

# GOAL AREA 4 Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

Global Annual Results Report 2019



#### **PARTNER TESTIMONIALS**

"The Government of the Netherlands supports access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as a human right and as the starting point for a healthy and dignified life, leaving no one behind and respecting the principles of non-discrimination and equality. Access to WASH is a basic condition to enable every person on our planet to live up to his or her full potential and to prosper. In 2015 the Netherlands pledged to provide 30 million people with access to safe drinking water and 50 million people with access to safe sanitation by 2030, supporting SDG 6. Sustainable service provision is a precondition to make our pledge come true and to last. For many years UNICEF has proven to be a critical, trusted and dedicated partner in contributing to Dutch ambitions, both in reaching millions of people and in policy development, such as in the field of sustainability. UNICEF has been essential in the design and implementation of a sustainability framework consisting of sustainability compacts with receiving governments, sustainability checks and management responses, that has now been rolled out in more than 30 countries. Moreover, UNICEF is a thought leader in system analysis and system strengthening which is needed to reach sustainability. We are looking forward to continue our partnership with UNICEF in the coming years to make sure that WASH facilities are made available for all, and remain available, for now and in the future."

- Karin Roelofs, Head of Water Section, Directorate-General for International Cooperation, The Netherlands

"Sanitation is one of the most complex areas of development. Through the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan, we have committed to helping 25 million people gain improved access to a toilet by 2020. Our partnership with UNICEF is central to achieving this and to date we have helped over 16 million people. The partnership goes beyond simply building toilets as we work with families, communities and schools to help them understand the importance of and gain access to clean, safe toilets."

- Charlie Beevor, Global Brand Vice President, Unilever

See Annex 1 for more partner testimonials.



# **Expression of thanks**

UNICEF programmes to help ensure that every child lives in a safe and secure environment are funded entirely through the voluntary support of millions of people around the world and our partners in government, civil society and the private sector. Voluntary contributions enable UNICEF to deliver on its mandate to protect children's rights, to help meet their basic needs, and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. We take this opportunity to thank all our partners for their commitment and trust in UNICEF.

UNICEF would like to express particular thanks to partners that provided thematic funding, which offers greater flexibility, enables UNICEF to continuously improve the quality of interventions, allows for longer-term planning and makes programmes more sustainable. It reflects the trust that resource partners have in our capacity and ability to deliver quality support under all circumstances, and has made possible the results described in this report.

The largest thematic funding partner for 2019 for Goal Area 4 was the Government of Sweden. Other thematic funding partners included the governments of Finland, Luxembourg and Norway, and UNICEF National Committees from France, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

UNICEF would also like to thank the governments of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom for their ongoing financial and technical support through the multi-country Accelerating Sanitation, Hygiene and Water for All (ASWA) programme, and in other areas of cooperation.

UNICEF further thanks the governments of Finland, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, and the United States of America, as well as the European Union, for their generous donations in 2019. We would also like to thank our foundation and private sector partners, including the LIXIL company, which is working with UNICEF in a shared-value partnership on sanitation. See Annex 1 for additional information on funding partners for Goal Area 4.

Finally, UNICEF takes this opportunity to thank all our partners for their commitment and trust in us, and in our work for children around the world.

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

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

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

The following report summarizes how UNICEF and its partners contributed to Goal Area 4 in 2019 and reviews the impact of these accomplishments on children and the communities where they live. This is one of eight reports on the results of efforts during the past year, encompassing gender equality and humanitarian action as well as each of the five Strategic Plan goal areas – 'Every child survives and thrives', 'Every child learns', 'Every child is protected from violence and exploitation', 'Every child lives in a safe and clean environment' and 'Every child has an equitable chance in life' – and a supplementary report on Communication for Development (C4D, also referred to as social and behaviour change communication, SBCC). It supplements the 2019 Executive Director Annual Report (EDAR/MTR), UNICEF's official accountability document for the past year.

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# **Executive summary**

The COVID-19 pandemic was in its early stages at the end of 2019, the period covered by this Annual Results Report. It is now clear that the global crisis triggered by the pandemic is unprecedented and that the impact on children will be severe, especially for the most disadvantaged. Not only are children suffering the direct health effects of the virus, they are the most vulnerable to the socioeconomic impacts of the crisis, and to the disruptions of the basic services on which they rely. The UNICEF mandate to protect the rights of children, coupled with its capacity to act quickly in key areas such as health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and its presence throughout the world, means that the organization is already at the centre of the global response to the crisis.

All children have the right to a safe and clean environment in their homes, communities, schools and health-care facilities. In 2019, this right was increasingly placed under threat by extreme weather events, droughts, dwindling freshwater resources and other effects of climate change and environmental degradation, and by the growing number of emergencies and protracted crises around the world. It also became increasingly clear in 2019 that even in situations of stability, where substantial progress is being made on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), poor and otherwise marginalized children and their families are being left behind. The UNICEF climate change response for children links climate change adaptation efforts with disaster risk reduction, and promotes the engagement of children and young people in environmental and climate action.

UNICEF works to safeguard the right of all children to a safe and clean environment both in times of stability and in crisis. Under Goal Area 4 of the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021, programming is grouped under five output areas: water supply, sanitation, disaster risk reduction, children in urban settings and environmental sustainability (see Figure 1). Programming under this goal area contributes to environmental, resiliency and gender components of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in SDG 6 on water and sanitation for all, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, SDG 13 on climate action and SDG 5 on gender equality.



A child washing her hands in a primary school in the town of Ampasy Nampoina, Anosy in the drought-affected region of southern Madagascar where UNICEF provides extensive WASH support

#### Output 4.a Water

Countries will have implemented programmes to increase equitable access to safe and sustainable drinking water services in communities.

#### Output 4.e Environmental sustainablity

Countries have child-focused plans and monitoring systems for environmental sustainability.



#### Goal Area 4 Outcome

Sustained use of safe water and sanitation services, adoption of hygiene practices, resilient and strengthened systems for a clean and safe environment for girls and boys, particularly the most disadvantaged and those affected by humanitarian situations.

### Output 4.b Sanitation

Countries have implemented programmes to increase equitable access to sanitation and hygiene and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

#### Output 4.d Children in urban settings

Countries have initiated action towards ensuring that urban settings are child responsive.

## Output 4.c Disaster risk reduction

Countries adopt policies, strategies and programmes that address risks related to disasters, conflict and public health emergencies.

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