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### United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

### Country programme document

#### Tunisia

#### *Summary*

The country programme document (CPD) for Tunisia 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 \$4,830,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$25,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2021 to 2025.

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\* E/ICEF/2021/1.



## Programme rationale

1. The population of Tunisia was estimated at 11.7 million in 2020, including 3.3 million children, with 68 per cent of the total population living in urban areas. Tunisia is a lower-middle-income country, acknowledged for its political transition to democracy, including through the 2014 Constitution and successive free and fair presidential, parliamentary and municipal elections.
2. Tunisia passed legislation to criminalize violence against women and girls in 2017, ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure in 2018 and submitted its combined fourth through sixth State party reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2019. Tunisia is the first non-member State of the Council of Europe to ratify the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention). The 2017 universal periodic review encouraged Tunisia to continue its efforts in child protection; to implement an independent mechanism to monitor children's rights; and to invest increased public resources to correct regional and socioeconomic disparities in education.
3. Tunisia participated in the 2019 voluntary national review on sustainable development through a participatory process that underscored its commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the pledge to leave no one behind. Tunisia ranks first in Africa on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>1</sup>
4. The average annual economic growth rate has been 1.4 per cent since 2011 compared with 4.5 per cent in the previous decade. Challenges include persistently high rates of underemployment and unemployment, especially for women, young people and university graduates; macroeconomic and fiscal imbalances; instability in the region; and volatile international markets. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has further threatened equitable and sustainable development prospects. Reducing the significant regional and socioeconomic disparities is hindered by fragile economic prospects, a fragmented political system and a lack of consensus on key economic reforms.
5. The human development index score of Tunisia continued to improve between 2010 and 2018, when it reached .739, in the high category,<sup>2</sup> despite transitions following the 2011 revolution. The country is on track to eradicate extreme poverty towards Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No poverty), however child monetary poverty according to the national poverty line remains 50 per cent higher than adult poverty (over 21 per cent vs. 15 per cent in 2015). Child monetary poverty is only 7.6 per cent in Greater Tunis but around 40 per cent in the centre-west and north-west regions.<sup>3</sup> The impact of COVID-19 is expected to increase the number of children living in monetary poverty to 900,000, around one-quarter more than in the pre-pandemic situation.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa and Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Africa SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2020 (Kigali and New York, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Development Programme, Human development report, 2018.

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Social Affairs and UNICEF, "La garantie d'une allocation pour enfants en Tunisie: faisabilité, coût, impact et financement" (December 2019).

<sup>4</sup> Oxford Policy Management, Partnership for Economic Policy and UNICEF, "Tunisie: Impact des mesures de confinement associées à la pandémie COVID-19 sur la pauvreté des enfants" (July 2020).

6. Progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality education) has been mixed.<sup>5</sup> Tunisia has free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 16 years and a primary completion rate of 94 per cent for boys and 96 per cent for girls. Despite spending over 6.5 per cent of the gross national product and 20 per cent of the national budget on education over the past decade, system efficiency and quality need improvement, including in teacher training and curricula reform. Completion rates for lower and higher secondary education (74 and 49 per cent) are concerning. Twice as many boys as girls drop out and many have no alternatives for learning, training or employment. In 2018, only 42 per cent of students in their last year of secondary school passed the baccalaureate examination compared with 72 per cent in 2011. In 2018, 33 per cent of children aged 7 to 14 years did not achieve foundational reading skills and 72 per cent did not achieve foundational mathematics skills, with little difference by gender, but large differences between children from families in the poorest and richest wealth quintiles and from rural and urban areas.

7. The percentage of children who are on track to achieve their development potential improved from 76 per cent in 2012 to 82 per cent in 2018, according to the early childhood development index.<sup>6</sup> A multisector partnership early childhood development (ECD) strategy was adopted in 2018. Key challenges include access to and quality of services. Only 51 per cent of children aged 3 to 5 years were enrolled in preschool in 2018 and there are stark disparities in enrolment: 17 per cent among the poorest households compared with 71 per cent among the richest; 28 per cent in rural areas compared with 63 per cent in urban areas.

