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## United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

### Country programme document

**Lebanon**

#### *Summary*

The country programme document (CPD) for Lebanon 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 \$2,586,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$766,479,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period March 2023 to December 2025.

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\* E/ICEF/2023/1.



## Programme rationale

1. Children living in Lebanon find themselves at a precarious juncture after a series of shocks, including economic collapse, political instability, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the devastating explosions at the Port of Beirut in August 2020, which caused losses of more than \$4.6 billion.<sup>1</sup> The national gross domestic product plummeted from \$52 billion in 2019 to \$22 billion in 2021.<sup>2</sup> The country is now classified as “lower-middle income” after 27 years as part of the upper-middle-income group.<sup>3</sup> Currency devaluation contributed to hyperinflation, forecast at 181 per cent in 2022.<sup>4</sup> The availability and quality of social services has substantially deteriorated. International support, including a \$3 billion package from the International Monetary Fund, is contingent on Lebanon implementing key reforms required for a sustainable recovery.

2. Children, people with disabilities, girls and women are among those most affected by these crises. Hard-won progress in the realization of their rights is being rapidly reversed. While no recent national data on poverty are available, models suggest that the proportion of the population living in multidimensional poverty may have doubled from 39 per cent in 2019 to 81 per cent in 2021, affecting 1.8 million children.<sup>5</sup> Social protection interventions are limited in coverage and benefits, with just 6.5 per cent of the Lebanese population receiving any type of non-contributory transfer,<sup>6</sup> exacerbating deprivations. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, expected to be ratified soon in Lebanon, will provide a basis for strengthening the national legal framework. Lebanon ranks ninety-sixth on the gender inequality index. Few data sources provide gendered analysis, particularly for younger populations.

3. In addition to Palestinian refugees, some 1.5 million Syrian refugees live in Lebanon.<sup>7</sup> Refugees are among the most vulnerable groups, with an estimated 90 per cent of refugee families living in extreme poverty, a substantial increase from 55 per cent in 2020.<sup>8</sup>

4. The national health system is fragmented, and 80 per cent of hospitals are privately owned. Primary health care is not prioritized: 71 per cent of state funding is allocated to secondary and tertiary care.<sup>9</sup> The national health system has been heavily impacted by the crises and faces major financial and operational challenges. Forty per cent of doctors have left the country,<sup>10</sup> including specialists in maternal and newborn

<sup>1</sup> World Bank, *Beirut Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment – August 2020*, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> World Bank, *Lebanon Economic Monitor, Fall 2021: The Great Denial*, 2021.

<sup>3</sup> World Bank, “World Bank Country and Lending Groups”, Country classification, July 2022. Available at <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>.

<sup>4</sup> Economist Intelligence Unit, *Lebanon country report*, August 2022.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for West Asia, *Multidimensional poverty in Lebanon (2019–2021), Painful reality and uncertain prospects*, September 2021.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and International Labour Organization (ILO), *Towards a Social Protection Floor for Lebanon, Policy options and costs for core life-cycle social grants, providing concrete recommendations for an integrated crisis response in Lebanon*.

<sup>7</sup> Lebanon and United Nations, *Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2022–2023*, January 2022.

<sup>8</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNICEF and World Food Programme, *VASyR 2021, Vulnerability assessment of Syrian refugees in Lebanon; VASyR 2020*.

<sup>9</sup> Institute of Health Management and Social Protection, World Health Organization (WHO) and Lebanon Ministry of Public Health, *National Health Statistics Report in Lebanon*, Beirut, 2012.

<sup>10</sup> WHO, September 2021, Joint statement by WHO Director-General and Regional Director for Eastern Mediterranean Region on Lebanon, September 2021. Available at [www.emro.who.int/media/news/joint-statement-by-dr-tedros-adhanom-ghebreyesus-who-director-general-and-dr-ahmed-al-mandhari-regional-director-for-the-eastern-mediterranean-on-lebanon.html](http://www.emro.who.int/media/news/joint-statement-by-dr-tedros-adhanom-ghebreyesus-who-director-general-and-dr-ahmed-al-mandhari-regional-director-for-the-eastern-mediterranean-on-lebanon.html).

care. One in three children, irrespective of nationality, does not receive the required three doses of the diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT) vaccine.<sup>11</sup>

