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Country programme document

Benin

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Benin is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of \$33,880,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$78,490,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2024 to 2026.

* [E/ICEF/2023/24](#).

Note: The present document was processed in its entirety by UNICEF.



Programme rationale

1. Benin is a lower-middle-income country with a gross domestic product per capita of \$1,250. The population was estimated at 12,314,650 in 2022, with 51 per cent children and 24.76 per cent adolescents.¹ The Government made tremendous progress in establishing strong foundations for social and economic development through its Government Action Plans 2016–2021 and 2022–2026. Considerable strides have been made to facilitate access to essential social services through increased birth registration, with 92.6 per cent of children under 5 years of age in possession of a birth certificate in 2021, compared to 84.8 per cent in 2014.²

2. Over the past five years, Benin has demonstrated its commitment to realize the Sustainable Development Goals and was the first African country to issue a \$500 million Eurobond to finance high-impact social projects. With a growth rate among the highest in the West African Economic and Monetary Union in 2021³, the country's economy is resilient. Despite the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the economic consequences of the conflict in Ukraine, the Government has increased investments in the social sectors. Between 2018 and 2022, allocations to the social sectors in the national budget increased from 32.6 to 43.8 per cent. The national budget dedicated to education rose from 17.2 to 19.2 per cent 4.8 to 5 per cent for health; and from 0.5 to 5.7 per cent for social protection.⁴

3. Non-monetary poverty reduced from 28.7 to 26.1 per cent between 2015 and 2019, with differences between departments and places of residence, affecting women (26.6 per cent) more than men (13.9 per cent). Multidimensional child deprivation reached 58.5 per cent in 2021.⁵ However, over half of children aged 0 to 17 years old still suffer from deprivation in at least three of the following eight dimensions: health, water, sanitation, housing, food, nutrition, education and protection.⁶

4. Insecurity in the Central Sahel countries is spilling over into the northern regions of the Gulf of Guinea countries, including Benin, and is impacting access to and availability of social services in hard-to-reach areas. These multidimensional risks are exacerbated by climate-induced changes and elevated levels of poverty and unemployment in border areas, and call for targeted and strategic investments to ensure continuity of access to essential services, food security and social cohesion.

5. Over the past five years, neonatal mortality has decreased significantly. The rate of neonatal death fell from 30 per 1,000 (Demographic and Health Survey 2018) to 23 per 1,000 live births⁷. Benin has made moderate improvements in immunization coverage, including that of third dose of diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus vaccine, which increased from 72 per cent in 2020 to 76 per cent in 2021.⁸ As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, significant investments were made to strengthen the health system, including improving cold chain and epidemic response training for health workers, which constitutes an opportunity to improve the resilience of the health system when shocks or stresses hit. The implementation of the government's national community health policy is also a major opportunity to accelerate universal health coverage.

¹ National Institute of Statistics and Demography projections, 2022.

² Multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS) 2021–2022.

³ Ministry of Economy and Finance, 2022.

⁴ Citizen Version of State Budget, Ministry of Economy and Finance, 2022, p. 29.

⁵ Modulo-Integrated Survey of Household Living Conditions 2015/Harmonized Survey of Household Living Conditions (HSHLC) 2019/MICS 2021–2022.

⁶ HSHLC 2019.

⁷ MICS, 2021–2022.

⁸ WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage 2020 and 2021.

Nevertheless, malaria, anaemia, malnutrition and acute respiratory infections continue to be the leading causes of death among children under 5 years of age.

6. The rate of stunting decreased from 45 per cent in 2006 to 32 per cent in 2018.⁹ However, in 2021, government data recorded an increase in stunting, affecting 37 per cent of children under 5 years of age,¹⁰ especially in the Atacora, Borgou and Plateau departments. Only 9 per cent of children have a minimum acceptable diet, due to children under 2 years of age having poor diets during the first two years of life and pregnant women having poor nutrition.¹¹ The rate of low birthweight is 12.5 per cent, and anaemia prevails among adolescent girls, women of reproductive age and young children. Despite efforts made over the past decades, only 45 per cent of mothers practice exclusive breastfeeding. More than 90 per cent of childbirths occur in health facilities, indicating improved access to and use of quality health services for pregnant women.¹² Currently, 72.2 per cent of the population has access to basic water services.¹³ In rural areas, access to water increased from 68 per cent in 2014 to 72 per cent in 2022 and in urban areas, from 77 per cent to 84 per cent over the same period.¹⁴ However, almost half of the population still does not have access to sanitation services and practices open defecation.¹⁵

