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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

Montenegro

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Montenegro 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 \$4,250,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$10,173,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2023 to 2027.

* E/ICEF/2022/22.



Programme rationale

1. Montenegro is a small upper-middle-income democracy in the Western Balkans (population circa 628,000)¹ with a moderately well-developed legal and institutional framework and aspirations to join the European Union by 2025. The 2020 Human Development Report assessed Montenegro at forty-eighth among 189 countries analysed. Its legal and policy framework is closely aligned with European Union, Council of Europe and international standards.

2. Montenegro has achieved high levels of basic service coverage² but there are challenges around equitable access. Limited capacity hampers implementation of key legislation and regulation and cross-sectoral coordination is poor. Finance and accountability are limited. Children, especially the most vulnerable, face poverty, economic hardship and issues such as violence, poor mental health, the challenges of residential care, early marriage (which affects 32.5 per cent of girls aged 15–19 in Roma communities) and various forms of exploitation such as begging. Among children in residential care, half have disabilities.

3. Every third child in Montenegro is at risk of poverty according to the 2019 Survey on Income and Living Conditions, which also reveals exceptionally high risk factors in Roma communities, where 9 out of 10 children are materially deprived, compared with 37 per cent in the general population.³

4. The 2020 Gender Equality Index for Montenegro (55) is 12 points below the European Union average (67.4), mostly due to women's low political and social participation, economic inequality and unequal division of responsibilities. Notably, women have difficulty accessing paid work, vocational training, and decent working conditions; they are also underrepresented in political and economic decision-making.⁴

5. European Union reports raise concerns about violence against children and gender-based violence.⁵ The 2018 multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS) found that two thirds of children experienced violent discipline. A quarter of 15-year-old respondents to an international student assessment reported being frequently bullied. Challenges are particularly severe for Roma, Egyptian, refugee and migrant girls who face systemic discrimination and exposure to violence and exploitation due to stigma, discriminatory gender norms, limited awareness of justice and safety net gaps.

6. Although children and mothers have a right to free universal health care, there is inequity in the quality, effectiveness and use of health, nutrition and early childhood development services. Equitable access is also an issue for children who: live in rural areas; are poor; have developmental difficulties or disabilities; are from ethnic minorities; or have no parental care.

7. There is a worrying downward trend in immunization rates, with marked regional disparities. Measles, mumps and rubella vaccine coverage during the second year of life fell to just 24 per cent in 2020 from 55 per cent in 2017; the rate was 89 per cent in 2008.⁶

¹ United Nations Population Division, World Population Prospects, 2019.

² United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018: Montenegro and Montenegro Roma Settlements, 2019.

³ Ibid.

⁴ European Commission, Montenegro 2021 Report, Strasbourg: Official Journal, 2021.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ UNICEF, Montenegro country profile, available at: <https://data.unicef.org/country/mne/>.

8. MICS data on minimum dietary diversity for infants up to 23 months of age are worrying. Dietary diversity is less than half as likely for infants in Roma settlements as for infants nationally. The rate of stunting in children under age 5 is three times higher for Roma children than the rest of the population. Exclusive breastfeeding of infants in the first six months of life is rare (20 per cent nationally, 14 per cent among Roma). Only 24 per cent of mothers practise early initiation of breastfeeding.

9. There are no precise data on the number of Montenegrin children with disabilities. Since standardized developmental monitoring is not part of regular health care practice, delay or disability is not detected early. Family-centred early intervention is not routine and children with disabilities and delays are not adequately supported.

10. Half of children aged between 3 and 5 years attend an early childhood education (ECE) programme, compared with 15.5 per cent in Roma communities.

11. The share of children in the last year of pre-primary attending ECE increased from 46 per cent in MICS 2013 to 67 per cent in MICS 2018 nationally; and from 24 per cent to 36 per cent in Roma communities. Few services and programmes aim to enhance parental awareness, knowledge, skills and competencies and stimulate demand for more and better-quality services. While 84.2 per cent of children aged 24–59 months receive early stimulation and responsive care from their mothers, only 44 per cent receive it from their fathers (in Roma families, 36 per cent and 18 per cent, respectively).

