

UNICEF experience in high-income countries

Progress update

Sanjay Wijesekera
Director, Programme Group

Item 9: Progress update on UNICEF experience in high-income countries and in countries transitioning from upper-middle-income to high-income status within the framework of the UNICEF universal agenda for child rights.

UNICEF Executive Board
2021 second regular session (7–10 September 2021)



Background

Building on the review presented to the Executive Board in 2016, which:

- Recognized that inequities among children exist in all countries
- Reiterated the focus of UNICEF support to the least developed countries
- Emphasized the value added by UNICEF in a variety of contexts working through different operational modalities



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Since 2016, UNICEF has increased its experience in high-income countries (HICs) by:

- Investing in preparedness for sudden-onset emergencies
- Analysing case studies and synthesizing lessons learned
- Defining scope and strategies for programmatic engagement and financing



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Core functions and strategies

UNICEF has demonstrated a significant capacity to contribute to the fulfilment of child rights in high-income countries, particularly through four main strategies:



Evidence generation



Advocacy for better policies and programmes



Social and behaviour change



Technical assistance for system strengthening



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Modalities of engagement



Country programmes



Multi-country programmes



National Committees



No National Committee or country programme



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Financial sustainability

- No regular resources programme expenditure in HICs (exceptions are multi-country programmes and transitioning countries)
- Income from HICs significantly exceeds expenditure in HICs
- Fundraising investment expenditure in HICs is approved by the Executive Board



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Conclusions

- Programming for children in low-income countries remains our top priority
- Deliberate cross-country learning equips UNICEF to achieve better results for every child, in the spirit of our universal agenda
- UNICEF will enhance programming in high-income countries within agreed and existing priority settings and current policies, rules and regulations
- Enhanced fundraising capability and leveraging opportunities will be realized and tracked in high-income countries

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Thank you

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