7. Advocacy and renewed investments in education have led to an improvement in the gross enrolment rate, and a slight increase in gender parity from 0.92 in 2020 to 0.93 in 2021. The gross enrolment rate for girls increased by 5.5 points from 2021 to 2022. Gender disparities have been reduced in primary education, but geographic disparities persist.¹⁶ This is mainly due to insufficient number of schools in some departments, multidimensional poverty, inequitable distribution of education, adolescent pregnancies and child marriages.¹⁷ The Government reaffirmed its commitment to reform the national education system at the Transforming Education Summit in September 2022. Among these commitments is the development of a multisectoral national programme for the acceleration of girls' education, to which UNICEF is actively contributing.

8. While strong political and community engagement contributed to reducing violence against children, the prevalence of child labour, child marriage, abuse and physical and sexual violence against children remains high. Six per cent of girls aged 15–19 years old have experienced sexual violence, and 27.5 per cent of women aged 20–24 were married before the age of 18 and 5.9 per cent before the age of 15.¹⁸ Girls living in rural areas with no education and living in poor households are more likely to be married before 18. Child labour also remains a concern, with 20 per cent of children aged 5–17 involved in child labour and hazardous work, such as mining and construction.¹⁹ However, the Government has significantly strengthened its legal framework to create a safe environment to protect children from violence. For example, in 2022, new laws were established to impose harsher sentences against gender-based violence, including child marriage.

⁹ MICS 2006; District Health Information System, 2018.

¹⁰ MICS 2021–2022.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ MICS 2014, MICS 2021–2022.

¹⁵ MICS 2021–2022.

¹⁶ Ministry of Preschool and Primary Education, 2021 and 2022.

¹⁷ Ministries of Education, Education Sector analysis document 2023; National forum on the Acceleration of Girls' Education in Benin 2022."

¹⁸ MICS 2021–2022.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

9. Two important lessons learned from the country programme (2019–2023) will inform strategies and interventions for the new CPD. First, multidimensional shocks, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the crisis in Ukraine, have highlighted the fragility of social systems, including social protection, and the need to accelerate investments in systems and community resilience to better anticipate, manage and mitigate shocks and stresses. UNICEF will contribute to these efforts by supporting communities and subnational structures in developing inclusive, participatory planning and response mechanisms informed by risk analysis. Second, the implementation of multisectoral models that provide inclusive and comprehensive packages of essential services while empowering communities to actively lead these efforts and claim their rights, has demonstrated significant results and need to be scaled up.

10. The programme will intensify efforts on: (a) combining nationwide evidence-based advocacy to accelerate social investments with targeted interventions to respond to geographic and gender disparities, based on multidimensional child poverty and deprivations; (b) modelling innovative approaches to generate impactful changes for rights-holders, mainly children and adolescents, and scaling them up in cooperation with the Government, development partners and the private sector; and (c) inclusive civic engagement for and with adolescents and young people, girls in particular, as key partners to promote social cohesion. UNICEF will leverage alliances built during the previous programme with ministries, development partners, civil society organizations (CSOs), women and youth community-based organizations, United Nations agencies and the private sector to influence policies and investments to realize children's rights.

Programme priorities and partnerships

11. The CPD is derived from the 2023–2026 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). It is aligned with the National Development Plan 2018–2025, which aims at a population that is more resilient, in good health, better educated, enjoying social protection, living in peace, security, in an environment of justice, and committed to sustainable, participatory and inclusive development.²⁰ The CPD is additionally aligned with the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 and the Gender Action Plan, 2022–2025.

12. The vision of the programme is “a Benin where children and adolescents, especially those living in the most vulnerable communities, have equitable access to quality essential social services that guarantee the realization of their rights and full potential, in a context where systems and communities are resilient to environmental, security and socioeconomic shocks and stresses.”

