

REPORT ON REGULAR RESOURCES 2018

RESULTS FOR EVERY CHILD



Expression of thanks UNICEF would like to thank and acknowledge its many public and private sector partners listed on the final pages of this report for their contributions to regular resources in 2018. These flexible core resources have enabled the organization to reach the most vulnerable and marginalized children, achieving results that would not otherwise have been possible. UNICEF also wishes to thank the many governments, individuals, corporations, foundations and non-governmental organizations that over the years have contributed generously to UNICEF and, in so doing, have made a remarkable difference in the lives of so many children worldwide. To all of you from everyone at UNICEF, we extend our sincere gratitude.

Cover: Students attending class in a school in Boutal Bagara, a suburb of N'Djamena, the capital of Chad.

FOREWORD

All of the funding UNICEF receives from our donors and partners is vital to our mission. Every dollar brings us one step closer to reaching every child.

Within that constellation of support, regular resources play a unique role. These unrestricted, flexible funds – also known as core resources – allow UNICEF to respond quickly and effectively whenever and wherever the children and young people we serve are most in need or most at risk.

Regular resources once again proved invaluable in 2018, as UNICEF responded to 285 new and ongoing humanitarian situations in 90 countries. They are one of the keys to maintaining UNICEF's global presence in humanitarian situations, a hallmark of our efforts on behalf of the world's children – especially the most disadvantaged and marginalized.

But regular resources are not only useful for meeting the most urgent needs of children and adolescents in crisis. They also support UNICEF's wider mission: to help every child fulfil his or her potential.

That means providing access to nutrition, health care, safe water, sanitation, and hygiene. It means supporting quality education, from early learning to secondary education and skills training. It means helping to protect girls and boys from violence, abuse, and exploitation.

In 2018, UNICEF used regular resources to fund programming in all of those sectors and more.

Of course, there is still much work to do if we are to meet the ambitious goals of the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018–2021 and, more broadly, the wide-ranging targets in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To meet those goals and targets, UNICEF will need stable, predictable, and flexible resources like the ones that have funded the activities highlighted in this report.

While space does not allow a listing of all the programmes that have benefited from regular resources, the following pages feature a range of illustrative examples and detailed case studies from 2018. It is an impressive sampling, but it is just that: a tiny fraction of the results that UNICEF's country and regional offices have been working on to achieve around the world every day.

To do that work, we rely on the dedication of our staff and partners and the generosity of our donors. When donors understand the importance of regular resources and contribute accordingly, they ease the way for UNICEF to make the right interventions at the right time, with maximum impact.

Contributions to regular resources come to UNICEF from a variety of sources all over the world. They come from corporations and foundations, large and small, that have placed UNICEF at the centre of their philanthropic endeavours. They come from individuals at every income level, who continue to give what they can afford to advance the cause of children's rights. And they come from governments, non-governmental organizations, and others who share our vision, our values, and our commitment.

UNICEF is deeply grateful to all who contributed in 2018, and we look forward to their continued support. To serve the world's children as efficiently and effectively as possible, it is critically important to increase the level of regular resources in the funding we receive for our operations. It is no exaggeration to say that, in some situations, this is nothing less than a matter of life and death for children and young people.

Flexible, unrestricted funding can mean the difference between illness and health, malnutrition and nourishment, ignorance and education, mortal danger and safety, enduring poverty and sustainable development. I have seen that difference first-hand in my travels to UNICEF offices and programmes around the world in 2018.

As you examine this report – particularly the national case studies beginning on page 18 – I think it will become apparent to you, as well, that regular resources make a real difference to UNICEF and, in turn, to those we serve. Please read on for a deeper insight into the indispensable part these funds play in building a better life, and a more hopeful future, for the children of the world.

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THE VALUE OF REGULAR RESOURCES

UNICEF contributors know the unique value of regular resources (RR), which is why they make their contributions without restrictions, trusting UNICEF to make the most of these funds. This unique UNICEF-donor partnership is what allows the organization to reach children who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. All UNICEF offices benefit from the allocation of these flexible resources – with the major share going directly to delivering life-saving programmes for children, and the balance helping to support the organization's core structure, without which UNICEF would be unable to deliver on its vital mandate.



Why invest in regular resources?

There are as many reasons why UNICEF's partners should invest in regular resources as there are children in need. First, the funds provide the maximum possible return on investment, going to where they are needed most. Second, such unrestricted funds give UNICEF the flexibility to innovate and respond quickly in emergencies, to do more for children rather than being limited by traditional models of support. Third, they give UNICEF's partners a cross-cutting stake in fulfilling the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as these resources can be used across multiple sectors where a holistic and integrated approach can best serve the needs of children. Fourth, they contribute to increasing the sustainability, scale, and impact of UNICEF's activities. And not to be overlooked, regular resources give UNICEF's partners the opportunity to communicate about their support for every child, all the time, everywhere.

