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List of Acronyms

AA - Association Agreement between the EU and the Republic of Moldova
BIR - Bureau of Interethnic Relations
CCF - Copil Comunitate Familie Moldova (Children, Community and Family Moldova)
CDC – Center for Disease Control (CDC)
CE – Council of Europe
CEE CIS-Central and Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States
CFSS - Child Friendly School Standards
CGMS - Child Growth Monitoring Standards
CNPAC - Centrul Naţional de Prevenire a Abuzului faţă de Copii (National Centre for Prevention of Child Abuse)
CRC – Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRIC - Child Rights Information Center
CWD - Children with Disabilities
EDEI - Early Detection and Early Intervention
ELDS - Early Learning Development Standards
EU- European Union
GBV – Gender Based Violence
HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICF-CY – International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, Children and Youth version
ICMBS - International Code on Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes
IFI – International Financing Institutions
IMF – International Monetary Fund
IRP - Institute of Penal Reform
ISM – Inter- Sectoral Mechanism
LPAs – Local Public Authorities
MoE – Ministry of Education
MCAH – Mother, Child and Adolescent Health Services
MICS - Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoF - Ministry of Finance
MLSPF - Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family
MoH – Ministry of Health
MOV- Means of Verification
NCPCR - National Council for Protection of the Child Rights
NEET - Not in Employment, Education or Training Youth
OR – Other Recourses
PHC - Primary Health Care
PTA – Parent Teachers’ Associations
RKLA – Regional Knowledge and Leadership Agenda
RR – Regular Resources
SDA – Swiss Development Agency
SDG - Sustainable Development Goals
SP – Strategic Plan
SitAn- Situation Analysis of Children and Women
SOPs – Standard Operating Procedures
STI – Sexually Transmitted Infections
TOC – Theory of Change
UN - United Nations
UNDAF – United Nations Development Framework
UNICEF – United Nations Children Fund
UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
UPR – Universal Periodic Review
USAID – United States Agency for International Development
VAC – Violence against Children
WB – World Bank
WHO – World Health Organization
YFHS - Youth Friendly Health Services
A. Introduction

The overarching vision for UNICEF’s Strategy in Moldova during the period 2018-2022 is focused on equitable realisation of all child rights, including the rights to education, health, an adequate standard of living, and participation. An integral part of this vision is the existence of a child-friendly legal environment that ensures children are protected from abandonment, neglect, discrimination, exploitation and violence and that adequate conditions are in place to allow children to reach their full potential. The specific goal of the Country Programme is to advance UNICEF’s equity agenda with a focus on the most disadvantaged groups: children from poor families, children with disabilities, children from ethnic minorities, children “left-behind” as a result of expansive migration, and most at risk adolescents.

Programmatically, the Country Programme will focus on two key expected outcomes: (1) promote the establishment of Equitable Child-Sensitive Systems and Services; and (2) support and advocate for social mobilisation that leads to Social Change for the Realisation of Child Rights. The two outcomes are linked by synergies and will comprehensively address key child deprivations by working on improved coverage and quality of comprehensive child centred services, as well as increased demand for these services. Specific programme outputs in several areas – child protection; justice for children; maternal, child and adolescent health; and education – will support the achievement of planned results. This will take place within an overarching drive to contribute to child poverty reduction, promote adolescents’ participation and engagement in the realisation of child rights, and change social norms.

The Situation Analysis conducted for Moldova in 2016 identified a number of persisting child deprivations and inequities resulting in: continuous abandonment of children in institutions (especially of children with disabilities and children under three years of age); persisting limited access to child-friendly justice for children from vulnerable groups; a large number of vulnerable children that continue to be excluded from or are not attending school; developmental delays that are not detected early enough to allow for successful early intervention; and prevailing harmful social beliefs and practices resulting in inadequate infant and young child care, as well as poor adolescent health. The Situation Analysis also highlighted issues that cut across sectors, such as violence against children and child poverty. These represent major bottlenecks for the realisation of child rights. Relevant measures addressing these bottlenecks are mainstreamed under sector-specific programme outputs. At the same time, adolescents have been recognised as active contributors to the realisation of child rights. Indeed, they have agency in changing social norms and monitoring the realisation of child rights at the community level, and can thus play a prominent role in achieving results under Outcome 2, “Social Change for Child Rights”. The Country Programme will have a specific gender focus while working on addressing issues of: violence against children, prevention of child abandonment, ensuring adequate care for infants and young children, and girls’ secondary education. Communication for behaviour change is a key strategy for delivering the outcome on Social Change for Child Rights, with specific focus on promoting caregivers’ positive engagement in child upbringing and empowering caregivers and society at large to claim children’s rights. Programme components were developed taking into consideration: possible humanitarian implications stemming from the deterioration of relations between central authorities and the breakaway Transnistrian region; possible spill-over effects from the conflict in Ukraine; continuous political instability; and environmental risks, such as the impact of a prolonged drought on the country’s predominantly agriculture-driven economy and on household poverty.

Expected Country Programme outcomes are in line with eighteen (18) key national strategies, policies and action plans addressing issues for children in the areas of child protection, social protection, justice, education, and health (see Annex 5). Alignment with UNICEF global Strategic Plans and the Regional Knowledge and Leadership Agenda was sought as well: prioritised areas contribute directly to the seven (7) current Strategic Plan outcomes.
(2014-2017)\(^1\); to four (4) out of five goals of the new UNICEF Strategic Framework (2018-2021);\(^2\) and to six (6) RKLA areas\(^3\) (see Annex 6). Finally, the identified programme areas are aligned with and will contribute to – within the Programme Cycle and beyond – the realisation of six (6) SDG goals\(^4\) and related targets (see Annex 7). Detailed descriptions can be found under section D of this note, on result structure.

Achieving results in **Outcome 1: Equitable Child Sensitive Systems and Services** will be possible through continuous partnership with the Government of Moldova and other development partners, specifically EU and the World Bank, in meeting national Social Sectors’ development priorities and SDGs. Continuous partnership with civil society, media, private sector partners, and children and adolescents will ensure effective and innovative delivery of programme results under **Outcome 2: Social Change for Child Rights** contributing to a strengthened awareness, monitoring of and advocacy for child rights. Continuous collaboration with donors (US, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway and the Netherlands), strengthening of the horizontal cooperation (Romania) and UNICEF’s work within the UN system will contribute to the achievement of both programme outcomes in ensuring synergies in approaches, joint advancement of common human rights agenda and adequate external financing of programme components.

The new Country Programme will have considerable shifts in its new approach. While substantial efforts were invested in the past Country Programme on strengthening systems and promoting child sensitive legislation and regulatory framework, the new Country Programme will have stronger focus on changing social norms and promoting social mobilisation for child rights through strengthened engagement with adolescents, youth, and media in addressing harmful practices and beliefs and promoting key human rights values. The new Country Programme will continue delivering on unfinished agendas and initiatives started within current Country Programme Cycle by focusing on supporting the implementation of already adopted key child related national strategies (as listed in Annex 6), improving the quality and coverage of social services and addressing persisting inequities as outlined in the Theory of Change. A major shift in the new Country Programme will be toward supporting Moldova’s ongoing decentralisation process through additional efforts at the local level. This contrasts with the predominantly national-level actions implemented during the current Country Programme Cycle. The new Country Programme will also take an innovative approach in modelling a comprehensive delivery of a full array of quality child-centred social services at rayon (district) and community level ensuring that multiple child deprivations are addressed in a holistic manner by all systems. The new Country Programme will also have much stronger focus on building alliances and partnerships and leveraging resources for children in ensuring the EU Association Agenda implementation in Moldova and International Financing Institutions (WB and IMF) prioritise solutions addressing child deprivations.

There are three key milestones in the programme implementation process. First, there will be an initial focus on the continuous strengthening of systems. Second, efforts will be geared toward building the capacities of system professionals, society, and youth to ensure better provision of and demand for quality services. Finally, UNICEF will forge partnerships that ensure the successful implementation of the modelled approach for comprehensive and holistic delivery of social services for children at community level. Partnerships and modelling will be accompanied by strengthened advocacy for scaling up the modelled approaches at national level and by a

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\(^1\) Current Strategic plan (2014-2017) outcomes: Outcome 1 Health, Outcome 2 HIV and AIDS, Outcome 4 Nutrition, Outcome 5: Improved learning outcomes and equitable and inclusive education

\(^2\) Improved learning outcomes and equitable and inclusive education

\(^3\) Outcome 6: Improved and equitable prevention of and response to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children, SP outcome 7: Social inclusion, Outcome 7: Improved policy environment and systems for disadvantaged and excluded children, guided by improved knowledge and data

\(^4\) New UNICEF Strategic Framework 2018-2022: Goal Area 1 – Every child survives and thrives, Goal Area 2 – Every child learns, Goal area 3 – Every child protected from violence and exploitation, Goal area 4 – equity: every child has a fair chance in life

\(^5\) RKLA 1 and 2, 3&4, RKLA 8,

\(^6\) SDG 1, 2,3,4,10,16
robust evaluation of impacts achieved and the changes in children’s lives to be carried out in the last year of programme implementation.

B. Prioritised issues and areas

The prioritisation of areas of interventions was done based on several considerations: criticality of still-manifested child deprivations, as revealed by the UNICEF Situation Analysis (SitAn), evaluation of UNICEF’s work in past years identifying key achievements and unfinished agendas, alignment with existing priorities for children in the country, and SDG implementation.

UNICEF’s cooperation with the Government of Moldova in the past five years has delivered tangible results for children. Major policy and legislative changes were adopted by the government advancing robustly the realisation of child rights. With UNICEF’s advocacy in 2015 the chairmanship of the National Council for Protection of the Child Rights was shifted to the Prime Minister allowing for a better inter-sectoral approach to protection of child rights. An Ombudsperson for Child Rights was elected in 2016 after a three years gap. UNICEF’s advocacy contributed to the inclusion of a special chapter on the rights of the child in the Moldova-EU Association Agreement (2014) – a unique feature amongst such agreements.

Despite achievements, however, the children of Moldova still face major challenges. UNICEF’s 2016 SitAn identified several critical problems persisting in Moldova linked with the slow implementation of reforms, especially the implementation of key national strategies, poor inter-sectoral coordination and quality of services, inadequate financing of social services, child poverty, discrimination and violence against children, lack of parental skills amongst adults and limited life skills amongst adolescents, as well as prevailing harmful social norms posing barriers to realisation of child rights. All these issues affect disproportionately vulnerable groups, such as children with disabilities, Roma children, children from poor families and children left behind by migrant parents. Addressing the unmet needs of these vulnerable groups of children will be the core focus of the forthcoming UNICEF 2018-2022 Country Programme.

Child protection sector reforms resulted in a reduction by half of the number of children living in residential care since 2010 and a three times increase of children being placed in alternative care. An inter-sectoral mechanism identifying and providing support to children at risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation and trafficking was established. Justice sector legislative amendments introduced child friendly interviewing procedure and granted access to free legal aid for children victims of crime. The solitary confinement of children in detention was banned and alternatives to detention improved. A set of national juvenile justice indicators was introduced in 2015. Despite these gains, a number of challenges remain. There is a still persisting incidence of child abandonment, separation from families and neglect, a still high prevalence of violence against children, and the justice system remains insensitive to child rights. Close to 69% from the 2,069 children still remaining in institutions are children with disabilities and 8.5% are children below 3 years of age. An estimated 76% of children aged 2 to 14 years have experienced violent disciplining at home, including both physical punishment and psychological aggression. Moreover, 48% are subject to physical punishment. Government statistical data for 2015 show that one in two children who committed offences were below 14 years of age. While in Moldova child offenses are low and constitute a decreasing proportion of all crimes, child offenders have become

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5 Adoption of the new Law on Special Protection of Children at Risk and Those Separated from Their Parents in 2013, followed by the development of a National Strategy on Child and Family Protection in 2014 and an Action Plan to the Strategy in 2016 with specific focus on deinstitutionalization and prevention of violence.
6 Amendments of the Penal Procedure Code
7 MICS 2012
younger and offences, more violent. A high number of child offenders continue to not be diverted but are sent
to court and convicted. In 2015 one in two cases involving child offenders was sent to court. Every seventh child
offender was sentenced, and one in six sentenced children was imprisoned. There is an increasing number of
children victims of sexual abuse, as demonstrated by the fact that such cases made up one fourth of all cases of
violence against children on which investigation was initiated in 2015.

As a result of the support UNICEF provided through the Global Partnership for Education, and its contribution to
the adoption of the School Readiness Tool by all pre-schools in Moldova, the enrolment of 3-6 year old children
increased from 75% in 2010 to 85% in 2015. This puts Moldova at the top among CECECS countries,8 with 80% of
children of this age meeting early learning development standards. With UNICEF’s advocacy, inclusion became a
flagship goal of the new National Education Strategy 2014-2020, contributing to a 35% increase in the number of
children with special educational needs and children with disabilities attending regular schools. Support services
for inclusion of the most vulnerable children were established at the central and district levels. A successful
piloting of mentoring for professional development in the workplace9 enabled 79% of educators to apply child-
centred methodologies and boosted the pre-school enrolment of young children with disabilities and special
educational needs to 40%. Targeted support resulted in the integration of some Roma children in regular
school. Inter-sectoral professional teams, including educators, health workers and social assistants, were trained
and supported to work with caregivers of children under seven years of age.

Despite these achievements, schools are still not entirely ready or equipped to include and provide quality
education to all children, especially those most vulnerable: children with disabilities, Roma children, and
children from poor families. Moldova’s total primary net enrolment rate of 87% puts the country at the very
bottom compared to many CECECS countries.10 A high rate of dropout and absenteeism characterises
attendance among the most vulnerable groups. Less than three quarters of Roma children attend school daily
and only one third of children with disabilities graduate from school. Within the 3-6 years age group, 80% of
Roma, 60% of children with disabilities, and 30% of children in rural areas are not in pre-schools. Meanwhile,
12% of children in the 7 to 15 years age group are out of school. Poverty also has a significant impact on
enrolment.11 In 2012, the difference in enrolment between the lowest and highest wealth quintiles was nearly
30 percentage points for preschools and 67 percentage points for upper secondary education.12 Prevailing social
norms and household poverty result in parents’ not being interested, motivated or able to send their children to
school. At all levels of schooling, Roma children’s enrolment rates are much lower than those of non-Roma
children: one-fourth at the pre-primary level, half at primary and lower secondary levels, and one-fifth at upper
secondary level.13

Overall school performance is weak due to insufficient application by teachers of quality education standards,
including child-centred teaching and learning practices. The existing curriculum needs to be further revised to
enhance the implementation of competency-based learning and assessment at school and different class levels.
The overall graduation of students is declining. Approximately 60% of students (15 years of age) lack a basic level
of proficiency in reading and math (PISA 2009). The number of teachers in some subjects, especially in rural
areas, is insufficient to cover needs.

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9 Ministry of Education, the World Bank, UNICEF Moldova, End-of-Project Evaluation Study of the EFA/FTI 1&2, and Global Partnership for
Education project in Moldova, Chisinau 2014
11 The differences are much less profound for children under three years and children of primary and lower secondary school age.
Parents also have limited knowledge, capacities and skills to support learning. In particular, Roma parents are rarely engaged with schools and the education of their children in general. At the same time, teachers’ limited attention to and hands-off attitude toward Roma children contribute to the high rate of absenteeism and increase the risk of dropout. With decentralisation, greater accountability for education has been transferred to local public authorities which do not always have the capacity to effectively manage the system. Demographic dividends have the potential to generate efficiency gains but this is not happening due to the difficulty in optimising the school network, thus deeply affecting small schools in remote rural areas. Adjustments in the education funding formula would need to be made to ensure adequate services are available for all children.