5. Lebanon is experiencing a growing triple burden of malnutrition (stunting, micronutrient deficiencies, and obesity) among children and adolescents and high rates of undernutrition among women. The prevalence of stunting for children aged 6–59 months is 7 per cent nationally,<sup>12</sup> compared with 25 per cent among Syrian refugees in informal settlements,<sup>13</sup> an increase from 17 per cent in 2013.<sup>14</sup> In camps hosting Palestinian populations, the prevalence of acute malnutrition among children under 5 years of age is 4 per cent, compared with 1.8 per cent among Lebanese children.<sup>15</sup> Acute malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women is also highest in Palestinian camps (9.5 per cent) and among Syrian refugees in settlements (8 per cent). More than 40 per cent of women of reproductive age and children aged 6–59 months have anaemia. A study of children 12–18 years old found a higher prevalence of overweight and obesity among boys (31.1 per cent) compared to 20.9 per cent among girls.<sup>16</sup> Some 94 per cent of children 6–23 months old are not fed the minimum diet they need to grow and develop healthily, and 70 per cent of children under 6 months of age are not exclusively breastfed.<sup>17</sup>

6. Access to safely managed water and sanitation remains low, at 48 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively, in 2020.<sup>18</sup> Recent progress is being reversed due to the reduced capacity of establishments responsible for water and wastewater systems. In 2017, the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended improving access to water and sanitation for disadvantaged communities. Residents of informal settlements remain largely dependent on humanitarian agencies for access to water and sanitation. The impact of climate change poses increasing challenges; annual precipitation is forecast to decrease by 25 per cent by the end of the century.<sup>19</sup>

7. Twenty-two per cent of the school-age population in Lebanon were not in school in 2021,<sup>20</sup> while the percentage of out-of-school Syrian children aged 3–18 years rose from 55 per cent to 63 per cent between 2020 and 2021. The severe economic crisis makes it difficult for the most marginalized children to afford basic costs including transportation to get to school. The lack of good quality provision at pre-primary level as well as violence in schools, including corporal punishment, are also key constraints.

8. Only very limited public services are available to address the needs of children with disabilities, who face challenges integrating at school. The quality of education

<sup>11</sup> WHO and UNICEF, “Immunization Dashboard Lebanon”, 2022. Available at <https://immunizationdata.who.int/pages/profiles/lbn.html>.

<sup>12</sup> Lebanon Nutrition Sector, *Lebanon National SMART Survey Report, Aug–Sep 2021*. Available at [www.unicef.org/mena/media/15741/file/National%20Nutrition%20SMART%20Survey%20Report%20.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/mena/media/15741/file/National%20Nutrition%20SMART%20Survey%20Report%20.pdf).

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> UNICEF, “Joint Nutrition Assessment: Syrian Refugees in Lebanon 2013” (SMART 2013). Available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/joint-nutrition-assessment-syrian-refugees-lebanon>.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> WHO, Global school-based Student Health Survey, 2017. Available at [www.moph.gov.lb/userfiles/files/GSHS\\_Report\\_2017.pdf](http://www.moph.gov.lb/userfiles/files/GSHS_Report_2017.pdf).

<sup>17</sup> SMART 2021.

<sup>18</sup> WHO and UNICEF, Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, Lebanon. Available at <https://washdata.org/data/household#1/lbn>.

<sup>19</sup> WHO and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Health and Climate Change: country profile 2021 – Lebanon, 2021.

<sup>20</sup> Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Lebanon General Education 5-Year Plan (2021–2025), 2021.

is declining due to deteriorating learning environments and outdated curricula.<sup>21</sup> The economic crisis has had a negative impact on teachers' salaries and led to a reliance across the public education system on less-qualified substitute teachers. Overall, teachers in the public formal school system lack an adequate knowledge of modern pedagogy, especially related to building foundational literacy, numeracy and transferable skills, including digital literacy.

9. The recent crisis has heightened protection risks for children and women, including those of violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, gender-based violence and harmful practices. During 2021, the share of children aged 5–17 years who were sent to work more than doubled, from 5 per cent to 12 per cent. In early 2022, the rate was at 9 per cent.<sup>22</sup> A recent survey shows that 8.4 per cent of girls aged 15–19 years were married at the time of the survey.<sup>23</sup> One in four young people reported often feeling depressed.<sup>24</sup> At least 20,000 children live in residential homes, and institutionalization is likely to increase as families struggle with deteriorating economic conditions.<sup>25</sup>

10. Twenty-nine per cent of adolescents and youth aged 15–24 years are neither in school, in training nor employed.<sup>26</sup> Outdated curricula<sup>27</sup> contribute to a limited acquisition of market-relevant and future-oriented skills. Unemployment among youth aged 15–24 years has risen from 23 per cent in 2019 to 48 per cent in 2022.<sup>28</sup> Young people and adolescents also lack adequate opportunities for participation and engagement on issues that affect their lives at home, at school, in their communities and nationally. Their participation is constrained by negative social and gender norms, as well as a limited number of safe spaces. Mental health issues are rising and more than half of young people and adolescents reported that their lives had worsened in the past year.<sup>29</sup> Mental health services are either unavailable or unaffordable.

