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## United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

### Country programme document

#### Ethiopia

##### *Summary*

The country programme document (CPD) for Ethiopia 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 \$164,535,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$642,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period July 2025 to June 2030.

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\* E/ICEF/2025/1.



## Programme rationale

1. Ethiopia, home to some of the earliest evidence of humanity and a rich cultural heritage, is the second most populous country in Africa. It plays a strategic role as host of the African Union, and makes significant contributions to regional and global discussions on security, economic and political matters. With 59 million children and the continent's second-largest youth population, Ethiopia has immense potential to harness the demographic dividend.

2. Ethiopia has made significant strides in reducing poverty and improving health care, education and gender equality. Between 2004 and 2019, Ethiopia achieved an impressive average gross domestic product growth rate of 10 per cent. However, hard-earned socioeconomic progress has been eroded by recurring crises since 2020 and has not kept pace with demographic growth. Ethiopia remains one of the poorest nations in Eastern and Southern Africa, with a per capita gross national income of \$1,020.<sup>1</sup> While the country is rapidly urbanizing, 77 per cent of the population still lives in rural areas. Inflation, currency devaluation and shrinking fiscal space strain livelihoods and income-generation opportunities, particularly for youth and women. A heavy reliance on imports persists amid limited local production of affordable goods. Twenty-nine per cent of children (aged 0–17 years) live in monetary poverty, 89 per cent experience multidimensional poverty<sup>2</sup> and 41.5 per cent of households experience moderate or severe food insecurity.<sup>3</sup> Girls, children in rural areas and hard-to-reach communities and children with disabilities are the most vulnerable. In 2022, Ethiopia ranked 176th out of 193 countries and territories in the Human Development Index.

3. Ethiopia is highly vulnerable to climate change, ranking fifteenth out of 163 countries where children are most at risk. Rapid population growth and reliance on rain-fed agriculture heighten vulnerability. Policy advancements have yet to translate into effective climate adaptation, early warning systems and disaster risk reduction measures, while reliance on humanitarian aid remains high. Protracted conflicts and climate events have displaced millions, disproportionately affected women and children and hindered progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly regarding nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and quality learning.

4. Between 2005 and 2019, Ethiopia halved mortality among children under 5 years of age to 55 deaths per 1,000 live births.<sup>4</sup> However, neonatal mortality (33 deaths per 1,000 live births)<sup>5</sup> and maternal mortality (267 deaths per 100,000 live births)<sup>6</sup> remain high, with pronounced regional and rural/urban disparities. Ethiopia has the second-highest number (1.13 million) of unvaccinated children in Africa, ranking third globally for children unprotected from measles. The number of malaria cases has increased by 2.9 million since 2023. Ongoing humanitarian crises disrupt essential health services. Insufficient financing, weak data systems, inadequate local

<sup>1</sup> World Bank, Ethiopia Country Overview, [www.worldbank.org/en/country/ethiopia/overview#1](http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/ethiopia/overview#1), accessed on 31 October 2024.

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF Ethiopia and Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia, *Faces of poverty: Studying the overlap between monetary and multidimensional child poverty in Ethiopia*, Addis Ababa, 2020, pp. 25 and 29.

<sup>3</sup> Ethiopian Statistical Service and World Bank, Ethiopia Socio-economic Panel Survey Report – Wave 5, 2021/22, 2023, p. 89.

<sup>4</sup> Ethiopian Public Health Institute and ICF, Ethiopia Mini Demographic and Health Survey 2019, Rockville, Maryland, 2021, p. 12.

<sup>5</sup> Central Statistical Agency and ICF, Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey 2016, Addis Ababa and Rockville, Maryland, p. 249.

<sup>6</sup> *Trends in maternal mortality 2000 to 2020: Estimates by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and UNDESA/Population Division*, World Health Organization, Geneva, 2023, p. 63.

health-seeking behaviours, harmful practices and gender dynamics hinder efforts to revitalize primary healthcare (PHC) services and promote climate-resilient health services.

5. Despite progress made in reducing child malnutrition over the past two decades, undernutrition contributes to 45 per cent of child mortality<sup>7</sup>, with 6.2 million children affected by stunting and 1.6 million by wasting.<sup>8</sup> Micronutrient deficiency affects 66 per cent of women of reproductive age. Climate shocks, conflict-induced displacement and low food production exacerbate food insecurity, with 87 per cent of children (aged 0–5 years) experiencing child food poverty. Efforts to improve food security and child nutrition are hindered by low institutional capacity to provide food services, insufficient disaggregated data, weak cross-sectoral linkages and governance, limited community financing and inadequate climate-smart food production and child-focused food value chains that engage the private sector.