Health sector reforms contributed to the reduction on under-5 mortality rate from 20.7 (2002) to 11.7 (2015). Moldova reached quite low levels of chronic malnutrition among children (stunting): from 8% in 2005 to 6% in 2015, although discrepancies between richest and poorest quintiles remain considerable (3% vs 11%). Child Growth Monitoring Standards and Antenatal Care Standards were revised in accordance with international best practices. Regulatory framework on Youth Friendly Health Services was developed, approved and implemented reaching 16% of adolescents and youth in the age group 10-24 years in 2015 (compared to 5,6 % in 2011). The adoption of policy ensuring access of pregnant women and children under five to iron supplements contributed to a decrease by half of anaemia among pregnant women (from 32% in 2005-DHS to 21% in 2012-MICS).

Activities in the breakaway Transnistrian region were intensified and capacities of 90% of the perinatal care system professionals on emergency care, young child nutrition, effective vaccine management and interpersonal communication were strengthened. Capacity of the health system in vaccine management and immunisation was also improved. Despite these achievements, the overall infant mortality rate in 2015 was still at 9.7 per 1000 live births, three times higher than the EU average of 3.7 deaths per 1 000 live births, with 20% of child death at home mostly due to preventable diseases. Child mortality rates in the 0-18 years age group are due to injuries in 31% of the cases (of which 21% are due to suicide) and to respiratory diseases in 22% of the cases (of which 80% are due to pneumonia). The immunisation rates are decreasing (DTP3 96%/2006 to 86%/2015), exclusive breastfeeding rates are low (36% - MICS 2012) and several indicators of maternal and child nutrition are poor, such as anaemia and obesity. Only a few centres in the country offer rehabilitation services for children with disabilities (located mostly in the bigger municipalities) and information on such services for children remains unavailable. Early identification and early intervention services are available only in the two biggest cities: Chisinau and Balti. Caregivers have limited knowledge, capacities and skills to provide appropriate care to their children and do not use positive developmental practices (early stimulation, a safe environment, etc.). Adolescents’ reproductive health is also poor with high level of STI prevalence among youth (gonorrhoea at 34.7 within the 15-17 years age group and 103.4 within the 18-19 years age group versus 28.3 per 100,000 in total population).

In addition to low awareness on preventative health practices, adolescents’ participation in social life and decision-making processes, both at home and in society, remains very low. Adolescents are not considered as equal interlocutors by society and parents, and the teachers, school managers or authorities seldom encourage adolescents’ participation or consult their opinion. There are also very limited and underfinanced mechanisms providing opportunities for participation; the ones that do exist do not respond to the needs of adolescents. A limited access to information and awareness on human and child rights limits the capacities of adolescents to act as drivers of change for child rights.

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14 Rural primary net enrolment continue to decrease (from 82.7% in 2010 to 77.7% in 2014). After graduating from the compulsory lower secondary education, enrolment rates drop dramatically and girls are starting to overtake boys (UNICEF SitAn).
16 Eurostat 2014.
Although Moldova made strong efforts to reduce absolute poverty, the country is still one of the poorest in Europe. The UNICEF SitAn 2016 revealed that children in Moldova remain disproportionately poor. The poverty rate for households with three and more children was 27% in 2014 compared to a national average of 11% with pronounced urban-rural discrepancies. Poverty rates remain very sensitive to remittances – which is worrying given that remittances represent a declining share of the Moldovan economy. Migration has very negative impact on family separation, leaving an estimated 19,700 children (close to 22% of the total child population) in Moldova without parental care in 2015. UNICEF’s 2012 MICS survey indicates that 21% of children have one or both parents living abroad, and 5% of all children are left behind by both migrant parents, with rural children being the most affected. Given high rates of divorce and male migration, many households are headed by women, and 22% of children live only with their mother.

At the same time, the social assistance system in Moldova faces increasing challenges in preventing and eliminating vulnerabilities. Despite a persistently higher poverty rate among families with children, the share of families with children receiving the country’s main poverty-focused social assistance programme, Ajutor Social, decreased from 84% in 2009 to 52% in 2014. The most vulnerable groups at risk of poverty remain those with low education level, households with several children, those in rural areas, families relying on self-employment, the elderly, and Roma. Families with three or more children are one of the most vulnerable to poverty groups, the rate for this category being 27% compared to 9% for families with one child. Majority of these families (74%) live in rural areas. Rural urban divide is also seen by the fact that 38% of children under 18 years of age in rural areas live below the poverty line compared to 13% in urban areas.

Dwindling demographic trends, rapidly ageing population and a shrinking labour force create heavy pressure on the social protection system. Although social protection spending in Moldova were 13% of GDP in 2015, a quite high level by regional standards, 11% of these is spent on social insurance (mostly pensions) and only 2% on social assistance programmes. The overall targeting of social assistance is weak and does not meet needs.

While identifying areas of engagement to address persisting child deprivations in 2018-2022 and beyond, UNICEF Moldova prioritised strategies taking into considerations UNICEF’s mandate and key comparative advantages. For example, UNICEF Moldova chose to make supporting the education sector a priority in part to complement the efforts of the World Bank and those of other UN agencies to address the quality and inclusiveness of the education system. It is also thereby supporting EU priorities on strengthening the contribution of education to labour market demands and employability of youth. While working in the health sector, UNICEF traditionally partners with WHO, taking particular responsibility for the quality of maternal and child health. It also complements UNFPA’s efforts around adolescents’ reproductive health. Within the larger economic growth agenda driven by UNDP and World Bank, UNICEF will focus its efforts on public financing for children and alleviation of child poverty. In addition, within the overall human rights agenda engaging all UN agencies and major development partners such as the EU, UNICEF will focus its effort on protecting the

17 The commonly used lines for absolute poverty and extreme poverty used in Moldova are based on minimum daily calories, amounting to MDL 1,196 and MDL 720 in 2014. The extreme poverty line is also close to the Guaranteed Minimum Monthly Income, but they have no methodological link. These values for the national poverty lines are very similar to the international poverty lines, and therefore very low by regional standards.
18 Data provided by the Directorate of Family Protection and Children’s Rights, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family
20 ibid
realisation of child rights with specific focus on considerably reducing child abandonment, violence and discrimination against children and promoting justice for children agendas.

C. Theory of Change for programme components

The overarching Country Programme Theory of Change and the outputs-specific Theories of Change (Annexes 2 and 3) highlight the issues below as leading to the aforementioned deprivations. These emerged as the main barriers to preventing the realisation of child rights and leading to mentioned above deprivations:

Enabling environment: Key national policy, normative and legislative frameworks require further revisions ensuring child centred approach and focus on inclusion of most disadvantaged children. Newly adopted national child centred strategies, plans and programmes (Annex 5) require robust enforcement and quality implementation in line with adopted, internationally aligned standards and should promote a culture of prevention supported by relevant budget allocations at all levels. All national policies, strategies, plans and programmes should strongly address discrimination and stigma, especially towards the most vulnerable groups of children, and duty bearers at all levels should strive to address harmful social norms in child upbringing. There is an overall need for strengthened data collection at all levels, allowing for better decision making and targeting of assistance.

Availability, quality and access to services: Further efforts are needed to ensure the adequate distribution and coverage of services. Meanwhile, social system professionals should be trained and supported to promote access to services and to improve outreach to vulnerable groups, especially in rural areas. Social programmes need to become more efficient and pro-poor oriented, and overly bureaucratic procedures should be simplified to promote inclusion. The quality of service delivery should be improved and brought in line with adopted legal frameworks and regulations. Innovative approaches to delivery of services should be also promoted. Capacities and performance of professionals need to be improved and supported by quality pre- and in-service training. Monitoring of performance should be strengthened to ensure compliance with protocols and standards, and level of remuneration should be improved to boost motivation. There is a need for development of specialised programmes and services addressing needs of children with disabilities and Roma children supported by adequately trained professionals. There is a pressing need for strengthened performance and expanded scope of the inter-sectoral cooperation ensuring effective multi-sector collaboration to meet holistically children’s needs. Adequate child centred financing of national programmes is required, including improvement of capacities and skills of local public authorities to prioritise child needs.

Demand for services: The overall demand for services in Moldova is weak. Caregivers have limited knowledge on available support mechanisms and prevailing social norms prevent them from actively demanding quality service delivery. Overall caregivers lack essential parental skills allowing them to exercise required supervision, provide support and care to their children and ensure nurturing and protective child upbringing. Both parents and social system professionals (teachers, social workers and health professionals) have limited engagement toward children. There are prevailing social norms accepting certain forms of violence against children at home and in schools and fostering discrimination towards “different” children and adolescents – children with disabilities, Roma children, children from poor families, LGBT children, HIV positive and drug users, as well as discriminating single mothers and pregnant adolescent girls. Overall, there is a limited trust of society in the government and political structures. There are persistent harmful practices exercised in Roma communities, which take children out of schooling for seasonal work or to care for siblings since often Roma parents do not value the benefits of education.
Children have very limited knowledge on available support mechanisms and have limited access to adequate information, especially on taboo themes (sexual behaviour, use of drugs, HIV). There are also well-delineated opportunities for developing life skills (insufficiently covered by school curricula) and children are not empowered enough to report abuse or to claim their rights. The impact of migration on children’s psychosocial wellbeing is strong, provoking violence toward peers, poor performance in schools, delinquent or suicidal behaviour.

To address persisting inequities and barriers to realisation of child rights, UNICEF will focus its work in Moldova for the next five years’ Programme Cycle working in two main directions: work in partnership with the government to achieve **Equitable Child Sensitive Systems and Services** and place strong focus on efforts to achieve **Social Change for Child Rights**. UNICEF will work towards ensuring that national systems and services are more inclusive, protect children’s rights, and respond to the needs of most vulnerable in an equitable way, and that Moldova society is empowered, fulfils its obligations to protect child rights and effectively supports social outcomes for children, while children and adolescents are empowered to claim their rights. Both programme outcomes are intrinsically linked and provide a holistic approach to the advancement of child rights in Moldova.

To achieve sustainability, UNICEF will focus its work on further strengthening the accountability frameworks of the child protection, social protection, justice, health and education systems in Moldova with focus on professionals’ performance, harmonisation of data collection between systems and regular reporting on outcomes for children. UNICEF will advocate for strong public financing for child needs, while in parallel will work on addressing prevailing social norms, harmful behaviour and practices to ensure adequate protective upbringing of children, and generate strong demand for quality services.

To address the still persisting prevalence of **child abandonment and institutionalisation**, especially of children with disabilities and children under three years of age, UNICEF will focus its efforts on strengthening the capacities of the district commissions for the protection of children in difficulties (“Gatekeeping Commissions”). In particular, UNICEF seeks to ensure that these professionals have the skills necessary to make decisions based on the “best interest of the child” principle. The activity is already part of the National Action Plan on Child protection. There are currently 35 Gatekeeping Commissions established in the country (one per district). While adequate policy and legislative framework exists, the Commissions still make decisions for institutionalisation based on medical criteria or upon demands from poor parents and seldom, if at all, apply the principle of the best interest of the child. UNICEF will further advocate for enforcement and strong application of guardianship measures, while also raising parents’ awareness and responsibility for placing their children under appropriate guardianship. In parallel UNICEF will work on addressing social norms contributing to abandonment and/or separation from family, with special focus on combatting social stigma associated with having a child with disability, adolescent girl pregnancies, and single mothers. Efforts will be directed in strengthening the sexual education of adolescent boys and girls. UNICEF will also work in partnership with other actors on addressing issues of family and child poverty and advocating for better benefits, allowances and services for families with children with disabilities, poor families with many children and single mothers to prevent abandonment\(^{24}\) and/or institutionalisation of children, and proposing models for improved outreach of social workers to poor families in linking them with social services.

To build upon achievements in **de-institutionalisation** field, UNICEF will continue to work in partnership with civil society partners on further supporting the de-institutionalisation reform, including for development of

\(^{24}\) Abandonment includes both abandonment of children in institutions as well as children being left behind by migrant parents.
realistic minimum package of services available at community level and strengthening existing alternative care and social services. However, these efforts will be limited to advocacy and technical support within working groups created at Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family (MLSPF) level and advocacy with Ministry of Finance (MoF) for financing packages of services, as currently many key strong civil society partners, such as Lumos, CCF and Partnership for Every Child are engaged in and support de-institutionalisation. UNICEF will invest more efforts in *modelling* specialised foster care services for children with disability and children 0-3 years of age at community level and in strengthening the work and performance of the inter-sectoral mechanism to detect at risk families ready to approach Gatekeeping Commissions with request for institutionalisation of the child and link such families with appropriate social services and social support. Specific focus will be placed on fostering the partnership with Health sectors for detection of at risk families through home visiting nurses. In parallel UNICEF will work within the same communities to increase awareness of Local Public Authorities (LPAs) on child rights issues and build their capacities to prioritise financing for specialised alternative care and social services. Such efforts will contribute to the broader decentralisation efforts undertaken by EU and other development partners. UNICEF will build its advocacy around the successes of the model for increased coverage of such specialised alternative care and social services particularly in rural areas.

The Country Programme will continue to address the issues of **violence against children** by: raising awareness of community members with a focus on prevention; improving parenting skills to avoid violent disciplining; and strengthening the inter-sectoral mechanism at district level. The work will include development of adequate guidance packages, tools and SOPs for detection of cases of violence and referral of such cases for appropriate assistance; building capacities of inter-sectoral teams (social workers, psychologists, health professionals (home visiting nurses and doctors), education system professionals and law enforcement personnel) for improved case management and outreach to at-risk families and children, and improved coordination and data collection at local level (currently various ministries use various data collection formats that are not necessarily linked). To ensure quality of service delivery and accountability, adequate performance monitoring mechanisms will be established, including the institutionalisation of regular reporting on outcomes and impact for children. Further capacity building efforts will target social workers, as currently only seven districts in the country (out of 35) have trained social workers. In addition, UNICEF will work on raising the awareness of community and children on violence against children (VAC) issues and empowering them to report on VAC cases. Through community outreach (inter-sectoral mechanism, media, education and health systems, adolescents), UNICEF will seek to improve parental skills, including: practicing positive parenting, stronger engagement of fathers in child upbringing, and non-violent disciplining of children. It will work with children to increase their awareness about available support mechanisms addressing violence against children, ensure that children, especially girls, are empowered to report on violence at home and in school (including sexual abuse), and that children are equipped with adequate coping mechanisms and life skills to combat delinquent and anti-social behaviour. Focus will also be placed on inter-family relations and how these impact child wellbeing, including addressing issues of violence against women (domestic and sexual) and empowering both mothers and children to report on violence. UNICEF will continue to build capacities of media on ethical reporting on children and will enhance media skills to raise awareness of society on issues of VAC.