11. The current country programme benefits from lessons learned from the previous one, including two recommendations concerning the need for UNICEF to achieve long-term results while adapting to a rapidly changing environment and to continue efforts to build the capacity of subnational government institutions to deliver and monitor results.

## Programme priorities and partnerships

12. The programme's main aim is supporting the country to address the rapidly deteriorating situation and the increasing vulnerability of all children, and which is reversing earlier gains in development outcomes for children and young people. The programme also maintains a longer-term perspective supporting national institutions and other duty-bearers to build a more sustainable future in which they are increasingly able to meet their commitments to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of all children and young people in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child

<sup>21</sup> Ministry of Education and Higher Education, *Reaching All Children with Education: RACE II (2017–2021)*, August 2016.

<sup>22</sup> UNICEF Lebanon, "Violent beginnings" and "Surviving without the basics", 2021.

<sup>23</sup> UNICEF Lebanon, "Understanding the root causes of violence against children and women in Lebanon", July 2020.

<sup>24</sup> UNICEF, *Youth Focused Rapid Assessment (YFRA) 2021*.

<sup>25</sup> Lebanon Ministry of Social Affairs, "Lebanon State Party Report to the Convention on the Rights of the Child 2017".

<sup>26</sup> Lebanon, Central Administration of Statistics and ILO, "Lebanon Follow-up Labour Force Survey – January 2022", Fact Sheet, 2022. Available at [www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/publication/wcms\\_844837.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/publication/wcms_844837.pdf).

<sup>27</sup> Ministry of Education and Higher Education, *Reaching All Children with Education: RACE II (2017–2021)*.

<sup>28</sup> ILO, *Labour Force Survey, 2019*, [www.ilo.org/surveyLib/index.php/catalog/7626](http://www.ilo.org/surveyLib/index.php/catalog/7626); "Lebanon Follow-up Labour Force Survey – January 2022, Fact Sheet".

<sup>29</sup> UNICEF Lebanon, "Searching for Hope", 2022.

and other national and international obligations. The present CPD complements UNICEF humanitarian interventions as outlined in the 2022 Lebanon Crisis Response Plan and Lebanon Emergency Response Plan.<sup>30</sup>

13. The programme contributes to the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 and is derived from the national United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). Programme priorities were selected on the basis of balancing humanitarian and development interventions, while also aligning with the priorities of relevant national policies and plans and maximizing UNICEF’s comparative advantage and synergies within the UNSDCF. The programme was further guided by consultations with national counterparts, United Nations agencies, major development partners and young people.

14. The programme will sharpen its focus on decreasing equity gaps for the most vulnerable children living in Lebanon. UNICEF will focus on promoting capacities, funding and support for policies and programmes that tackle geographic and other disparities. It will enhance partnerships with local institutions and strengthen capacity to deliver services, focusing on the most vulnerable. Evidence-based advocacy will be prioritized to leverage resources and commitments for children, including in the state budget, and to build public-private partnerships that rally support for child rights.

15. The programme is based on the theory that *if*:

(a) The most vulnerable boys, girls and women demand, have access to and can afford integrated, quality health and nutrition services;

(b) The most marginalized boys and girls have access to good quality and inclusive learning, which prepares them for life, including work;

(c) Girls, boys and women increasingly live a safe, dignified and empowered life, protected from violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, harmful practices and gender-based violence;

(d) Children and youth have adequate quantities of clean and safe water and safely managed sanitation, and enjoy a sustainable clean and safe environment;

(e) Young people, especially the most vulnerable, have increased access to learning, decent income-generating and civic engagement opportunities to enable them to successfully transition from learning to earning while improving their well-being; and

(f) The rise in multidimensional poverty and vulnerability of girls, boys and youth is slowed through more progressive policies, supported by improved social sector allocation, accountability and social protection,

*then*, children and young people, especially the most disadvantaged, will have their rights increasingly respected, protected and fulfilled and will develop to their full potential in an inclusive and healthy society.