8. Regarding ECD and Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good health and well-being),<sup>7</sup> Tunisia has made steady progress in reducing child mortality rates since 2000, although the rate of decline has slowed recently. The under-5 mortality rate was 17 per 1,000 live births in 2018. The health system has suffered from years of underinvestment; one indicator is the drop in complete immunization coverage from 94 per cent in 2012 to 79 per cent in 2018 for children under the age of 3 years. Measles vaccination coverage fell from 94 per cent to 75 per cent in the same period, leading to an outbreak in 2019. The pandemic may further worsen vaccination coverage. While Tunisia was at the forefront in managing COVID-19 during the first wave, the country began experiencing a significant spike in community transmission in September 2020.

9. Regarding ECD and Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Nutrition), Tunisia has a low stunting rate, at 8.4 per cent. Of greater concern is the increase in the percentage of overweight in children under the age of 5 years, which rose from 13 per cent in 2012 to 17 per cent in 2018; and the risk of overweight, which currently stands at 44 per cent. Exclusive breastfeeding for children aged 0 to 6 months has been low for decades (18 per cent in 1988 and 13.5 per cent in 2018). Although the trend since 2006 has been slightly upward, the social norm in favour of bottle-feeding remains a barrier. These two concerns are not yet acknowledged as public-health and nutrition priorities, despite their likely negative impacts on long-term development outcomes.

10. The prevalence of violent discipline by caregivers at home is a key indicator of progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions). The proportion of caregivers who think physical punishment is necessary decreased from 44 to 21 per cent between 2012 and 2018; male parents and

<sup>5</sup> Education data is from the multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Programme for International Student Assessment.

<sup>6</sup> The early childhood development (ECD) index measures the developmental status of children regarding literacy-numeracy and physical and social-emotional development. ECD and early education data are from MICS.

<sup>7</sup> Data on health, nutrition, violent discipline and water and sanitation are from MICS.

parents with lower education and from the lowest wealth quintile are most likely to approve of violent methods of disciplining children. Despite the reported decline in this attitude, 89 per cent of boys and 87 per cent of girls aged 1 to 14 years are subject to violent discipline; and almost one in four children is a victim of severe physical punishment. This is largely irrespective of their socioeconomic background and rural or urban residence.

11. The right to water is inscribed in the 2014 Constitution and, along with sanitation, is a key measure towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Clean water and sanitation). Water scarcity and poor-quality water are chronic problems for many Tunisians: only 57 per cent of the population (65 per cent urban; 40 per cent rural) have access to safely managed drinking water. The drinking water of 29 per cent of households (42 per cent rural, 23 per cent urban) was found to be contaminated with *E. coli* in 2018. Regarding sanitation in schools, a quarter of preschools do not have toilets. Among primary schools, 43 per cent do not meet at least one hygiene standard and 10 per cent do not have access to water. Challenges include non-sustainable usage patterns; fragmented, under-resourced governance; and environmental and climate-change issues contributing to flooding, water scarcity and pollution.

12. The UNICEF country programme for 2021–2025 was informed by the following: the midterm review of the previous country programme; a situation analysis on the challenges for children in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the contribution of public finance to services for children<sup>8</sup>; the country programme evaluation; the United Nations common country analysis; and the Government-led process for the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), 2021–2025, with which the UNICEF country programme is aligned. Participants in the reviews, studies and processes included partners from Government, other United Nations entities, international development partners, academia, trade unions, the private sector and civil society, including young people.

13. Applying lessons learned from the midterm review, UNICEF adopted a multisectoral, multi-partner approach, taking into account the needs of children throughout the life course, to optimize efficiency and effectiveness in tackling barriers. This approach yielded results and will be continued, with an emphasis on advocacy and leveraging for sustainable scale-up. In accordance with lessons learned from the country programme evaluation, the new country programme continues to focus on equity, inclusion and gender as well as adolescent participation and development.