In the context of the Justice Sector reform, UNICEF will focus its efforts on strengthening **access to child friendly justice** for children in Moldova and modelling comprehensive approaches to alternatives to detention, such as **diversion**. Despite recent difficulties caused by the prevailing political climate and the temporary suspension of EU structural funds to Moldova, it is expected that EU will resume its substantial financial contribution to Justice Sector reform with initial allocations already made. UNICEF’s advocacy will promote the use of EU financial

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25 The inter-sectoral mechanism for detection and referral of cases of violence against children at district level foresee concerted efforts between social workers, education and health sectors professionals and law enforcement personnel in detecting cases on violence and referring those for adequate support.
support for children, as justice for children is a prominent feature in the EU-Moldova Association Agreement (AA).

Stakeholders have not invested significantly in promoting diversion schemes and working with children with delinquent behaviour at the local level. UNICEF has already initiated actions to support diversion schemes in Moldova through a partnership with the Institute of Penal Reform (IRP) focusing on the development of a comprehensive National Programme on prevention. UNICEF will build upon this initial effort in the new Country Programme by developing adequate implementation tools, building capacities, and modelling the service in selected districts. In parallel, UNICEF will work on changing the attitudes of prosecutors and judges towards diversion with the aim of encouraging them to apply the measure in child offenders’ cases. An additional element will be the modelling of mediation in selected communities. Horizontal cooperation will be sought in this regard.

UNICEF will work on strengthening the capacities of justice system professionals (criminal investigation officers, prosecutors) and psychologists in conducting child-friendly interviewing, while strengthening its advocacy to leverage adequate EU resources for establishing and equipping child-friendly interviewing rooms and promoting government commitment to such services.

Within the Education sector, UNICEF will continue to focus its efforts on promoting an inclusive school environment with quality teaching and learning outcomes. In upholding UNICEF’s mandate, the new Country Programme will focus on further promoting the application of child-centred methodologies and Child-Friendly School Standards (CFSS) in all schools in Moldova. While CFSS have been officially adopted in all schools and initial capacities in child-centred methodologies were built, due to the absence of adequate monitoring of school performance, CFSS are not applied in practice in Moldova. UNICEF will work to develop adequate packages and instruments for application of CFSS in schools with a strong focus on measuring performance and quality. The role of the National School Inspectorate will be strengthened in this regard. On-going capacity building of teachers will be ensured through the institutionalisation of quality in-service training, including through the transfer of best practices (e.g. Zurich models), exchange visits within a horizontal cooperation model, and development of interactive web platforms. Additionally, and as part of the CFSS requirements on democratic governance, UNICEF will support the development of specialised training packages for teachers on how to work with parents and how to include parents, children and adolescents in school management. Additional communication for behaviour change will focus on addressing gender-based violence (GBV) issues at home and in schools, with strong sensitisation of fathers and students.

In building upon the application of Child-Friendly School Standards (CFSS), UNICEF will advocate for the strong implementation of the recommendations contained in the Out-of-School National Programme and Action Plan, and will support the development of relevant tools and mechanisms for the identification and reintegration of out-of-school children. Looking prospectively, UNICEF will engage actively in the development of the post-2020 Inclusive Education Agenda. UNICEF will further work with both Ministries of Education and Finance to revise the 2% “inclusive education” funding formula with the aim of expanding the standard package to all vulnerable children26 and establishing a clear and transparent reporting mechanism.

UNICEF will continue to provide technical expertise for the periodic revision of the curriculum and learning outcomes assessment systems (including for children with disabilities), in line with the EU and global competency models. Long-term partnerships with academia, both at national and international levels, will support such efforts in the long run.

26 Current focus only on children with disabilities
Within the education sector, UNICEF will continue to focus its efforts on promoting an **inclusive school environment**, resulting in quality teaching practices and positive learning outcomes. In upholding UNICEF’s mandate, the new Country Programme will focus on further promoting the **application of child-centred methodologies** and CFSS in all schools. While CFSS have been officially adopted in all schools and initial capacity in child-centred methodologies has been built, due to the absence of adequate monitoring of school performance, CFSS are not applied at classroom level. UNICEF will work to strengthen the school management and national inspectorate in this regard. On-going capacity building of teachers will be ensured through the institutionalisation of quality in-service training, including through sharing of good practices, horizontal cooperation, and development of interactive web platforms. Additionally, UNICEF will support the training of teachers and managers to promote the participation of parents, children and adolescents in school governance and management. Communication for social change will address gender-based violence (GBV) issues at home and in schools.

UNICEF work at upstream level will be supported by district- and community-level *modelling*, including implementation and monitoring of CFSS and innovative approaches for inclusion of Roma children in education. It will also support LPAs’ capacity to prioritise education including ensuring adequate access and availability of quality services, resources and funding for pre-schools. Within the models supporting Roma inclusion, specific attention will be paid to addressing social protection issues beyond education. Special educational support and catch-up programmes, including literacy programmes for parents, will be developed and supported for school-age children at risk of dropout or those returning after being out of school for long periods of time. Communication for social change, oriented toward Roma NGOs, among other audiences, will focus on promoting the value of education in Roma communities, as well as breaking stereotypes and harmful practices contributing to school dropout, absenteeism and child labour. UNICEF interventions will aim to strengthen the local-level inter-sectoral mechanism for the identification, psychological support and case management targeting children out-of-school, at risk of dropping out, and VAC in school. The focus will be on parents so that they are able to apply positive discipline practices, and provide adequate advice to children and adolescents on avoiding risky behaviours and managing aggressive behaviours.

Health sector interventions will focus on adequate child health, growth and development, and adolescent health. Specific actions will address strengthening the provision of lifesaving services to children under five years of age with a focus on **breastfeeding** and **immunisation coverage**. UNICEF will advocate for and provide technical support on the inclusion of all provisions of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes (The Code) in national legislation, especially regarding the advertisement of breast-milk substitutes. UNICEF will also promote specific legislative provisions prohibiting the promotion of breast-milk substitutes within the health system (incl. introduction of penalties). In an attempt to ensure breastfeeding support services within the healthcare system, UNICEF will advocate for the institutionalisation of nurses with specialised lactation knowledge who will support mothers. UNICEF will advocate that at least one such nurse is available in every health facility. It will further advocate for and provide technical support on the amendment of legislation promoting baby-friendly hospitals, and support the development of regulations for accreditation of maternity units as well as strong provisions for the monitoring of implementation and performance. Additionally, UNICEF will work with the primary health system to strengthen the continuum of care through home visits that support all caregivers in their caretaking, breastfeeding and appropriate infant and young child feeding and growth practices.

UNICEF will continue its support to the strengthening of the vaccine procurement capacity of Moldova. It will also work on promoting increased immunisation coverage, building the interpersonal skills of health professionals so that they are better able to influence parents and caregivers, and working with adolescents and
the Church to raise the population’s awareness as to the benefits of immunisation for prevention of child mortality. UNICEF will continue to work on the alignment of the perinatal care standards of the Transnistrian region with international standards.

UNICEF will further work on reinforcing the implementation of child development and care standards, particularly to strengthen the role and services provided by home visiting nurses. UNICEF will provide technical support for further amendments of normative frameworks and standards focused on expanding the scope of home visiting from its current focus on health and growth to a more comprehensive support to child development, while creating linkages with mutually reinforcing social sector services and setting clear referral system protocols. In addition, UNICEF will work on developing standardised tools and instruments for home visiting (e.g. checklists of actions and key messages for mothers) and appropriate information packages that can be left with mothers. UNICEF will further work to improve the quality management system for home visiting practices as a support to supervision mechanisms.

Technical support will be provided to Ministry of Health in strengthening capacities for developing Early Detection and Early Intervention services and their establishment at sub-national level (currently service available only at national level). The capacities of primary health care doctors in early detection will be strengthened. Technical support for the development of sub-regulations, tools and standards of implementation of early interventions will be provided as well, along with the establishment of a clear referral mechanism to specialised intervention services.

In addressing adolescent health issues, UNICEF will work on further strengthening the work of Youth-Friendly Health Services (YFHS). Focus will be placed on revising operational standards so as to expand the outreach of services and their ability to reach and identify most-at-risk adolescents, including NEET youth. Additional revision of regulations will ensure closer linkages and collaboration with social services and adolescent volunteer groups within a strengthened inter-sectoral mechanism. Advocacy and technical support will be undertaken to make YFHS financing move away from relying on a per-capita formula to using a performance-based formula. Modelling of services at district and community level will focus on: strengthening the home visiting practice; strengthening the YFHS outreach; and the establishment of EDEI as a new service at community level, including through deployment of mobile teams in remote locations. Quality of service provision will be ensured by the development of adequate referral criteria and monitoring the implementation and performance of the different types of services. Active communication for behaviour change will ensure parents’ ability to provide adequate care to their children, identify danger signs and refer children to health professional in a timely manner, and immunise their children. Specific focus will be placed on gender-responsive adolescent health and the healthy behaviour of mothers.

In striving to address child poverty, UNICEF will conduct an analysis of efficiency and coverage of child-related social protection programmes. The analysis will focus on relevant revisions of Ajutor Social components contributing to child poverty alleviation, and a review of various categorical and other child-related benefits and allowances. The analysis will focus on the poorest population quintile and will propose relevant amendments to existing programmes, in particular coverage expansion and programme design allowing for substantial reductions in poverty and vulnerability. Within a larger focus on promoting social protection, including “social protection floors”, UNICEF will partner with the World Bank and UN system agencies for a broader analysis of social expenditures review in Moldova. UNICEF, in partnership with other development partners, will further advocate for an adequate national and sub-national coverage of social assistance services and introduction of simplified administrative procedures.

27 Not in Employment, Education or Training

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UNICEF will support the *modelling* of a single registry for social assistance at district level encompassing social assistance, education and health systems with the purpose of increasing the outreach and identification of vulnerable families with children. It will further invest in innovative approaches to cash benefits and equity-based targeting of social services. UNICEF will build on the existing cooperation between the health and social sectors to strengthen the functioning of the inter-sectoral mechanism and improve the outreach of social workers to poor families. It will also look, in a comprehensive way, at identifying strategies and recommendations for adjustments of child disability criteria in line with International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health for Children and Youth (ICF-CY) framework. The focus here will be on policy amendments and the development of strong monitoring and implementation mechanisms to ensure inclusion.

Specific gender-related focus in social protection will be placed on supporting single mothers, female-headed households and/or single parent/caregiver-headed households.

UNICEF will work with the Government of Moldova and the Prime Minister’s office to keep the realisation of child rights high on the Government’s agenda through continuous engagement and support to the National Council on Protection of Child Rights, as well as with the Ombudsperson’s office. Continuous engagement with civil society partners and media will ensure independent monitoring of child rights in Moldova.

To ensure that adolescents and youth contribute to decision-making, participate in social life, are able to claim their rights and support the realisation of child rights, UNICEF will advocate for the amendment of the Law on Youth to make mandatory provisions for the establishment of youth councils at local level (currently optional for LPAs) and for the institutionalisation of youth worker professions. UNICEF will further support the enforcement of the Law on Voluntarism. In selected communities, UNICEF will *model* approaches towards a strengthened work of youth councils, while building capacities of LPAs to engage with youth and finance youth council activities, including supporting a local-level costing exercise for operationalising youth councils. Effective communication for behaviour change will ensure decision-makers and parents consider adolescents and youth as equal interlocutors and take their opinion into account, and that adolescents are motivated, actively participate, and express their opinions freely. UNICEF will model and test innovative approaches illustrating opportunities for adolescent participation, such as Voices of Youth and adolescent blogging, digital real time community needs mapping, and other actions engaging youth as agents for social change. A particular focus will be placed on supporting the active involvement of adolescents in Digital Mapping of community needs and linking such mapping with the work on the inter-sectoral mechanism. Active adolescent participation in changing social norms will be sought as well. Local level partnerships will be built and local-level initiative groups (incl. adolescent volunteer groups) will be mobilised to disseminate key messages addressing harmful behaviours and leading to social change. Such efforts will support greater adolescent participation and engagement in social life.

UNICEF will *model at district level* an approach demonstrating the need for and the benefits of providing comprehensive, holistic services to vulnerable children in order to address multiple child deprivations and ensure favourable conditions for a vulnerable child to survive and thrive. The model will demonstrate how different systems (child protection, education, health, law enforcement, justice and social protection) and community need to work in concert to provide holistic support to a vulnerable child (Fig.1). The centrepiece of the approach is the strong implementation of the inter-sectoral mechanism for children victims and potential victims of violence, neglect and trafficking with an expanded focus (beyond only tracking violence against children), supported by the availability of comprehensive, well-functioning sector specific services at local level.

The inter-sectoral mechanism for detection and referral of cases of violence against children at district level foresee concerted efforts between social workers, education and health sectors professionals and law
enforcement personnel in detecting cases on violence and referring those for adequate support. The mechanism was adopted with government decision but it still lacks tools and guidance for implementation. The new Country Programme will focus on expanding the scope of the inter-sectoral mechanism to detect and address multiple child deprivations at community level and will develop adequate, clear instruments and tools allowing strong implementation, while building local capacities.

The new, inter-sectoral mechanism, expanded in scope, will detect multiple child deprivations and potential risks to child wellbeing, and will lead to timely prevention measures and/or successfully ensure a protective environment and adequate social support for all children in a community with a specific focus on at-risk groups. Specific efforts will be placed on: strengthening and closely monitoring the performance of professionals working within the inter-sectoral mechanism; the harmonisation of data collection between systems (focus will be on linking primary data collection to district level databases and harmonizing data collection, as currently different cases can be treated differently by different professionals); and the transparent and regular reporting on outcomes for children (impact of the inter-sectoral mechanism on improving child-wellbeing).

The model will pilot comprehensive delivery of all services contributing to child wellbeing starting with ensuring relevant care for child growth and development of newborns, appropriate care and early stimulation of infants and young children, relevant and inclusive pre-school and school education in line with CFSS standards, and provision of health support to adolescents. In addressing social norms and harmful practices, the model will also ensure that children live in a violence-free environment at home, in school, and in the community. It will also ensure that there is a high level of community acceptance and drive for inclusion of marginalised groups (children with disabilities, Roma children and poor children), and that adequate services are in place. Moreover, the model will include an innovative approach to community needs detection through the engagement of adolescents and youth in digital community needs mapping while establishing strong linkages with the inter-sectoral mechanism. In addition to media, adolescents and the community at large will be engaged as drivers of change of harmful social norms leading to exclusion and inequities. More efforts will also be applied from a legislative point of view for infrastructure change and for allocation of adequate social benefits.

28 Children with disabilities, single headed households (male or female), children from families from the poorest quintile, Roma children
Critical assumptions for the success of the Country Programme are UNICEF’s comparative advantage and leadership role in promoting child rights supported by quality evidence, UNICEF’s capacity to leverage funds, and UNICEF’s expertise in modelling innovations. The success of the Country Programme will depend as well on the availability of adequate staff capacity and availability of financial resources. Political will and commitment to address inequities remains a critical prerequisite for the success of the Country Programme.

Key strategies of the programme implementation will focus on:

Advocacy aimed at: (a) bringing government and public focus to the needs of the most vulnerable children with disabilities, poor children, children left behind, and Roma children; and (b) ensuring that duty bearers are engaged and support the realisation of child rights. UNICEF will continue to position itself as the key advocate and knowledge leader on child rights in Moldova and continue to expand its leadership role as a credible and trusted voice for children. UNICEF will strive to become more visible, both externally and within UNICEF. The organisation will also work to further strengthen the UNICEF brand, increase government confidence in UNICEF’s contribution and added value, strengthen fundraising, and generate and leverage greater resources for better realising child rights in Moldova. UNICEF will thus position itself as a trusted and credible UN agency for children that is passionate about what it does and delivers clear results for children.