13. Based on the common priorities of the Government of Benin and UNICEF, the vision will be realized through four strategic components, including: (a) ensuring hard-to-reach communities have equitable access to quality health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services and adopt positive behaviours for children and adolescents to lead healthy lives; (b) facilitating access to quality and inclusive education for in and out-of-school children, especially girls and adolescents, to learn and acquire relevant skills to reach their full potential; (c) creating an enabling, inclusive and safe environment that protects children and adolescents, especially girls, from violence and exploitation, with access to integrated and holistic care and services; and (d) ensuring allocation and effective use of resources and strengthening resilience of the social protection system to provide safety networks for the most vulnerable communities.

²⁰ UNSDCF 2023–2026.

14. The programme will provide national coverage for advocacy, support for policies and strategies that create an enabling environment for children and the generation and use of evidence on child deprivation and public finance. At operational level, the programme will focus its interventions in six departments: (a) the four departments in the north (Alibori, Atacora, Borgou and Donga) that are the most affected by the security threats from the Sahel region, climate change and deprivations; (b) the Couffo department, which presents the highest indicators of children’s deprivations in the south; (c) and the Zou department, where innovative and efficient interventions will be reinforced for nationwide scale-up with the Government and development partners.

15. Achieving this vision will require the following transformational strategic shifts: (a) adolescent girls will be at the core of programmatic interventions and empowered as agents of change to identify and develop holistic solutions to realize their rights; (b) to ensure risks and shocks can be anticipated and mitigated, community and systems resilience will be strengthened through localized approaches that builds upon strengthening partnerships with decentralized structures, local associations, including women, adolescents and youth, community relays, parents, religious and traditional leaders and CSOs; (c) adolescent and youth participation and engagement as partners will be accelerated to pursue risk-informed humanitarian and development nexus programming and to promote peace and social cohesion; and (d) service delivery through integrated approaches at the subnational level.

16. The programme will leverage the comparative advantage of UNICEF to: (a) strengthen systems resilience through capacity-building and emergency preparedness and response of local institutions and communities to ensure continuity of social services delivery; (b) reinforce the resilience of communities to prevent, mitigate and adapt to the changing environment and manage the impact of shocks and stresses linked to climate change on children’s rights; (c) generate evidence and undertake assessments of programme effectiveness to identify gaps and influence policy dialogue and investments with the Government and its development partners; (d) implement gender-sensitive and social change strategies to provide a multisectoral and holistic response to the needs and rights of children and adolescents, especially adolescents girls, and model integrated approaches to scale up innovative and successful initiatives nationwide; (e) mobilize and engage the private sector to achieve advocacy and programmatic results to promote and protect adolescent girls’ rights and increase opportunities for civic engagement for vulnerable youth, in line with the Government’s plan to implement a national charter on corporate social responsibility.

Every child, including adolescents, survives, thrives, uses safe and equitable WASH services and lives in a safe and sustainable climate and environment

17. Contributing to UNSDCF outcome 2 (access to social services), in line with the National Health Development Plan 2023–2030, and in partnership with the Government, development partners and other United Nations agencies, UNICEF will support the reduction of the neonatal and under-five mortality rates and the strengthening of health, nutrition and WASH systems to provide high-impact, accessible and integrated quality primary health services (maternal, neonatal and child health, nutrition, immunization,) for vulnerable children, adolescents, pregnant and breastfeeding women.

18. To reduce infant and child mortality, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, World Health Organization (WHO), Gavi the Vaccine Alliance and the World Bank, the programme component will adopt an integrated approach to support preparedness and response to multiple outbreaks and will specifically target “zero

dose” and under-vaccinated children with innovative approaches to leave no child behind by: (a) reinforcing equity-focused immunization programmes at the national level, focusing on urban and peri-urban settings; (b) strengthening the efforts by the Ministry of Health to improve the immunization supply system with increased vaccine cold chain capacity; (c) improving demand for integrated routine immunization services through the use of collective change strategies that tackle sociocultural barriers, (d) leveraging the interoperability of systems to reach under-vaccinated children through birth registration platforms and processes.

