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unicef 
70 YEARS FOR EVERY CHILD

REPORT ON REGULAR RESOURCES 2015

ACCELERATING RESULTS FOR EVERY CHILD

Cover: A young boy and his mother wait for a checkup outside a UNICEF-supported nutrition centre in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, Pakistan.

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FOREWORD

Every year is a critical year for the hundreds of millions of children caught in conflicts and crises, or trapped in vicious intergenerational cycles of disadvantage. And in 2015, as in every year, unrestricted core resources – also called Regular Resources – were critical to our ability to reach these most vulnerable and excluded children.

It was a year of sharp contrasts for children – and for our work to improve their lives. In 2015, we took stock of the remarkable progress made during the 15 years of working towards the Millennium Development Goals – progress that included greatly decreasing infant mortality, reducing maternal deaths, increasing school enrolment, especially for girls, and expanding access to safe sources of water and improved sanitation. And the world came together around the new and even more comprehensive Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which pledge to leave no one behind.

But it was also a year in which millions upon millions of children were left behind – for no reason other than the country, community, gender, or circumstances into which they were born. And it was a year in which UNICEF launched its largest humanitarian appeal in our history.

In 2015, conflicts and crises were responsible for the greatest number of forcibly displaced children since World War II, posing enormous threats to their safety and well-being. The civil war in Syria was in its fifth brutal year, deepening the suffering of millions; and children continued to pay the highest price in other conflicts, from Ukraine to South Sudan, from Yemen to the Central African Republic. It was also children who continued to bear the brunt of the worst effects of climate change – including floods, droughts, and extreme temperatures, all of which increase the risk of disease and malnutrition. And around the world, millions of children still were not learning in school, millions of girls were married as child brides, and countless children were the victims of violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, and discrimination.

Reaching these most disadvantaged, vulnerable, and excluded children is at the core of UNICEF's mission – and the pages of this report are filled with examples of how the core resources that our donors have provided have helped us deliver more programmes in more countries to more communities and families than any other organization working for children.

Regular Resources are the foundation that permits us to operate across our global network of country programmes and regional offices. These unrestricted funds enable us to speed our response within hours of an emergency, such as the devastating earthquake in Nepal, thus providing relief days ahead of formal appeals or donor commitments.

The predictability and flexibility of Regular Resources also enable us to plan strategically across our entire organization, directing resources to meet the needs of children and communities more efficiently and effectively: from funding immunization campaigns to prevent and control measles outbreaks in Sudan to scaling-up HIV counselling and testing of children in Lesotho; from conducting a research project on the impact of the mining industry on children in Mongolia to supporting the girls' education movement in Nigeria; from training local medical staff in child feeding practices to prevent malnutrition in Iraq to bringing better quality medical care to children in underserved communities in Uzbekistan.

As the global community plots its course towards achieving the SDGs' pledge of leaving no one behind, Regular Resources will be more important than ever. For these more predictable, flexible resources will help us overcome the barriers that still prevent so many children from realizing their rights – whether by funding our new Global Innovation Centre to spur new solutions to persistent challenges; by improving our ability to collect, analyse, and share data to advocate for the most disadvantaged children; or by helping us forge new partnerships and fuel new movements that can improve the prospects for millions of children around the world.

Regular Resources are at the heart of the progress that UNICEF and our partners are working to achieve for every child. We are enormously grateful for the trust our partners place in us, and we will continue working to earn that trust by becoming ever more efficient and effective – thus making every dollar count for the children who count on us.



A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink.

Anthony Lake
UNICEF Executive Director



ACRONYMS

ART	Antiretroviral therapy
CSR	Corporate social responsibility
DFID	Department for International Development
EPF	Emergency Programme Fund
GEP3	Girls' Education Project Phase 3
GIC	Global Innovation Centre
GNI	Gross national income
IPSAS	International Public Sector Accounting Standards
OR	Other Resources (restricted)
PATS	Pakistan Approach to Total Sanitation
RBM	Results-based management
RR	Regular Resources (unrestricted)
SDG(s)	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
UNSAS	United Nations System Accounting Standards
USD	United States dollars
WASH	Water, sanitation, and hygiene

THE VALUE OF REGULAR RESOURCES

RESULTS ACHIEVED WITH REGULAR RESOURCES IN 2015

- Regular Resources helped the **Global Innovation Centre** to enhance UNICEF's process of moving innovation projects from start-up to scale-up.
- In **Guyana**, Regular Resources funded the drafting of a new Juvenile Justice Bill and the legal education of police officers.
- In **Iraq**, Regular Resources helped to train doctors, nurses, and health staff on infant and young child feeding practices.
- In **Lesotho**, Regular Resources solely funded the scaling-up of HIV counselling and testing of children.
- In **Mongolia**, Regular Resources enabled UNICEF to conduct a first-ever research project on the impact of the mining industry on children.
- In **Niger**, Regular Resources provided textbooks and school supplies to nearly 2,000 schools nationwide.
- In **Nigeria**, Regular Resources enabled UNICEF to increase the number of girls who complete basic education and acquire life skills.

Of all the funds received by UNICEF, core resources – also known as Regular Resources (RR) – best allow UNICEF to reach children who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk, whether they be the victims of a protracted conflict, an epidemic, or a natural or manmade disaster. In 2015 the United Nations Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution that reiterated the indispensable nature of these flexible funds, stating that “**core resources**, because of their untied nature, continue to be the bedrock of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system.”¹ The resolution acknowledged the critical ways in which core and non-core resources complement and reinforce each other, but also highlighted a serious concern regarding the growing imbalance between the two. The implications of this imbalance are far-reaching in that the relative decline in Regular Resources threatens the ability of UNICEF and other UN organizations to fulfil their core mandates.

UNICEF's global network of 150 country offices and territories as well as its regional and global offices benefit from the allocation of these resources, with the largest share spent on **delivering programmes for children** and the balance used to **support the core structure of the organization** – without which we would not be able to deliver on our mandate.

Regular Resources provide the organization with the flexibility to prioritise the allocation of these funds

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