16. The main underlying assumption is that the Government will take the necessary action to address the current crisis, thus preventing the further deterioration of the economic and social situation.

17. The country programme will have the following components:

### **Survive and thrive**

18. This component, developed with the Ministry of Public Health and partners, aims to improve the access, quality and equity of health, nutrition and early childhood

<sup>30</sup> Lebanon and United Nations, *Lebanon Crisis Response Plan*, 2022.

development (ECD) services, and to enhance positive health-seeking behaviours. It contributes to the achievement of UNSDCF Goal 1, Outcomes 1 and 2.

19. UNICEF will support the delivery of accessible, affordable, climate-resilient and gender-responsive maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health, nutrition and ECD services by strengthening primary health care and other delivery systems. It will improve vaccine logistics and cold chain management (including through the use of renewable energy) and will utilize immunization as an entry point for offering integrated health and nutrition interventions for the most vulnerable children. The programme will focus on antenatal and preventive care for mothers and children. It will also focus on, with the World Health Organization, the integration of mental health and psychosocial support into primary health care and community-based outreach and midwifery services. UNICEF will also work with multiple sectors to deliver services for prevention, early detection, referral and management of all forms of malnutrition and developmental delays.

20. UNICEF will support communities to demand good quality health services. It will strengthen the capacity of community health workers to promote healthy behaviours and tackle barriers faced by adolescent girls. Community engagement will bring services closer to communities and reduce financial barriers. UNICEF will protect and promote adequate diets, practices and nutrition and ECD services. This will be done by strengthening evidence-informed social behaviour-change strategies and community-based solutions.

21. This component will strengthen capacity across multiple sectors and systems by generating evidence, supporting policies, legislation and community-based solutions and services, to protect, promote and support adequate diets, feeding and nurturing care practices, and essential services for children to grow and develop to their full potential and to prevent all forms of malnutrition. UNICEF will also support national efforts to reform health and nutrition financing, the strengthening of supply chains through digital solutions, and the establishment of a maternal and perinatal death surveillance system.

### **Learning and skills**

22. This component contributes to the achievement of UNSDCF Goal 1, Outcome 2 by supporting the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and partners to ensure that the most marginalized boys and girls aged 3–18 years have access to good-quality, gender-responsive and inclusive learning, in close alignment with the Lebanon Five-Year General Education Plan 2021–2025. To increase access to education, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education jointly established the Transition Resilience Education Fund, which will include the following:

- (a) Provide financial support for marginalized children and funds to enable schools to provide a safe and inclusive environment;
- (b) Identify and tackle the barriers and needs of adolescent girls;
- (c) Construct and rehabilitate schools;
- (d) Ensure the climate resilience of infrastructure and the presence of basic facilities.

The programme will also:

- (e) Improve the accessibility of public schools and availability of learning materials for children with disabilities;

(f) Increase access by out-of-school children to education and multiple flexible learning pathways;

(g) Seek to overcome barriers limiting the access of refugee children to education and accelerate delivery of gender-responsive pedagogy;

(h) Improve school connectivity and build digital literacy among children and teachers.

This component will build teachers' knowledge and capacity to deliver learning recovery and catch-up programmes to build the foundational literacy, numeracy and transferable skills of children and adolescents, in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

23. To increase demand for quality and inclusive education, UNICEF will provide incentives to attract and retain children in learning and to strengthen positive parenting and parent-child relationships.

To strengthen the education system, UNICEF will:

(a) Support education reform focused on equity, quality and inclusion;

(b) Define procedures for accreditation, certification and validation of learning achievements against national curriculum benchmarks;

(c) Support teaching and learning practices consistent with active learning;

(d) Promote practices that strengthen formal and non-formal education.

24. UNICEF will support national authorities to develop policy frameworks and procedures designed to integrate out-of-school children and strengthen inclusive information management systems.

### **Protection from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices**

25. This component will contribute to UNSDCF Goal 1, Outcomes 1, 2 and 3. It will also support national efforts to develop a stronger child rights governance system, mobilizing actors to commit to a call to action for children, and strengthen inclusive systems for preventing and responding to child protection violations – including in humanitarian contexts. UNICEF will work with the relevant ministries and parliament to address gaps in the legal and policy framework, including efforts to strengthen child-friendly justice and birth registration systems in Lebanon. UNICEF will support advocacy to increase domestic financing of child protection services.

