supported the case management of 693 girls who were married or in danger of being married early, in the host communities and in Za'atari camp. UNICEF and its partners are working to prevent child marriage through a number of initiatives, for example by promoting among Syrian youth and adolescent girls and boys the right to education and by providing safe spaces where they can participate in recreational and educational activities and life-skills training.
Lebanon	Women and girls represent 78 per cent of the registered Syrian refugee population in Lebanon and are disproportionately affected by sexual violence and exploitation, domestic violence, threats of honour killing, and harmful coping mechanisms such as child marriage and survival sex. To help mitigate these vulnerabilities, in 2013 UNICEF and partners provided safe spaces for 28,850 women and girls affected by the Syrian conflict. The inter-agency GBV Task Force initiated the roll-out of the GBV Information Management System to effectively and safely collect, analyze and share data reported by survivors. A pilot exercise was conducted in the North (Akkar) and an -information-sharing protocol endorsed. The GBV Task Force trained 14 organizations to expand the use of the system to Tripoli, Bekka and the South. Since September 2013, eight data gathering organizations have shared their data on a monthly basis.
Mali	Assistance was provided to 3,341 survivors, including approximately 936 child survivors (739 girls & 197 boys) in the regions of Kayes, Koulikoro, Mopti and in the District of Bamako. Around 2,854 GBV incidents (the majority of cases being perpetrated against women (1,624) and girls (406)) occurred during fighting, population movement or in displacement settings. The majority of survivors received psychological first aid and information on available services in addition to referrals to services of their choice including medical care, psychosocial support and received legal assistance.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Pinheiro (2006) World Report on Violence against Children.
- 2 http://www.unicef.org/protection/files/UNICEF_Birth_Registration_Handbook.pdf
- 3 Pinheiro (2006).
- 4 UNICEF (2010) Child Disciplinary Practices at Home.
- 5 Pinheiro (2006).
- 6 WHO, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, South African Medical Research Council (2013) Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence.
- 7 UNICEF Swaziland (2007) A National Study on Children and Young Women in Swaziland. UNICEF Swaziland; UNICEF, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (2011) Violence Against Children in Tanzania: Findings from a National Survey 2009. Dar es Salaam: United Republic of Tanzania; UNICEF Kenya Country Office, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) (2012) Violence Against Children in Kenya: Findings from a National Survey, 2010. Nairobi: UNICEF Kenya Country Office; Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT), (UNICEF and Collaborating Centre for Operational Research and Evaluation (CCORE) (2013) National Baseline Survey on Life Experiences of Adolescents, 2011. Harare: Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT).
- 8 United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women (2005) cited in Ward, "Gender-based Violence among Conflict-affected Populations: Humanitarian Program Responses", *Listening to the Silences: Women and War* (Netherlands, 2005), 67. Although overall more men than women continue to die as a result of conflict, women and girls suffer myriad debilitating consequences of war, including sexual and other forms of violence. (See M. Vlachova and L. Biason, ed, *Women in an Insecure World: Violence Against Women, Facts, Figures, and Analysis*, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (Geneva, 2005), 114.)
- 9 See Ward, J. (2012) *Prevention Programming to Reduce Violence Against Women and Girls in Humanitarian Settings: Towards a Preliminary Framework*.
- 10 Ward, J. and Marsh, M. (2006) *Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls in War and Its Aftermath: Realities, Responses, and Required Resources*. A Briefing Paper Prepared for Symposium on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond, Brussels (Belgium).
- 11 http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/H-Research_Notes/SAS-Research-Note-19.pdf.
- 12 Note that these figures are not disaggregated by cause of death and therefore not all of these deaths can be attributed to armed violence.
- 13 The 10 countries with the highest rates of child marriage are: Niger, 75 per cent; Chad and Central African Republic, 68 per cent; Bangladesh, 66 per cent; Guinea, 63 per cent; Mozambique, 56 per cent; Mali, 55 per cent; Burkina Faso and South Sudan, 52 per cent; and Malawi, 50 per cent.