19. To accelerate the prevention and reduction of stunting and wasting and improve micronutrient nutrition among children and women, the component will focus on communities with high levels of food poverty among children, including those most at risk due to the impact of the crisis in the Sahel region. This will be achieved through; (a) the provision of quality services, diet and the promotion of responsive care practices during the first 1,000 days of life to ensure mothers and adolescent girls have access to nutritious diets and adopt key family care practices; (b) a system approach that empowers communities, including women, adolescents and caregivers, to integrate nutrition in all services related to children’s well-being, including health, WASH, food systems, social protection and education; (c) advocacy and alliance-building with the private sector, small and medium enterprises and women’s cooperatives to improve access to a diversified diet by promoting the use of locally produced nutrient dense foods.

20. To scale up innovative and evidence-based interventions that improve access to comprehensive community-based health, nutrition and WASH services for children and adolescents, girls in particular, UNICEF will: (a) expand integrated models for adolescents’ participation on issues affecting their rights, including menstrual hygiene management, and mental health; (b) improve availability and access to gender-responsive WASH services in schools, health facilities and communities as a pathway to ensuring better health, hygiene and nutrition for children and adolescent girls; (c) further invest in community-based, community-led and climate resilient WASH interventions that strengthen community resilience and create opportunities for income-generating activities, especially for vulnerable women and youth.

Every child, including adolescents, learns and acquires skills for the future

21. Contributing to UNSDCF outcome 2, in line with the Education Sector Plan 2018–2030 and the National Strategy for Technical and Vocational Training, and in partnership with the Government, development partners, United Nations agencies, private sector and CSOs, the education component will support national efforts to increase access to quality and inclusive education for in and out-of-school children and adolescents, particularly girls and children living with disabilities, to learn and acquire relevant skills to reach their full potential. To support the Government in meeting its commitments made at the 2022 Transformation Education Summit, UNICEF will adopt a multisectoral approach, with schools serving as entry points for synergies across programmes to offer safer, healthier and more friendly learning environments.

22. To improve the quality of basic education, UNICEF will focus on school readiness for learning and acquiring basic competencies in primary education in targeted areas. This will support the Government in improving the availability of teaching and learning materials for preschool and primary education, and strengthen teaching, monitoring and evaluation capacities. UNICEF will reinforce its community-based approach to education, working directly with local authorities and school management committees, including teachers and parents, to encourage

families to invest in education and create a safe, enabling and resilient school environment for their children to realize their rights to learn, play and grow.

23. To address gender disparities in secondary education completion, UNICEF will work with CSOs, the World Bank, other United Nations agencies, youth-led organizations and the private sector to support the Government in implementing the national programme for the acceleration of girls' education currently under development. To tackle multiple vulnerabilities affecting adolescent girls, UNICEF will deploy holistic multisectoral interventions that respect, promote and protect girls' rights to education, including gender sensitive pedagogy, adequate health and WASH services, protection from violence and access to social protection. Actions will focus on creating a safe and enabling environment for girls to learn and grow, including at the individual, family, community and school levels.

24. Actions will include equipping adolescent girls, specifically out-of-school girls, with life skills, including leadership, and opportunities to be actively engaged in decision-making processes, peer education, digital learning, alternative pathways to education and vocational training. Cash transfers to vulnerable families will also be scaled up to enrol and keep adolescent girls in schools.

25. In response to the increased vulnerability of adolescents and youth, particularly those who are not in school and in light of a changing security context, UNICEF will work closely with its partners to scale up alternative education. Efforts will include technical and vocational training, capacity-building in entrepreneurship and partnerships with small- and medium-sized enterprises and with the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment. Improved access to digital platforms will provide out-of-school adolescents and youth with an opportunity to realize their full potential. Collaboration with the Government and with traditional and religious leaders will be strengthened to identify strategies to create pathways with other education structures, such as Qur'anic schools, to meet inclusive standards and align with the national curriculum.

Every child, including adolescents, is protected from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices

26. Contributing to UNSDCF outcomes 2 and 3 (good governance and participation), and in line with the National Child Protection Policy and in partnership with the Government, development partners, the United Nations Population Fund, CSOs and the private sector, UNICEF will strengthen systems at the national, departmental and community levels to ensure that all children and adolescents in Benin, particularly adolescent girls, are better protected from violence, exploitation and abuse, and have safe, inclusive access to integrated protection services for their physical, mental and social well-being.