14. The rationale for the selected programme priorities derives from:

(a) The identification of acceleration areas in which concerted actions are needed to achieve child-sensitive Sustainable Development Goals that are national priorities;

(b) A focus on reducing equity gaps, barriers and risks identified through situation analyses and theories of change;

(c) The UNICEF comparative advantages as well as opportunities for synergies with other United Nations agencies under the UNSDCF and with development partners.

15. The programme components are the following: (a) inclusive socioeconomic development for children; (b) accountable institutions for children and access to

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<sup>8</sup> UNICEF, “Analyse de situation des enfants en Tunisie 2020” (May 2020).

justice; (c) effective education, health and protection systems; (d) sustainable management of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and environmental and disaster risks and other crises; and (e) programme effectiveness.

## Programme priorities and partnerships

16. The programme priorities and partnerships support the national alignment with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The programme components contribute to the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 and Gender Action Plan, 2018–2021 and to Africa’s Agenda for Children 2040 and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. The programme priorities and partnerships support the achievement of the UNSDCF outcomes for the period 2021–2025, which in turn will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The country programme will contribute to the implementation of the common chapter of the strategic plans of UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). Recognizing the breadth and strength of the United Nations presence in Tunisia, UNICEF will apply its comparative advantages to foster collaborative partnerships for the programming of other United Nations entities on issues relating to children’s and women’s rights, including regarding children on the move; child labour; maternal health; adolescent health and mental health; gender-based violence; the inclusion of children with disabilities; and decentralization. The programme components are national in scope. The overall goal is to accelerate the achievement of the Government’s priority Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on child-sensitive targets, reducing inequity and gender inequality and improving sustainability, including through crises preparedness.

17. The programme is based on the following theory of change:

- (a) If public policies and budgets are more child and equity sensitive;
- (b) If the social protection system includes a child pillar with a focus on the lowest wealth quintile;
- (c) If protective and judicial systems for children in contact with the law are strengthened;
- (d) If civil society is committed and mobilized for children’s participation and rights;
- (e) If learning achievements through multiple pathways are improved from pre-primary through secondary education, including for out-of-school adolescents;
- (f) If caregivers of young children have access to quality comprehensive services;
- (g) If violence against children is reduced and cases are effectively managed;
- (h) If systems to improve and sustain access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene are strengthened;
- (i) If responsible institutions practise environmentally sound and effective measures to address disaster risks and other crises, then all girls and boys in Tunisia, particularly the most vulnerable, will gain greater access to their rights and achieve significant progress towards the child-related Sustainable Development Goals.

18. The underlying assumption is that the Government will continue to prioritize investment in and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

particularly the child-sensitive ones, with an emphasis on reducing socioeconomic and geographic disparities and implementing structural reforms. Programme strategies were designed to reduce or mitigate a set of recognized risks, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, internal and external crises and political instability.

19. To accelerate results in the selected priority areas, the programme will implement five cross-cutting strategies common to the theory of change: (a) support systems-strengthening; (b) generate and analyse data and evidence for policy advocacy, planning and monitoring; (c) create synergies through multisectoral, multi-partner approaches, including for crisis preparedness; (d) leverage public and private partnerships and resources for children; and (e) engage communities, including adolescents, to shape development interventions at all levels.

#### **Inclusive socioeconomic development for children**

20. The planned outcome for this component is that public institutions carry out child-sensitive public policies informed by evidence and risks and public finance supports inclusive, sustainable and resilient outcomes that benefit the most vulnerable children. The programme will support the Government to generate data, including through the multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS); undertake research and analysis at disaggregated levels on multiple dimensions of inequity, poverty and vulnerability; monitor Sustainable Development Goals; and strengthen participatory social-sector analyses and equity-focused planning.