12. Quality and relevance of education have long been a concern in Montenegro. The 2018 Programme for International Student Assessment⁷ showed that 15-year-olds lag almost two academic years behind peers in other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries. Students from socioeconomically disadvantaged families and those living in rural areas or in poverty generally have worse-than-average outcomes. Among Roma children, only 56 per cent complete primary education and only 3 per cent complete secondary education.

13. Poor access to education for the most vulnerable children has been exacerbated by COVID-19. A series of reforms has steadily driven up the number of children with disabilities enrolled in mainstream schools, yet challenges remain: uneven quality; insufficient capacity; inaccessible infrastructure; and limited community-based child and family health, social and rehabilitation services.

14. A long-term education sector strategy and vision that articulates key priorities and feasible, budgeted improvement in quality and equity is lacking. Capacity to plan, monitor, evaluate and budget for education reform is insufficient.

15. Policies seldom address adolescents as a distinct group with specific needs. Challenges for adolescent participation and employability include a lack of quality, inclusive and diverse programmes to support school-to-work transition. A mismatch between the labour market's skills needs and the school curriculum contributes to high numbers of young people not working, studying or in training (21.5 per cent male, 20.6 per cent female).⁸

16. Uncertainty about the future, lack of opportunities and the absence of support lead to deteriorating mental health among adolescents. In every U-Report poll, 'Stress' is cited as a key issue and in a United Nations assessment of the impact of

⁷ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, PISA 2018 Results (Volume I): What Students Know and Can Do, PISA/OECD Publishing, 2019.

⁸ ILO, Montenegro country data 2020, available at: <https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/country-profiles/>.

COVID-19, 30 per cent of young people said that mental health support was one of the most-needed public services. Parents and the general public are largely unaware of the gravity of this issue, and quality adolescent-friendly approaches to address it are scarce.

17. Despite the clear mandate of the Council on Children's Rights, the various child rights monitoring mechanisms are not being effectively coordinated across sectors. There is little accountability for monitoring the state of child rights and there are not enough programmatic and budget data to plan, programme and monitor progress.

18. Public engagement in budget formulation and monitoring is limited. The national budget structure, divided between economic, organizational/administrative and functional needs, allows for little disaggregation or visibility of expenditure specifically for children. There is an urgent need for improved efficiency and effective spending on child rights measures and more funding to accelerate and sustain improvements to their well-being and inclusion in national development.

19. Learning has come from programme implementation, with findings from the United Nations Common Country Analysis, UNICEF Situation Analysis, evaluation of the Montenegro child rights monitoring system, midterm country programme evaluation, and system assessments in the social protection and education sector. There is a need for strengthened focus on reducing poverty and inequality; improved cross-sectoral coordination; better gender equality approaches; and more and better shared-value partnerships, both with the private sector and among United Nations partners, to advance the child rights agenda. UNICEF will use its recognized convening role to advance cross-sectoral initiatives and achieve better results for children.

Programme priorities and partnerships

20. The UNICEF Programme of Cooperation 2023–2027 is fully aligned with and contributes to all four outcomes of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF) 2023–2027. The programme will be rights-based, gender-responsive, disability-inclusive and equity-focused. It will contribute to current national priorities reflected in the European Union accession agenda, the country's National Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 and national Sustainable Development Goal targets, while supporting the implementation of the pending recommendations of the review of Convention on the Rights of the Child.

21. The programme will aim to tackle multidimensional child poverty and social exclusion in the country through holistic and innovative approaches that prioritize children in planning and national budgets. Its aim is to help break the cycle of poverty and disadvantage by ensuring that all children have access to the well-managed and coordinated services and support essential for their development and well-being.