27. The programme component will focus on strategic choices promoting immediate and long-term change to safeguard the rights of children, through a rights-based governance system. It will emphasize prevention, care, capacity-building of duty bearers at the institutional, community, family, and school level and the promotion and empowerment of rights holders, mainly children, adolescents including adolescent girls. To reinforce the resilience of child protection systems and based on recent laws passed by the Government to prevent and combat all forms of violence against children, UNICEF will move from advocacy on strengthening the political-legal frameworks to supporting central and decentralized structures in implementing these laws and strategies. This will require additional investments in public financing, reinforcing the capacities of the social service workforce and justice and law enforcement systems to offer free, safe and multisectoral child protection services. These prevention and response services will be adapted to age and gender needs and

will include alternative care, psychosocial support and comprehensive case management.

28. To prevent the violence against children, in particular gender-based violence, UNICEF will use social change strategies to prevent and respond to harmful norms and practices, particularly child marriage and violent discipline. In light of the security context, strengthening the resilience of individuals and communities, especially girls, to prevent and respond to risks and violence will be a priority. UNICEF will intensify partnerships with communities, schools, traditional and religious leaders, village watch committees, parents and local authorities, women's associations and adolescent peer educators to create a safety network protecting girls. Existing platforms led by youth and adolescents, including networks of peer educators and U-Reporters, will be leveraged to promote gender equality, positive masculinity, social cohesion, civic engagement and information-sharing and legal mechanisms to prevent and report all forms of violence against children and adolescents.

Every child, including adolescents, has access to inclusive social protection and lives free from poverty

29. Contributing to UNSDCF outcomes 2 and 3, in line with the National Policy for Development Financing 2022–2030 and in partnership with the Government, the World Bank, CSOs, development partners and other United Nations agencies, UNICEF will support the implementation of the National Holistic Social Protection Policy by strengthening the social protection system to ensure that the most vulnerable households can live free of poverty and be resilient to shocks.

30. To support the Government's efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public spending, the programme component will reinforce the capacities of national and local actors and CSOs on public finance for children and implement evidence-based poverty reduction policies. UNICEF will support further evidence generation on child rights deprivations and advocate for the implementation of child-sensitive planning, budgeting and budget spending at central and decentralized levels. Cooperation with the Government and development partners will be strengthened so that investments in social sectors prioritize equitable allocation of resources to promote social cohesion and community resilience, particularly in hard-to-reach areas in northern Benin.

31. UNICEF will scale up efforts to provide cash transfers for the most vulnerable households, and further improve quality and access to social protection services. Beyond girls' education and protection against child marriage, these interventions will be expanded to empower women and girls to claim their rights and subsequently help to lift communities out of poverty. Capitalizing on lessons learned from the country programme, 2019–2023, these strategies will support the Government in rolling out major reforms, including the structural transformation of all 85 social promotion centres, including 35 additional ones, as "one-stop shops" to provide integrated social protection for the most disadvantaged communities, children and adolescents.

Programme effectiveness

32. The programme effectiveness component will be supported by cross-cutting strategies and enablers and will ensure effective management and coordination among programmes, operations and subnational offices; and evidence generation to enhance policy-related advocacy, external relations, partnerships and resource mobilization with international financial institutions, bilateral and multilateral partners, CSOs, United Nations agencies and the private sector.

Summary budget table

<i>Programme Component</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Every child, including adolescents, survives, thrives, uses safe and equitable WASH services and lives in a safe and sustainable climate and environment.	12 320	32 360	44 680
Every child, including adolescents, learns and acquires skills for the future	4 200	10 200	14 400
Every child, including adolescents, is protected from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices	3 650	6 710	10 360
Every child, including adolescents, has access to inclusive social protection and lives free from poverty	6 070	25 720	31 790
Programme effectiveness	7 640	3 500	11 140
Total	33 880	78 490	112 370

Programme and risk management

33. The country programme will be implemented and monitored under the leadership of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, in collaboration with sectoral ministries and their respective decentralized services, CSOs and the private sector, as UNICEF contribution to the UNSDCF.