21. UNICEF will partner with institutional social protection actors who are developing systems and tools as part of the ongoing social protection-floor reform, supporting a child-centred pillar and the use of a rights-based, universal, sustainable and shock-resilient approach. The programme will continue to generate data and evidence for policy dialogue on the establishment of a progressively universal child grant, resilient to crisis and shocks; support mechanisms to increase the impact, coverage and accountability of social protection programmes reaching the most vulnerable children; leverage resources and partnerships; and strengthen institutional communication, follow-up, feedback mechanisms and data interconnectedness across sectors based on the national unique identifier.

22. Strategies to overcoming identified barriers include evidence generation; providing technical expertise for advice and advocacy; focusing on influencing priorities for children in the Government Vision 2030 and five-year development plan; and leveraging resources and results for children with development partners, including in conjunction with macroeconomic, subsidy and social protection reforms.

23. Programme partners include government ministries responsible for development, finance and social affairs; the National Institute of Statistics; UNDP and other United Nations entities; and bilateral and multilateral development and South-South cooperation partners for innovative financing approaches and best practices.

#### **Accountable institutions for children and access to justice**

24. The planned outcome for this programme component is that accountable institutions are supported by a harmonized legislative framework in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as by a committed civil society to strengthen the protection of child rights and social cohesion. The programme will strengthen the capacities of police, including units specialized in violence against women and children, as well as of first responders and judiciary staff and support the streamlining and modernization

of protocols and procedures for more effective, accountable and accessible case management of children in contact with the law. The focus will also be on communication, advocacy and other support to civil society organizations, Parliament and the media to energize commitment and actions that promote the rights of every child, including those with disabilities, and enable the participation of children and adolescents in discussions on topics that affect them.

25. Programme strategies identified in the theory of change include expert technical advice and training and advocacy and communication for social norm and behaviour change. Key partners include Parliament, the ministries of Justice; the Interior; Social Affairs; and Family, Women and Seniors, UNDP, bilateral and multilateral development partners, civil society, including children's and youth groups, and the media.

### **Effective education, health and protection systems**

26. The planned outcome for this programme component is that education, health and protection systems are resilient, ensure equitable and quality access and promote the effective and inclusive participation of children and their families.

27. The programme component will address barriers to improving learning outcomes and secondary completion rates, including for girls and boys from marginalized socioeconomic groups and regions. It will focus on training and evaluation systems for educational staff; reforms to school curricula; inclusive, participatory pedagogy; and life-skills development for children in preschool, primary and secondary education. UNICEF will support the Ministry of Education to develop adaptation measures, including for blended learning, to address COVID-19 and other crises. The organization will advocate for alternative reintegration opportunities for the most vulnerable out-of-school adolescents, particularly through the ongoing second-chance education model. The component will foster empowerment and the inclusive participation of adolescents and strengthen public-private alliances, building on the Government's initiative for youth and the Generation Unlimited partnership.

28. Support for coordinating, resourcing and implementing the national early childhood development (ECD) strategy will remain an important programme focus. The component will contribute to the institutionalized coordination and integrated monitoring of the ECD strategy across 11 ministries in collaboration with the private sector and civil society organizations. UNICEF will advocate for scaling up proven models for early childhood education and support innovative and integrated positive parenting services. In the area of health, the component will be focused on increasing full immunization coverage and the possible introduction of a COVID-19 vaccine through global procurement services; strengthening cold-chain supply management; and implementing demand-generation approaches to mobilize increased vaccination uptake, addressing both supply and demand barriers where rates are lowest. The component will also support awareness and practices for good nutrition, healthy lifestyles and increased breastfeeding.