26. UNICEF will focus on prevention and early intervention strategies, support efforts to address child marriage, school violence, child labour, harmful social norms around gender and disability through community mobilization, cross-sectoral referral mechanisms and services; and roll out positive parenting programmes. It will support the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the Ministry of Social Affairs to roll out the national mental health and psychosocial support strategy for children through the provision of cross-sectoral services. UNICEF will also monitor the well-being of women and at-risk children and survivors of violence, including children involved in armed conflict, through community-based mechanisms, and will ensure their access to specialized services. This component will strengthen the social welfare workforce, including support for the reporting on grave violations against children through the integrated case and information management system.

**Water, sanitation and hygiene, climate and environment**

27. This component contributes to the achievement of the UNSDCF Goal 1, Outcome 2 and Goal 4, Outcome 1 by supporting the national water sector recovery plan and preventing the further deterioration of water supply and wastewater treatment services. UNICEF will support the operation and maintenance of water and wastewater treatment facilities to ensure the continuity of the water supply and reduce the discharge of raw sewage into the environment. UNICEF will support improvements to water supply infrastructure, through the construction of spring catchments and reservoirs for gravity-flow systems and the conversion of pumping stations to renewable energy. Public water points providing a regulated supply will be promoted. UNICEF will improve the cost-efficiency of providing water and wastewater services in informal settlements while protecting the environment and ensuring that vulnerable populations continue to have full access to services.

28. UNICEF will increase its emphasis on community involvement and stakeholder engagement in local management of water and wastewater services, increasing accountability and decreasing the potential for conflict. Social and behaviour-change and community engagement will enhance the capacity of marginalized communities to access and demand water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. Innovative management models enhancing the role of municipalities will be scaled up. Women, girls and young people will be supported to play a greater role in managing services, including initiatives addressing water scarcity and climate change.

29. UNICEF will work with Government partners such as the Ministry of Energy and Water and the Ministry of Environment to improve the country's water resource management, including reducing non-revenue water (which does not produce income because of leaks or illegal connections) and wastewater discharges. UNICEF will also support the capacity of the Ministry of Environment to conduct environmental impact assessments and monitor wastewater treatment plant discharges.

**Adolescents and youth**

30. This component will support young people with second-chance education, supporting youth to acquire gender-transformative skills and provide them with increased access to decent income-generating and civic engagement opportunities, thus enabling them to successfully transition from learning to earning while improving their well-being.

31. UNICEF will work with national institutions and, UN agencies to support the implementation of the 2022–2024 National Youth Policy Action Plan and the National Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Strategic Framework. Both the action plan and the strategic framework aim to foster policies that support education, economic and social empowerment and meaningful participation for adolescents and young girls and boys aged 15–24 years, especially the most vulnerable.

32. UNICEF, with the International Labour Organization (ILO), will increase access for young people to inclusive foundational, transferable and twenty-first century skills, linking to green jobs and improving access to workplace-based learning and entrepreneurial opportunities by:

- (a) Fostering private sector engagement;
- (b) Advancing girls' employment;
- (c) Mainstreaming life skills, mental health and participation in schools, community centres and workplaces.



UNICEF will also increase the engagement of young people in emergency response, disaster risk reduction and risk communication and community engagement.

33. This component will empower vulnerable children, adolescents and youth aged 10–24 years to meaningfully participate socially and civically on issues that affect their well-being. Social and behaviour-change interventions will be prioritized, as will advocacy to support young people’s priorities, such as civic engagement, mental health and climate change.

### **Inclusive social policy and social protection**

34. This component supports national efforts to address the rise in multidimensional poverty and vulnerability of children and young people through more progressive, gender-responsive and disability-inclusive policymaking, supported by improved social sector budgets and spending, accountability and shock-responsive social protection for vulnerable groups. This component contributes to the UNSDCF Goal 1, Outcome 1.

35. UNICEF will collaborate with partners to conduct policy and budget analyses and advocate on ‘high-value’ policy and resource issues that are child-focused and crisis-relevant, including social protection, taxation, health, education, water and sanitation, climate, nutrition, child protection and local governance. It will promote transparency with regard to national resources and rights, to enhance inclusion by and accountability of basic services.