34. Key risks include reduced fiscal space due to external macroeconomic factors, insecurity in the northern departments, climate-related adversities, non-enactment of legislation and non-realization of other resources expected by UNICEF. While systematic risk-informed programming will be applied, additional mitigating measures will require community-based resilience-building, close collaboration with international financial institutions and the United Nations system, evidence-based advocacy and partnerships.

35. UNICEF will regularly identify and mitigate risks, especially those related to security in northern Benin, natural hazards and other potential threats to business continuity, examining their potential impact on children and the work of the organization. UNICEF will develop a broader risk-informed resilience system-building strategy and will incorporate emergency preparedness into regular programming.

36. Early warning mechanisms will be used to anticipate situations that might require adjustments in programme implementation. The enterprise risk management tool will monitor, among other risks, those associated with the harmonized approach to cash transfers and the impact of emergencies on programme and staff.

37. UNICEF will continue to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations, including work with other United Nations agencies through the Business Operations Strategy to benefit from additional cost-saving measures.

38. Measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, to ensure child safeguarding and enhance accountability to affected populations, as well as greening of UNICEF, will be strengthened.

39. This CPD summarizes UNICEF contributions to national results and is the main accountability mechanism to the Executive Board. The responsibilities and accountability of managers at the national, regional and headquarters levels are defined in the policies and procedures relating to the organization's programmes and operations.

Monitoring, learning and evaluation

40. Having played a supportive role in the common country assessment and UNSDCF formulation, UNICEF will continue to contribute to United Nations country team activities and will work on results-based management to ensure programme quality, support monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and Government and CSO reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Efforts will be made to ensure regular monitoring of programmatic and financial indicators. Fundraising will be strengthened and periodic reviews of fundraising will enable programme adjustments and improvements.

41. The results and resources framework forms the basis for monitoring and evaluation of the country programme. Detailed workplans will be developed and programme results discussed with government partners and other stakeholders. Joint programme reviews will be held biannually with the Government. The evaluations outlined in the costed evaluation plan will assess progress, identify success factors and challenges and enable timely adjustments.

42. UNICEF will work with academic and research centres and build on recent experience with the MICS to support the Government to undertake quantitative and qualitative studies and child-centred household surveys. These will help to strengthen administrative data systems and generate evidence-based disaggregated data to inform policy and monitor progress of national objectives aligned with Sustainable Development Goals targets.

43. UNICEF will strengthen knowledge management and learning mechanisms for better quality information and decision-making by the country management team.

44. UNICEF will continue to contribute to the programme and operations working groups that review UNSDCF strategic management and achievements.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Benin – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2024–2026

<p>Convention on the Rights of the Child: Articles 2–3, 5–8, 10, 12–13, 15, 17–20, 22–24, 26, 28, 32, 34, 37–38, 40.</p> <p>National priorities (Government Action Programme): Pillars 1, 2 and 3</p> <p>Sustainable Development Goals: 1–6, 8, 10, 16 –17.</p>
<p>United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) outcomes involving UNICEF: 1, 2 and 3</p>
<p>Related UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 Goal Areas: 1–5</p>

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
Outcome 1, 2 and 3	Outcome 1: By 2026, children and their caregivers, especially those in conditions of great vulnerability, have improved use of quality, inclusive and timely services (health, nutrition, family care, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)), including in emergency contexts, and adolescents are more engaged in matters that affect their lives.	<p>Percentage of children aged 0–11 months vaccinated with three doses of DTP (diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus) vaccine nationally B: 76%; T: 90%</p> <p>Percentage of districts that have at least 80% of children aged 0–11 months vaccinated with three doses of DTP vaccine B: 90%; T: 95%</p> <p>Country has been verified/validated as having eliminated maternal and neonatal tetanus B: Yes; T: Yes</p> <p>Percentage of children aged 6–59 months</p>	<p>Multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS)/ Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) or World Health Organization (WHO)/ UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage</p> <p>MICS/DHS</p> <p>MICS/DHS</p>	<p>1.1 Central and decentralized institutions and structures have increased capacities for governance, coordination, financing and monitoring of equity and gender responsive health, nutrition, water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) policies and interventions.</p> <p>1.2 Health facilities, schools, community-based services and communes have increased operational capacity to provide</p>	Ministry of Water and Mines; National Agency of Rural Water Supply; Ministry of Living Environment and Sustainable Development; Ministry of Development and Coordination of Government Action; Permanent Secretariat of the Food and Nutrition Council; municipalities;	12 320	32 360	44 680