Achieving the maximum return on investment

UNICEF seeks to maximize the return on investment for all its partners, which at the same time ensures that together they are achieving the highest possible results for children. Simply put, regular resources are the key to achieving the best return on investment. Economists agree that lessening restrictions on development aid generally increases its effectiveness, primarily by reducing transaction costs for partner countries and improving national ownership and alignment. A 2008 study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development found that putting restrictions on funding generally decreases the value of a contribution by 15–30 per cent.

One of the ways that national ownership is achieved is through leveraging a government's domestic finances to achieve development goals. To this end, regular resources enable UNICEF to deploy its highly experienced global experts to provide advice and technical assistance to governments on how to develop policy and unlock domestic resources for development – a fundamental prerequisite for meeting national development targets. In Pakistan, for example, use of regular resources to provide expert support to the Government of Punjab led to its allocating \$20 million

of public resources in its Annual Development Programme 2018–2019. These funds went towards strengthening government capacity for water quality monitoring and reporting, and led to the inclusion of water, sanitation, and hygiene in the province's Economic Growth Strategy.

Another advantage is the ability to mobilize additional funding from the public and private sector through seed funding. Regular resources often provide the foundation for further intervention, acting as a catalyst for additional investments as well as to bring about important changes in legislation and policy. For example, use of core funds in Lesotho to improve delivery of adolescent-friendly youth services enabled financial and human resources to be leveraged from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). Following a pilot programme supported by regular resources, UNICEF then mobilized \$320,000 from SIDA for a four-year period to scale up the intervention to all districts.

Enabling the most innovation, especially in emergencies

UNICEF recognizes that the speed at which global problems can escalate – from disease outbreaks to conflicts to natural disasters – makes it imperative for UNICEF to remain at the forefront of research and development of new products, technologies, and ways to structure supply chains and markets. Regular resources allow UNICEF to develop the most innovative solutions to the problems children face around the world.

For example, regular resources were used in Côte d'Ivoire in 2018 to pilot the production and use of bricks made from recycled waste to build a school, and showcasing this innovation to donors was instrumental in raising an additional \$4 million to scale up the project. Meanwhile, UNICEF's ground-breaking research into the enrolment of children in Islamic community schools helped the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to understand the magnitude of the situation and to develop a step-by-step approach to integrate Islamic schools into the national system.

Other examples of innovation include introducing the Primero open-source software platform in Indonesia to reunite children who had been separated from their families as a

result of earthquakes, and bringing UNICEF'S innovative UPSHIFT system to Tajikistan to enable marginalized youth in remote areas of the country to build skills and gain opportunities through social innovation and entrepreneurship.

Giving UNICEF's partners a cross-cutting stake in the SDGs

Investing in UNICEF through core, unrestricted funding helps to achieve results at scale and to address interdependencies across all aspects of a child's development, supporting the achievement of all child-related Sustainable Development Goals. It is estimated that achieving the SDGs would unlock some \$12 trillion of market opportunities in health and well-being, urban development, energy and materials, and food and agriculture. In addition, 380 million new jobs could be created by 2030. Most of UNICEF's beneficiaries are vulnerable in more ways than one, and addressing several inequalities together is generally more effective than focusing on individual issues of health, education, protection, or water services separately.

As a case in point, regular resources given by UNICEF partners were used in Honduras to help the government implement its 'Parenting with Love' early childhood development strategy. UNICEF's support included health, nutrition, and education components underpinned by a strong communication campaign. Similarly, the flexibility of regular resources enabled UNICEF Indonesia to allocate funds to priority, cross-sectoral interventions (water, sanitation, health, nutrition, and child protection) in the early response phase to

For example, the UNICEF Emergency Programme Fund (EPF), supported by regular resources, enabled UNICEF in Syria to rapidly scale up its existing programme in East Ghouta in response to increasing levels of hostility and internal displacement. Without such resources this would not have been possible, and the humanitarian needs of a great many children would not have been met. Meanwhile, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the EPF enabled UNICEF to launch the Ebola response and to help limit the spread of the disease beyond its initial area. EPF supported the organization's ability to scale up risk communication and community engagement, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programmes, infection prevention and control, child protection, and psychosocial care interventions, while ensuring the staff's safety and ability to operate immediately. Several innovative approaches were piloted and scaled up, including a nursery in Beni to care for young children whose mothers were receiving treatment.

Allowing UNICEF's partners to communicate about supporting every child, all the time, everywhere

Partners recognize the hard-earned credibility of UNICEF's brand. As regular resources support all UNICEF programmes, giving such core resources allows UNICEF's donors to be part of everything the organization does. Indeed, UNICEF partners can claim they have a hand in each life changed and saved. Public and private sector partners can communicate about the value and impact of their support to taxpayers, other donor countries, the media, and various constituencies. Customers and employees of private sector partners can

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