36. UNICEF will engage a wide range of audiences through multiple channels and generate analysis, advocacy and a national dialogue on child poverty and the impact of crises. These efforts will build on the launch of a national child poverty advocacy plan, using a gender and disability lens.

37. With the ILO, the programme will support the Ministry of Social Affairs and other bodies to strengthen social protection – including through the implementation of the new national social protection strategy – and support the development of system components, including data systems, referrals and linkages with social services. UNICEF will promote social protection that is shock-responsive and tailored to address gender barriers, leveraging resources with partners including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Building on the existing emergency child grant, UNICEF will support the establishment of national social grants, and a national disability allowance.

### **Programme effectiveness**

38. This component will provide cross-cutting support to all programmes and ensure that country programme planning, monitoring, evaluation, financing and management meet quality standards. It also includes overall UNICEF coordination in social and behaviour-change communication to ensure that communities know about child rights, practise positive behaviours and demand essential services. The component also includes external communication, advocacy and partnerships to support UNICEF. It will seek to ensure coordination of UNICEF engagement in key cross-sectoral issues, including climate change, ECD, disability, gender, GBV and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

39. Lastly, this outcome will strengthen the capacity of local actors to identify vulnerable children and communities, engage in disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response, and demand equitable access to services.

**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>
Survive and thrive	-	49 419	49 419
Learning and skills	150	403 155	403 305
Protection from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices	255	40 003	40 258
WASH, climate and environment	-	130 050	130 050
Adolescents and youth	450	64 591	65 041
Inclusive social policy and social protection	180	22 485	22 665
Programme effectiveness	1 551	56 776	58 327
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 586</b>	<b>766 479</b>	<b>769 065</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> The requirement for other resources (emergency) is estimated at \$636 million.

**Programme and risk management**

40. This country programme document outlines UNICEF contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. 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.

41. The Prime Minister's office coordinates overall implementation of the country programme. A steering committee, including representatives of the Government, United Nations and other partners, provides oversight to the UNSDCF. The United Nations Country Team is the main mechanism for inter-agency coordination, while the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, led by the Government, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme, oversees the humanitarian response.

42. Risk-control and mitigation measures will be based on analyses of risks and vulnerabilities. UNICEF has taken measures to mitigate the risks related to the country's fragile economy and the devaluation of its currency, by using cash to pay beneficiaries and civil servants directly. UNICEF will assess the opportunities and risks related to expanding this scheme. UNICEF will seek to mitigate risks posed by the nationwide scale of the programme by establishing an internal coordination unit to support the large number of direct payments for services. This will increase value for money with a system of third-party monitoring, grievance and redress mechanisms, spot-checks and a robust monitoring and reporting structure, including reinforcement of the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and anti-fraud activities.

43. Financial and non-financial resources will be mobilized to mitigate the risk of insufficient funding. This will include widening the pool of existing donors and substantially increasing engagement with the private sector.

44. UNICEF has improved its ability to collect feedback as part of the overall strategy of ensuring accountability to affected populations. A national hotline will also be set up to manage information requests and share information about UNICEF programmes with affected populations.

### **Monitoring, learning and evaluation**

45. UNICEF, with other agencies, will support the ability of the Government to generate data and evidence to inform programmes, advocacy, policies and budgeting for children. It will also enhance the capacity of the Government to report progress on the Sustainable Development Goals by helping to it carry out household surveys, such as the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, and providing data disaggregated by sex, age, location, migratory and disability status.

46. In UNICEF workplans, results indicator disaggregation by gender, age, disability, nationality, geography, etc. will be improved. Progress towards programme results will be assessed through annual reviews with the Government and partners, contributing to UNSDCF reviews. Programme implementation will be monitored through regular field visits with partners and by systematic third-party monitoring. The monitoring of humanitarian performance will be used to ensure a clear alignment of results with the UNICEF Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action. UNICEF will conduct evaluations to learn and adapt programmes and ensure accountability to stakeholders, while strengthening national evaluation systems.

47. Throughout the programme implementation period, UNICEF will support the Government and non-governmental partners reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other human rights bodies, based on the country's reporting calendar.