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
		<p>receiving two annual doses of vitamin A supplementation B: 42%; T: > 80%</p> <p>Percentage of pregnant women receiving at least four antenatal visits B: 52%; T: 55%</p> <p>Percentage of infants aged 0–5 months who are exclusively fed with breastmilk B: 44.9%; T: 47%</p> <p>Percentage of children aged 6–23 months receiving a minimum diet diversity B: 9%; T: 16%</p> <p>Percentage of children aged 0-23 months who are put to the breast within one hour of birth B: 25.1%; T: 60%</p> <p>Proportion of population practicing open defecation B: 48%; T: 40%</p> <p>Proportion of population using at least basic drinking water services B: 77%; T: 100%</p>	<p>MICS/DHS</p> <p>MICS/DHS</p>	<p>quality primary health care and water to children, adolescents, and pregnant and lactating women.</p> <p>1.3 Health facilities and community-based services have increased capacity to provide equitable and integrated quality services for routine immunization, including COVID-19, and the introduction of new vaccines, vitamin A and zinc supplementation, and deworming.</p> <p>1.4 Children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, and mothers of children have increased capacities to adopt behaviours conducive to well-being, health, nutrition and WASH, and to participate in decision-making.</p> <p>1.5 Schools, health facilities and households in vulnerable or</p>	<p>Directorate-General for Climate and the Environment; National Agency for Civil Protection</p> <p>WHO, World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</p> <p>CSOs, research institutions, private sector</p>			

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
				emergency situations have reliable and equitable WASH services adapted to climate change.				
	<p>Outcome 2:</p> <p>By 2026, children and adolescents (3–17), especially girls, disadvantaged children, and those out of school, learn on an equitable basis, and acquire skills to realize their full potential including in emergency contexts</p>	<p>Parity index</p> <p>Primary: B:0,93; T: 0,98</p> <p>Secondary: B:0,88; T: 0,96</p> <p>Technical education and vocational training (B:0,46; T: 0,60) 0,46</p> <p>Gross enrolment ratio in pre-primary education B: 15,9%; T: 20%</p> <p>Lower secondary education completion rate B: 26,5%; T: 35%</p> <p>Percentage of children in grades 2–3 achieving minimum proficiency levels in reading B: 37,7%; T: 40%</p> <p>Mathematics B: 62,0%; T: 65%</p>	<p>Ministry of Preschool and Primary Education</p> <p>Ministry of Secondary, Technical and Vocational Education</p> <p>Programme for the Analysis of Educational Systems of the CONFEMEN Countries and other surveys</p>	<p>2.1 Youth, adolescents, and children, especially girls and out-of-school children, have the capacities to participate in decisions affecting their education and that of their peers.</p> <p>2.2 Parents, CSOs and government structures have the capacities to demand and ensure the adequate operation of educational services for all learners, in particular girls, children with disabilities and children from minority groups and children facing emergency situations.</p> <p>2.3 The Government and</p>	<p>Ministries of Education; Ministry of Development and Coordination of Government Action; National Education Council</p> <p>WHO, WFP, FAO</p> <p>Development partners, CSOs, private sector foundations, businesses</p>	4 200	10 200	14 400

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
		<p>Percentage of children in grades 5–6 achieving minimum proficiency levels in reading B: 75,0%; T: 80%</p> <p>Mathematics B: 51,6%; T: 55,0%</p>		<p>municipalities have the capacity to offer quality, inclusive education services, in particular for adolescents and young girls, even in emergency situations.</p> <p>2.4 Ministries in charge of education at the central and decentralized levels, municipalities and communities have the capacities to coordinate, plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate resources and education results.</p>				
	<p>Outcome 3: By 2026, all children and adolescents, especially girls and adolescent girls from the most vulnerable families, at risk or experiencing violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect, and harmful practices receive preventive or responsive services that</p>	<p>Percentage of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18, by sex and age B: 5%; T:2.7%</p> <p>Number of girls and boys who have experienced violence reached by health, social work or justice/law enforcement services B: 15,652 (2022); T: 15,000/year</p> <p>Women (aged 20–24</p>	<p>MICS/DHS</p> <p>Sector reviews</p> <p>MICS/DHS</p> <p>Sector reviews</p>	<p>3.1 Young people, parents, leaders and other community members have increased capacities and resilience to ensure the well-being of children, especially girls and adolescents, the abandonment of harmful practices, adaptation to climate change, social cohesion, gender equality and inclusion and</p>	<p>Ministry of Social Affairs and Microfinance; Ministry of the Interior and Public Security; Ministry of Justice and Legislation; Ministry of Labour and Public Service; National Agency for the Identification</p>	3 650	6 710	10 360

<i>UNSDCF outcomes</i>	<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
						<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
	ensure their physical, mental, and social well-being, including in emergency situations	<p>years) married before age 18 (B: 27.5; T: 25.5)</p> <p>Number of adolescent girls receiving prevention and care interventions to address child marriage B: 73,603 (2022); T: 75,000/year</p> <p>Percentage of children aged 5 to 17 years involved in child labour (B: 19.9%; Target: 17.9%)</p>	<p>MICS/DHS</p> <p>Sector management information system</p>	<p>children and adolescents are equipped, as agents of change, to reduce their risky behaviours relating to priority deprivations.</p> <p>3.2 National, departmental and municipal child protection structures have increased capacities and offer quality prevention and care services sensitive to gender and disability, to children at risk or victims of violence, sexual abuse, child marriage, early pregnancy, and exploitation, including in emergencies.</p> <p>3.3 National, departmental and municipal institutions have increased capacities to ensure the application of laws and policies, to budget, coordinate and implement resilient and effective child protection systems</p>	<p>of Persons, Central Office for the Protection of Minors, National Institute for Women; Ombudsman of the Republic of Benin</p> <p>UNFPA, UNDP</p> <p>Development partners; CSOs; women's associations; research institutions; private sector; foundations</p>			

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
				by adopting an integrated approach, for a protective environment for children.				
	Outcome 4: By 2026, all children, especially disadvantaged children, and those living in vulnerable departments, use social protection services adapted to shocks and are protected from poverty	Proportion of children suffering from at least three deprivations in the different domains of well-being B: 58.5% (2021); T: 56% Proportion of total public expenditure allocated to essential services B: 43.8% (2021); T: 46% Proportion of population covered by social protection systems B: 7.6% (2021); T: 11.1%	Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA); Harmonized Living Conditions Survey; MICS MODA; Analysis of social sectors budget; Finance law of the year; World Social Protection Report; Sustainable Development Goals monitoring annual report	4.1 National and local structures and actors have increased capacity to design and implement evidence-based development and poverty reduction policies. 4.2 National and local actors have acquired technical skills to conceptualize, coordinate and implement inclusive, integrated and gender-sensitive social protection systems for the most vulnerable families and children, including in emergency situations. 4.3 National, and local actors, including civil society, have enhanced their knowledge and capacity on public finance for children, adolescents,	Ministry of Economy and Finance Ministry of Development and Coordination of Government Action Ministries of social sectors National Institute of Statistics and Demography UNDP Development partners; CSOs; Several universities	6 070	25 720	31 790

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
				women and girls, resulting in greater effectiveness, efficiency and transparency for realization of their rights.				
	Outcome 5: A well-developed, properly managed country programme delivers the expected outcomes for vulnerable children.	Office year-end overall performance index B: 0.89%; T: 0.90%	Performance scorecard	5.1 UNICEF and its partners are equipped to plan and monitor programme implementation. 5.2 UNICEF and its partners have the tools and resources they need to advocate, communicate externally and build partnerships to promote children's rights. 5.3. UNICEF and its partners have an effective coordination mechanism to strengthen synergies across sectors.	Development partners; CSOs	7 640	3 500	11 140
Total resources^a						33 880	78 490	112 350

^a Other resources (emergency) are expected.