UNICEF will further explore opportunities to expand and strengthen its advocacy and communication on child rights to all populations and ethnicities in Moldova, including audiences in Gagauzia, the Transnistrian region and Roma-populated areas, which are predominantly Russian speaking and where more severe child deprivations are manifested. UNICEF will strengthen its efforts to work and show “children’s faces” in order to
UNICEF in Moldova will adopt and strongly promote the four regional priority areas identified for public advocacy: Equity and social inclusion; Early childhood development (ECD); Quality and inclusive education; and Ending violence against children. These priorities resonate well with the proposed new Country Programme and have been identified as key programme implementation priorities, as reflected in the Theory of Change section of this note. UNICEF will also mobilise its advocacy in regard to the fifth priority – Children on the move – in the context of addressing the impact of labour migration on realisation of child rights.

Modalities of engagement will continue to be digital and traditional media, including broadcast media, internet and social media. In using these, UNICEF will continue to build media’s awareness and support for child rights. It will continue to promote ethical reporting and will work on increasing the frequency and coverage of media reporting on child rights issues, with a focus on the rights of Roma children, children with disabilities, poor children and children impacted by migration. UNICEF will actively seek opportunities for engagement through new modalities, including mobile phones and new networks of supporters. UNICEF will continue to engage with and cultivate champions for children, such as digital influencers, National Ambassadors, celebrities/public figures, journalists, other media professionals, the First Lady, and Members of Parliament. Building upon the specific chapter on Child Rights of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, UNICEF will continue to engage with the EU and ensure that children’s rights, especially those of the most vulnerable, are considered and remain high on the EU’s agenda for Moldova.

UNICEF will continue to engage with adolescents as agents of change for child rights and promote stronger adolescent and youth digital engagement through various initiatives, including Voices of Youth and Digital mapping of community needs. Key findings of the Multi-Country Evaluations (MCEs) have highlighted that UNICEF has been more effective as a voice for children than in providing children with an opportunity to voice their opinion and be heard. Therefore, in the new country program, UNICEF will engage strongly in empowering children, building their skills and knowledge, and providing them with tools and platforms to speak for themselves.

UNICEF will continue to build the capacity of media professionals in child rights reporting and increase their skills in order to enable them to act as advocates for children and hold decision-makers accountable for the realisation of child rights. Specific focus will be placed on building media professionals’ familiarity with the CRC and their skills in advocating for inclusion into university curricula for journalists of mandatory CRC orientation as a prerequisite for quality child rights reporting. Additional building of capacities and skills will focus on proper fact checking, and investigative journalism. UNICEF will continue to build the capacity of media on reporting violence against children, and striving to ensure ethical reporting while avoiding sensationalist reporting. In regard to children in contact with the law, UNICEF will build media capacity to transform the predominately negative reporting used in such cases into a positive reporting, taking into account child rights. UNICEF will further work with media and journalists to encourage better coverage and more regular reporting on issues covering Roma children and children with disabilities. It will work to ensure better, more regular and objective coverage of issues surrounding children living in marginalised areas, such as Gagauzia and the Transnistrian region.

Additionally, UNICEF will work to strengthen the capacities of its government and CSO counterparts in advocacy and communication on child rights, including encouraging them to give a voice to marginalised children and to advocate more enthusiastically for children’s rights.
UNICEF will leverage the unique opportunity provided by UNICEF’s 70th anniversary and its new brand strategy to further promote UNICEF’s brand in Moldova, highlighting the essence of UNICEF’s mandate and the values guiding UNICEF’s daily work everywhere and for every child. Key brand strategy assets will be incorporated into a comprehensive long-term country communications and public advocacy strategy and implemented throughout the new country programme. UNICEF will also strengthen the monitoring of public awareness on UNICEF’s brand in Moldova, introducing and using key global KPIs on brand measurement such as: spontaneous awareness; familiarity (the extent to which people think they know what the organisation is about); positive impressions; brand attributes (brand identity) and trust.

UNICEF will continue to play a key leadership role and undertake public advocacy activities around significant international days, such as International Children’s Day, International Day of the Girl Child, and the November 20 anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the regional and national launches of global flagship reports, such as the State of the World’s Children report. The Country Programme will ensure the regular positive presence of UNICEF in the most relevant national media outlets and will continue to encourage adaptation to the national context of global and regional campaigns such as #ENDviolence #FIGHTunfair, “It’s about Ability”, as a framework for engagement with public and decision makers.

**Policy dialogue and technical expertise** will support robust implementation of reforms targeted at delivering key results for children as outlined in the Theory of Change section of this note. UNICEF will continue to influence the development of normative frameworks for child rights compliant with national legislation and aligned with international best practice. UNICEF will continue to advocate for strong implementation of policies and for relevant budget allocations addressing child needs with counterparts from health, education, social protection, child protection and the justice sectors. UNICEF will contribute to the mid-term review of the National Development Strategy, Moldova 2020, by ensuring more prominent featuring of child-focused social sector priorities (education, health, social protection, and justice for children).

Policy dialogue will continue to seek solutions for a strengthened cross-sectoral dialogue and more coordinated implementation of strategies requiring joint efforts in addressing cross-sectoral issues, such as violence against children, early childhood development, inclusive education and child poverty. Policy dialogue and support with technical expertise will further seek to strengthen the performance of professionals and national institutions responsible for monitoring performance.

UNICEF will continue to engage in a strengthened dialogue for a more relevant, needs-based and tailor-made approach to public financing for children with a focus on health, social and education expenditures, and efficiency. In the **health sector**, efforts will focus on increased financing of preventative health services (currently underfinanced although high on the government agenda) and adequate financing supporting the regular vaccine procurement of the country, especially in view of the phasing out of support from major donors (GAVI and the Global Fund). Further efforts will be invested in promoting better financing of and supporting Youth-Friendly Health Services. In the **education sector**, UNICEF will engage in policy dialogue for improved financing of inclusive education, particularly seeking the expansion of the school funding formula (which currently covers only children with disabilities) to Roma children and poor children. UNICEF will also promote better financing of pre-school education. In regard to **social assistance**, UNICEF will continue to address issues around adequate coverage of vulnerable children by the social protection system. UNICEF will continue monitoring implications of the recent amendments to the Law on Local Public Finances and the overall Public Administration Reform to ensure child protection and social protection services for children at local level are adequately financed. Further, policy dialogue efforts will be invested in ensuring adequate state financing of services currently maintained by CSOs through external donor funding (e.g. child-friendly interview rooms; alternative care services; support to the education of children with special education needs, including Roma).
**Communication for behaviour change** will ensure positive change in social norms which will result in the substantial reduction of negative practices (violent disciplining; bullying in schools; discrimination against children from ethnic minorities, children with disabilities and in contact with the law; child abandonment), and inclusion of children. In addition, communication for behaviour change will promote the adoption of positive child care practices by caregivers, with a focus on: early child stimulation, immunization, breastfeeding, micronutrient intake, safe and healthy lifestyle and positive behaviour of adolescents, and support to learning. The organisation will explore potential for the creation of new supporter networks and the fostering of movements for social change, including through promoting greater adolescent participation and engagement in promoting children rights. UNICEF will invest efforts in strengthening the capacities of government stakeholders to assess and understand harmful practices and social norms, and to design and implement effective C4D and communication for social change activities. Specific Communication for behaviour change approaches are described in detail under the Theory of Change section of this note.

**Knowledge generation and child rights monitoring** will ensure additional evidence and vital data for advocacy, policy and legislative reforms addressing violence against children, child discrimination and child poverty. UNICEF will be engaged on an ongoing basis in generating independent data and analysis on the situation of children and identifying critical bottlenecks to the realisation of their rights, while strengthening the functioning of national child rights guarantee systems, including national collection, availability and use of reliable disaggregated data. Technical support will be provided to all key line ministries partnering with UNICEF to strengthen the monitoring frameworks of child related strategies currently being implemented (e.g. Child Protection Strategy, Inclusive Education Strategy 2020), including by promoting the collection of disaggregated data. UNICEF will further engage in dialogue promoting better inter-connectedness and exchange of data between various government data collections systems (e.g. better linkages among Ministries, and between Ministries, the National Bureau of Statistics, and the national e-Governance platform databases). Specific efforts will be invested in supporting the establishment of a centralised system for data collection on vulnerable children, children in care system and databases for children in contact with the law. Finally, UNICEF will contribute to inter-agency efforts supporting better data collection in the Transnistrian region.

**Capacity development of government and civil society** will ensure strong monitoring of child rights, effective and timely actions addressing violations of child rights, quality and coordinated delivery of services for children and adolescents (including quality of teaching and learning), and improved awareness and inclusion of disadvantaged children and adolescents. There is a notable shift in approach from strong UNICEF investment in building capacities with national coverage in the previous Country Programme to a more focused, localised, model-based approach to building capacities of professionals in the coming Country Programme. This approach will also involve greater efforts in advocacy for the inclusion of key capacity strengthening measures in pre- and in-service curricula for professionals. Further efforts will advocate for improved implementation and compliance with professional standards and already institutionalised professional development measures. Specific capacity development approaches are described in detail under the Theory of Change section of the note.

**Partnerships and leveraging resources for children** will ensure civil society, media, donor, and private sector engagement in promoting child rights and identifying of alternative methods of financing for realisation of child rights.

There are already strong partnerships at work in supporting and finalising actions towards de-institutionalisation in Moldova. Key civil society partners include Partnership for Every Child and CCF. UNICEF is partnering closely with CCF in modelling community based deinstitutionalisation approaches and establishing of
community level alternative care services, including on the left bank of the Nistru river, and collaborates closely with Partnership for Every Child (CSO), Lumos and OAK foundations, USAID and UK Charity Forum in this field.

A limited number of local CSOs work on violence against children issues (CNPAC, CRIC, La Strada) which are mostly supported through small embassy funds and/or minimal investments from the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, and overall, although policy and legislation have been brought in line with international norms, there is no strong and focused government and/or CSO action directed towards reducing the violence against children. In that regard UNICEF will continue to expand its partnership and will try to leverage additional resources from interested donors, such as OAK foundation (interested in combating sexual exploitation) and the embassies of Netherlands and Sweden. UNICEF will further seek to expand its partnership with USAID. An initial step in this regard will be to partner with USAID and CDC in the upcoming CDC study on violence against children in Moldova.

In the justice for children field UNICEF will continue its partnership and financial support to the Institute for Penal Reform (working on diversion) and CNPAC (supporting child friendly interviewing) and will continue its close collaboration and information sharing with Terre des Hommes France. UNICEF will continue to cooperate with the EU and seek opportunities to leverage EU structural funds for the Justice Sector reform in ensuring adequate access to justice for children in building up of the special Chapter on Child Rights in the EU Association Agreement for Moldova. Partnerships with other donors supporting the Justice sector reform, such as the embassies of Netherlands and Sweden, will be strengthened as well.

UNICEF maintains close partnerships and supports financially local CSOs and organisations active in the field of early childhood education, such as Pas Cu Pas and CNETIF. Further linkages and leveraging funds for early education will be explored within an expanded partnership and cooperation with Romania. In regard to inclusive education UNICEF maintains cooperation and advocates jointly for reforms together with Lumos foundation, Pas cu Pas and Partnership for Every Child (CSO). It will continue its cooperation with the CSO DACIA in modelling viable approaches for access to education of Roma children. Further strengthening of the partnership and cooperation with the World Bank will be sought to support financing of services for young children (including the application of per-capita funding formula for pre-schools), curricula revision and strengthening the quality and access to education in rural areas, including within the process of optimisation of school networks currently undertaken by Moldova government. Joint work on curricula adjustment will be maintained also with academia, Moldova State University, Balti Pedagogical University, Pedagogical Institute “Ion Creanga” and the Institute of Educational Sciences.

Similarly UNICEF will work with the EU for improved access to education in rural areas, a topic of priority in the Association agenda. Cooperation with EU will be strengthened as well in the field of vocational education, placed as high priority for EU actions in the coming four years period (2018-2021). More specifically, the partnership will look at supporting the elaboration of a comprehensive Vocational Education Strategy for Moldova (a high EU priority) that will look at a better match between labour market demands and available youth skilled workforce in line with the Copenhagen process focused on improved quality of training (initial education, continuing development), improved quality of teachers, trainers and other professionals in the sector and making courses more relevant to the labour market demands. The particular contribution and advocacy of UNICEF will be linked with youth employability, especially of NEET youth, and on strengthened inclusion of Moldova vocational education system (including diversified training opportunities) that will allow higher rate of employability of children and youth with disability.

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29 For example for La Strada to operate a child help line on sexual violence
In strengthening maternal and child health services, UNICEF will continue to partner with the Swiss Development Cooperation and Neovita (CSO) in supporting the Youth Friendly Health Services network (current partnership till 2018). Potential expanded partnerships will be sought with CSOs (such for example TDV Balti) for expanding the YFHS outreach. It is estimated that SDC will continue its support for the Health Sector reform beyond 2018 and UNICEF will continue to be a partner of choice for maternal and child health support. UNICEF will continue to strengthen its partnership with the CSO NOVA for the delivery of ante- and perinatal support on both sides of the Nistru river and will further strengthen its cooperation with Medical University and Medical college of Moldova for the improvement of curricula. Further strengthening of the cooperation with World Bank and WHO in Effective Perinatal Care and Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative will be sought and the partnership with UNFPA in reproductive health will continue. In steeping up its work in support of early detection and early intervention areas, UNICEF will expand its partnership with CSOs, including with Voinicel, one of the first CSOs that have developed such services in Moldova, and will strengthen its cooperation with Norway, which has strong interest and is currently supporting rehabilitation services for Early Interventions in Moldova.

While stepping up its efforts to strengthen adolescents and youth engagement, UNICEF will work on strengthening its partnership with the US Embassy and USAID in supporting the work of Youth Councils, especially at sub-national level, and transferring models of volunteers’ engagement based on the strong voluntarism traditions in the USA. Partnership with EU institutions, such as Council of Europe, will be sought in supporting studies and research. Additional opportunities for partnerships will be sought with the Eurasia Foundation30 investing in local initiatives to develop private entrepreneurship, public policy and civil society.

In the social protection area UNICEF will work of strengthening considerably its partnership with World Bank and EU to ensure adequate poverty alleviation reforms and implementation of social protection floors addressing vulnerable children needs.

For all child related reforms UNICEF is a partner of choice for the Ministries of Labour, Social Protection and Family, Education, Justice and Health. UNICEF as well maintains positive partnerships with various government institutions and leverages their efforts for protection of child rights, including partnering with the Ombudsman office and Moldova Parliament, the National Council for Protection of Child Rights, the Bureau of Interethnic Relations and other government institutions.

To address social norms and beliefs in a more robust manner, UNICEF will seek to partner with the church, which is quite influential in both the social and political life of the country.

Horizontal cooperation: Moldova has traditional partnerships with and support from Romania. The relationship between the two countries is further strengthening now within the context of the EU Association Agreement. UNICEF Moldova will partner closely with UNICEF Romania office in seeking opportunities for further targeted bilateral assistance from Romania to Moldova focused on realisation of child rights. Additional efforts will ensure transferring of good practices from CEE/CIS countries to Moldova, including in the field of justice for children.

Modelling and testing innovations will allow adoption of innovative approaches to public financing, data collection and dissemination (incl. real time data collection) and innovative provision of quality services at local level. Specific modelling initiatives are described in detail under the Theory of Change section of this note.