## Annex

### Results and resources framework

#### Lebanon – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, March 2023–December 2025

<p><b>Convention on the Rights of the Child:</b> 1–5, 6, 7, 9–10, 12–13, 15, 17–19, 20, 23–24, 26–29, 31, 34, 36–37, 39–40</p> <p><b>National priorities:</b> Sustainable Development Goals 1–6, 8, 10, 13 and 16</p>
<p><b>UNSDCF outcomes involving UNICEF:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal 1: Improved lives and well-being for all people in Lebanon Outcome 1: Enhanced inclusive, equitable, comprehensive, and sustainable social protection systems and programmes Outcome 2: Strengthened provision of and equitable access to quality services including basic services Outcome 3: Enhanced protection for the most vulnerable</li> <li>• Goal 2: Improved resilient and competitive productive sectors for enhanced and inclusive income-generating livelihood opportunities Outcome 2: Strengthened diversified income opportunities to promote social and economic inclusion</li> <li>• Goal 4: Restored rich nature and ecosystem of Lebanon for inclusive green recovery Outcome 1: Strengthened stabilization and green recovery to reduce vulnerabilities and environmental risks</li> </ul>
<p><b>Related UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 Goal Areas:</b> 1–5</p>

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
Goal 1, Outcomes 1 and 2; Goal 4, Outcome 1	1. The most vulnerable Lebanese newborns, children and adolescents, especially girls, have equitable access to and utilization of good-quality health and nutrition services	% of children aged 6–23 months receiving minimum acceptable diet B: 6% (2021) T: 15%	National surveys	Parents and communities supported to adopt health-seeking behaviours, and to demand good quality health services.	Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), Ministry of Energy and Water (MOEW), WHO, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Development Programme		49 419	49 419
		% of surviving infants who have received three doses of DPT vaccine B: 67% (2021) T: 80%	National surveys National immunization coverage	Operational capacity of primary health-care centres and other delivery systems enhanced to provide equitable, quality health and nutrition services.				
		% of children who have received early	World Health Organization (WHO)/UNICEF estimates Multiple Indicator Cluster	National health system has enhanced capacity to develop and implement				

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
		<p>stimulation and responsive care from their parents or caregivers</p> <p>B: boys/girls N/A T: boys/girls N/A</p>	Survey (MICS)/other surveys	<p>evidence-based policies and programmes for the realization of children's rights.</p> <p>Institutional capacity of relevant stakeholders enhanced to promote adequate diets, nurturing care practices, essential nutrition and care services for children to grow and develop to their full potential.</p>	(UNDP), World Food Programme, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia			
		<p>% of pregnant women attending at least four antenatal visits at primary health-care (PHC) centres</p> <p>B: 32.6% T: 50%</p>	MICS					
		<p>% of mothers receiving postnatal care at PHC centres</p> <p>B: 18% T: 50%</p>						
Goal 1, Outcome 2; Goal 4, Outcome 1	The most marginalized boys and girls aged 3–18 years have access to quality and inclusive learning, including foundational literacy, numeracy and	<p>Number of children aged 3–5 years attending pre-primary education</p> <p>B: N/A<sup>a</sup> T: N/A</p>	MICS, Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR)	<p>Increased demand for formal and non-formal education and ECD opportunities for the most marginalized children.</p>	MEHE, NGOs, United Nations agencies, media	150	403 155	403 305
		<p>Out-of-school rate for girls and boys, of primary and lower secondary school age</p> <p>B: 12% T: 5%</p>	MICS and information management system	<p>National capacity improved, resulting in marginalized girls, boys and adolescents, in and</p>				

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
	transferable skills to prepare them for work and for life.	Primary education completion rates B: 90% T: 92% (boys and girls)	MICS, administrative data	out of school, having increased access to quality education in a gender-responsive and inclusive learning environment.  Education system strengthened through evidence-based planning, policy development, data management and monitoring.				
Goal 1, Outcomes 1, 2, 3	Children, adolescents and women at risk are empowered and protected from all forms of violence, including gender-based violence, the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and neglect	The child rights governance system has increased capacity to implement child-friendly policies and procedures in line with international standards. B: No T: Yes	Governance system qualitative assessment	Child rights governance system strengthened at all levels and new national action plan for children approved.  Children and women have increased resilience and caregivers and communities are empowered to prevent harmful practices and create a safer, more nurturing care environment.	Prime Minister's office, Parliament, diplomatic community, municipalities, NGOs, High Council of Childhood, Ministry of Justice, MOSA, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MOIM), MEHE, MOPH, Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS), private sector, United Nations agencies	255	40 003	40 258
		% of child survivors of violence supported by UNICEF to access justice/redress B: 80% (2 300) T: 90%	Partners reports, Ministry of Justice database					
		% of children 1–14 years who experience violent disciplinary practices by an adult member of the household B: 60% T: 40% Children with disability: 3%	MICS, VASyR	Improved equitable access to, and quality of, comprehensive response services for children, women and caregivers.				
		% of women (20–24 years) married before	MICS / VASyR					