29. UNICEF will strengthen national capacities for the prevention and early identification of and response to violence against children (VAC) and synergies with national programmes on gender-based violence (GBV). The programme priorities will be to strengthen national protection services and the social service workforce; support the institutionalization of multisectoral coordination mechanisms, including the establishment of an integrated digital information and referral system; foster community engagement and changes in social norms and behaviour; promote gender equality, ownership of social services and community participation in VAC and GBV

prevention; and enhance partnerships with the private sector and civil society, as successfully initiated during the COVID-19 response.

30. Among the relevant partners are such government institutions as the ministries of Education; Social Affairs; Youth, Sports and Professional Insertion; Women, Family and Seniors; and Health, as well as other United Nations entities, the Global Partnership for Education, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, the World Bank and other bilateral and multilateral development partners, civil society organizations, public and social-media champions and influencers and the private sector.

### **Sustainable management of water, sanitation and hygiene, and environmental and disaster risks and other crises**

31. The planned outcome for this component is that national institutions and communities ensure the child-sensitive, equitable, transparent and sustainable management of WASH and the environment and adequate preparedness and response to humanitarian risks. UNICEF will partner with other United Nations entities to strengthen the capacities and tools of public, private and civil-society actors for efficient, safely managed water resources for safe drinking water that is equitably and adequately available and conserved to reduce risks from scarcity, epidemics and other adverse environmental factors. Programme activities will also include environmental education and social mobilization. The programme component will provide technical support for WASH-related multisector analysis and policy dialogue and for improving multisector WASH standards. Particular attention will be given to strengthening schoolchildren's access to safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation facilities that meet adequate standards for boys and girls, including children with disabilities.

32. The component will include capacity-strengthening for environmental management through coordinated work under the UNSDCF. A focus will be stakeholders' capacity for coordinated, multisector emergency preparedness and response and community engagement on the risks of flooding, water scarcity, disease outbreaks and other crises.

33. Partners include multiple government ministries, other United Nations entities and civil society organizations in the WASH, environmental and humanitarian sector, and bilateral and multilateral development partners. Private sector partners, particularly start-ups, as well as media and civil society organizations, will be partners for risk communication; accountability to affected populations; and engaging children, young people, communities and businesses in environmental and WASH education and mobilization for action.

### **Programme effectiveness**

34. The planned outcome for this component is that country programme planning, financing and management meets quality programming standards in achieving results for children. The focus is the programme enablers of management, coordination and execution of the country programme through the provision of technical guidance and quality assurance on programme planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and reporting. This component also supports quality assurance for the application of cross-cutting priorities and strategies, including human rights, equity, inclusion, gender-responsive and risk-informed programming and collaboration with development partners under the UNSDCF.

35. Partnerships and resource leveraging are critical to programme effectiveness. Through the operationalization of its partnership and resource mobilization strategy, UNICEF will redouble its efforts to deliver results, ensure visibility and continue to be a credible, trusted partner for development work that fosters sustainability.



Opportunities with new partners will be explored through the expansion of the business-for-results strategy as well as with UNICEF National Committees, through the private-sector portfolios of development partners and through South-South cooperation. UNICEF will continue its successful leveraging of resources for children through bilateral and multilateral partners, the private sector and international financial institutions.

### Summary budget table<sup>a</sup>

<i>Programme component</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Inclusive socioeconomic development for children	350	1 250	1 600
Accountable institutions for children and access to justice	966	1 250	2 216
Effective education, health and protection systems	2 298	19 250	21 548
Sustainable management of water, sanitation and hygiene, and environmental and disaster risks and other crises	966	2 750	3 716
Programme effectiveness	250	500	750
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 830</b>	<b>25 000</b>	<b>29 830</b>

<sup>a</sup> Funds raised for humanitarian situations that may arise are not included in this table

## Programme and risk management

36. This document summarizes the UNICEF contributions to the national agenda on child-sensitive Sustainable Development Goals in Tunisia. The document serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for the alignment of results with allocated resources. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for country programme coordination and, together with the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Investment, chairs the UNSDCF steering committee. UNICEF is the facilitating agency for the education and social protection components of UNSDCF outcome 3.