UNICEF will promote adequate efficiency of the Country Programme by ensuring that: UNICEF staff and partners are provided guidance, tools and resources to effectively design and manage identified programme interventions; UNICEF staff and partners are provided with adequate tools, guidance and resources for effective communication and advocacy on child rights issues; and effective partnerships and strategies are forged to address key child deprivations and cross-cutting issues related to child rights are developed and applied.

D. Result structure (Outcome and Output)

The programme result structure consists of two (2) outcomes supported by nine (9) outputs (Annex 4). The two outcomes are linked and mutually reinforcing. They comprehensively address system strengthening and changes in social norms and behaviours. Achieving simultaneous results under the two outcomes is a prerequisite for substantially addressing key child deprivations and the realisation of child rights.

Outcome 1 will work on achieving Equitable Child-Sensitive Systems and Services and is supported by five (5) Outputs focusing on: preventing family separation, discrimination and violence against children (Output 1); instituting procedures and practices in the justice system that protect and reintegrate children in contact with the law (Output 2); making schools and pre-schools ready to enrol most vulnerable children, and building their capacity to apply and monitor quality teaching and learning, and address violence, drop-out and absenteeism (Output 3); quality mother, child and adolescent health services, ensuring child survival, growth and development (Output 4); and an equitable social protection system seeking to reach most deprived families with children and alleviate child poverty (Output 5).

Outcome 2 will focus on Social Change for Child Rights and is supported by four (4) outputs focusing on improved capacities and skills of duty-bearers, enabling them to perform their obligations in the realisation of child rights (Output 6); caregivers’ engagement in the realisation of child rights, seeking to improve their capacity and skills to take responsibility for appropriate child care, health, development, education and protection, including encouraging and practicing positive behaviour (Output 7); improved adolescent’ awareness and participation, including in supporting the realisation of child rights (Output 8); and social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups of children seeking concerted sustainable action by all systems and duty bearers in addressing the realisation of all rights of the child (Output 9).

Expected outcomes are aligned with eighteen (18) key National Strategies, Policies and Action Plans (Annex 5) focused on Child protection, Social protection, Justice, Education and Health.

The prioritised programme areas and issues are closely linked and directly contribute to the results sought under UNICEF’s Strategic Plan (2014-2017), more specifically in regard to the Country Programme’s drive toward: ensuring improved infant and young child health and nutrition (Outcomes 1 and 4); adolescent health (Outcome 2); achieving inclusive education and quality learning outcomes (Output 5); elimination of abuse and violence against children (Outcome 6); and a stronger focus on improving disaggregated data collection, especially at primary data generation levels (Outcome 7) to support effective decision making, expand outreach and coverage of social services, and measure the quality of service provision and positive outcomes for children. The prioritised programme areas and outcomes are directly linked with expected results for children within the Regional Knowledge and Leadership Agenda, more specifically the focus of the programme on prevention of child abandonment (RKLA 1), on ensuring adequate access to justice for most vulnerable children (RKLA 2),

31 Disability, Roma, children left behind, children from poor families, the poorest areas of country
inclusion of children with disabilities and Roma in Education, improved performance monitoring ensuring quality of teaching and learning and prevention of drop out and absenteeism, adequate access to and quality of pre-school education (RKLA 3 and 4), appropriate infant and young child nutrition and care and improved adolescent health (RKLA 6 and 7), while at the same time ensuring and overall Social protection umbrella for vulnerable children (RKLA 8), supported through improved adolescents participation (RKLA 10) contributing both to democratic and inclusive decision making and promotion of values and attitudes ensuring equity. The prioritised programme areas speak directly to the newly proposed UNICEF Strategic Framework (2018-2021) goals seeking to ensure child survival (Goal 1), ensuring all children are in schools and learning (Goal 2) and that all children are protected from violence and exploitation (Goal 3) within the overarching equity agenda (Goal 4), and will directly contribute to the achievement of key Sustainable Development Goals seeking to end child poverty (SDG1), achieve improved nutrition and elimination of all forms of malnutrition (SDG2), promote well-being and healthy lives for all child age groups (SDG3), ensure inclusive, quality education for all and promotion of lifelong learning (SDG4), ensuring access to justice for all (SDG 16) and seeking to reduce inequalities within the country in promoting social, economic and political inclusion of all vulnerable child groups (SDG 10) through and inclusive society having effective and accountable institutions (SDG 16).

**Process of Strategy Development**

Discussions were held between UNICEF, the Government, CSO partners, and adolescents on the following inputs and Country Programme components: SitAn findings outlining key child deprivation; Theory of Change, including bottleneck analysis; and UNICEF’s strategic vision to address child deprivations, including expected outcomes, outputs and alignment with national priorities and the SDGs. Validation was also sought and all partners agreed with identified challenges and key child deprivations, as well as with proposed expected outcomes and proposed strategic directions.

**E. Monitoring Outputs and Demonstrating UNICEF’s Contribution to Outcomes**

Progress toward the achievement of output results will be monitored by establishing solid baselines, and identifying, in consultation with partners, realistic targets and reliable means of verification. Gaps in data collection will be identified in preparation for the new cycle of implementation and addressed through UNICEF- and donor-supported surveys and other evidence collection. Efforts will focus on regularly monitoring the situation of children in Moldova and ensuring availability of disaggregated data for monitoring of Country Programme results, CRC implementation and progress of key reforms impacting outcomes for children.

Data collection will be done predominantly through publically available and regularly collected data by the National Bureau of Statistics, line ministries, and from various regular government reports, such as the Poverty Report, Annual Social Report, UPR reporting, thematic statistical publications on the situation of children, and others. Efforts to build national and sub-national capacities in disaggregated data collection will continue in next Country Programme implementation cycle with strong focus on promoting real-time data collection and finding innovative ways to address data collections gaps, especially in regard to difficult areas such as violence against children, rates and proportion of inclusion of child vulnerable groups and measuring social norm changes.

Data requirements, data sources, means of verification, and baselines are reflected in Annex 4 (4A. List of Results and Indicators and 4B. Results and Resources Framework). Where data gaps in the baselines exist, these
will be addressed through UNICEF-supported evidence-generated activities and surveys,\textsuperscript{32} while parallel discussions with government counterparts will be held to identify technical requirements ensuring regular data collection against these baselines. Frequency and regularity of data collection will be based on existing provisions in government data collection systems. However, efforts will be invested to increase the frequency of data collection and analysis to allow regular information provision to decision makers for initiating timely actions and to rights holders to support demand for quality services. These efforts will build upon the Prime Minister’s recent initiative to boost data collection by introducing a “scorecard” for monitoring progress of key reforms.

Internal monitoring tools will be used to regularly track progress towards results and reflect UNICEF’s contribution towards UNDAF results and SDG implementation.

**F. Resource Requirements**

The estimated resources required for the 2018-2022 programme implementation are US$ 17,468,000, of which Regular Resources (RR) US$ 4,535,000 and Other Resources (OR) US$ 12,933,000 for the full five-year cycle as reflected in Table 1 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme component</th>
<th>(In thousands of United States dollars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regular resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equitable, Child Sensitive Systems and Services</td>
<td>2,485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Change for Child Rights</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme effectiveness</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,535</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**G. External Risks and Planned responses**

Critical risks which may jeopardise the smooth programme implementation are linked with further political and economic instability (high level impact on programme outcomes), including escalation of the internal conflict in the Transnistrian region and/or spill over of the conflict in Ukraine. Economic stagnation, deepening poverty, increased migration (brain drain, lack of qualified civil servants), lack of financing for services for children, and stagnation of reforms also have a strong potential to hamper smooth implementation. Potential environmental emergencies affecting the agricultural sector (a key sector for Moldova economy) pose low-to-medium risk for the achievement of programme results. Deepening poverty can have medium risk impact on programme outcomes and there is a low risk of lack of commitment to further reforms by government counterparts.

Foreseen risk mitigation measures include: flexibility of the programme to shift from policy advocacy to service delivery (incl. in emergencies); effective financial management of resources; flexible allocation to most pressing needs; and investment in innovations.

\textsuperscript{32} TransMonEE, MICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elements to Review</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Up-to-date evidence on equity gaps, risks and bottleneck and barrier analyses shape the focus and results to be addressed by the Programme Component.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Alignment to national sector plans and strategies is clearly demonstrated. UNICEF’s contribution to meeting national sector priorities and strategies is well articulated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. The Theory of Change narrative demonstrates UNICEF’s contribution to Outcomes, outlining the actions the programme will take to ensure that outputs effectively lead to outcomes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Gender differences, inequalities or discrimination have been considered in the theory of change. Where relevant, specific actions that the programme will take to address such gender-related barriers are outlined.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. MoRES determinants of supply, demand, quality and the enabling environment for services have been considered in identifying solutions to address noted bottlenecks and barriers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Outputs and Outcomes are logically sequenced. The if-then logic holds between activities, outputs and outcomes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. An understanding of context, including assumptions and risks, influences the choice and scope of strategies to address bottlenecks and to achieve identified results.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. There is an understanding of resource availability, and the contribution of other partners, working to achieve outcomes that UNICEF contributes to, and supporting the if-then logic between outputs and outcomes</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Standard indicators in the RAM have been considered, as relevant.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Quality and number of selected indicators per outcome (1:3-4) is acceptable. Baselines and targets identified, or mention made on how these will be completed. Means of verification are identified.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. There is realistic alignment between results, strategies and available resources, including funding and other resources likely to be mobilised.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Consideration is given to how national monitoring systems will be strengthened and supplemented with real-time monitoring approaches to capture changes to target population groups.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13. Gaps in information are noted to serve as a basis for research and evidence gathering to allow refinements to theories of change.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14. There is evidence that the Programme Strategy Note was developed in consultation with the most relevant development actors in the sector.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall Comments:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Annex 2: Overarching Theory of Change
Annex 3: Theories of Change of Specific Components

Outcomes (results for children)

Children and adolescents are protected against discrimination, exploitation and violence, against family separation and neglect and have equitable access to justice

Violence against children prevented

National stakeholders prevent and protect children against discrimination, exploitation and violence

Family separation prevented

National stakeholders prevent and protect children against abandonment, family separation and neglect as per the best interest of the child

Children's rights recognized

Children's rights are recognized, and their views and needs are considered in decision-making

Violence against children prevented

Child Protection system and society at district level, corporate better have adequate tools and instruments to detect and address VAC, monitor performance and quality of services and report on outcomes.

Systems and procedures are aware of early detection of VAC is improved.

Stigma and report efficiently on VAC.

Children are better aware and informed about the risks of violence.

Child-friendly justice system strengthened

justice system is strengthened to better protect and integrate children and adolescents in conflict, with law, including children's rights and potential victims of violence.

Social norms

Children and stakeholders are informed and empowered to claim their rights for the fulfillment of their rights through Childline, Child and Family Meat.

Model of services and support

Model of services and support is strengthened to improve the effectiveness of services, enhance monitoring of social and legal processes and improve the delivery of benefits to children and families.

Communication for behavior change through social and informational materials, through intergenerational communication activities and initiatives, through awareness raising campaigns at community level, on child and family protection.

Model of services and support

Model of services and support is strengthened to improve the effectiveness of services, enhance monitoring of social and legal processes and improve the delivery of benefits to children and families.

Communication for behavior change through social and informational materials, through intergenerational communication activities and initiatives, through awareness raising campaigns at community level, on child and family protection.

Advocacy and efficient allocation of resources

Advocacy and efficient allocation of resources (from GO, of national and local level), enforcement, strong implementation of policies, legislative and normative frameworks, improved capacity of local public authorities for direct implementation.

Gender

Gender: Emphasis put on ensuring that gender balance is achieved for and with the minimum level possible within the capacity building approach of the child protection programme component will contribute to improved quality outcomes.

Adolescents will benefit from the child sensitive and gender sensitive responses and mechanisms in order to promote adequate responses to children, as for instance adolescent and care for vulnerable gender based victims. Gender will also be taken into consideration when developing communication for development campaigns and messages in order to address the issues from a gender point of view, also in order to target the appropriate actors of change.

Assumption: Minimum level of funds and human resources available; constructive Donor; interest partners; Government’s commitment to facilitate the 2018 and Justice Sector reform. Government’s commitment to allocate the budget in agreement with donors, implement the Child Protection Bill and the associated policy to support the Bill. Minimum package of social services delivered at national level.

High case rates of social services delivered at micro level.

New framework for addressing violence.

Increased case rates of social services delivered at national level.

Increased collaboration and coordination with stakeholders, including NGOs, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

Increased awareness and understanding of the importance of participating in the implementation of the National Child Protection Strategy.

Increased coordination and collaboration with other stakeholders.

Increased capacity building for professionals and other stakeholders on child protection.

Increased awareness and understanding of the importance of participating in the implementation of the National Child Protection Strategy.

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Increased coordination and collaboration with other stakeholders.

Increased capacity building for professionals and other stakeholders on child protection.
Moldova Country Program of Cooperation 2018-2022 - Theory of Change Education

Outcome

By 2022, Moldova National systems and services are more inclusive, able to protect the rights of children, and respond to the needs of most vulnerable in an equitable way.

Outputs

National systems and services are more inclusive, protect the rights of children, and respond to the needs of most vulnerable in an equitable way.

Moldova society fulfills its obligations to protect child rights, effectively supports social outcomes for children and children and adolescents are empowered to claim for their rights.

Advocacy, Technical Expertise, policy dialogue: Child-centred methodologies and CFS standards applied in all schools. CFS standards tools reflect education development priorities and strong National School Inspectorate ensure regular monitoring of quality and performance in schools. Post 2020 Inclusive Education agenda ensures continuous learning of CWD and measures CWD learning outcomes. Periodic curricula revision ensure alignment with EU competencies model. Lifelong learning and linkages with labour market demand and with the strong focus on making it work for all children. Inclusive education formula and standard package of services revised and cover all child vulnerable groups (in addition to CWD). Out of school children program and Action plan implemented, identify and reintegrate out of school children.

District level models and best practice in application of CFS standards exist. LPAs prioritize funding for early learning. Strengthened and effective inter-sectoral mechanism at district level identifies cases of VAC in schools. Identifies and reintegrates out-of-school children. Evidence on VAC in schools recorded and psychologist support victims of violence in schools. Models for inclusive Roma education exist.

Social norms: Democratic governance of schools in place with parent and student participation. Teachers work with parents to address social norms and parents enabled to support learning and educate their children’s values.

Adequate and efficient allocation of resources (from GDP at national and local level), enforcement, strong implementation of policy, legislative and normative framework. Improved capacity of local public authorities to drive decentralization. Alignment of national classifications with International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) and resulting national strategies and action plans ensure the participation and involvement of CWD in all areas of life. Analysis of the efficiency of child related benefits and allowances contributes to better targeting and coverage for vulnerable children from the poorest quintile (families with 3 and more children, poor families with children, families with CWD).

Assumptions: UNICEF comparative advantage and leadership role in education supported by quality evidence, UNICEF capacity to leverage funds. UNICEF expertise in modeling innovations. Adequate staff capacity and availability of financial resources. Political will and commitment to continue reform and address inequalities. Risks: Political and economic instability, economic stagnation, increased migration (brain drain, lack of qualified civil servants), lack of financing for services for children, stagnation of reforms. Mitigation measures: Flexibility of the program to shift from policy advocacy to service delivery (incl. for emergencies). Effective financial management of resources and flexible allocation to most pressing needs. Investment in innovations.