22. The programme will contribute to the realization of the priorities set out in the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2022–2025, UNICEF Gender Policy 2021–2030 and 2020 Gender Programmatic Review: maternal health; reducing child marriage; reducing violence against girls, boys and women by promoting non-violent co-parenting and male involvement in child development and care; equitable education access for all; and promoting access to skills development for adolescent girls' and boys' safe transition to satisfying work.

23. This document is the outcome of a comprehensive prioritization process of open discussion and reflection from UNICEF staff and partners in government, civil

society and international development organizations, academia, the private sector, children and youth.

24. The programme builds on achievements, lessons learned and opportunities to address bottlenecks and barriers that hinder the realization of rights for all children. It is based on seven core strategies: a cross-sectoral approach to risk-informed programming that combines developmental and humanitarian nexus; focus on equity to prioritize vulnerable children left behind in the development process; universal strengthening of prevention systems and expansion of institutional capacity to achieve results at scale and build more resilient systems; gender-transformative programming to address root causes of gender inequality; high-level advocacy with government, development partners and civil society organizations to address constraints; leveraging the influence and resources of the European Union, international financial institutions and the private sector to support the child rights agenda; and using the power of evidence to drive change. A cross-sectoral programme effectiveness component will support the four substantive components of the programme addressing prioritized issues based on the previously identified bottlenecks and barriers.

25. The vision of healthy, happy and resilient children with knowledge, skills and opportunities to grow to their full potential, living free from poverty in supportive, safe and caring families and communities will be achieved if:

(a) all girls, boys and adolescents benefit from quality, inclusive and well-financed mutually reinforcing systems of social and child protection and justice that contribute to universal prevention and sustainable poverty reduction, and ensure life in safe and caring family environments and equitable access to rights, services and benefits.

(b) all young boys and girls, from conception to school entry, have equitable access to essential quality health, nutrition, early learning and early intervention services that address their developmental needs and are supported by empowered and nurturing caregivers.

(c) every child, adolescent and young person has access to, participates in and utilizes high-quality education and skills-development programmes, that facilitate a transition to adulthood, decent work, mental health and well-being services in an inclusive, safe and protective environment.

(d) all girls and boys benefit from a more robust child rights monitoring system, including from relevant government departments and child rights monitoring stakeholders generating and using reliable disaggregated data for planning and budgeting of programmes that focus specifically on the enhanced realization of all child rights.

Protection from poverty, violence and exploitation

26. This component will engage in public advocacy about the harmful effects of poverty, adversity, violence, and exploitation. It will promote institution-building and community mobilization. UNICEF will collaborate with key partners and across the sectors to build commitment to an evidence-based national multidimensional poverty reduction strategy, supported by effective monitoring of its implementation. It will advocate for an expanded system of shock-responsive social and child protection that reaches children and families living in poverty and children who need protection.

27. The programme will contribute to the 2017 Strategy for the Prevention and Protection of Children against Violence. Evidence-based social and behaviour change communication will aim to reduce harmful and discriminatory practices in

both developmental and humanitarian contexts. The goal will be empowerment of professionals, parents, girls and boys to detect and report all forms of violence and exploitation. It will focus on universal prevention and informing marginalized girls and boys about their rights and how they can use targeted services, demand quality prevention, and access family and victim support services and justice, including legal aid.

28. Through advocacy and technical assistance, the programme will support improved oversight, accountability, intersectoral cooperation, quality assurance and evidence-based system monitoring to strengthen child and social protection and access to justice systems. It will seek to strengthen the capacity of social workers to better identify and empower those most at risk. The economic case for rolling out an integrated package of preventive and targeted services for the most vulnerable will be promoted. UNICEF will provide technical support for amending laws, including aligning the minimum marriage age with international norms, strengthening justice and child protection systems to apply child-friendly and gender-responsive standards, and facilitating equal access to justice for all girls and boys with a focus on those belonging to minority groups, on the move and with disabilities. Specifically, to support Roma and Egyptian girls and boys, UNICEF will advocate to end harmful practices such as child marriage, child begging, child labour and sexual exploitation. The programme will continue to support the deinstitutionalization of children who have no parental care, focusing on children with disabilities.