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
		age 18 B: 4%; Syrian women: 22%						
		T: 3.8%; Syrian women: 15%						
		% of children (5–17 years) engaged in child labour B: 4.6%; Syrian children: 20%	MICS/VASyR					
		T: 3.6%; Syrian children: 15%						
Goal 1, Outcome 2; Goal 4, Outcomes 1 and 2	Girls, boys and families, especially the most vulnerable have increased use of clean and safe water, safely managed sanitation and adopt appropriate hygiene practices and behaviours	% of households using safely managed drinking water B: 47.6% T: 50%	Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP)	Water establishments recover and extend their capacity to deliver good quality and climate-resilient services for water and wastewater.  Poor and marginalized communities have increased capacity to access cost-effective gender-responsive and disability-inclusive WASH services and practise appropriate behaviours.	Water establishments, MOEW, municipalities, NGOs		130 050	130 050
		% of households using safely managed sanitation service B: 16.3% T: 20%	JMP	Government has improved capacity to develop relevant policies, regulations and				

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
		Number of new or updated child climate policies and programmes developed, financed and implemented B: 0 T: 5		mechanisms to support climate-resilient financially viable, people-centred water sector recovery.				
Goal 1, Outcome 1; Goal 4, Outcome 1	The rise in multidimensional poverty and vulnerability of girls, boys and youth is slowed as a result of a more progressive policymaking environment, supported by improved resource allocation, governance and social protection coverage.	% of children living in multidimensional poverty B: N/A T: N/A	LVAP <sup>b</sup> MICS	National and subnational dialogue, policies, plans, budgets, governance and accountability designed to address child and youth poverty and vulnerability.  Lebanese national social protection system is strengthened to facilitate access to, and utilization of, gender and disability responsive services.	National partnerships, civil society organizations, think-tanks, academia Government of Lebanon, International Labour Organization (ILO), MOSA	180	22 485	22 665
		Number of children and youth reached through national social grant programmes B: 0 T: 170 000	National coordination structures reports					
Goal 1, Outcomes 1 and 2; Goal 2, Outcome 2; Goal 4, Outcome 1	More vulnerable adolescents and young women and men are empowered to optimize their well-being, engaged as agents of change and equipped with learning, foundational, vocational and employability skills and	Number of adolescent- and youth-inclusive and gender-responsive policies (reform/legislation, system/mechanisms) initiated/engaged by the Government B: 4 T: 7	Assessment of policy documents	National system strengthened to design and implement inclusive and gender-responsive policies enabling a supportive environment allowing the economic and social empowerment and meaningful participation of vulnerable adolescents and youth to improve their well-being.	MOYS, MEHE, Ministry of Agriculture, MOSA, Ministry of Labour, MOPH, MOIM, municipalities, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNDP, United	450	64 591	65 041
		% of adolescents and young girls and boys (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment and/or	ILO Labour Force Survey, 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
	opportunities to enable their social and economic progress	training B: 29.1% T: 26.1% (for girls and boys)		Vulnerable adolescents and young women and men have access to inclusive and gender-sensitive quality learning of skills supported by work-based opportunities.  Vulnerable adolescents and young people are empowered to engage in meaningful civic participation – at home, in schools and communities and nationally – on issues that affect their well-being.	Nations Population Fund, universities and syndicates, parliament, private sector, young people			
		% of adolescents and young girls and boys (aged 15–24 years) who access programmes (PHC, school and digital platforms) that improve their mental health B: N/A T: N/A	National household survey					
	The country programme is efficiently designed, coordinated, managed and supported to meet good quality programming standards for achieving results for children	Performance scorecards meet organizational benchmarks, including cross-cutting issues (disability, gender, accountability to affected populations)  MICS finalized	Annual UNICEF InSight reports  MICS survey report	Programme coordination, monitoring, evaluation, evidence generation, communication, advocacy, partnerships and operations support.		1 551	56 776	58 327
	<b>Total resources</b>					<b>2 586</b>	<b>766 479</b>	<b>769 065</b>

<sup>a</sup> Data that are currently N/A will be collected through the MICS 2023.

<sup>b</sup> Lebanon vulnerability assessment panel – High Frequency Monitoring Survey.