Assumptions: UNICEF capacity to stir social mobilization and address changes in behaviors. Risks: Persisting social norms. Lack of commitment from government to engage in social mobilization. CABE positive communication. Deepening poverty. Mitigation measures: Building civic coalitions, including at local level. Capacity building of local authorities. Raised awareness, empowerment and active engagement of youth.

Gender Analysis: All interventions will be gender-focused aiming to address gender related inequalities among children. Specific gender interventions will focus on ensuring equal level of girls’ enrollment, especially from Roma minorities, like Roma girls promote the value of education in Roma communities, esp. among fathers, break stereotypes and harmful practices contributing to school drop-out. The implementation of the CFS standards that include specific standards and indicators on gender sensitivities dimension.

**Outcome**
Moldova’s social protection system is more inclusive, able to protect the rights of children, and responds to the needs of the most vulnerable in an equitable way.

**Outputs**
- Stronger integration and higher effectiveness and efficiency of the national social protection system
- Growing investment in child-sensitive poverty-alleviation programmes and social services year after year

**Strategies**
- **Policy dialogue and technical expertise for better social protection system design:**
  - Better targeted cash transfer system that is adequately tailored to meet the needs of the most vulnerable families with children, including families of CVD
  - Simplified bureaucratic procedures and transparent information re: social assistance applications and complaints mechanisms
  - Coordination with LPA and CSOs to increase coverage and coordination of social services
  - Staff & systems that undertake greater outreach to disadvantaged families and link them with other programmes and health and education services

- **Partnerships with CSOs at local level to raise the awareness of vulnerable families with children regarding their rights to social protection and application procedures:**

- **Models:** use of a single registry system that cuts across social protection programmes and social sectors enabling better outreach and coordination of vulnerable households. Ideally, a new system would allow for rapid scale-up of programmes through identification of vulnerable participants in case of an emergency/crisis

- **Knowledge generation to supplement evidence gaps, leverage greater resources for children, and support fine-tuning of programme design:**

- **Policy dialogue and technical expertise on enhancing and tracking expenditures, in order to improve efficiency and achieve equitable financing of social protection cash and services, at both national and local levels; Support to an adequate decentralisation process:**

**Social norms:** Interventions geared toward making child poverty reduction and social protection a priority for the Government of Moldova, as civil society becomes increasingly aware of children’s disproportionate vulnerability and claim its right to social protection. Empowerment and active engagement of youth is one way to create awareness of and demand for social protection. Meanwhile, social norms ensure that social protection benefits are used to address children’s human development needs and build households’ resilience.

**Gender analysis:** All interventions will be gender-focused aiming to address gender-related inequalities among children. Specific gender focus of social protection and assistance will be placed in regard to supporting single-mother/female-headed households.

**Migration:** Interventions will boost the potential of social protection to reduce the use of migration as a coping strategy; interventions on establishing an integrated social protection system will ensure that return migrants are featured and portable and access to programmes addressed.

**Financing:** Interventions will focus on an adequate and efficient allocation of resources at national and local levels. Effective financial management of resources and flexible allocation to most pressing needs is necessary. Support to successfully and sustainably undertake fiscal decentralisation reform. Capacity building to promote greater financial independence of local authorities.

**Assumptions:** UNICEF expertise in modelling innovations; adequate staff capacity and availability of financial and human resources; political will and commitment to continue social assistance reform and improve its poverty alleviation and equity focus.

**Risks:** Political and economic instability; economic stagnation and further shrinking of economy; increased migration (brain drain, lack of qualified civil servants); further subsidization of social insurance by State budget that crowds out investment in social assistance; lack of financing for services for children; stagnation of reforms; deepening poverty; further decline in remittances; and further decline in tax contributions.
Moldova Country program of Cooperation 2018-2022 - Theory of Change Adolescents’ participation

Outcome
Adolescents are empowered and have opportunities to claim for and support realization of child rights.

Outputs
Adolescents exercise their right to participate and expression of opinion
Adolescent and Youth contribute to addressing social norms and mobilize social change
Adolescents contribute towards reduction of violence against children and identification and inclusion of vulnerable groups of children and alleviation of child poverty.

Strategies
Advocacy, policy dialogue, tech. expertise:
- Youth Law provision mandate establishment of local level youth councils and institutionalize youth worker profession.
- Law on voluntarism enforced.
- Models District level youth councils exist supported by adequate financing from ULAs.
- Advocacy, policy dialogue, tech. expertise:
- Youth innovation and youth participation promoted in schools.
- Social norms: Adolescent boys and girls actively engaged in child rights promotion and drive social change.
- Democratic governance of schools in place with parent and student participation.
- Decision makers and parents consider adolescents and youth as equal interlocutors and consult their opinion.

Model + Innovations: Adolescents engaged in digital mapping of children needs at community level and contribute to better functioning of intersectoral mechanism

Adequate and efficient allocation of resources (from GDP, at national and local level), enforcement, strong implementation of policy, legislative and normative framework, improved capacity of local public authorities to drive decentralization.

Assumptions: Adolescents want to participate in decision-making. Participation is voluntary and relevant. Participation takes place in an adolescent-friendly and safe environment. Government and other partners see the value of adolescent participation. UNICEF comparative advantage and mandate in promoting child rights and participation. UNICEF advocacy for policy reform and capacity in leveraging resources and influencing Public Financing for children. UNICEF expertise in modeling innovations. UNICEF capacity for social mobilization. Adequate staff capacity and availability of financial resources. Political will and commitment to continue reform and address inequalities.

Mitigation measures: Flexibility of the program to shift from policy advocacy to service delivery (incl. for emergencies). Effective financial management of resources and flexible allocation to most pressing needs. Investment in innovations. Capacity building of local authorities. Empowerment and active engagement of youth. Raising awareness.

Gender Analysis: All interventions will be gender-focused aiming to address gender related inequalities among youth and adolescents.

**By 2022, Moldova National systems and services are more inclusive, able to protect the rights of children, and respond to the needs of most vulnerable in an equitable way.**

### Outcomes

- **National systems and services are more inclusive, protect the rights of children with disabilities, and respond to their needs in an equitable way, and ensure proper coordination and facilitate access to adequate services.**

- **Adequate childcare and parenting support provided to CWD, social environment access CWD, provides necessary support and address discrimination, negative attitudes and practices.**

### Strategies

- **Adaptation, policy dialogue.**
  - Revision and adjustments of policies to address inclusion of CWD and revised criteria, focusing on quality medical care, or caregiver assistance etc. (EE)
  - Implementation of policies on inclusion of CWD and determining disability in children at central and local level (EE, O)
  - Ensure that children with identified child should have relevant access to quality medical care, sufficient financial benefits, additional quality caregiver assistance, best educational options, and not discriminated in the community (EE, EE)
  - Implementation of national action plan on parenting (EE)

- **Capacity development.**
  - Improved performance of professionals in case management (E, O)
  - Better quality and regular delivery of pre- & in-service training (E, O)
  - Improved quality and availability of social and care services for CWD, including for alternative care (E, O)
  - Adequate distribution of social services and PR at local level (O)
  - Teachers and peers in schools sensitized on social inclusion of CWD (EE)
  - Media sensitized on social inclusion of CWD and child rights issue reporting (O, O)
  - Strong and effective inter-sectoral mechanism (E, O)

- **Technical expertise and knowledge generation.**
  - Criteria of determining child disability are in line with ICF-CY and data are regularly generated by the system (EE)
  - Improved monitoring and data availability in line with ICF-CY framework (EE, O)

- **CAFO.**
  - Improved knowledge and parenting skills (EE, O)
  - No stigma & social pressure in respect to CWD (EE)

### Modeling and testing of novel mechanisms to define and address disability in children (E, O)

- **Sufficient public investments and budget allocations at all levels ensure availability and functionality of services (EE, O).**
- **Enforcement, strong implementation of policy, legislative and normative framework, improved capacity of local public authorities to drive decentralization.**

### Assumptions

- UNICEF comparative advantage and mandate in promoting child rights and participation, UNICEF advocacy for policy reform and capacity in leveraging resources and influencing public financing for children, UNICEF expertise in measuring innovations, UNICEF capacity for social mobilization, Adequate staff capacity and availability of financial resources, Political will and commitment to continue reform and address inequities.

### Risks

- Political and economic instability, economic stagnation and further shrink of economy, increased migration (brain drain), lack of financing for services for children, stagnation of reforms.
- Integration: effectiveness of the program to shift from policy advocacy to service delivery (inc. for emergencies). Effective financial management of resources and flexible allocation to meet pressing needs. Investment in innovations.

### Gender Analysis:

- Activities will address equally issues faced by boys and girls, with an emphasis on gender-sensitive responses and mechanisms in order to provide adequate response to children with disabilities.
Annex 4: Results Structure
National Development priorities: 18 Strategies, Policies and Action Plans focused on Child, Social protection, Justice, Education and Health system reforms aiming to ensure that:
All children in Moldova, especially the most deprived, enjoy their right to education, health, adequate standard of living and participation within a child-friendly legal environment, and are protected from abandonment, neglect, discrimination, exploitation and violence.
(SDGs Goal 1,2,3,4,10,16)


Outcome 1: Equitable Child Sensitive Systems and Services
By 2022, Moldova National systems and services are more inclusive, able to protect the rights of children, and respond to the needs of most vulnerable in an equitable way

Output 1: Preventing family separation, discrimination and violence against children
By 2022, national stakeholders have functional mechanisms, capacities and skills to prevent and protect children against discrimination, exploitation and violence, and prevent abandonment, family separation and neglect as per the best interest of the child

Outcome 2: Social Change for child rights
By 2022, Moldova society has knowledge on fundamental child rights and fulfills its obligations, effectively supports social outcomes for children, and children and adolescents are empowered to claim their rights

Output 2: Duty-bearers’ obligations for realization of child rights
By 2022, all duty bearers acquire and use capacities and skills to fulfill their obligations for realization of child rights

Outcome 3: Program Efficiency: By 2022, the Country program has adequate human resource capacity and resources to effectively promote child rights

Outcome 4: Quality mother, child and adolescents health services
By 2022, Health system has improved capacities, outreach and resources to provide quality mother and child and adolescents health services, and provide advice to caregivers supporting child care, growth and development

Outcome 5: Social Inclusion of the most vulnerable groups
By 2022, comprehensive interventions involving different national entities address the challenges in realization of all rights of the most vulnerable groups of children in sustainable manner.

Outcome 6: Quality early childhood education
By 2022, children, especially the most deprived, have quality early childhood education

Output 3: Equity in early childhood education
By 2022, education system has increased capacity, outreach and resources to provide early childhood education to children, especially the most deprived

Output 4: Quality mother, child and adolescents health services
By 2022, Health system has improved capacities, outreach and resources to provide quality mother and child and adolescents health services, and provide advice to caregivers supporting child care, growth and development

Output 5: Social Inclusion of the most vulnerable groups
By 2022, comprehensive interventions involving different national entities address the challenges in realization of all rights of the most vulnerable groups of children in sustainable manner.

Financial Resources: Total US$ 17,468,000, of which RR US$ 4,535,000 and OR US$ 12,933,000
4A. Results Structure (Outcomes, Outputs and the Associated Indicators)

**Impact**

All children in Moldova, especially the most vulnerable, enjoy their rights to education, health, adequate standard of living and participation within a child friendly legal environment, and are protected from abandonment, neglect, discrimination, exploitation and violence.

**Outcome 1: Equitable, Child Sensitive Systems and services**

By 2022, Moldova National systems and services are more inclusive, able to protect the rights of children, and respond to the needs of most vulnerable in an equitable way.

Indicators:

a. Percentage of children 0-1 years old supervised in accordance with the existing standards, including home visiting (adjusted Global Standard Indicator)  

b. Number of districts with inter-sectoral mechanism in place, monitor and collect disaggregated data on vulnerable children  

c. Gross enrolment ratio in pre-primary education (Global Standard Indicator)  

d. Lower secondary education completion rate (Global Standard Indicator)  

e. Impact of child benefits and Social Aid on child poverty

**Output 1: Preventing family separation, discrimination and violence against children**

By 2022, national stakeholders have functional mechanisms, capacities and skills to prevent and protect children against discrimination, exploitation and violence, and prevent abandonment, family separation and neglect as per the best interest of the child,

Indicators:

a. Existence of routine administrative data collection systems and publications on violence, exploitation and abuse of children including violent deaths and injuries (Global Standard Indicator)  

b. Number of municipalities (rayons) that implement local inter-sectoral protocols for the protection of children from violence, abuse, neglect and trafficking (Global Standard Indicator)  

c. Percentage of gatekeeping commissions applying best interest of the child determination mechanism and case management tools  

d. Proportion of new children entering residential care per year  

e. Percentage of children victims of all forms of abuse, neglect, violence, trafficking referred through the inter-sectoral mechanism for assistance  

f. Percentage of children reporting cases of violence through official complaint mechanism

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33 Global Standard Indicator: New-borns receiving postnatal care within two days of births)  
34 Children victims of violence, children in conflict with the law, out-of school children, children with disabilities  
35 Institutions and professionals from Child protection, Education, Health and Labour and Social Protection system; parents, caregivers and community; media
Output 2: Justice for Children
By 2022, Justice system authorities and related support services have institutionalized procedures and practices to protect and re-integrate children in contact with the law.

Indicators:
   a. Percentage of prosecutors applying diversion schemes toward children offenders.
   b. Number of cases involving children submitted for mediation per year (RKLA2 indicator)
   c. Percentage of justice system staff at district level able to apply child friendly interviewing procedures for children victims/witnesses of crimes.
   d. Number of districts with functioning inter-sectoral cooperation mechanism protecting children offenders
   e. Existence of routine administrative data collection systems and publications on children involved in criminal and non-criminal cases

Output 3: Quality, inclusive education within a violence free school environment
By 2022, schools and pre-schools have capacity to apply and monitor quality teaching and learning and are able to address violence, drop-out and absenteeism.

Indicators:
   a. Existence of a well-functioning classroom assessment system, including for early grades – score 1-4 (Global Standard Indicator)
   b. Education Sector Policy/Plan that includes holistic institutional capacity building to improve awareness, attitude and empowerment to address gender based violence in and around schools - score (1-4) (Global Standard indicator etc.)
   c. Availability of quality CFS/CFE standards that are consistent with Child Friendly Schools/education or similar models - score (1-4) (Global Standard Indicator)
   d. Existence of early learning policy and early learning programme including quality early learning curriculum and standards exist - score (1-4) (Global Standard Indicator)
   e. Existence of curricula and support from teachers and school administrators that are inclusive of all children, including children with disabilities and Roma children - score (1-4)
   f. Extent to which EMIS provides quality and timely data - score (1-4)

Output 4: Quality mother, child and adolescents health services
By 2022, Health system has improved capacities, outreach and resources to provide quality mother and child and adolescents health services, and provide advice to caregivers supporting child care, growth and development.