37. The country programme is risk-informed, with internal controls, governance and mitigation measures that cover operational and programmatic risks. Every year, risks are reassessed and a risk management plan is implemented. Mitigation measures combine capacity-strengthening with monitoring, oversight and corrective actions.

38. External risks are political instability, the persistence of adverse macroeconomic trends and a reduction in official development assistance (ODA) to Tunisia. The realization of these risks could significantly hinder the success of socioeconomic reforms aimed at reducing monetary and multidimensional poverty and inequities. Other external risks include climate change, which will aggravate water scarcity, flooding and environmental degradation. Both types of external risks may lead to internal tensions and displacements of people and of children on the move.

Programme mitigation measures include engagement with policies, budgets and systems; communication; and the leveraging of partnerships to prioritize the rights of children and adolescents. UNICEF will continue to advocate for ODA to be invested in the most vulnerable children and will also use its expertise in risk management to strengthen public finance for children across all programme components. Building on its experience with the COVID-19 response, UNICEF will continue to strengthen capacities for risk communication, community engagement and preparedness at the institutional and sector levels.

39. UNICEF will continue to invest in the effectiveness of governance and management systems, the stewardship of financial resources and the management of human resources. Risks from programme under-resourcing will be addressed through the partnership and resource mobilization strategy. Risks regarding management and accountability for cash and supply transfers will be mitigated through the harmonized approach to cash transfers. Risks from the low capacity of the private sector to provide quality services and supplies will be mitigated by vigilant oversight mechanisms and the selective use of UNICEF regional and global expertise. Risks of sexual exploitation and abuse will be mitigated through implementing prevention and response plans for staff and partners.

40. The United Nations Sustainable Development Group Business Operations Strategy 2021–2025 will be implemented in accordance with the principle of mutual recognition adhered to by United Nations agencies, with a focus on four main components: procurement; finance; administration; and human resources, in view of implementing best practices across agencies and reducing transaction costs.

## **Monitoring and evaluation**

41. The results framework of the country programme contains specific, measurable indicators, with baselines and targets disaggregated by age group and sex, where relevant. Most indicators are identical to those in the Sustainable Development Goals, the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 and the UNSDCF. UNICEF will work collaboratively under the UNSDCF to strengthen and modernize government systems for data collection, analysis, monitoring and data-driven decision-making by multiple sectors and partners. This will include administrative systems and such periodic surveys as the MICS. Evidence will be used for monitoring the situation of children; tracking progress towards equity and scale; and advocating to adjust policies, strategies and budgets. Monitoring will be undertaken through multiple modalities, including UNICEF staff and partners, and through mechanisms for real-time monitoring using technology and expanding connectivity to enhance opportunities for community feedback.

42. Programme results will be monitored through joint annual reviews with the Government and partners to assess progress and identify changes in the programming environment and the situation of children, including in risks and bottlenecks, and new opportunities for the achievement of results. Annual reviews and planning meetings with the Government and development partners for national programmes, the UNICEF country programme and the UNSDCF will be important platforms for ensuring continued relevance through adaptability. Any required changes and adjustments will be reflected in the country programme's theory of change on an ongoing basis.

43. UNICEF has prepared a five-year costed evaluation plan that includes three formative evaluations: (a) measuring the achievements of preschool children; (b) the Second Chance reintegration programme; and (c) the inclusive social protection programme. There will also be a gender programme review and an overall country

programme evaluation. UNICEF will prepare annual plans to ensure cost-effective, relevant investments in research and evaluation.

## Annex

### Results and resources framework

#### Tunisia – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2021–2025

**Convention on the Rights of the Child:** Articles 2–6, 9, 10, 12,13, 17–20, 23, 24, 26–29, 31, 33, 34, 36, 37, 40 and 42

**National priorities:** Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3–5, 10, 13 and 16

#### United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) outcomes involving UNICEF:

By end 2025:

1. The institutions, carrying out effective public policies informed by risks in partnership with economic and social actors, put the country's resources at the service of inclusive, sustainable, resilient socioeconomic development that generates decent jobs, especially for the most vulnerable.
2. Accountable institutions supported by a harmonized legislative framework and committed populations guarantee the strengthening of the rule of law, the protection of human rights and social cohesion and justice, particularly for the most vulnerable, in accordance with the conventions and international standards and in complementarity and interdependence with inclusive and sustainable development efforts.
3. Health, education and social protection systems are resilient and ensure equitable access to quality services, particularly for the most vulnerable, and effective engagement of the population.
4. All the actors involved ensure fair, transparent and sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystems and territories, improve their resilience and adaptation, as well as that of populations, especially the most vulnerable, in the face of crises and climate risks.

**UNSDCF outcome indicators involving UNICEF:** Sustainable Development Goal targets 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.3.1, 3.8.1, 4.1.1, 6.b.1, 6.1.1, 6.2.1, 11.3.2, 13.2.1, 15.a.1 and 16.3.1

#### Related UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 Goal Areas: 1–5

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
1. By the end of 2025, public institutions carry out child-sensitive public policies informed by evidence and risks and public	Number and percentage of children living in poverty according to the national monetary poverty line B: 688,000; 21% (2015) T: 600,000; 15%	Household income and expenditure survey	1.1 National Vision 2030, five-year national development plan and government strategies, policies, budgets and partnerships are child-sensitive in support of the Sustainable	Ministries of Economy; Finance and Investment; Social Affairs; and Health and Education	350	1 250	1 600

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
finance supports inclusive, sustainable and resilient outcomes that benefit the most vulnerable children.	<p>Share of public spending on health, education and/or social protection benefiting children living in the poorest regions and/or the poorest quintile</p> <p>B: 14% (education) T: 20% (education)</p>	Multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS)	<p>Development Goals and aimed at reducing socioeconomic and environmental equity gaps for children.</p> <p>1.2 Social protection-system reforms include a rights-based, progressively universal, sustainable, shock-resilient and child-centred pillar and the tools to implement it.</p>	<p>National Institute of Statistics</p> <p>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</p> <p>World Bank</p> <p>Development partners</p>			
	<p>UNICEF: Number and percentage of children covered by social protection systems</p> <p>B:1,265,000; 40% (2019) T: 2,200,000; 55%</p>						
2. By the end of 2025, accountable institutions are supported by a harmonized legislative framework in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and a committed civil society to strengthen the protection of child rights and social cohesion.	<p>Percentage of children in contact with the justice and administrative bodies who benefit from child- and gender-sensitive access to justice</p> <p>B: 53% (2019) T: 75%</p>	<p>Administrative data</p> <p>Institutional and civil society monitoring reports</p>	<p>2.1 Police, specialized units, first responders, judiciary staff and the juvenile justice system have capacities, protocols and procedures for effective, accountable and accessible case management of children in contact with the law.</p> <p>2.2 Civil society, Parliament and the media actively promote the rights of adolescents and children, including engaging them to participate in discussions on topics that affect them.</p>	<p>Ministries of Justice; Interior; Social Affairs; and Family, Women, and Seniors</p> <p>Parliament</p> <p>UNDP</p> <p>Development partners</p> <p>Civil society organizations (CSOs), children's and youth groups</p> <p>Media</p>	966	1 250	2 216
	<p>Communication and community engagement platforms or mechanisms supported by UNICEF meet quality standards across development priorities</p> <p>B: Level 2 T: Level 3</p>						
3. By the end of 2025, education, health and protection systems are	Average learning outcome results in core subjects, by age group and sex	<p>MICS</p> <p>Education and Health</p>	3.1 Training and evaluation systems for educational staff and school curricula are	<p>Ministries of Education; Women, Family,</p>	2 298	19 250	21 548