Early childhood development

29. To create an enabling, nurturing environment in which every child can thrive, technical support will be given for the implementation of an integrated early childhood development (ECD) strategy and the development of relevant policies and plans to promote young child health and development. To reduce multidimensional poverty and inequality, the programme will advocate for the high social and economic returns of more investment in early childhood development. It will also support upgrading health information system with a particular focus on immunization and child growth and development. It will promote intersectoral cooperation around nutrition, parenting and early intervention, and will seek to strengthen public-private sector collaborations on family-friendly policies.

30. The programme will contribute to health workers' strengthened technical knowledge and skills with a focus on immunization, on maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition, and on counselling and interpersonal communication with families. The programme will advocate for improved workforce capacity at the primary health care level and integrated prevention-focused services.

31. UNICEF will advocate for a transition towards a family-centred early intervention model and the integration of currently fragmented services into a comprehensive service delivery system. UNICEF will support universal developmental monitoring and early intervention at the subnational level, and advocate for nationwide scale-up based on best practices and lessons learned.

32. UNICEF will advocate with government and other partners to expand accessible preschool infrastructure and quality services, especially for the most vulnerable such as those with disabilities and from Roma and Egyptian communities, and to implement the ECE strategy. Social and behavioural change communication will be used to grow strengthened demand for preschool education, particularly in areas with low coverage and among vulnerable groups. UNICEF will also support improvement in quality of care and educational services through

professional development and capacity-building initiatives for teachers, including digital tools and platforms.

33. Finally, the programme will aim to strengthen the knowledge of caregivers, especially fathers, and improve their ability to stimulate child development and practise positive parenting and gender socialization. Parenting programmes and online tools, in collaboration with public and private sector partners, will be used to scale up social and behaviour change interventions and parenting and family support. Innovative strategies will address vaccine hesitancy and improve nutritional practices in families with small children.

Skilled, empowered and well-supported children, adolescents and young people

34. This component will support national efforts to strengthen the resilience of girls, boys and young people by ensuring access to quality, equitable, safe and inclusive formal and non-formal education. By enhancing skills, competencies and employability, it will empower children and adolescents who will have sustained, meaningful opportunities to participate in the labour market and society and access to quality and inclusive well-being and health resources. Through a strong focus on system-level reforms and effective support for marginalized and poor children and young people, this component will help to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

35. Education sector analysis findings and recommendations will feed into advocacy for more resources and their more efficient use to improve system governance, financing, quality and equity, and to sustain the momentum of education reform. Enhanced quality and inclusiveness of teaching practices, development of an accessible and inclusive system of digital education, and the use of blended learning approaches will be supported by UNICEF. Special attention will be paid to: supporting children and adolescents, especially Roma girls at risk of child marriage and school dropout; ensuring that data on children from marginalized groups are included in national statistics; improving education infrastructure and the safety of children through disaster risk reduction, climate change and environmental education; and promoting linked information systems for education, health and social protection.

36. The programme will seek to include the youth voice in the development of a youth strategy and other important policy documents and services, particularly the views of young people from marginalized groups. UNICEF will support, promote and advocate for the expansion and mainstreaming of learning through experience to improve the school-to-work transition for all adolescents and young people. It will promote public and private partnerships for adolescent and youth development and identify opportunities for meaningful volunteering and civic engagement in areas such as climate change and environmental protection, peacebuilding, humanitarian response and disaster risk reduction.

37. UNICEF will advocate for accessible, gender-responsive, innovative, diversified and adolescent-friendly mental health and well-being services across all sectors. Support for the development and roll-out of a parenting programme for adolescents delivered through primary health care centres and schools will aim to strengthen parental competencies.

Monitoring and leveraging resources and results for child rights

38. Key stakeholders in the monitoring of child rights will be supported to improve data-gathering, reporting and coordination. This will feed into implementing the

Convention on the Rights of the Child and European Union recommendations on child rights monitoring. This will be done in cooperation with parliament, and UNICEF will offer policy advice around key legislation and in close coordination with other programme components. UNICEF will seek to strengthen civil society partnerships with organizations focused on women's rights and gender equality, and will support enhanced women's roles in and contributions to child rights monitoring mechanisms.⁹

39. To facilitate broader engagement, advocacy and public dialogue on child rights, the programme will support stakeholders to produce user-friendly data products and publications, sensitize the public and national stakeholders and raise the quality of public discourse. The programme will also ensure that disaggregated data on child-relevant Sustainable Development Goal indicators are included in national development planning processes. It will seek to strengthen child-related administrative data by, for instance, encouraging the introduction of more child-related and disaggregated indicators and harmonized reporting. UNICEF will support the Statistical Office of Montenegro (MONSTAT) to improve data collection and disaggregation and support the European Union child deprivation index as a national, comparable measure of multidimensional child poverty. UNICEF will also continue its technical and financial assistance for child-relevant household surveys that focus on equity, such as the MICS.

40. In conjunction with sister agencies, UNICEF and partners will advocate for and provide technical advice and capacity development to achieve greater transparency on child-related expenditures and a more explicit child rights dimension in public budgets.¹⁰ Planned support to public finance management reforms will help reduce child poverty by making public expenditure more effective and improving public spending efficiency and accountability. UNICEF will support sectoral budget briefs and encourage public involvement by preparing and disseminating user-friendly budgets and data.

41. UNICEF will foster and solidify partnerships with international financial institutions and the private sector through evidence-based advocacy that supports allocation of resources for the advancement of child rights. In cooperation with the Business Council on Child Rights, UNICEF will work with the private sector on child rights and family-friendly practices and business policies. UNICEF will collaborate with government, private sector and civil society to promote child-sensitive climate and environment policies.

42. The programme effectiveness component will support all other components to ensure that programme design, coordination and management meet quality standards and achieve results for children. External communication will raise awareness of marginalized children and youth and encourage media, civil society, children and youth to advocate for policy changes that promote children's rights and welfare. Communication for development methods will promote behaviours that increase demand for and use of lifesaving care and social services and encourage community participation in programme activities.

⁹ Gender Programmatic Review, 2020.

¹⁰ As recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Summary budget table

<i>Programme component</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Protection from poverty, violence and exploitation	1 072	3 328	4 400
Early childhood development	577	2 627	3 204
Skilled, empowered and well-supported children, adolescents and young people	895	3 405	4 300
Monitoring and mobilizing resources for child rights	900	531	1 431
Programme effectiveness	806	282	1 088
Total	4 250	10 173	14 423

Programme and risk management

43. This programme outlines UNICEF contributions to national results and serves as the primary accountability unit to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to UNICEF Montenegro. Managerial accountabilities for country programmes at the country, regional and headquarters levels are described in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures.

44. UNICEF will execute the programme under the overall coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Resident Coordinator co-chair the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) Steering Committee, under which outcome results groups will be established, to be chaired by heads of United Nations agencies. Joint Government–UNICEF workplans will be regularly reviewed and approved by the relevant institutions under the coordination of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

45. The unfolding process of reform of the United Nations development system in Montenegro, including the adoption of a “Delivering as One” approach and preparation of the UNSDCF 2023–2027, offers several entry points for working jointly to achieve results for children within a common value system based on human rights, inclusiveness and equal opportunity. This facilitates inter-agency synergies for joint programming and mobilizes resources to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

46. Key risks include: (i) weak governance, inadequate accountability and limited capacity, leading to suboptimal programme implementation; (ii) lack of reliable, disaggregated data to accurately target critical groups; (iii) challenges in effective cross-sectoral coordination, reducing successful programme implementation; (iv) political volatility and instability, making agreement on development priorities difficult; (v) reduced fiscal space and increasing inequality due to the impact of COVID-19; and (vi) climate change and environmental degradation, including air quality, and other natural hazards such as flood, drought and fire that pose significant, specific risks to children.