Indicators:
   a. Home-visiting nurses with adequate skills related to child health, nutrition and development, including on early detection and intervention for children with disabilities (Global Standard Indicator)
   b. The International Code on Marketing of Breastmilk substitutes adopted as legislation (Global Standard Indicator)
   c. Percentage of maternities applying BFH criteria
   d. Number of YFHS able to reach out and provide services to most vulnerable MARA and EVA
   e. Existence of communication and social mobilization plan for routine and supplementary immunization (Global Standard Indicator)
   f. Health Management Information System generates periodic reports with data disaggregated by age, sex at national and local level (Global Standard Indicator)
Output 5: Equitable Social Protection System
By 2022, social protection system and relevant mechanisms have capacity to reach most deprived families with children, are able to deliver equitable services and financial assistance.\footnote{Ministry of Labour and Social protection and Ministry of Finance}

Indicators:
\begin{itemize}
  \item a. Existence of strategies and mechanisms to increase inclusion of excluded children into social protection (Global Standard Indicator)
  \item b. Availability of comprehensive minimum package of social protection services addressing the needs of most vulnerable families\footnote{Poor rural families with more than three children, households with children left behind, families of children with disabilities and Roma families} with children.
  \item c. Share of HH with children from poorest quintile(s) receiving social payments (social assistance and child benefits)
  \item d. Availability of disaggregated data on services and Social Aid generated through Automated Information Social Assistance System (SIAAS ) to monitor the situation of the vulnerable children
\end{itemize}

Outcome 2. Social Change for Child Rights
By 2022, Moldova society has knowledge on fundamental child rights and fulfils its obligations, effectively supports social outcomes for children, and children and adolescents are empowered to claim their rights.

Indicators:
\begin{itemize}
  \item a. Percentage of caregivers who accept CWD in regular pre-schools/schools
  \item b. Proportion of vulnerable pregnant mothers using social protection mechanisms
  \item c. Percentage of caregivers using positive parenting practices\footnote{Positive parenting will be measured as absence of two violent practices: physical punishment and psychological aggression}.
  \item d. Percentage of adolescents who indicate that their views are listened and taken seriously (always, most of the time, and sometimes) at rayon/central level
  \item e. Proportion of children with disabilities supported through cross-sectorial coordination mechanism in targeted districts
\end{itemize}

Output 6: Duty-bearers’ obligations for realization of child rights
By 2022, all duty bearers have capacities and skills to fulfil their obligations for realization of child rights.

Indicators:
\begin{itemize}
  \item a. Strong and independent national human rights institutions and organizations monitor the status of child rights through disaggregated data that consider all children and present progress and concerns in a timely and transparent manner (global standard indicator)
  \item b. Functional mechanism monitoring the implementation of 2017 CRC concluding observations established
\end{itemize}
c. The National Council for Child rights Protection ensures effective cross-sectoral coordination for the implementation of key child-related policies and strategies and addresses in timely manner emerging child rights issues
d. Number of media able to report actively and ethically on child rights
e. Number of businesses pursuing Corporate Social Responsibility in their business principles through joint projects with UNICEF
f. Comprehensive behaviour change communication strategy for adolescents and youth including those from key populations available (Global Standard Indicator)

**Output 7: Caregivers’ engagement in realization of child rights**
By 2022, the caregivers have capacity and skills to take responsibility for appropriate child care, health, development, education and protection, encourage and practice positive behaviour.

Indicators:
- Percentage of parents/caregivers having knowledge and skills to practice early childhood stimulation for children 0-3 years of age
- Percentage of parents/caregivers having knowledge and skills to practice positive disciplining methods
- Percentage of active involvement of school management committees at primary and secondary levels in the development of school improvement plans and monitoring of schools - score (1-4) (Global Standard Indicator)
- Proportion of adolescents reporting that their parents or caregivers are the principal source of information about healthy lifestyle and positive behaviours
- Proportion of society members believing in successful social re-integration of children offenders

**Output 8: Adolescents awareness and participation**
By 2022, adolescents and youth are empowered and have opportunities to claim for and support realization of child rights and are able to adopt positive, healthy behaviours.

Indicators:
- Percentage of students (children and adolescents) actively participating in school management committees at primary and secondary level (Global Standard Indicator)
- Percentage of adolescents who indicate that their views were taken seriously in decisions made at home, school and in their community (RKLA 10 indicator)
- Number of adolescents (15-19 years) and youth (20-24 years) actively participating in local decision-making processes via local youth structures and mechanisms
- Number of innovative solutions proposed and implemented by adolescents and youth for effective child rights monitoring and addressing child right issues at local level

**Output 9: Social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups**
By 2022, comprehensive interventions involving different national entities address the challenges in realization of all rights of the most vulnerable groups of children in sustainable manner.

Indicators:
- Cross-sectorial coordination mechanism for social inclusion of most vulnerable children (covering health, education, child and social protection and C4BC) is functional at rayon level (related to Global Standard Indicator 7. Social Inclusion, Program area 07-02)

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39 Disability, Roma, children left behind, children from poor families, the poorest areas of country
b. Child disability criteria are in line with International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) framework

c. Number of parliamentary hearings on social inclusion and non-discrimination of most vulnerable children (children with disabilities, children from rural area, poor children, children left behind, Roma children, victims of abuse etc) (adjusted Global Standard Indicator)

d. Proportion of rayons/municipalities (of 35 in the country) with available psycho-social support services for children left behind

e. Extent to which data collection systems (health, child protection, education etc.) are harmonised and disaggregated data available to monitor the situation of CWD

Outcome 3. Programme effectiveness

Country Programmes are efficiently designed, coordinated, managed and supported to meet quality-programming standards in achieving results for children

a. Percentage of management and programme priority indicators meeting the scorecard benchmarks

Output 10: Programme Coordination - Deputy Representative

UNICEF staff and partners are provided guidance, tools and resources to effectively design and manage programmes

Output 11: External Relations

UNICEF staff and partners are provided tools, guidance and resources for effective communication on child rights with stakeholders

Output 12: Communications, Advocacy and Partnerships

UNICEF staff and partners are provided tools, guidance and resources for effective advocacy and partnerships on child rights issues with stakeholders

Output 13: Cross-sectoral approaches

Strategies to address cross-cutting issues related to child rights are developed and applied
4B. Results and Resources Framework

**Convention on the Rights of the Child:** Articles 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41


Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere. Target 1.2, 1.3, 1.5
Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Target 2.2
Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Target 3.1, 3.3, 3.7, 3.8
Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Target 4.1, 4.2, 4.a, 4.c
Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries. Target 10.2, 10.3
Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Target 16.2, 16.3, 16.7

**UNDAF outcomes involving UNICEF:**
Outcome 1: The people of Moldova, in particular the most vulnerable[1], demand and benefit from democratic, transparent and accountable governance, gender-sensitive, human rights- and evidence-based public policies, equitable services, and efficient, effective and responsive public institutions
Outcome 4: The people of Moldova, in particular the most vulnerable[4], demand and benefit from gender-sensitive and human rights-based, inclusive, effective and equitable education, health and social policies and services.

**Related UNICEF Strategic Plan outcome(s):** Goal Area 1– Every Child Survives and Thrives: Result areas 1 (Improve nutritional status of boys and girls), 2 (Maternal and newborn care), 3 (Immunisation), 4 (Preventable illnesses), and 5(Gender-responsive adolescent health and nutrition)
Goal Area 2 – Every Child Learns: Result areas 1 (Out-of-school children), 2 (Learning outcomes), and 4 (Skills development)
Goal Area 3 – Every Child Protected from Violence and Exploitation: Result areas 1 (Violence) and 3 (Access to justice)
Goal Area 4 – Equity: Every Child Has a Fair Chance in Life: Result areas 1 (Gender equality), 2 (Development of cognitive, language, social-and emotional skills of children [ECD]), 3 (Adolescent empowerment and engagement), and 4 (Child poverty)
### UNICEF outcomes

**Key progress indicators, baselines and targets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome 1: Equitable, Child Sensitive Systems and services</th>
<th>Means of verification</th>
<th>Indicative country programme outputs</th>
<th>Major partners, partnership frameworks</th>
<th>Indicative resources by country programme outcome (In millions of United States dollars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| By 2022, Moldova National systems and services are more inclusive, able to protect the rights of children, and respond to the needs of most vulnerable in an equitable way | National Bureau of Statistics data, administrative statistics collected by the line ministries: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, Ministry of Justice etc., Local public authorities, UNICEF supported evidence-generated activities | Output 1: Preventing family separation, discrimination and violence against children  
By 2022, national stakeholders have functional mechanisms, capacities and skills to prevent and protect children against discrimination, exploitation and violence, and prevent abandonment, family separation and neglect as per the best interest of the child | Ministry if Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, Ministry of Justice, State Chancellery; Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, Local public authorities, United Nations Agencies, WB |
| a. Percentage of children 0-1 years old supervised in accordance with the existing standards, including home visiting (adjusted Global Standard Indicator) | | | RR | OR | Total |
| Baseline: 74% (2014)  
Target: 95% | | | 2.5 | 8.4 | 10.9 |
| b. Number of districts with intersectoral mechanism in place to monitor and collect disaggregated data on vulnerable children | | | |
| Baseline: 5 (2016)  
Target: 35 | | | |
| c. Gross enrolment ratio in pre-primary education (Global Standard Indicator) | | | |
| Baseline: 85% (2015/16 school year)  
Target: 90% | | | |
| d. Lower secondary education completion rate (Global Standard Indicator) | | | |
| Baseline: 84% (2015/16 school year)  
Target: 90% | | | |
| e. Impact of child benefits/ Social Aid on child poverty | | | |

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40 Global standard indicator: New-borns receiving postnatal care within two days of births

41 Children victims of violence, children in conflict with the law, out-of school children, children with disabilities

42 Institutions and professionals from Child protection, Education, Health and Labour and Social Protection system; parents, caregivers and community; media
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<td>By 2022, Moldova National systems and services are more inclusive, able to protect the rights of children, and respond to the needs of most vulnerable in an</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. Proportion of vulnerable pregnant mothers using social protection mechanisms</td>
<td>Baseline: 19%/17% (2013) Target: 30%/30%</td>
<td>By 2022, the health system has improved capacities, outreach and resources to provide quality mother and child and adolescents health services, and advise caregivers supporting child care, growth and development.</td>
<td>By 2022, the social protection system and mechanisms have capacity to reach the most deprived families with children, are able to deliver equitable services and financial assistance</td>
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<td>Output 6: Duty-bearers’ obligations for realization of child rights</td>
<td>Output 7: Caregivers’ engagement in realization of child rights</td>
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<td>National Bureau of Statistics data, administrative statistics collected by the line ministries: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, Ministry of Justice etc., Local public authorities,</td>
<td>By 2022, all duty bearers have capacities and skills to fulfil their obligations for realization of child rights.</td>
<td>By 2022, the caregivers have capacity and skills to take</td>
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43 Ministry of Labour and Social protection and Ministry of Finance
44 Social benefits, psychosocial counselling, supervision and assistance by interpectorol mechanism
<table>
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<tr>
<td>equitable way</td>
<td>Target: 30%</td>
<td>UNICEF supported evidence-generated activities (including MICS)</td>
<td>responsibility for appropriate child care, health, development, education and protection, encourage and practice positive behaviour</td>
<td>United Nations Agencies, NGOs, People’s Advocate for Child Rights</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Percentage of caregivers using positive parenting practices</td>
<td>Baseline: proxy indicator - 22% of caregivers not using violent methods (physical punishment and psychological aggression)</td>
<td>Target: 50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. Percentage of adolescents who indicate that their views are listened and taken seriously (always, most of the time, and sometimes) at rayon/central level</td>
<td>Baseline: 38%/30%(COE 2013)</td>
<td>Target: 50%/40%</td>
<td>Output 8: Adolescents awareness and participation</td>
<td>By 2022, adolescents and youth are empowered and have opportunities to claim for and support realization of child rights and are able to adopt positive, healthy behaviours.</td>
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<td>Baseline: 0</td>
<td>Target: 30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>e. Proportion of children with disabilities supported through cross-sectorial coordination mechanism in targeted rayons</td>
<td>Baseline: 0</td>
<td>Target: 30%</td>
<td>Output 9: Social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups</td>
<td>By 2022, comprehensive interventions involving different national entities address the challenges in realization of all rights of the most vulnerable groups of children in sustainable manner.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outcomes 3. Programme effectiveness</td>
<td>a. Percentage of management and programme priorities indicators meeting the scorecard benchmarks</td>
<td>UNICEF staff and partners are provided guidance, tools and</td>
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<td>Country</td>
<td>Baseline: end-2017 data (office Key)</td>
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</table>

45 “Child and youth participation in the Republic of Moldova”, a Council of Europe Policy review 2013
46 Disability, Roma, children left behind, children from poor families, the poorest areas of country
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<td>programme is efficiently designed, coordinated, managed and supported to meet quality programming standards in achieving results for children</td>
<td>Performance Indicators) Target: 100%</td>
<td>resources to effectively design and manage programmes</td>
<td><strong>Output 11: External Relations</strong> UNICEF staff and partners are provided tools, guidance and resources for effective communication on child rights issues with stakeholders</td>
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<td><strong>Output 12: Communications, Advocacy and Partnerships</strong> UNICEF staff and partners are provided tools, guidance and resources for effective advocacy and partnerships on child rights issues with stakeholders</td>
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<td><strong>Output 13: Cross-sectoral approaches</strong> Strategies to address cross-cutting issues related to child rights are developed and applied</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total resources</strong> (all totals should correspond to totals on cover page and summary budget table)</td>
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<td>4.6</td>
<td>12.9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Annex 5: Results - Alignment with National Priorities

Moldova - UNICEF Country Programme of Cooperation 2018-2022

Alignment of Country Programme results with National Priorities

National Development Strategy "Moldova 2020"

Key development priorities:
1. Aligning the education system to labour market needs in order to enhance labour productivity and increase employment in the economy. Strategic vision: ensure the quality of studies; enacting new education sector legislation aligned to the European experience; applying consistent and relevant rules supporting excellence in education; boost the quality of career education.
2. Increasing the quality and efficiency of justice and fighting corruption in order to ensure an equitable access to public goods for all citizens. Strategic vision: Aligned with Justice Sector Reform Strategy for 2011-2016 with focus on:
   - increasing the efficiency of the pre-judicial investigation process to the effect of guaranteeing the observance of human rights, ensuring the security of each person, and reducing the level of crime;
   - improving the institutional framework and processes that ensure an effective access to justice: effective legal counselling, examination of cases and execution of judicial decisions within a reasonable timeframe, modernisation of the statute of some legal professions related to the justice system;
   - Protection of human rights in criminal justice and protection of vulnerable groups coordinating, establishing and delimitating responsibilities and tasks of main actors in the justice sector, as well as ensuring cross-sectoral dialogue.