6. Ethiopia faces a severe learning crisis, with 56 per cent of children in Grade 2 and 43 per cent of children in Grade 3 unable to read<sup>9</sup> and 90 per cent of children aged 10 years unable to comprehend a simple text.<sup>10</sup> Only 37 per cent of children, and 3 per cent of children with disabilities, enrol in pre-primary education. Despite overall progress made in achieving universal primary education, merely 13 per cent of children with disabilities are enrolled. Transition rates to secondary education remain low. Negative gender norms and unfavourable school environments undermine girls' enrolment and completion. In conflict-affected areas, girls are 2.5 times more likely than boys to be out of school. Climate change, ongoing and compounding conflicts, school closures and socioeconomic barriers have left 15.5 million children out of school, with 9,000 schools damaged or destroyed. Flexible quality learning and skills development opportunities for adolescents are limited. Declining education budgets hamper efforts to address the shortage of qualified teachers, infrastructure and school materials. Mental health support for students and teachers affected by conflicts and emergency is largely externally funded. Poverty, social norms, gender biases and stigmatization of children with disabilities further hinder equitable education access and school retention.

7. Children, adolescents and women face violence at home, school and in the community, exacerbated by conflicts and climate-related shocks. One in three girls and one in four boys experience physical violence, while 1 in 10 girls experience sexual violence. In 2020, Ethiopia had 25 million cases of female genital mutilation, the highest number in Eastern and Southern Africa,<sup>11</sup> and 17.3 million child marriages. Conflicts and climate-induced reasons left 3.3 million people displaced,<sup>12</sup> including 1.7 million children affected by or at risk of killing, maiming and sexual violence. Birth registration remains low at 2.7 per cent (2016), although recent data show an improvement. Effective protection is hindered by gaps in laws, such as setting the minimum age of criminal responsibility at 9 years, and shortcomings in policies, data management, intersectoral coordination and resource allocation to the

<sup>7</sup> UNICEF, *When it Matters Most: Improving nutrition and survival for the youngest and most vulnerable children*, New York, 2024, p. 5.

<sup>8</sup> UNICEF calculations based on Ministry of Health and UNICEF, *National Food and Nutrition Strategy Baseline Survey: Key Findings Preliminary Report*, Addis Ababa, March 2023.

<sup>9</sup> Educational Assessment and Examinations Service, *Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) 2023 Report*, Addis Ababa, Addis Ababa, 2023, p. 14.

<sup>10</sup> World Bank Group, *Ethiopia: Learning Poverty Brief*, October 2019, available at: <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/834691637760766912/ethiopia-learning-poverty-brief-2019>.

<sup>11</sup> UNICEF, *A Profile of Female Genital Mutilation in Ethiopia*, New York, 2020, p. 3.

<sup>12</sup> International Organization for Migration, *Ethiopia National Displacement Report 19*, Addis Ababa, May 2024, p. 8.

social service workforce. Violence is underreported, with social norms perpetuating gender-based violence and harmful practices. Additionally, vulnerable families face financial barriers and knowledge gaps to demand and access quality services in their communities.

8. Despite progress in the WASH sector, including improved access to safely managed drinking water and reduction in open defecation from 80 to 17.6 per cent between 2000 and 2022,<sup>13</sup> regional and urban/rural disparities persist, and population growth outpaces service provision, leaving 21 million people still practicing open defecation and 113 million lacking hand-washing facilities. Climate-related events, protracted conflicts and limited water sources hinder water resource management, particularly in humanitarian situations. The WASH sector continues to face inadequate public financing, inflation, limited institutional capacities for climate-resilient WASH services, fragmented planning and poor-quality data, and deteriorating infrastructure. Vulnerable communities lack adequate hygiene promotion while facing high sanitation product costs due to limited local manufacturing. Poor WASH facilities in schools impact attendance, particularly for girls and students with disabilities.

9. The 2024 Global Gender Gap Index ranks Ethiopia seventy-ninth out of 146 countries in gender equality, with lower scores in economic and political participation, and 136th in educational attainment. Progress is hindered by limited accountability mechanisms and capacity of government structures mandated with advancing gender equality in addition to insufficient sex-disaggregated data.

10. Children and youth with disabilities face barriers to accessing social services, employment and humanitarian support. Limited comprehensive national data on disabilities hampers efforts to address their needs and is compounded by social stigma, limited public awareness and limited capacities of front-line workers to identify disabilities and provide the needed services. The Ministry of Women and Social Affairs leads child rights governance and steers child rights policy formulation and implementation, guided by the National Children's Policy. Real-time analysis and effective targeting, especially during crises, is hampered by inadequate data systems and a lack of timely, comprehensive and sex-disaggregated evidence on key child rights and vulnerable populations, including girls and children with disabilities. Budgeting for child-sensitive sectors has declined in real terms, exacerbated by inflation and humanitarian needs. Social protection coverage remains low<sup>14</sup> amid growing crises and widening disparities.