47. To mitigate these risks, the programme will: (i) support capacity development in evidence-based policymaking and service delivery, advocating for increased space for civil society organizations and the most vulnerable in decision-making; (ii) support evidence generation; (iii) support the use of evidence of successful cross-sectoral cooperation when advocating with partners; (iv) together with sister agencies and partners, especially the European Union, continue to advocate for and support a people-centred, sustainable development agenda in line with commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals and European Union accession process; (v) working within the framework of the United Nations and in cooperation with partners, continue to monitor the situation of children, share evidence on effects of the pandemic on families and advocate with national authorities to ensure prioritization of the needs of children in vulnerable situations; and (vi) within the United Nations country team framework, advocate for integration of child-sensitive climate and environmental adaptation and mitigation strategies into national and sectoral policies and plans.

Monitoring, learning and evaluation

48. UNICEF will participate in United Nations-wide monitoring and evaluation of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on child- and women-related targets and indicators. Partnerships will be established (or strengthened) with national and international academic institutions or centres of excellence to close knowledge gaps and provide additional evidence for advocacy, planning and reporting, including monitoring trends in social sector funding. Studies and evaluations will complement these sources since institutional and social behaviour change may not be captured through routine administrative data collection.

49. UNICEF will monitor progress, starting with inputs, outputs achieved and their contribution to realizing outcomes and the co-accountabilities of national institutions, using results and indicators aligned to national and regional flagship areas and global frameworks. This will be the primary UNICEF contribution to UNSDCF 2023–2027 outcomes. UNICEF will monitor progress towards planned results using indicators in the results framework during midyear and annual reviews with key stakeholders. The indicators will be closely linked to standard UNICEF output and outcome indicators and the Sustainable Development Goals, thus contributing directly to global reporting.

50. UNICEF will use the Government's upcoming reporting on implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a strategic moment to rally stakeholders for the fulfilment of child rights and their improved monitoring. As reflected in the costed evaluation plan, UNICEF will use the evidence of joint evaluations and extensive involvement of partners to ensure national ownership of the national strategy for exercising the rights of the child and a national strategy for early and preschool education and country programme evaluation.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Montenegro – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2022–2026

Convention on the Rights of the Child: Articles 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12, 18–21, 23, 26–29, 39, 40 National priorities: Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 16, 17
United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) outcomes involving UNICEF: Outcomes 1–4 Outcome indicators measuring change that reflect UNICEF contribution: Marked with an asterisk (*) under each outcome
Related UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 Goal Areas: 1–5

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)		
						RR	OR	Total
UNSDCF Outcome 2: By 2027, all people, especially the vulnerable, increasingly benefit from an equitable, gender-responsive and universally accessible social and child protection system and quality services, including labour market activation and capabilities. UNSDCF Outcome 4: By 2027, all people, especially the vulnerable, benefit from improved social cohesion, increased realization of human rights and rule of	By 2027, all girls and boys benefit from quality, inclusive and well-financed social and child protection and justice that: are mutually reinforcing and shock-responsive; contribute to a sustainable reduction in poverty; help them live in safe and caring family environments; with equitable access to rights, services and benefits.	Percentage of children aged 1–14 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month* B: 66% for male and female T: 56%	Multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS) related research	Central and local level institutions have increased capacities to legislate, plan, coordinate and allocate resources for universal prevention, poverty reduction and effective delivery of targeted social and child protection services to those left behind in the development process.	Council on Child Rights, ministries of Finance; Social Welfare; Economy; Justice and Minority Rights; Interior; Health; and Education, Science, Culture and Sports; Parliament; Supreme Court. Supreme State Prosecutor's office. Police Directorate; Institute for Social and Child Protection Judicial Training Centre; Bar Chamber; Ombudsperson Office;	1 072	3 328	4 400
		Percentage of children in family-based care of total number of children in all forms of formal alternative care* B: 70% (74 boys and 69 girls) T: 90% (both male and female)	Administrative data	Child protection and justice systems at national and local levels are child-friendly, gender-responsive, culturally sensitive, disability-inclusive, resilient and have enough capacity to support boys, girls, families and caregivers and				
		Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18*	MICS or related research					