Chapter 27. Cooperation in the area of child protection and promoting of children's rights

- With focus on (Art. 138):
  (a) the prevention and combating of all forms of exploitation (including child labour), abuse, negligence and violence against children, including by developing and strengthening the legal and institutional framework as well as through awareness-raising campaigns in that domain;
  (b) the improvement of the system of identification and assistance of children in vulnerable situations, including increased participation by children in decision-making processes and the implementation of efficient mechanisms to handle individual complaints made by children;
  (c) exchange of information and best practices on the alleviation of poverty among children, including on measures to focus social policies on children's wellbeing, and to promote and facilitate children's access to education;
  (d) the implementation of measures aimed at promoting children's rights within the family and institutions, and strengthening the capacity of parents and carers in order to ensure child development; and
  (e) accession to, ratification and implementation of the relevant international documents, including those developed within the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Hague Conference on Private International Law, with the purpose of promoting and protecting of children's rights in line with the highest standards in the field.
National Strategy for Migration and Asylum 2011-2020
Objective 3. Combating and diminishing of brain drain, emigration of youth, women, and protecting of children left behind by migrating parents

Child Protection Strategy 2014-2020
Objective 1: Ensuring the necessary conditions for raising and education of children in family environment
Objective 2: Preventing and combating of violence, neglect and exploitation of children, and promoting non-violent practices in raising and education of children

Justice Sector Reform Strategy 2011-2016
Objective 6: Ensure effective enforcement of human rights practices and legal policies

Cross-sectoral Strategy for development of parenting skills and competencies for 2015-2021
Objective 1: Establishing and ensuring the functioning of a national, integrated and consistent cross-sector system for parenting skills and competencies development
Objective 2: Developing and revising the legal and regulatory framework on parenting skills and competencies development, and their alignment with international standards for the protection of children’s rights
Objective 3: Developing and strengthening of parenting skills and competencies for parents/legal guardians/caregivers of children and youth (as future parents)

Action Plan to support Roma population in the Republic of Moldova for 2016-2020
Objectives:
Education: Promoting efficient and inclusive educational system based on principles of equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity that will help integrate Roma people (focus on enrolment of Roma girls in preschool, school and pre-university; compulsory schooling for Roma children 6-18 and reduction of absenteeism and early school leaving).
Labour and social protection: improved employability of Roma population (linked with education, focus on youth)
Health: Improving health status of Roma population and insuring non-discriminatory access health services.
Housing and Community development: increasing quality of life
Participation of Roma in decision-making process and combating discrimination: Improving the participation of Roma.

Code of Education (approved 17.07.2014/ latest amendments 17.06.2016)

Consolidated Strategy for Education Development 2011-2020
Priority direction 6.1 – Ensure Sustainable Development of Education System
Priority direction 6.2 – Expand access to Quality Early Education
Priority direction 6.3 – Create and develop Child Friendly Schools Network
Priority direction 6.4 – Education and support to Children in Difficulty

Programme for the Development of Inclusive Education 2011-2020

National Health Policy 2007-2021
Objectives:
1. To increase life expectancy at birth and extend the healthy life time;
2. To ensure quality of life and closing of gaps between all social layers as far as healthcare is concerned;
3. To strengthen the cross-sector partnership as far as the strengthening of population health is concerned;
4. To increase people’s responsibility towards their own health.

National Strategy on Public Health 2014-2020
National Strategy on Reproductive Health (by end 2015)
National Programme on sexual and reproductive health and rights 2017-2021 (draft)

National Programme on Food and Nutrition 2014-2020
Objectives:
2. Increase by 2020 of the exclusive breastfeeding rate (at 6 months to up to 60% and the median duration of breastfeeding up to 4 months.
3. By 2020, to create nutritional health promoting environment in 80% of educational institutions, 70% of hospitals, and 30% of working places.
4. By 2020, to reduce (compared to 2014): a) consumption of saturated fats and sugar by 3% and 5% accordingly; b) consumption of trans fatty acids to less than 1% as fraction of total energy consumption; c) Consumption of sodium/salt by 30% (less than 8g/day); d) zero increase in obesity prevalence among children and adults.
5. Reorient health system in order to address prevention and control on NCDs related to diet, under nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies through people-centred primary health care services oriented towards universal health coverage.
6. By 2020, to increase the level of knowledge related to healthy nutrition in general population up to 50%.
7. To strengthen surveillance, monitoring, evaluation and research in the field of nutritional health, nutritional status and influencing determinants.
8. By January 01, 2017, to achieve the level of urinary iodine excretion of 100-200 µg/l in children of ages 7-12 and 150-250 µg/l in pregnant women and to maintain it sustainable

Strategy on health, development and wellbeing of children and adolescents 2015-2020 (draft)
Key objectives:
1. Ensuring a healthy start to life for all children.
2. Ensuring healthy growth and development of babies during infancy, early childhood and preschool age.
3. Ensuring healthy transition from childhood to adulthood for all adolescents.

National Immunization Programme 2016-2020 (approved)
National Programme on HIV prevention and control 2016-2020 (approved)
National Programme on Health promotion 2016-2020 (approved)

National Strategy on Strengthening Statistical System 2015-2020 (draft)
Annex 6: Results – Alignment with UNICEF Strategic Plan and RKLA Agenda

Moldova - UNICEF Country Programme of Cooperation 2018-2022


Child Protection

Linkages with Strategic Plan (2014-2017):

Outcome 6: Improved and equitable prevention of and response to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children
P6.2 Countries with 10% reduction in proportion of children 2-14 (1-14) years who experience violent disciplinary practices by an adult member of the household [definition will change by 2017 to ages 1-14 years]; P6.3 Countries with 20% reduction in number of children in detention per 100,000 child population; P6.6 Countries with 30% reduction in proportion of children in residential care (out of all children in formal care).

Outcome 7: Improved policy environment and systems for disadvantaged and excluded children, guided by improved knowledge and data
P7.3 Countries with improved capacity to develop, implement and finance integrated social protection systems

Contribution to Global Standard indicators:
Outcome: Child Protection 06-03: Children in detention per 100,000 child population
Justice for Children: Existence of procedures and services for children in contact with law that are applied and delivered in line with international norms

Linkages with Strategic Plan 2018-2021

GOAL AREA 3 – EVERY CHILD PROTECTED FROM VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION
Result areas as follows:
1. Violence – xx1 girls and boys reached with prevention and response services for violence against children.
3. Access to justice – xx1 girls and boys that come in contact with the law as victims, witnesses or alleged offenders have their rights protected in accordance with international standards.

GOAL AREA 4 – EQUITY: EVERY CHILD HAS A FAIR CHANCE IN LIFE
Result areas:
2. Development of cognitive, language, social-and emotional skills of children (ECD) – xx1 million girls and boys developmentally on track for health, learning and well-being.
Contribution to RKLA indicators:
RKLA1: No indicators approved yet
RKLA2: Outcome: The legal and policy framework regulating children’s access to justice at national and sub-national levels is adequate and in line with international standards
Outputs:
1. Specialised professionals handle children’s cases
2. National rule of law, access to justice, justice sector reform policies, strategies and plans (or equivalent) incorporate issues pertaining to children’s equitable access to justice
3. The responsible institution to ensure that the child receives social, psychological, medical and other support as needed

Education

Linkages with Strategic Plan (2014-2017):
Outcome 5: Improved learning outcomes and equitable and inclusive education.

Contribution to Global Standard indicators:
Outcome:
1. Gross enrolment ratio in Primary/ Lower /Upper Secondary Education;
2. Children/young people at the end of primary level of education achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in core subjects
3. Primary education completion rate
Outputs:
1. Existence of a national/system-level large scale assessment, including for early grades
2. Existence of curricula and support from teachers and school administrators that are inclusive of children with disabilities - score (1-4)
3. Availability of materials and communication that support the inclusion of children with disabilities - score (1-4)

Linkages with Strategic Plan 2018-2021

GOAL AREA 2 – EVERY CHILD LEARNS
Result areas:
1. Out of school children – xx1 girls and boys supported in accessing pre-primary, primary and secondary education2.
2. Learning outcomes – improved learning outcomes in xx1 countries (data will be disaggregated by gender)3.
4. Skills development – (results statement under formulation, will be disaggregated by gender).

GOAL AREA 4 – EQUITY: EVERY CHILD HAS A FAIR CHANCE IN LIFE
Result areas:
2. Development of cognitive, language, social-and emotional skills of children (ECD) – xx1 million girls and boys developmentally on track for health, learning and well-being.

Contribution to RKLA 3 & 4 indicators:
Outcomes:
1. % of parents and teachers reporting to believe that Roma/other traditionally marginalised ethnic/linguistic minority children have the same academic potential as majority children
2. Proportion of teachers who think that children with disabilities should study in mainstream schools
3. Availability of dedicated school staff for children in need of support (e.g. school psychologists, pedagogues, speech therapists etc.)
4. Total public expenditure on education as a % of total government expenditure

**Outputs:**
1. Existence of regulations on school absenteeism, including definition of authorised and non-authorised absence
2. Existence of a referral mechanism for children identified as not enrolled or not attending school
3. Schools promote and facilitate opportunities for teachers and other staff to discuss and challenge negative attitudes on the inclusion of all children including children with disabilities
4.1. Legal provision available ensuring the right of ALL children to be educated in mainstream schools
1. Teacher mentoring programmes available
2. Preschool and pre-primary teacher standards available
3. Responsible ministry establishes a system for external evaluation/inspection for schools on issues pertaining to access, inclusion and learning
4. Curricula are harmonised between preschool, pre-primary and primary education
1. Programmes available to engage parents in students’ learning
2. Programmes available to engage parents in supporting young children’s learning at home

**Health**

**Linkages with Strategic Plan (2014-2017):**
Outcome 1 Health
Outcome 2 HIV and AIDS
Outcome 4 Nutrition

**Contribution to Global Standard Indicators:**
Outcomes:
Children < 1 year receiving DTP-containing vaccine at national level
Children aged 0-59 months with symptoms of pneumonia taken to an appropriate health provide
Children 0-5 months old who are exclusively breastfed

**Outputs:**
Infant and Child feeding: Adoption of the International Code on Marketing of Breastmilk substitutes as legislation
Adolescents and HIV/AIDS: Comprehensive behaviour change communication strategy for adolescents and youth including those from key populations available

**Linkages with Strategic Plan 2018-2021**

**GOAL AREA 1 – EVERY CHILD SURVIVES AND THRIVES**
Result areas:
1. Improve nutritional status of boys and girls – xx1 million children receive services for the prevention of stunting and other forms of malnutrition; xx1 million children receive services for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition.
2. Maternal and newborn care – xx1 million newborns and mothers receive the essential package of quality care services in xx1 high burden countries every year.
3. Immunisation – achieve and sustain xx1 per cent national immunisation coverage and xx1 per cent in every district in xx1 countries.
4. Preventable illnesses – xx1 boys and girls suffering from pneumonia, diarrhea and malaria receive appropriate treatment in xx1 high burden countries.
5. Gender-responsive adolescent health and nutrition – (result statement under formulation).

GOAL AREA 5 – EQUITY: EVERY CHILD HAS A FAIR CHANCE IN LIFE
2. Development of cognitive, language, social-and emotional skills of children (ECD) – xx1 million girls and boys developmentally on track for health, learning and well-being.

**Contribution to RKLA indicators:** Outcome - Not available
**Outputs:** Percentage of women and men aged 15-19 who had more than one partner in the past 12 months who used a condom during their last intercourse

**Social protection**

**Linkages with Strategic Plan (2014-2017):**
Outcome 7 Social inclusion
RKLA 8 Child’s right to social protection

**Contribution to Global Standard Indicators:**
Outcome:
7. Social Inclusion:
07-02 Social protection and child poverty (Number of children covered by social protection systems); 07-03 Public Finance and Local Governance (Public social protection expenditure for children as % of GDP); 07-05 Human rights, participation and non-discrimination (CRC Concluding Observations implemented)

**Outputs:**
7. Social Inclusion
07-01 Social exclusion – data and evidence – Existence of disaggregated national household survey data on child-focused targets of SDGs collected within the preceding 5 years; Availability of national sex disaggregated data on child rights realisation, including data on CWD. 07-05 Human rights, participation and non-discrimination - Existence of domestic legislation and administrative guidance in accordance with the Concluding Observations of Committee on the Rights of the Child; Updated CRC report available; Permanent mechanism in place for the dissemination of report published by the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies (CRC/CRPD/CEDAW/UPR); National coordinating mechanism responsible for overseeing the implementation treaty body recommendations on child rights is in place; An independent national NHRI is in place, in compliance with the Paris Principles and with a child rights mandate; Strong and independent national human rights institutions monitor the status of child rights through disaggregated data that considers all children and present progress and concerns in a timely and transparent manner
07-02 Social protection and child poverty - Existence of a Social Protection System; National government measurement of child poverty using monetary measures; Existence of strategies and mechanisms to increase inclusion of excluded children into social protection; Existence of legislation on family benefits; Information on national and subnational government expenditure on social protection, emergency/resilience is available.
07-03 Public Finance and Local Governance - Allocation of public financial resources to existing and emerging child focused areas in total government spending

**Linkages with Strategic Plan 2018-2021**

GOAL AREA 5 – EQUITY: EVERY CHILD HAS A FAIR CHANCE IN LIFE
2. Development of cognitive, language, social-and emotional skills of children (ECD) – xx1 million girls and boys developmentally on track for health, learning and well-being.

**Contribution to RKLA indicators:**

**Outcome:**
RKLA 3-4: Monitoring mechanisms available ensuring that social benefit schemes reach the most vulnerable children, including children with disabilities
RKLA 8: Existence of strategies and mechanisms to increase inclusion of excluded children into social protection; Existence of disaggregated data on the most excluded

**Outputs:**
RKLA 8: Existence of strategies and mechanisms to increase inclusion of excluded children into social protection; Existence of disaggregated data on the most excluded
RKLA 3-4: Monitoring mechanisms available ensuring that social benefit schemes reach the most vulnerable children, including children with disabilities

**Cross-cutting**

**Gender mainstreaming**

**Linkages with Strategic Plan 2018-2021**
GOAL AREA 5 – EQUITY: EVERY CHILD HAS A FAIR CHANCE IN LIFE
1. Gender equality (result statement under formulation).

**Adolescent’s participation**

**Linkages with Strategic Plan 2018-2021**
GOAL AREA 5 – EQUITY: EVERY CHILD HAS A FAIR CHANCE IN LIFE
3. Adolescent empowerment and engagement – xx1 adolescent girls and boys reached with skills to participate in decisions affecting their lives and community.

**Contribution to RKLA indicators:**

RKLA 10:
**Outcome:**
1. Percentage of students aged 13 years endorsing values and attitudes promoting equality, trust and participation in governance;
3. Percentage of adolescents who indicate that their views were taken seriously in decisions made at home, school and in their community

**Outputs:**
2. Participation by children aged 15-19 years in labour unions and associations
Annex 7: Results – Alignment with SDGs

Moldova - UNICEF Country Programme of Cooperation 2018-2022

Alignment of Country Programme results with SDG and corresponding targets

Social Protection, Inclusion and Child Protection

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Target 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions;
Target 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable;
Target 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Target 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status;
Target 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.

Maternal and Child Health

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Target 2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Target 3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
Target 3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of new-borns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
Target 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
Target 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
Target 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.
**Education**

**Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**

**Target 4.1:** By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

Indicator 4.1.1: Percentage of children/young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics.

Disaggregation: sex, location, wealth (and others where data are available)

**Target 4.2:** By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

Indicator 4.2.1: Percentage of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being.

Disaggregation: sex, location, wealth (and others where data are available)

Indicator 4.2.2: Participation rate in organised learning (one year before the official primary entry age)

**Target 4.a:** Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

Indicator 4.a.1: Percentage of schools with access to: (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (f) basic handwashing facilities (as per the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) indicator definitions)

**Target 4.c:** by 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and Small Island developing States

4.c.1 Percentage of teachers in: (a) pre-primary; (b) primary; (c) lower secondary; and (d) upper secondary education who have received at least the minimum organised teacher training (e.g. pedagogical training) pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country. Disaggregation: sex (and others where data are available)

**Child Protection**

**Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**

**Target 16.2:** End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

**Target 16.3:** Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

**Target 16.7:** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels