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## United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

### Country programme document

#### Madagascar

##### *Summary*

The country programme document (CPD) for Madagascar 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 \$70,000,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$240,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period March 2024 to December 2028.

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\* E/ICEF/2024/1.

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



## Programme rationale

1. Of the 29.6 million people living in Madagascar, 14.4 million are children under 18 years of age and 20.9 million are young people under 30 years of age. The population is largely rural (80.7 per cent), although urban migration is a growing phenomenon. Malagasy women on average will give birth to four children in their lifetime. UNICEF estimates that over 13 per cent of Malagasy children aged 2 to 17 years have at least one functional difficulty, however identification and care are severely stymied by widespread reluctance by society to value children with disabilities.

2. Madagascar has one of the highest rates of extreme poverty in the world: 81 per cent of the population lives on less than \$2.15 per day.<sup>1</sup> Urban poverty, in particular, is on the rise. The gross domestic product per capita is \$505<sup>2</sup>, the sixth lowest in the world. Over 90 per cent of the working-age population is engaged in subsistence agriculture and informal services. According to the Human Development Index, in 2021, Madagascar ranked 173rd out of 191 countries, and has had a backwards trajectory since 2015. The UNICEF multidimensional poverty analysis in 2022 shows that 67 per cent of Malagasy children experience two or more deprivations. In almost all analyses, the Great South of the country demonstrates the worst social and environmental indicators.

3. Natural hazards and the socioeconomic impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic have slowed economic growth in Madagascar, which was estimated at 3.8 per cent in 2022 and is forecast to average 4.7 per cent from 2023 to 2025.<sup>3</sup> Inflation remains high, at around 8 per cent, and the consequent rise in food and fuel prices has further eroded households' purchasing power and exacerbated poverty.

4. Madagascar has a relatively comprehensive policy and legislative environment, but political and administrative obstacles hamper their translation into action to reinforce human capital. Domestic financial resources for social sectors are limited and the execution of funds is weak. The country remains heavily dependent on external aid, which contributed to over a third of the 2022 budget and 29 per cent of spending in the social sectors in 2022. The education sector receives the highest share of the total budget (14 per cent in 2022), while the allocations to health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection and social protection still fell short of international benchmarks and regional averages, with 8 per cent for health and only 1 per cent for WASH. The low budget execution rate, at only 36 per cent for the health sector in 2021, is very concerning. Lastly, the budget is still highly centralized, with over 90 per cent executed at central level, making it difficult to gauge the impact of public policies in communities. Governance challenges in the rule of law, accountability and the fight against corruption further undermine efforts to curb high poverty and inequities.

5. Children in Madagascar are among the most heavily exposed to the effects of climate change globally. Research published by the General Directorate of Meteorology predicts that overall rainfall will reduce, particularly in arid zones, but its increased intensity will cause more severe flooding in the long term. Furthermore, Madagascar has recently experienced episodes of unusual meteorological phenomena, such as the unprecedented trajectory and duration of Cyclone Freddy in early 2023,

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<sup>1</sup> National Institute of Statistics, Madagascar (Institut National de la Statistique, INSTAT), 2022.

<sup>2</sup> World Bank data, 2023, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?locations=MG> (accessed on 8 November 2023).

<sup>3</sup> World Bank, Country Partnership Framework for Republic of Madagascar for the period FY2023–FY27, 28 March 2023.

which caused widespread damage in Madagascar and Mozambique. On the other hand, consecutive seasons of failed rains from 2019 through 2021 brought severe drought and a nutrition crisis to the Great South, triggering a UNICEF corporate emergency response. While famine was averted through a large-scale international response and favourable rains in late 2022, pockets of acute malnutrition remain in the Great South, where the El Niño-Southern Oscillation of 2023 is likely to bring worrisome drought conditions again. There are increasing concerns that settled parts of Madagascar will begin to become uninhabitable in the coming years. Climate uncertainty looms large while the country remains seriously underprepared. For these reasons, climate change programming emerges as a key strategic shift in this country programme.

6. The under-5 mortality rate has been stagnant over the past decade, at around 66 deaths per 1,000 live births, with around 35 per cent being neonatal deaths. There has been very slow progress in reducing the maternal mortality ratio, which stood at 392 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2020.<sup>4</sup> Severe problems related to the availability, distribution and quality of health staff and equipment contribute to poor basic health indicators. Just half of the country's expectant mothers have four or more antenatal care consultations; only 46 per cent of births are attended by a qualified professional and even fewer (39 per cent) take place at a health centre.<sup>5</sup> Malaria, diarrhoea and respiratory diseases are among the main threats to children under 5 years of age, with malnutrition an underlying factor in 45 per cent of child deaths. Less than half of children with these illnesses are seen by a health provider and fewer than one in five cases results in appropriate treatment. The most recent HIV seroprevalence survey dates to 2010. Some recent studies have suggested that HIV prevalence may be underestimated and that Madagascar may be moving silently towards a generalized HIV epidemic; this is in a context where only 2 per cent of men with more than one sexual partner reported having used contraception in the past year.<sup>6</sup> UNICEF will support the Ministry of Health to undertake surveys and obtain a clearer picture of HIV prevalence.

7. Access to WASH services remains a major challenge, particularly in rural areas, with demographics and climate change further complicating progress. A relative abundance of water has not yet translated into sustainable services for the people of Madagascar. Between 2000 and 2020, the proportion of the population using an improved water source increased from 39 per cent to 56 per cent, far from the Sustainable Development Goal targets. In rural areas, the rate of open defecation is 54 per cent, compared to 24 per cent in urban areas, and access to appropriate menstrual health and hygiene products and services remains limited, particularly far from urban centres. Should groundwater reserves decrease in the future, the existing infrastructure will be put under added strain. Major urban centres will need to significantly upgrade their water and sanitation facilities from current levels.

8. Forty-six per cent of all children under the age of 5 in Madagascar are affected by at least one form of malnutrition, including 39 per cent who are stunted. In recent years, UNICEF and its partners have identified and treated large caseloads of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, particularly in the Great South and increasingly in the south-east. Given current trajectories, Sustainable Development Goal 2 (zero hunger) remains an unreachable target. Just over half (54 per cent) of infants under 6 months old are exclusively breastfed. Among children aged 6–23 months, only 26 per cent achieved minimum dietary diversity. The poor nutritional

<sup>4</sup> World Health Organization, The Global Health Observatory, [www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/maternal-mortality-ratio-\(per-100-000-live-births\)](http://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/maternal-mortality-ratio-(per-100-000-live-births)), (accessed on 8 November 2023).

<sup>5</sup> Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) Madagascar, 2021.

<sup>6</sup> Multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS) 2018.

status of children is influenced by their parents' inadequate knowledge of nutrition, gender norms, food systems that cannot produce safe, affordable and sustainable diets for young children, and a lack of access to quality nutrition services.

9. The education sector has faced multiple challenges, including critical damage sustained during the COVID-19 pandemic and recurrent natural disasters. Only 15 per cent of age-grade children go to preschool, 56 per cent complete primary school and 27 per cent begin lower secondary education. Retention at both primary and secondary levels is an ongoing challenge. More strikingly, there is a learning crisis in Madagascar. A large proportion of children are unable to complete basic reading and mathematics exercises by their fourth year of formal schooling.<sup>7</sup> Less than 1 in 5 teachers is adequately qualified and nearly two thirds of teachers are hired within and paid by the community and are usually unqualified for the position. Education is a stated priority of the Government, as demonstrated in a series of commitments made at the Transforming Education Summit in 2022 and reinforced by the Education Orientation Law (2023) that makes schooling compulsory, from preschool through to lower secondary school. However, Sustainable Development Goal 4 will not be met in Madagascar unless the required structural reforms related to teaching and learning are initiated.

10. Violence against children is widespread and accepted across communities. Nine out of 10 children aged 1–14 years have experienced violent methods of discipline, and 8 out of 10 children have experienced psychological aggression.<sup>8</sup> One in five girls aged 15–19 years has experienced physical violence and 11 per cent sexual violence.<sup>9</sup> In 2022, 38 per cent of cases of violence against children handled by law enforcement agencies involved sexual violence (9 out of 10 cases involved girls). Thirty-nine per cent of women and 11 per cent of men aged 20–24 years are married or in union before the age of 18 years. Rates of child marriage are as high as 66 per cent in the Atsimo Andrefana Region. Among children aged 5–17 years, 47 per cent are engaged in child labour and 32 per cent work in dangerous conditions. The birth registration rate for children under 5 years of age fell from 83 per cent in 2012 to 74 per cent in 2021. Protecting children from violence continues to be hampered by gaps in policy, the institutional framework, evidence-based planning, coordination, budgetary allocations and human resources.

11. Coverage of national social protection programmes – at about 6 per cent of the population and 10 per cent of the poor – falls far short of needs and is not sufficiently shock-responsive in a disaster-prone context. Madagascar is strengthening the framework for social protection with a national social protection strategy that will take effect in 2024. Additionally, the Government is working with the support of development partners, including UNICEF, to establish a single social registry that will list households' socio-economic characteristics to facilitate their identification for social protection schemes.

12. Gender inequalities permeate every aspect of life. Madagascar ranks 173rd among 191 countries in the Gender Inequality Index 2023. Women and girls have limited decision-making power at the individual, household and community levels, their agency being restricted by patriarchal norms. Girls are often unable to make their own reproductive choices: 36 per cent of women aged 20 to 24 years gave birth before the age of 18 years; and sexual exploitation – driven by tourism and damaging customary practices – monetizes their sexuality. Twenty-five per cent of girls (aged 15–17 years) have suffered physical or sexual violence; child marriage is widespread. Forty-nine per cent of adolescent girls who give birth are assisted by a traditional

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<sup>7</sup> MICS 2018.

<sup>8</sup> MICS 2018.

<sup>9</sup> DHS, 2021.

practitioner; 64 per cent deliver at home, contributing to the high rate of maternal mortality among adolescent girls. Only one in five girls aged 15 to 17 years owns a mobile phone. Twenty-six per cent of girls aged 15 to 19 years are underweight and 28 per cent are anaemic.<sup>10</sup> Government leadership and the policy framework on gender equality and eliminating gender-based violence are evolving, but implementation is lagging. Based on this analysis, a focus on adolescent girls will be a key strategic shift in the new programme cycle.

13. The development of this country programme is informed by the 2022 country office internal audit and a comprehensive evaluation of UNICEF Level 2 emergency response in 2022. They both underlined the need for strong humanitarian-development linkages as a central strategy at the core of all programme components, the importance of managing risks, and the necessity to strengthen UNICEF subnational presence as a key enabler for achieving results for children.

## **Programme priorities and partnerships**

14. The new country programme aims to support the Government to meet its commitments to respect, protect and fulfil children's rights, in line with the Convention of the Rights of the Child and the 2022 recommendations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child. It is aligned with the Government's priorities, as identified in the national development plan and the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025, and is derived from the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), 2024–2028, taking into account the recommendations of the United Nations treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council through the universal periodic review. The country programme's results for children contribute to the UNSDCF four strategic priorities, namely: governance; human capital; employability and economic transformation; and environment.

15. The development pathway for the country programme is as follows:

- (a) if more children and adolescents, particularly girls, enjoy greater access to and use of strengthened basic services, including during emergencies;
- (b) if communities adopt positive social norms and practices that protect child rights and build their own resilience and skills in relation to climate change;
- (c) then children, particularly girls, will survive, thrive and develop to their full potential.

16. Two major cross-cutting priorities and several intersectoral themes will support the proposed country programme outcomes. Climate change adaptation is positioned as a primary urgency across programme components. UNICEF will empower young people and communities for gender-responsive climate action; integrate green solutions into programme interventions; prioritize sustainable and eco-friendly operations; strengthen evidence on the impact of climate change on children; and enhance internal capacity on climate financing, resilient infrastructure development and partnerships. Adhering to the Committee on the Rights of the Child general comment No. 26 (2023) on children's rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change, as well as an adaptation communication published by the Government of Madagascar in 2022, UNICEF will lead advocacy for children to address the triple planetary crisis cited in the general comment: climate emergency, collapse of biodiversity and pervasive pollution that is adversely affecting the country.

17. A clear focus on adolescents, particularly adolescent girls, is another intentional strategic shift in the new country programme. The programme will address the

<sup>10</sup> All data from MICS 2018.

complex and interconnected bottlenecks facing adolescent girls with a range of multisectoral efforts, creating an enabling and safe environment to strengthen their agency and leadership, participation and well-being, while honouring their views and aspirations.

18. The country programme recognizes the multiple deprivations faced by children with disabilities and children from minority groups. It will strengthen mainstreamed and intersectional approaches aimed at supporting a fair and safe environment so that they can be included in their communities as equal members and have access to comprehensive and inclusive social services and programmes.

19. Changing harmful practices and behaviours remains a pivotal strategy in a context of recurrent disease outbreaks, malnutrition, HIV, widespread violence against children and gender-based violence, and lack of safe hygiene practices. UNICEF will support the development of a national social and behaviour change strategy and engage leaders (men and women, girls and boys), community networks, influencers and citizens in identifying problems and finding local solutions in the different programme sectors, including in emergency contexts. Partnerships with universities and research institutions, civil society, religious and traditional leaders, the media and youth networks will be leveraged to drive social and behaviour change.

20. In Madagascar, communities and individuals have demonstrated resilience in the face of poverty, external shocks, weak service provision and limited opportunities. The country programme's emphasis on the humanitarian-development nexus recognizes the importance of further strengthening the resilience of systems and communities. The programme will demonstrate a commitment to sustainable development while delivering basic services in humanitarian contexts.

21. With the rise in the urban population, the country programme will begin to explore challenges and opportunities in urban programming. Deprivations faced by the most vulnerable children in urban settings, in terms of access to health, nutrition, WASH, education and child protection services, will be considered.

22. UNICEF will continue to strengthen its field presence to accelerate country programme results with greater impact in the most vulnerable parts of the country, in particular in the Great South, which is facing the most severe consequences of climate change. UNICEF will deepen programmatic accountability to populations and strengthen systems at the local level.

23. The country programme builds on consultations with United Nations sister agencies and government counterparts in 2023, including with governors and authorities at subnational levels. The views, needs and aspirations of 1,200 girls and boys in nine regions of the country were reflected in developing the programme strategies and interventions.

24. The country programme is structured around six programme outcomes: health (including HIV/AIDS); WASH and climate change; nutrition (including early childhood development); learning and skills; child protection; and social policy.

### **Health**

25. This programme component will focus on improving health systems for comprehensive primary health care; improving maternal, neonatal, infant, child and adolescent health care services; strengthening immunization services with a focus on "zero-dose" children; and preparing for and responding to health emergencies and outbreaks. This will be complemented by strategies that boost the demand for health services and promote social and behaviour change.

26. Health system strengthening will aim to improve service delivery for women, children and adolescents at the community, health centre and district levels, working closely with the nutrition, WASH and social policy programmes. UNICEF will support the resilience of the health system by strengthening the national supply chain, implementing a quality-of-care strategy, and providing technical assistance in maternal, neonatal, infant, child and adolescent health, health-care financing, programme planning and cross-sectoral coordination. UNICEF will promote and support increased access for children, adolescents and women to primary health-care services, which includes optimal child development and nurturing care, and sexual and reproductive health and rights, including HIV testing and care. The Expanded Programme on Immunization will serve as a platform for delivering an integrated essential health-care package, using innovative solar cold-chain technology and mobile health teams to reach zero-dose children in all communities. The capacity and resilience of community-level services will be strengthened to equitably deliver gender-responsive and disability-sensitive health services, using trained and equipped community health workers.

### **Water, sanitation and hygiene and climate change**

27. This programme component will focus on increasing the availability of and access to sustainable, climate-smart WASH services, and strengthening the resilience of communities to climate change and helping them to adapt to its consequences. The programme will also further strengthen government capacity to deliver equitable and sustainable WASH services, including sustainable water management and hydrology monitoring. Gender-responsive planning is key for all WASH interventions to ensure that results contribute to the health and dignity of girls and women, and allow time to invest in educational opportunities. A strong nexus between development and humanitarian programming is another critical consideration for the sector, so that it can withstand emergencies and climate-related challenges.

28. The programme will centre on creating scalable WASH service-delivery models to enhance the affordability and sustainability of water and sanitation facilities while amplifying community demand and participation in managing safe WASH services and reducing open defecation. The programme will prioritize robust collaboration with the private sector for sustainable investments in water and sanitation services. Given the country's vulnerability to climate change impacts, the programme will prioritize resilient water and sanitation infrastructure while respecting local environments, harmonizing humanitarian and development endeavours and emphasizing immediate relief and enduring solutions. Gender equality and resilience will be reinforced by investments in technology, data analysis and early warning systems.

### **Nutrition**

29. The nutrition programme outcome will focus on multi-systems strategies that support increased access to improved nutrition, child growth and development, through quality diets, services and promotion of practices for children, adolescents and mothers. The programme will adopt a transformative systems-strengthening approach, leveraging the food, health, social protection, WASH and education sectors. It will also anchor an integrated early childhood development strategy across all outcomes.

30. UNICEF will ensure that essential nutrition supplies and services are accessible in development and humanitarian contexts by supporting the Government to strengthen the supply chain, information systems, policies and health workforce capacities. UNICEF will support improved feeding and care practices for young

children, and nutrition of adolescent girls and women, by increasing the capacity of front-line workers and caregivers through gender-transformative social behaviour change communication. UNICEF will prioritize food systems actions, which is a strategic shift in the new programme that is aimed at improving access to locally produced, affordable and nutritious foods, including specialized items such as ready-to-use therapeutic foods.

### **Learning and skills**

31. The education programme component will focus on increased access to a continuous learning environment, from pre-primary to lower secondary education, including in emergency situations; quality and inclusive learning; learning to earning pathways for particularly vulnerable adolescents; and education sector governance strengthening. Results for education will be achieved through interventions anchored in inclusiveness, gender equality, equity and building back better to connect humanitarian and development endeavours.

32. UNICEF will support the access, reintegration and retention of children, from pre-primary to lower secondary education, through a back to school and learning strategy, while emphasizing climate-adaptability of the learning environment. Post-emergency rehabilitation and construction of lower secondary schools will be supported to enhance the resilience of the education system and improve access beyond primary school. UNICEF will support the attainment of foundational literacy and numeracy by children aged 5 to 15 years old through quality teaching by trained and qualified teachers, remedial learning and in-school tutoring. Enhanced emergency preparedness and response and incremental deployment of digital education, mainly in secondary education, will enhance the continuity of learning, especially during emergencies. UNICEF will support out-of-school adolescent girls and boys to strengthen their employability through the acquisition of twenty-first century skills, pursuant to the national strategy for entrepreneurial education, through the UNICEF social innovator UPSHIFT programme. In formal education, UNICEF will support adolescents to acquire transferable and job-specific skills, including digital skills, by promoting the teaching of science subjects. To strengthen education governance, UNICEF will support reforms and policies under the Education Orientation Law (2023), while also supporting effective planning, monitoring, transparency and accountability.

### **Child protection**

33. The child protection programme component will focus on strengthening the national child protection system to realize children's rights to grow up free from all forms of violence and exploitation; to live in a safe family environment; to have access to inclusive and child-friendly social welfare and justice services; and to have a legal identity. Interventions to achieve this outcome will emphasize strengthening the core components of the child protection system in both development and humanitarian settings, including through creating an enabling environment for a comprehensive and inclusive system.

34. This will be achieved through the development of a child protection policy, the development and roll-out of minimum standards and guidelines, strengthening the social service workforce, as well as improvements in data and information management, coordination and accountability. UNICEF will support implementing partners to strengthen the system for birth registration. UNICEF will model prevention and response interventions for programming at scale, including justice services in targeted districts. This will include evidence generation and social and behaviour change among children, families, communities, institutions and authorities,



so that they have the capacity to identify and report risks, adopt behaviours that protect children from violence, including gender-based violence and child marriage, and increase demand for services; and have knowledge of the benefits of registering their children at birth. Multisectoral, inclusive and integrated service delivery, with an emphasis on strengthening a national case management system, will be prioritized and promoted, where the emergency and climate change considerations are integrated across interventions for more resilient child protection services.

### **Social policy**

35. The social policy programme component will focus on progressively reducing monetary and multidimensional child poverty and enhancing the child rights environment by strengthening and using disaggregated data and evidence on children; promoting a more child-centred and decentralized public financial management system; and strengthening the national social protection system to make it more child-sensitive, gender-transformative, inclusive and shock-responsive. Emphasis will be placed on leaving no one behind, especially children with disabilities, families living in the most vulnerable districts, those from minority backgrounds and the urban poor.

36. UNICEF will work with the Government, international financial institutions and other partners to strengthen national capacities to generate quality, disaggregated and real-time evidence on monetary and multidimensional child poverty, including during emergencies. UNICEF will analyse, disseminate and use data for advocacy and planning, including on budget utilization for priority social sectors; and promote effective fiscal decentralization. UNICEF will support integrated and shock-responsive quality social protection services that are adapted to the local context by building capacities, generating evidence, expanding the information system, implementing cash transfers and improving multisectoral case management through the social window. Innovative social and behaviour change approaches will be implemented to improve the sustainability and benefits of cash assistance and strengthen community resilience and ownership.

### **Programme effectiveness**

37. The programme effectiveness component will ensure that critical and strategic cross-sectoral themes and change strategies are coordinated to maximize achievement of results. Planning, monitoring and evaluation, as well as field operations, supply and procurement, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, communication and advocacy, and private and public partnerships, will be key accelerators in attaining the country programme's outcome results.

## 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>
Health	14 500	54 675	69 175
Water, sanitation and hygiene and climate change	10 000	98 860	108 860
Nutrition	7 500	25 505	33 005
Learning and skills	7 500	30 450	37 950
Child protection	5 500	8 600	14 100
Social policy	7 500	10 160	17 660
Programme effectiveness	17 500	11 750	29 250
<b>Total</b>	<b>70 000</b>	<b>240 000</b>	<b>310 000</b>

## Programme and risk management

38. This country programme document summarizes the planned contributions of UNICEF to national results and is the principal mechanism for accountability to the Executive Board for results achievement and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. Accountabilities of managers at national, regional and headquarters levels are defined in the organization's policies and procedures for programmes and operations. United Nations joint accountability in programming and resource mobilization is enhanced through the Common Country Analysis and the priorities of UNSDCF 2024–2028, in line with principles of the United Nations system reform.

39. Key risks that might affect programme results include challenges in attracting sufficient financial resources in a competitive aid environment; increasingly severe climate-driven natural hazards in an already disaster-prone country; the lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and other disease outbreaks; and challenges in delivering to the most remote populations due to access constraints throughout the country. To mitigate these risks, UNICEF will continue to drive strong resource mobilization and efficient use of available resources.

40. The country programme will be risk-informed, with internal controls and procedures for mitigating risks related to its implementation. The country management team will continue to assess and manage risks identified by audit, alongside adequate assurance activities under the harmonized approach to cash transfers. As part of the United Nations country team, UNICEF will drive UNSDCF implementation, leading the results group on human capital and contributing across all four UNSDCF strategic priorities.

41. Technology and digital innovations will be leveraged to accelerate results, but they can also lead to ineffective investments, cyberrisks and exclusion due to inadequate resources and capacity and the country's existing digital divide. To manage this risk, an office-wide technology for development strategy will be established, ensuring that the necessary resources, adequate capacity and processes are in place to support and guide UNICEF digital interventions.

## **Monitoring, learning and evaluation**

42. Working with the National Institute of Statistics, UNICEF will support a new multiple indicator cluster survey in 2024 that will provide a baseline for the country programme indicators. UNICEF will utilize other planned household surveys and the 2028 census to closely assess progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

43. The country programme will be monitored against its indicators and targets and those of the UNSDCF, as well as annual workplans and key performance standards defined in the office annual management plans. Established internal governance mechanisms will be used to track results and analyse bottlenecks and challenges. A newly developed strategy for accountability to affected populations will be rolled out and an innovative system of end-user supply monitoring will be used to verify effective delivery to the last mile. The costed evaluation plan, March 2024–December 2028, proposes five strategic evaluations, including a country programme evaluation and an impact evaluation, while investment in the national evaluation function will be sustained.

## Annex

### Results and resources framework

#### Madagascar – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, March 2024–December 2028

<p><b>Convention on the Rights of the Child:</b> All articles</p> <p><b>National priorities:</b> National Development Plan (Plan Emergence Madagascar), specifically goals 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 12 and 13; Sustainable Development Goals 1–6, 10, 13, 16 and 17</p>
<p><b>United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) outcomes involving UNICEF:</b></p> <p>1. The Malagasy people, especially those left behind, enjoy their rights in a climate of political stability, social cohesion and lasting peace, where the social contract is strengthened.</p> <p>2. Young people, in particular young and adolescent girls, and the most vulnerable and marginalized people, have improved access – in terms of quantity, quality and equity – to opportunities for creating the human capital necessary for their fulfilment and the enjoyment of their rights.</p> <p>3. People, especially the most vulnerable women and young people and people with disabilities, enjoy more decent and productive jobs driven by businesses and industries, including small and medium-sized ones, in urban and rural areas, that make the transition to a sustainable, modern, diversified, and competitive economic model.</p> <p>4. Current and future populations, in particular the most vulnerable and women, enjoy better living conditions and greater resilience to risks and climate change, and work – with key State and non-State actors – to develop and manage natural resources and ecosystems in a sustainable, inclusive and risk-sensitive way.</p>
<p><b>Related UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 Goal Areas:</b> All five Goal Areas</p>

<i>UNSDCF outcomes</i>	<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative 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>
1, 2	1. Girls and boys, especially adolescent girls and those that are	Percentage of births delivered in a health facility* B:39% (2023) T: 60% (2028)	DHIS2 Health Management Information System	1. Strengthening government systems 2. Improving maternal, neonatal, infant,	Government ministries  Development partners	14 500	54 675	69 175

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative 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
	marginalized and living in humanitarian conditions, utilize high-impact health interventions, from pregnancy to adolescence	<p>Percentage of children &lt;1 year old receiving measles-containing vaccine at national level</p> <p>B: 69% (2023) T: 90% (2028)</p> <p>Percentage of pregnant adolescent girls (aged 15–19 years) receiving at least four antenatal visits</p> <p>B: To be collected in the multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS) 2024 T: To be determined after baseline</p>	<p>Vaccine systems monitoring</p> <p>MICS 2024 Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)</p>	child and adolescent health services 3. Immunization 4. Emergency prevention and response				
1, 2, 3, 4	2. Children, including adolescents, have access to climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene and live in a safe and sustainable environment	<p>Percentage of population using basic ++ drinking water* (meaning 'basic' plus free from contamination plus available within 30 minutes)</p> <p>B: 53.5% (2018) T: 58% (2028)</p> <p>Percentage of population using basic sanitation services*</p> <p>B: 14.8% (2022) T: 18% (2028)</p>	<p>MICS</p> <p>JMP</p>	<p>1. Access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services</p> <p>2. Climate resilience and disaster preparedness</p> <p>3. Strengthening government systems for WASH</p>	<p>Government ministries</p> <p>Development partners</p> <p>Civil society organizations</p>	10 000	98 860	108 860
1, 2, 4	3. The most vulnerable children, adolescents, and women utilize quality nutrition	<p>Percentage of children aged 6–23 months receiving a minimum number of food groups</p> <p>B: 26% (2021) T: 30% (2028)</p>	DHS, MICS	<p>1. Strengthening systems for nutrition services</p> <p>2. Improved nutrition and childcare practices</p>	<p>Government ministries</p> <p>Development partners</p>	7 500	25 505	33 005

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative 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
	services, adopt adequate nurturing care and feeding practices, and access nutritious diets.	Percentage of infants aged 0–5 months who are exclusively fed with breastmilk  B: 54% (2021) T: 70% (2028)	DHS, MICS	3. Increasing access to an optimal diet				
		Percentage of children receiving early stimulation and responsive care from their parents or caregivers  B: 25% (2018) T: 40% (2028)	DHS, MICS					
1, 2, 3, 4	4. Girls and boys aged 5–18 years, especially adolescent girls, children with special needs, those living in the most marginalized areas and those out of school, gain access to learning and acquire knowledge and twenty-first century skills, including in emergencies	National examination pass rates at the end of primary and secondary education *  B: Primary, 59%; Secondary, 46% (2022) T: Primary, 74%; Secondary, 61% (2028)	Education Management Information System	1. Access and retention 2. Quality and inclusive learning 3. Adolescent education and skills 4. Education governance	Government ministries  Development partners	7 500	30 450	37 950
		Children in humanitarian situations targeted by UNICEF and partners accessing formal or non-formal basic education  B: Boys, 0; Girls, 0 (2024) T: Boys, 750,000; Girls, 750,000 (total, 2028)	Disaster Risk Reduction database					
		Percentage of children aged 7–14 years who demonstrate foundational reading and numeracy skills	MICS					

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative 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
		B: Reading, 23%; Numeracy, 7% (2018) T: Reading, 30%; Numeracy, 14% (2028)						
1, 2	5. Children are protected from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and child marriage, and have a legal identity.	Number of children in detention, per 100,000 child population  B: 27 (2022) T: 21 (2028)	Ministry of Justice and National Institute of Statistics data	1. Child protection system strengthening 2. Child protection prevention 3. Child protection response	Government ministries  Development partners	5 500	8 600	14 100
Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years in union before age 18 years  B: 39% (2021) T: 34% (2028)		MICS						
Existence of a mature child protection system  B: System under development (2023) T: Improved system (2028)		Annual programme reviews						
Percentage of children under 5 years of age whose births are registered  B: 73.8% (2021) T: 80% (2028)		MICS, DHS						
1, 2	6. Children, in particular the most vulnerable, have access to quality social services, including social	Percentage of children living in multidimensional poverty  B: 67% (2022) T: 60% (2028)	Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis	1. Child poverty and vulnerability analysis 2. Public financial management and local governance	Government ministries  Development partners	7 500	10 160	17 660
		Share of national budget allocated to social sectors (education, health, WASH)	National budget					

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative 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
	protection, leading to a reduction of poverty in all its forms	and social protection combined) B: 25% (2022) T: 30% (2028)		3. Inclusive, shock-responsive social protection				
		Number of children nationally covered by a social protection programme B: <500,000 (2023) T: 5,000,000 (2028)	Social registry, management information system of social protection programmes					
	7. Programme effectiveness	Standard performance indicators	UNICEF Results Assessment Module, inSight	Cross-sectoral interventions, coordination and management		17 500	11 750	29 250
	<b>Total resources</b>					<b>70 000</b>	<b>240 000</b>	<b>310 000</b>

\*Outcome indicator aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework indicator.