11. Lessons learned from the 2020–2024 programme evaluation highlight the need to:

- (a) strengthen multisectoral approaches from the design phase to address sector bottlenecks holistically;
- (b) build households' resilience to shocks through localized and financially empowering interventions;
- (c) adopt adaptive and innovative service delivery methods, involving local organizations and community leaders to tackle access issues in humanitarian crises.

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<sup>13</sup> Data from World Health Organization/UNICEF, Joint Monitoring Programme for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, 2022.

<sup>14</sup> In 2023, only 21 million children were covered by the Urban and Rural Productive Safety Net Programmes and community-based health insurance.

## Programme priorities and partnerships

12. The country programme's vision is for children, adolescents, youth and women, particularly the most vulnerable, to attain transformational gains in fulfilling their rights and accessing equitable, sustainable and quality social services driven by strategies aimed at reducing poverty and strengthening local economies that generate livelihoods and promote employment and entrepreneurship for youth.

13. Aligned with the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2022–2025, the programme emerged from a consultative process with the Government, development partners, the United Nations system, children, adolescents, women and youth representatives from all regions. It is aligned with the Africa Union Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and Africa's Agenda for Children 2040. The programme supports the national development plan (NDP) titled Ten-Year Development Plan: A Pathway to Prosperity 2021–2030, focusing on the government's medium-term investment plan and national sectoral initiatives to boost economic productivity and enhance gender and social inclusion. It addresses the 2015 observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and priorities from the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. It supports the five outcomes of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, 2025–2030 (UNSDCF), to accelerate progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

14. To drive systemic change, strategies include:

(a) promoting innovative local solutions for local income generation and job creation to address poverty and build peace and resilience;

(b) targeting the hardest-to-reach and zero-dose communities with a multisectoral, cost-effective approach that maximizes the impact on children;

(c) adopting risk-informed humanitarian and development nexus programming;

(d) strengthening multisectoral systems to comprehensively address vulnerable communities' multidimensional needs;

(e) engaging and empowering communities and fostering social and behaviour change (SBC) to promote positive social and gender norms and practices;

(f) fostering partnerships and public and private sector engagement to promote innovation and accelerate sustainable progress;

(g) using evidence-based advocacy and communication for disability-inclusive and equity-based child rights;

(h) implementing gender-transformative programming to address discriminatory power relations and structures.

### Health

15. Supporting UNSDCF outcome 3 and the Health Sector Transformation Plan II, this programme component focuses on strengthening integrated multisectoral PHC to deliver preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative services for reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) while expanding community-based health insurance, fostering localized community-driven solutions and emphasizing humanitarian-development linkages to build resilience through multisectoral and transdisciplinary approaches.

16. UNICEF will assist the Ministry of Health in planning and implementing PHC financing, including community health insurance, while advocating for gender-

responsive, youth-inclusive and disability-inclusive RMNCAH policies. The programme will strengthen data systems for evidence-based policymaking, conduct climate resilience research and improve coordination and private sector engagement for last-mile delivery. It will enhance health infrastructure, rehabilitating conflict-affected facilities and promote local production of essential RMNCAH medicines and commodities while strengthening the public health supply chain.

17. UNICEF will support strengthening PHC capacities to deliver equitable, gender- and disability-responsive RMNCAH services tailored to local contexts. Focusing on hard-to-reach, conflict-affected and zero-dose communities, the programme will integrate nutrition, WASH, mental health and gender-based violence prevention with RMNCAH services while advancing pre-conception care, early identification of disabilities and rehabilitation, procurement of assistive devices and community engagement and referral.

18. UNICEF will support quality immunization in underserved and humanitarian settings, collaborating to deliver multisectoral services targeting zero-dose children. It will strengthen mobile health and nutrition teams for integrated immunization and RMNCAH services in hard-to-reach communities and develop healthcare worker and system capacities to improve emergency preparedness and response and SBC, ensuring PHC access in humanitarian contexts.

19. UNICEF will work with vulnerable communities, especially in hard-to-reach and crisis-prone areas, to strengthen SBC strategies and community structures for adopting positive health behaviours and demanding government accountability for integrated health services. Empowering communities, UNICEF will use tailored SBC approaches, youth engagement, capacity-building of community leaders and health workers, risk communication and community resilience-building for emergency response.

### **Nutrition**

20. Supporting UNSDCF outcome 2 and the Ethiopia National Food and Nutrition Strategy 2021–2030, this programme component focuses on empowering communities and transforming food systems. This involves enhancing local and household production of nutrient-dense foods, scaling up nutrition and shock-responsive social protection, and enhancing integrated approaches, including school nutrition packages.

21. UNICEF will work to increase access to and demand for improved diets, practices and services for children, including children with disabilities, during early childhood. Efforts will improve breastfeeding practices by strengthening counselling, maternity protection policies and regulation of breastmilk substitutes. UNICEF will promote nutritious, diverse and affordable complementary foods and feeding practices through policy advocacy, capacity-building and SBC strategies, while empowering communities to adopt local, nutrient-rich and climate-smart solutions. Interventions include promoting quality standards in care centres, micronutrient supplementation and deworming, and integrating evidence-based nutrition policies into routine services and advocating for public financing.

22. UNICEF interventions will improve diets and inclusive practices for school-aged children and adolescents to prevent undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and overweight. This will include supporting guidelines for nutritious school meals, promoting fortified foods and school food environment policies and capacity-building for front-line workers and communities. Nutrition education will be integrated into school curricula to encourage healthy dietary practices. UNICEF will advocate for

inclusive, evidence-based food policies, restricting unhealthy food marketing, implementing nutrition labelling and advocating for public financing for nutrition.

23. UNICEF will empower women to demand and access improved diets and practices to prevent maternal and newborn malnutrition. This will include promoting nutritious, safe, accessible and affordable diets before and during pregnancy and breastfeeding. UNICEF will enhance nutrition counselling and strengthen food systems for nutrient-dense foods. UNICEF will address the needs of adolescent mothers and at-risk women, advocate for evidence-based food policies and encourage innovations like local food solutions and large-scale food production.

24. UNICEF will promote integrated and inclusive early detection and treatment of wasting and other forms of acute malnutrition in early childhood. This will include strengthening evidence-driven policies and programmes, supporting integration of facility- and community-based early detection and treatment of wasting with PHC services. UNICEF will strengthen health systems, supply chains and community-based programmes to scale up inclusive detection and treatment of severe acute malnutrition, particularly for high-risk cases, while promoting sustainable and cost-effective production of therapeutic foods.

### **Education**

25. Supporting UNSDCF outcome 3 and the Education Sector Development Plan, this component focuses on quality learning and skills for vulnerable and hard-to-reach children and adolescents. It aims to equip children and youth with the skills needed for successful transitions between education levels and from learning to earning, focusing on early childhood education, foundational skills and digital technologies.

26. UNICEF will support the Ministry of Education, regional education bureaux and local education offices in improving education planning, management and monitoring, prioritizing gender and climate responsiveness and inclusion. UNICEF will advocate for increased education spending, assist in developing evidence-based national and local strategic plans, introducing a digital education management information system to harmonize data collection and integrating climate risk mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction into education policies.

27. UNICEF will support expanding access to inclusive learning for out-of-school and hard-to-reach children, including children with disabilities and those in humanitarian settings. This will include providing flexible learning opportunities, mental health and psychosocial support and an accelerated learning programme for overaged out-of-school children, integrated with child protection and life skills education. Social and behaviour change approaches will promote the value of education and address school-related gender- and disability-based violence and bullying. Additionally, UNICEF will support adequately resourced healthy, safe, inclusive, protective and gender-sensitive learning environments and facilities.

28. UNICEF will support improving foundational literacy and numeracy in pre-primary and primary education through expanding standardized early childhood education, and promoting positive parenting and effective social norms through community engagement and advocacy. This will involve training education leaders to engage communities and the private sector and expand child-friendly learning spaces, establishing inclusive education resource centres for children with disabilities, and enhancing teacher training in play-based and gender- and disability-responsive pedagogy, standardizing assessments and developing capacities to measure and improve learning quality.

29. UNICEF will help adolescents to develop foundational, transferable, digital, job-specific and entrepreneurial skills for successful transitions between education

levels and from learning to earning. This will include prototyping and scaling up foundational and accelerated learning programmes aligned with the updated curriculum; enhancing team building, communication and conflict management; and operationalizing school and community clubs to implement the revised Life Skills Module and Adolescent Kit while expanding U-Report. UNICEF will advocate for increased connectivity while supporting digital literacy.

### **Child protection**

30. Supporting UNSDCF outcomes 1, 3 and 5 and key national policies and strategies on child protection, this programme component will integrate child protection, gender-based violence prevention, disability discrimination prevention, risk mitigation and response, skill building and economic resilience for adolescents, youth and women at risk, including those affected by armed conflict and those on the move. It will strengthen humanitarian-development-peacebuilding linkages and support localized solutions.

