



Child Protection is the prevention of, and response to, exploitation, abuse, neglect, harmful practices and violence against children. It is embedded in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Sustainable Development Goals. Child Protection is universal: it is for all children everywhere, from low- to high-income countries.

Over 1 billion children experience violence every year. The consequences of Child Protection violations are catastrophic – profound, enduring and often deadly for children – and with economic costs of violence against children estimated at \$7 trillion per year. The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified risks for children and reduced services to manage those risks.

But there have also been significant and positive changes in child protection in recent years. Government- and community-led actions have resulted in increases in birth registration and reductions in child labour, child marriage and female genital mutilation.

Above all, we have learnt that child protection violations are preventable: progress can be made through political will, societal change and an emerging science of prevention and treatment strategies.

The purpose of this Strategy is to provide a clear vision and strategic framework for UNICEF’s work in Child Protection for the decade to 2030, while allowing flexibility for this work to be led by country and regional contexts and local needs. The vision of this Strategy – centred in the Convention on the Rights of the Child – is a world where all children are free from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices. The goals of the Strategy are taken primarily from the Sustainable Development Goals for child protection.

The primary focus of this Strategy is prevention. Our ambition is to scale up evidence-based prevention approaches to the population level – not only in the core Child Protection sectors of Social Welfare and Justice, but also in Education, Health, Social Protection and other sectors with strong and clear accountabilities to deliver child protection outcomes. This includes universal access to justice, to family and parenting support, to safe schools and to safety online, as well as universal adoption of transformative norms and values.

In addition to our core focus on universal prevention, UNICEF will ensure that no child is left behind: we will work with partners to target interventions on children at greatest risk of child protection violations. These include children in humanitarian/crisis settings, children with disabilities, children deprived of parental care, and children experiencing other forms of discrimination and

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exclusion. Where children are experiencing violations, UNICEF will work with partners to strengthen access to response services to prevent recurrence and provide care, support and justice.

In support of these objectives, the Strategy adopts three core interlinking programming strategies:

- 1** To effectively address the behavioural, social, cultural and economic determinants of child protection violations at scale
- 2** To support inclusive and effective child protection systems in preventing and responding to child protection violations
- 3** To effectively prevent and respond to child protection violations in humanitarian situations.





 VISION	<p>A world where all children are free from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect & harmful practises <i>(Guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child)</i></p>						
 GOALS	<p>SDG 3.4 Promote mental health and well-being</p> <p>SDG 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls</p> <p>SDG 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practises, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation</p>		<p>SDG 8.7 End child labour, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers</p> <p>SDG 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children</p> <p>SDG 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all</p>		<p>SDG 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration</p> <p>Preventing family-child separation, ending institutionalisation of children and strengthening family-based alternative care</p>		
 OBJECTIVES	<p>1. All children grow in a protective environment <i>(Universal Prevention)</i></p>		<p>2. Children living in situations of risk receive targeted support <i>(Leaving No one Behind)</i></p>		<p>3. Children experiencing violations receive services <i>(Response & Preventing Recurrence)</i></p>		
 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES	<p>1. To effectively address the social, cultural and economic determinants of child protection violations at scale (with particular emphasis on social norms and gender transformation)</p>		<p>2. To support inclusive and effective Child Protection Systems in preventing and responding to child protection violations (with particular emphasis on case management and the social service workforce)</p>		<p>3. To effectively prevent and respond to child protection violations in humanitarian situations (and across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus)</p>		
 PROGRAMMING APPROACHES	<p>Strengthen data and research generation and use</p>	<p>Advocate for national legislation, policies, budgets & accountability</p>	<p>Build capacity for scaled up child protection service delivery across sectors</p>	<p>Strengthen the engagement of communities, children and adolescents</p>	<p>Develop partnerships for coordinated global and national action</p>		
 THEMATIC PRIORITIES	<p>Legal Identity</p>	<p>Access to Justice</p>	<p>Prevention of Family Separation</p>	<p>Mental Health and Psycho-Social Well-Being</p>	<p>Harmful Practises</p>	<p>Violence Against Girls, Boys and Women</p>	<p>Grave violations in armed conflict</p>