- 14 http://www.unicef.org/media/media_68114.html
- 15 The OPSC, the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention) and the Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Call from Action to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents.
- 16 The Child Protection Funders Group is an alliance of private foundations.
- 17 Fang, X. et al. (2012) *The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention Child Abuse and Neglect*.
- 18 <http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/library/better-way-protect-all-children-theory-and-practice-child-protection-systems-conference> - The report is an outcome of the 2012 conference in New Delhi, India that brought together over 130 policy-makers, academics and practitioners to exchange the latest thinking around systems strengthening.
- 19 http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Child_Protection_Interagency_Statement_English.pdf
- 20 <http://www.hablapormi.org/>
- 21 Countries passing justice for children laws include Bangladesh, Barbados and Eastern Caribbean, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, China, Iran, Macedonia, Nicaragua, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Sao Tome and Principe, Zimbabwe.
- 22 The Secretary-General's campaign to promote universal ratification of the Optional Protocols to the CRC was launched in May 2010 and is implemented by UNICEF, the SRSG's on CAAC and VAC, the OHCHR, the CRC Committee and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.
- 23 Czech Republic, Liechtenstein, Russian Federation and St. Lucia ratified the OPSC in 2013, resulting in a total of 166 ratifications.
- 24 Belize, Cambodia, Cote d'Ivoire, Haiti, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, the Dominican Republic, Ukraine and Zimbabwe
- 25 SRSG on Violence against Children (2013) *Toward a World Free from Violence: Global Survey on Violence against Children*. New York: Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children.
- 26 Improved service delivery to child victims and children at risk of sexual violence took place in Argentina, ten Eastern Caribbean countries, Bolivia, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uruguay.

- 27 Socialization activities are recorded in Antigua and Barbuda, Algeria, Barbados, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Dominica, Ecuador, Grenada, India, Jamaica, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Montenegro, Morocco, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, the Virgin Islands, Uruguay, Zimbabwe.
- 28 UNICEF is active in 29 countries on issues of FGM/C: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Yemen.
- 29 The 15 countries for focused FGM/C action are Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda.
- 30 UNICEF supported these results in partnership with the Child Protection Working Group and other partners.
- 31 The SHARP is launched in cooperation with the Government of Syria, humanitarian actors, United Nations (UN) agencies, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) registered in Syria to address the continuing increase in large-scale humanitarian needs.
- 32 GBV statistics as reported by UNICEF country offices in: DRC, Mali, Lebanon, and Somalia.
- 33 <http://www.unicef-irc.org/research-watch/Violence-against-children--a-silent-threat/>
- 34 All references to Kosovo in this publication should be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).
- 35 <http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/unicef%20research-gb-web.pdf>
- 36 <https://knowledge-gateway.org/childprotection/cpsystems/webinarcpsystems/library/yzkzdv4p?o=lc>
- 37 'Klout' is a website and mobile app that ranks its users on a scale of 1 to 100 (100 being the highest) according to social online influence. The Klout Score –which uses social media analytics –ranks one's online influence (when something is shared on social media or in 'real life' and people respond that is considered 'influence'). The more influential, the higher one's Klout Score. See: <http://klout.com/corp/score>. This score of 99 is unprecedented for a multilateral agency.
- 38 The evaluation table only includes those areas of work that were evaluated five or more times.
- 39 Change in accounting policy from United Nations System Accounting Standards to International Public Sector Accounting Standards on 1 January 2012 does not allow comparisons between 2012 figures and prior years.
- 40 Effective 1 January 2012, UNICEF financial statements are prepared under the full accrual basis of International Public Sector Accounting Standards. Accordingly, the breakdown of expenses reflects the cost of services and consumable goods received by UNICEF as well as programme supplies delivered to programme partners during 2013.



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