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
resilient, ensure equitable and quality access and promote the effective, inclusive participation of children and their families.	Foundational reading skills: B: Boys - 65%; Girls - 67% (2018) T: Boys - 72%; Girls - 74%  Foundational mathematics skills: B: Boys - 30%; Girls - 26% (2018) T: Boys - 50%; Girls - 48%	Management Information Systems	strengthened, including for blended learning, inclusive and participatory pedagogy, gender sensitivity and life skills for children in school.  3.2 Innovative, multisectoral, flexible and gender-sensitive approaches that address the needs and rights of children who are in school and adolescents who are not in school, employed or in training are tested and evaluated for scale-up with partners.  3.3 National multisectoral, multi-partner investments and mechanisms prioritize early childhood development, including education, health, nutrition, protection and responsive caregiving with a focus on the most vulnerable children and their families.  3.4 National services and the social workforce are strengthened for the prevention, early identification, treatment and monitoring of violence against girls and boys and are using a digitized, integrated information referral system.	and Seniors; Health; Social Affairs; and Youth, Sports and Professional Integration  United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization (WHO); International Labour Organization; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)  World Bank  Development partners  Global Partnership for Education  Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance  CSOs  Private sector			
	Lower secondary completion rate, by sex  B: Boys - 68%; Girls - 80% (2018) T: Boys - 75%; Girls - 85%						
	Percentage of children aged 1 to 14 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month, by age and gender  B: Boys - 89%; Girls - 87% T: Boys - 75%; Girls - 75%						
	Performance gap by quintile (richest, poorest) and education level of the mother (higher, none) on the early childhood development index  B: (2018) (a) Percentage of children who are on track to achieve their development potential: 82% (b) Quintile gap: 16 points						

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
	<p>(c) Mother's education gap: 19 points T: (a) Percentage of children who are on track to achieve their development potential: 87% (b) Quintile gap: 8 points (c) Mother's education gap: 10 points</p> <p>Percentage of children (24–35 months) who have received a second and/or third dose of measles-containing vaccine at the national level B: 74% (2018) T: 90%</p>						
4. By the end of 2025, national institutions and communities are ensuring the child-sensitive, equitable, transparent and sustainable management of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and the environment and adequate preparedness and response to disasters risks and other crises.	<p>Proportion of population using safely managed drinking-water service at the community level B: 57% (2018) T: 70%</p> <p>Percentage of schools with basic drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene services B: 57% (2016) T: 75%</p>	MICS WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation	<p>4.1 Stakeholders in the WASH sector have strengthened capacities for sector analysis, policy dialogue and improving WASH standards and for the equitable, efficient and sustainable use of water, coping with water scarcity and promoting environmental sustainability.</p> <p>4.2 Stakeholders' preparedness mechanisms and response capacities are strengthened for handling humanitarian risks with a child- and gender-sensitive lens.</p>	<p>Ministries of Environment; Agriculture; Equipment; Education; Health; Family, Women and Seniors; and Local Affairs</p> <p>National Civil Protection Office</p> <p>UNDP, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, World Food Programme, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</p>	966	2 750	3 716

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
				CSOs Private sector Development partners			
5. By the end of 2025, country programme planning, financing and management meet quality programming standards in achieving results for children.	Percentage of core measures of performance scorecard that meet high performance grading criteria B: 75% (2019) T: >85%	UNICEF performance management system (InSight)	5.1 UNICEF staff and partners are provided with the capacities, tools, partnerships and resources to effectively design, finance and manage the risk-informed, equity-focused and gender-responsive country programme.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Development partners CSOs Private sector	250	500	750
	Percentage of other resources mobilized against the approved ceiling B: 68% T: >80%	InSight					
	Number of businesses providing core assets, innovative solutions and expertise B: 4 (2020) T: 20						
<b>Total resources</b>					<b>4 830</b>	<b>25 000</b>	<b>29 830</b>