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	
law and accountable, gender-responsive institutions		B: 15 years: 1.9% 18 years: 5.8% Roma women 15 years: 21.5% 18 years: 60% T: 15 years: below 1% 18 years: below 5% Roma women 15 years: 10% 18 years: 20%		provide equal access to rights, services and benefits. The public, key decision makers and professionals have increased awareness of the negative behavioural, social and economic effects on young people and women of adversity, violence and discrimination; they know how to seek redress for rights violations in both developmental and humanitarian nexus.	European Union (EU) Commission. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); International Labour Organization (ILO); World Bank; International Monetary Fund (IMF); civil society organizations (CSOs); academia; children; parents and media				
		Proportion of children at risk of poverty* (UNSDCF outcome indicator) B: 32.6% T: 31.4%							Survey on income and living conditions – Statistical Office of Montenegro (MONSTAT)
		Multidimensional child poverty (proportion of children facing two or more deprivations)* B: 0–2 years – 77.6% 0–5 years – 64.3% 5–17 years – 49.1% (2018) T: 0–2 years – 74.6% 0–5 years – 61.3% 5–17 years – 46.1%							MICS or related research
UNSDCF Outcome 3: By 2027, all people, especially the vulnerable, benefit from	By 2027, all boys and girls, from birth to school entry, have equitable access to essential quality	Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in the national programme* B: Timely MMR1	Institute for Public Health (IPH) data	Government recognizes ECD as a key human capital development policy and effectively	Ministry of Health; IPH; Primary Health Care Centres; Clinical Centre	577	2 627	3 204	

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)		
						RR	OR	Total
strengthened human capital (including early childhood development), and more resilient, gender-responsive and high-quality health care and education.	health, nutrition, early learning and protection services that address their developmental needs in a protective, safe and nurturing environment.	coverage 24% for 2020, DTP3 84% T: MMR1 60% by 2027, DTP3 90%		implements the costed and budgeted national ECD policy. Strengthened health and education systems able to provide quality and inclusive health, nutrition, education and early intervention services for all preschool children. Parents, particularly fathers, have increased capacity to engage constructively in the early development of their children.	of Montenegro; general hospitals; Ministry of Education (MoE); preschools; parents; Bureau for Education; CSOs; UNDP; World Health Organization (WHO); media; private sector			
		Percentage of infants under 6 months old exclusively breastfed (disaggregated by gender, region and ethnicity) B: 20 aggregate Female: 20% Male: Northern: 29% Central: 19% T: 40% Roma: B: 14% T: 40%	MICS Knowledge, attitudes and practices surveys					
		Participation in ECE enrolment rate by age group and sex* B: Total for 0–6 years: 52% Total for 0–3 years: 28% Total for 3–6 years: 71.62% (2020) Female: 70.52% (2020) Male: 72.64% (2020) T: 0–6 years 60% 0–3 years 30% 3–6 years 90% Roma B: 15% T: 35%	Education management information systems (EMIS); MONSTAT					
		Proportion of children aged 24–59 months whose	MICS; Knowledge					

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)		
						RR	OR	Total
		<p>mother and father engaged in four or more activities with them (by gender, region, and minority (Roma))</p> <p>B: 44% (2018) Male 41% Female 48% Roma 18% Northern 41% Central 44% South 47%</p> <p>T: 65%</p>	e, Attitudes and Practice survey					
<p>UNSDCF Outcome 1: By 2027, all people, especially the vulnerable, benefit from improved management of natural resources and increasingly innovative, competitive, gender-responsive, inclusive, climate-resilient and low-carbon economic development.</p> <p>UNSDCF Outcome 2</p> <p>UNSDCF Outcome 3</p>	By 2027, all boys, girls, adolescents, and young people are more resilient; can acquire the competencies and skills to gain decent work in adulthood; can access high-quality education and skills development; and can access quality mental health and well-being services in an inclusive and protective environment.	<p>Proportion of children at the end of lower secondary education achieving minimum proficiency level in reading, science, and math*</p> <p>B: Reading: 55.6% (Female 63.5%, Male 48.3%) Math: 53.8% (Female 52.1% Male 55.4%) Science: 51.8%</p> <p>T: Reading: 60% (Female 67%, Male 55%) Math: 59% (Female 59%, Male 59%) Science: 57%</p>	<p>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Programme for International Student Assessment results</p>	<p>The education system strengthened to provide greater access to quality and inclusive services to all children and adolescents, particularly those from most vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Adolescent girls and boys, especially those from vulnerable groups, are empowered and have increased capacities to make their voices heard; they have access to quality services and make increasing use of opportunities to participate and improve their</p>	MoE and affiliated agencies; Ministry of Health, CSOs, UNDP, WHO; ILO; European Training Foundation; EU Delegation to Montenegro; international finance institutions; media; Chambers of Commerce; private sector	895	3 405	4 300
		<p>Number of adolescent girls and boys participating or leading civic engagement initiatives</p> <p>B: 2 500</p>	Adolescent development and participati					

<i>UNSDCF outcomes</i>	<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR)</i>		
						<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
						<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
		T: 10 000	on programme reports, Civic engagement initiative reports; MoE MONSTAT, Country Office data	employability.				
		Primary and lower secondary education enrolment rates for Roma children B: Overall: 77% T: 85% Female: B: 79%; T: 87% Male: B: 75%; T: 83%	EMIS MONSTAT					
		Primary education attendance rate for children with disabilities B: Overall: 23% Boys: 30% Girls: 17% T: 35 for each	MoE; EMIS; MONSTAT; and country office data Calculations to be developed based on WHO estimates and EMIS data					

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
UNSDCF Outcome 4	By 2027, all girls and boys increasingly benefit from equitable enjoyment of their rights. This is made possible through strengthened national monitoring and data management and more public and private resources for children, in line with the commitment Montenegro has made to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Sustainable Development Goals and EU agenda.	Level of establishment of permanent national child rights coordinating mechanism* B: Initiating (2) T: Championing (4)	EU Reports, Convention on the Rights of the Child, concluding observations	National child rights monitoring network (parliament, Child Rights Council, Ombudsperson, CSOs) strengthened and integrated to monitor, evaluate and report on the realization of child rights. Central and local level institutions have increased capacities to generate and use high-quality and disaggregated data for effective planning, monitoring and reporting on child rights. Public and private sector partners have increased knowledge and awareness of the benefits of allocating resources for children effectively and equitably; and have the tools to do so.	Ombudsperson's Office of Montenegro, Council on the Rights of the Child, General Secretariat of the Government, MONSTAT, Ministries of Finance, and Social Welfare, Education, Health and Foreign Affairs	900	531	1 431	
		Level of administrative data maturity B: Maturity level 3-Functional T: Maturity level 5-Engagement	Administrative data maturity exercises conducted by UNICEF with government and other partners						
		Number of children reached through engagement and partnerships with business B: 700 T: 35 000	Internal reports						

<i>UNSDCF outcomes</i>	<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>		<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR)</i>		
							<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
						<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>	
	The programme is effectively designed and managed to high standards and delivers quality results for children.	Standard performance indicators achieved B: Yes T: Yes	UNICEF Results Assessment Module Country Management Team (CMT) minutes		Programme coordination; communication, advocacy, partnerships; planning, monitoring and evaluation	CMT; United Nations country team; Business Operations Strategy	806	282	1 088
Total resources							4 250	10 173	14 423