31. UNICEF will strengthen institutional and financial capacity to plan, implement and monitor child protection programmes in humanitarian and development settings. This will include improving national and subnational coordination and accountability mechanisms, developing evidence collection and management systems, and advocating for enhanced public financing for child protection and legal and policy reforms, including to increase the age of criminal responsibility. Universal access to legal identity for children will be pursued in collaboration with the health, education and social protection sectors.

32. UNICEF will promote positive social and gender norms, empowering girls, boys, women and caregivers to prevent, respond to and report on all forms of violence. UNICEF will engage caregivers, boys, men and community structures to shift gender roles and social expectations, prevent violence, promote birth registration and increase demand for child protection services. This will include life skills development and empowerment of adolescent girls, including those with disabilities, and rehabilitation, reintegration and livelihood-strengthening of conflict-affected adolescents.

33. UNICEF will work to improve access to equitable, quality, gender-transformative and inclusive protection services for vulnerable and hard-to-reach children and women, including those with disabilities. Interventions will strengthen the social service workforce, enhancing accreditation, deployment and capacities, while expanding social protection and strengthening local youth and women-led organizations for accessible services. This will include implementing the case management framework and intervention package. Additionally, UNICEF will enhance child-friendly justice services, advocate for greater investments and build capacity for free legal aid and child-friendly courts, particularly in hard-to-reach areas.

### **Climate, energy and environment, and water, sanitation and hygiene**

34. Supporting UNSDCF outcomes 2, 3 and 4 and WASH policies, this programme component focuses on improving equitable and inclusive WASH services and practices while building climate resilience across UNICEF-supported sectors, prioritizing disadvantaged children, women and youth in rural, urban, development and humanitarian settings.

35. UNICEF will support WASH partners to improve planning, monitoring and coordination to implement the One WASH National Programme. It will strengthen implementation of the Total Sanitation to End Open Defecation and Urination



strategy. Efforts will help to develop climate, risk-informed and inclusive WASH policies, improve evidence-based and equitable public budget allocations, establish data management systems and guidelines for post-construction facility monitoring and supporting the National WASH Inventory and Management Information System.

36. UNICEF will build climate resilience by strengthening national and local capacity to provide risk-informed, inclusive and climate-resilient WASH services in schools, health facilities and communities, involving children, women, youth and persons with disabilities. This will include improving technical guidelines, advocating for funding for resilience-building and promoting innovative technologies for groundwater mapping and renewable energy for environment and economic sustainability. UNICEF will support local green energy solutions and climate-resilient WASH that improve livelihoods, empower women and improve children's health and education. This will include integrated water supply development and environmental risk-adaptation activities. Additionally, UNICEF will support government systems in emergency preparedness and response in areas facing recurrent emergencies.

37. UNICEF will support prioritized rural, pastoralist, hard-to-reach and crisis-affected communities with integrated, climate-resilient, disability-inclusive and gender-responsive WASH and menstrual hygiene and health services, building local maintenance capacity. Efforts to eliminate open defecation in rural areas include strengthening local market-based sanitation systems for latrine improvements, engaging women, children, youth and persons with disabilities. This will include post-construction support for infrastructure management, improving hygiene practices and creating demand for climate-resilient WASH services.

38. UNICEF will support improved inclusive, integrated and child-friendly WASH services in urban and refugee communities, focusing on climate-resilient infrastructure and gender- and disability-inclusive services. Efforts will include system strengthening of WASH utilities for sustainability and viability of service providers, and knowledge transfer to utility entities. Social and behaviour change initiatives will improve hygiene practices and environmental health and foster participation by youth and women.

### **Social policy**

39. Supporting UNSDCF outcomes 2 and 3 and NDP priorities on gender and social inclusion and sustainable development financing, this programme component focuses on enhancing budgetary and policy environments and ensuring evidence-based, gender-transformative, disability- and financially inclusive and shock-responsive social protection and basic services for vulnerable children.

40. UNICEF will enhance the collection, analysis and use of gender-sensitive, disaggregated and high-quality data and evidence to shape equity- and child-focused policies and strategies. This will include institutionalizing child poverty monitoring within government systems, improving data-collection methods and generating evidence on hard-to-reach populations – including pastoralists, children in street situations and children in emergencies – girls, youth and children with disabilities. UNICEF will support the implementation of the Ethiopian National Strategy for the Development of Statistics to improve administrative data systems and foster inclusive research.

41. UNICEF will support the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, regional bureaux and *woreda* (district) offices in designing, implementing and monitoring an inclusive and adaptive social protection system capable of responding in humanitarian contexts and covering hard-to-reach populations, children with disabilities, women and children in IDP (internally displaced persons) settings. This will include revising

social protection and gender policies to include vulnerable groups, implementing humanitarian and development cash transfer programmes and linking cash programmes to childcare services while promoting women's empowerment, disability inclusion and financial inclusion to enhance resilience. UNICEF will pursue multisectoral collaboration and expand partnerships with the private sector and civil society to enhance the livelihoods of youth and women.

42. UNICEF will advocate with the Ministry of Finance and regional governments for increased public investment in child-inclusive services and support the Government in improving social sector spending. UNICEF support will include fiscal analyses, strengthening macroeconomic modelling, climate financing, gender- and disability-responsive budgeting and domestic resource mobilization. UNICEF will also support strengthening multisectoral engagement to improve financing of social services.

### **Programme effectiveness**

43. UNICEF will enhance the effectiveness of all programme components by integrating cross-cutting priorities and strategies to drive transformative changes, including:

(a) rights- and results-based planning, monitoring, learning and reporting to deliver quality programmes;

(b) gender programming to ensure that all basic social services are gender-responsive, while shifting towards gender-transformative approaches;

(c) disability inclusion and the participation and empowerment of children with disabilities, enhancing their access to basic social services, strengthening their skills development, income generation and financial inclusion, and eliminating discrimination and negative social norms;

(d) adolescent programming to empower adolescents with information, skills and resources to support localized solutions and enhance livelihoods;

(e) resilience programming to adapt essential services to climate change;

(f) SBC to empower communities, caregivers, women, youth, children and service providers to practice positive behaviours and enhance accountability;

(g) communication, advocacy and partnerships to influence rights-based decision-making, mobilize resources and leverage public and private sector engagement;

(h) conducting and using quality and credible evaluations and building national evaluation capacity for programme and policy improvement.

## 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>
Health	25 000	126 000	151 000
Nutrition	15 000	77 000	92 000
Education	16 000	126 000	142 000
Child protection	24 500	81 000	105 500
Climate, energy and environment, and water, sanitation and hygiene	22 000	180 000	202 000
Social policy	12 500	35 000	47 500
Programme effectiveness	49 535	17 000	66 535
<b>Total</b>	<b>164 535</b>	<b>642 000</b>	<b>806 535</b>

## Programme and risk management

44. This country programme document summarizes the contributions of UNICEF to national results and is the principal mechanism for accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. The responsibilities and accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels are defined in the policies and procedures regarding the organization's programmes and operations.

45. The programme will be implemented and monitored in partnership with the Government of Ethiopia and coordinated by the Ministry of Finance. UNICEF will maintain strong engagement in the joint UNSDCF implementation and report on its own UNSDCF contribution using the UN INFO platform.

46. UNICEF will employ the harmonized approach to cash transfers to manage financial resources and ensure value for money. Operational, programmatic and financial risks will be routinely evaluated, with appropriate mitigation measures implemented to maintain the quality and efficiency of results.

47. To mitigate risks and assess the impact of emergencies, UNICEF will use the inter-agency programme criticality analysis and ensure annual update of the office risk assessment plan in the Enterprise Governance, Risk and Compliance system. UNICEF will engage with the sectoral ministries and civil society partners to strengthen national capacities for emergency preparedness and response, and will co-chair emergency clusters in the nutrition and WASH sectors.

## Monitoring, learning and evaluation

48. In collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Development, the Ethiopian Statistical Service and the information management departments of sectoral ministries, UNICEF will strengthen data systems for children and track progress against key national results, using technology to support real-time monitoring of child rights and equity measurement. Indicators, disaggregated by gender, age, disability and geographical location, will be used to monitor country programme progress.

49. UNICEF will collaborate with the Government and other partners to conduct research and credible programmatic, impact and country-led evaluations to improve programme effectiveness, supporting continuous knowledge management and situation analyses and enhancing child-relevant evidence generation and building national capacities for evaluation.

## Annex

### Results and resources framework

#### Ethiopia – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, July 2025–June 2030

**Convention on the Rights of the Child:** Articles 1–42

**National priorities:** Ten Year Development Plan: A Pathway to Prosperity 2021–2030

**Sustainable Development Goals:** 1–6, 10–11, 13, 16–17

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

1. All people in Ethiopia, more specifically those who are left behind, live in a peaceful, just, democratic society which upholds standards of rule of law, accountability, and human rights.
2. All people in Ethiopia more specifically the people who are left behind, benefit from inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economic development that prioritizes decent job opportunities, access to nutritious food and affordable green energy.
3. All people in Ethiopia more specifically the people who are left behind, accessed equitable quality social services and protection.
4. All people in Ethiopia, more specifically the most vulnerable and those who are left behind, enjoy protection and benefit from enhanced resilience, increased access to climate financing, reduced risks of climate-induced disasters, and reduced impact of environmental crises.
5. All women and young people including adolescent girls in Ethiopia, particularly those left behind, enjoy equitable opportunities and are empowered to participate fully in all aspects of society, leading to their full potential being realized.

**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) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
3	1. By 2030, more newborns, children, adolescents, youth and women, especially from disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and those with disabilities, have access and utilize improved quality and	Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births) B: 267 T: 200	United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation; Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey (EDHS); District Health	1.1 National healthcare system enhanced to strengthen health financing, evidence generation and use, and coordination for integrated, gender-responsive and inclusive and resilient PHC.	Government, development partners, academia, civil society organizations (CSOs)	25 000	126 000	151 000

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
	shock-responsive healthcare services supported by integrated and multisectoral PHC approaches, and adopt positive health practices.	Mortality rate for children under 5 years (deaths per 1,000 live births) B: 55 T: 44	Information System II (DHIS2); Situation reports	1.2 PHC capacities strengthened to provide enhanced RMNCAH and adolescent/youth friendly health services.  1.3 PHC capacities enhanced to strengthen immunization services.  1.4 Increased knowledge and capacities to adopt healthy behaviours and exercise accountability.				
Newborns receiving postnatal care within two days of birth B: 72% T: 80%								
Births attended by skilled health personnel B: 75% T: 80%								
Percentage of children vaccinated with three doses of pentavalent vaccine B: 73% T: 95%								
Percentage of outbreaks detected and responded to within 72 hours B: 100% T: 100%								
2	2. By 2030, children, adolescents and women benefit from improved diets, services and practices	Percentage of children under 5 years of age who are stunted B: 39% T: 30.5%	EDHS, DHIS2, surveys	2.1 Increased capacities in early childhood to access and demand improved diets, practices and services to prevent	Government, development partners, academia, CSOs	15 000	77 000	92 000

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
	to optimize their nutrition.	<p>Percentage of children (aged 6–23 months) receiving minimum number of food groups B: 8% T: 18%</p> <p>Percentage of adolescent girls with anaemia B: 10% T: 8%</p> <p>Percentage of women with minimum dietary diversity B: 7% T: 15%</p> <p>Percentage of children (aged 6–59 months) with severe acute malnutrition who are: (a) admitted for treatment and recover: B: 89% T: 92% (b) admitted for treatment and defaulting in humanitarian settings; B: 2.6% T: 1% (c) percentage of children (aged 0–59 months) admitted compared to targeted B: 55% T: 65%</p>		<p>undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and overweight.</p> <p>2.2 Increased capacities of school-aged children and adolescents to demand and access improved diets, practices and inclusive services to prevent undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and overweight.</p> <p>2.3 Increased capacities of women to access and demand improved diets, practices and services to prevent undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and low birthweight in newborns.</p> <p>2.4 Increased national and local capacities to ensure integrated and inclusive early detection and treatment of wasting and other forms of life-threatening acute malnutrition in early childhood, including in humanitarian settings.</p>				

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						RR	OR	Total
3	3. By 2030, more girls and boys, particularly the most vulnerable and affected by humanitarian emergencies, benefit from enhanced learning, achieve learning benchmarks and develop skills for successful transitions within education and from learning to earning.	<p>Gross enrolment ratio:</p> <p>Pre-primary Total: B: 50% T: 60%</p> <p>Females: B: 48.6% T: 58.2%</p> <p>Males: B: 51.4% T: 61.8%</p> <p>Primary (Grades 1–8) Total: B: 96.1% T: 100%</p> <p>Females: B: 92.2% T: 97.8%</p> <p>Males: B: 99.8% T: 102.2%</p> <p>Primary education completion rate B: Total: 71.4% (females: 70.2%/males: 72.6%) T: 75% each</p> <p>Percentage of children achieving functional reading levels B: Grades 2–3: 20% T: 30%</p>	EMIS; Ethiopian Early Grade Reading Assessment; Study on out-of-school children	<p>3.1 Strengthened education system on planning, policy implementation, monitoring and evaluation for improved learning outcomes.</p> <p>3.2 Increased access to learning opportunities for hard-to-reach and out-of-school children.</p> <p>3.3 Strengthened foundational literacy for girls and boys at pre-primary and primary.</p> <p>3.4 Improved transition within education and from learning to earning for adolescent girls and boys.</p>	Government, development partners, academia, CSOs	16 000	126 000	142 000



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						RR	OR	Total
		<p>Gender Parity Index (primary Grades 1–6)</p> <p>B: 0.92 T: 1</p> <p>Number of out-of-school children</p> <p>Primary (Grades 1–8):</p> <p>B: 5,000,000 (females: 2,500,000) T: 3,000,000 (55% girls)</p> <p>Secondary:</p> <p>B: 4,800,000 (females: 2,300,000) T: 2,800,000 (55% girls)</p>						
1,3,5	4. By 2030, more girls, boys and women have a legal identity and are safe and protected from violence, exploitation, abuse and harmful practices in homes, schools and communities in humanitarian and development settings.	<p>Percentage of women (aged 20–24 years) married before age 18 years</p> <p>B: 40.3% T: 27.6%</p> <p>Percentage of girls having undergone female genital mutilation aged:</p> <p>15–49 years: B: 65% T: 47.1%</p> <p>15–19 years: B: 47% T: 34%</p>	EDHS, Child Protection Management Information System	<p>4.1 Increased institutional and financial capacity to plan, implement, coordinate, monitor and evaluate child protection programmes.</p> <p>4.2 Strengthened collective efficacy for positive social and gender norms and capacities to prevent, respond to and report violence against children, harmful practices and gender-based violence.</p> <p>4.3 Improved access to legal identity and gender-</p>	Government, development partners, CSOs	24 500	81 000	105 500

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>Proportion of children (aged 0–5 years) whose birth is registered with civil authorities.</p> <p>B: 3% T: 14.4%</p>		responsive and child-friendly justice services.				
		<p>Number of girls and boys having experienced violence reached by health, social or justice/law enforcement services in development and humanitarian settings</p> <p>B: 169,616 T: 254,424</p>						
3-4	5. By 2030, more children, women and youth, particularly those living in the most disadvantaged situations, use climate-resilient, equitable and sustainable basic water supply and sanitation services, and practice appropriate hygiene behaviours.	<p>Proportion of the population using basic water supply service</p> <p>B: 55% T: 90%</p>	Population census; EDHS; Living Standards Measurement Study; WASH inventories	5.1 Strengthened government mechanisms and systems to enable legislation, planning and budgeting for basic WASH services and practices.	Government, development partners, CSOs, academia, national laboratories	22 000	180 000	202 000
	<p>Proportion of the population using basic sanitation service</p> <p>B: 10% T: 90%</p>	5.2 Increased resilient WASH infrastructure and capacities to adopt mitigation measures to face a changing climate and degrading environment in targeted areas.						
	<p>Proportion of the population practicing open defecation</p> <p>B: 15%</p>	<p>5.3 Improved access and capacity of children and families in rural and pastoralist communities to use WASH services.</p> <p>5.4, Improved access and capacity of children 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
		T: 5%		families in urban and refugee communities to use WASH services.				
2,3	6. By 2030, more children, youth and women, particularly those with disabilities, living in the most disadvantaged situations or affected by health and socioeconomic shocks, natural hazards and conflict, have access to evidence-based, gender-transformative, disability- and financially-inclusive and shock-responsive social protection and basic services, and enhanced budgetary and policy environments.	<p>Proportion of female and male children (aged 0–18 years) living in poverty in all its dimensions, according to national definitions</p> <p>B: 78.7% T: 73.7%</p>	EDHS, administrative data of safety programmes and UNICEF cash transfer programmes, Ministry of Finance budget	6.1 Enhanced government capacities to formulate evidence-based equity- and child-focused development policies and strategies that reduce child poverty and promote gender equality.	Government, development partners, CSOs	12 500	35 000	47 500
	<p>Number of households reached by cash transfer programmes</p> <p>B: 2.5 million T: 3 million</p>	6.2 Government capacity is strengthened to design, coordinate and implement social protection systems.						
	<p>Share of national budget allocated for health, general education and federal-level budget allocation for safety nets</p> <p>B: 22.3% T: 25%</p>	6.3 Government capacity is strengthened to finance social services						
	7. Country programme is efficiently designed, coordinated, managed, supported and evaluated to meet quality programming standards in achieving results for children	<p>Standard performance indicators</p> <p>B: 0% T: &gt;85%</p>	Performance Scorecard	<p>7.1 Effective programme planning, monitoring, implementation and evaluation.</p> <p>7.2 Effective risk analysis, resilience and emergency preparedness and response.</p> <p>7.3 Programme integration of innovation, gender</p>	Government, development partners, CSOs	49 535	17 000	66 535

<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) (In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
						<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
				transformation, social and behaviour change, climate action, disability inclusion, youth and adolescent engagement, empowerment and participation, and partnerships.				
<b>Total resources</b>						<b>164 535</b>	<b>642 000</b>	<b>806 535</b>