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Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Country programme document

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Bosnia and Herzegovina 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 \$4,255,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$23,225,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2026 to 2030.

* E/ICEF/2025/27.



Programme rationale

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina has been an upper-middle-income country for over a decade and a candidate for European Union membership since December 2022. Despite maintaining steady economic growth since the early 2000s, with gross domestic product rising by an average of 3 per cent annually before the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,¹ this growth has not resolved deeper economic vulnerabilities. The war in Ukraine and rising global inflation have added significant challenges, driving up living costs and straining economic stability. These external shocks have worsened socioeconomic inequalities, disproportionately affecting low-income and rural communities which are more susceptible to price increases and economic instability.²

2. The country's human development indicators reflect both progress and persistent inequalities. According to the *Human Development Report 2023–2024*, the Human Development Index (HDI) of Bosnia and Herzegovina was 0.779, placing it in the “high human development” category and ranking it eightieth among 191 countries. However, inequalities continue to impact overall development outcomes, as evidenced by the inequality-adjusted HDI for 2022, estimated at around 0.67, compared to the European Union average of 0.83.

3. The Global Gender Gap Index 2023 places Bosnia and Herzegovina at eighty-sixth, with one of the weakest performances in Economic Participation and Opportunity, reflecting significant gender disparities in workforce inclusion and earning.³ The Gender Inequality Index 2024, ranking Bosnia and Herzegovina fortieth out of 166, highlights a 14.4 per cent loss in human development due to gender disparities, underscoring the broader social and economic impact of inequality.⁴ The Gender Development Index reveals gaps in health, education and income, with women's HDI at 0.759, compared to 0.797 for men, placing Bosnia and Herzegovina in group 2 of gender equality development classifications.⁵ These rankings collectively signal deep-rooted gender disparities that require systemic policy interventions.

4. Since the signing of the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords, Bosnia and Herzegovina has operated under a decentralized political system comprising the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brčko District. While this structure reflects the country's complex post-conflict context, it can present challenges for policy coordination and the implementation of reforms. The distribution of responsibilities across multiple governance levels affects the efficiency of public financing and the equitable delivery of services for children, with some groups – such as Roma children, children with disabilities and those in rural areas – facing particular obstacles. The constitutional emphasis on the three constituent peoples (Bosniaks, Croats and Serbs) plays a central role in political life, but also presents challenges for inclusive governance and social cohesion. Recent political developments in early 2025 have drawn attention to the importance of supporting the country's long-term stability.

¹ World Bank, ‘Recession deepens in Bosnia and Herzegovina as COVID-19 pandemic threatens jobs and poverty reduction in Western Balkans’, news note, World Bank, Washington, D.C., 22 October 2020.

² United Nations Country Team in Bosnia and Herzegovina, *Common Country Analysis*, 2024.

³ World Economic Forum, *Global Gender Gap Report 2023*, WEF, Geneva, 2023.

⁴ United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2023/2024. Breaking the Gridlock: Reimagining Cooperation in a Polarized World*, UNDP, New York City, 2024.

⁵ United Nations Development Programme, Gender Development Index (GDI) (database), available at <https://hdr.undp.org/gender-development-index#/indicies/GDI>, accessed on 23 May 2025.

5. Bosnia and Herzegovina is a signatory to all the core international child rights treaties. However, systemic challenges in child rights governance, monitoring and data management impede the design and implementation of child-responsive policies and evidence-based decision-making.
6. Bosnia and Herzegovina is undergoing a significant demographic shift, with serious implications for its children and young people. A shrinking child population, declining birth rates, and high youth emigration and unemployment rates are reshaping the country's social and economic landscape. Without targeted and participatory policy reforms and interventions to address these challenges, Bosnia and Herzegovina risks facing a weakened labour force, declining investments in education and health, and fewer opportunities for young people to build their futures within the country.
7. While it remains a transit country for refugees and migrants heading to Western Europe, Bosnia and Herzegovina is undergoing a transition to a state-led migration and asylum response in line with the priorities established on the path to European Union accession, with UNICEF supporting the social, child protection, health and education authorities to take ownership over the provision of services to refugee and migrant children by 2027.
8. Bosnia and Herzegovina faces growing humanitarian risks linked to environmental challenges, including natural disasters, climate change and severe air pollution, particularly in urban areas, where air quality ranks among the poorest in Europe. These factors disproportionately affect children and vulnerable groups, underscoring the need to strengthen resilience across systems.
9. Poverty remains a pressing issue, with 13.3 per cent of households classified as poor based on the relative poverty line.⁶ While there has been some improvement in the adequacy and coverage of child cash benefits, critical gaps remain, particularly in terms of reaching the most vulnerable groups. The current social protection system, which ties child cash benefits to family income and assets, often fails to provide adequate support to combat child poverty. This is exacerbated by a fragmented and underfunded system that does not effectively measure multidimensional and/or monetary child poverty and therefore does not target those in greatest need, especially children and families from remote areas, Roma communities, families with children with disabilities, and those exposed to crises or the negative impacts of climate change. These groups face compounded vulnerabilities across multiple dimensions, and struggle to access the social protection services they require. The latest official child poverty data in Bosnia and Herzegovina date back to 2011, and indicate that around 30 per cent of children live in poverty.⁷ This highlights a critical gap in consistent measurement and targeted planning in social protection programmes.
10. Challenges persist in providing equitable healthcare for children and young people through the primary healthcare system. These include limited access to quality care, uneven resource distribution, fragmented legal frameworks, workforce shortages and lack of trained personnel. Additionally, the absence of up-to-date data on health disparities complicates efforts to improve healthcare outcomes. With one of the lowest immunization coverage rates in the region – only 55 per cent for measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) and 73 per cent for diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP3) in 2023⁸ – and more than 4,000 zero-dose children annually, Bosnia and Herzegovina

⁶ Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, *Anketa o potrošnji domaćinstava u Bosni i Hercegovini 2021/2022*, Sarajevo, 2024 [in Bosnian], p. 56.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ United Nations Children's Fund, Immunization Coverage Estimates Dashboard (database), available at <https://data.unicef.org/resources/immunization-coverage-estimates-data-visualization/>, accessed 23 May 2025.

faces a significant public health challenge. These gaps are particularly acute among marginalized groups such as the Roma community, with only 1 in 10 Roma children vaccinated, and have led to large-scale outbreaks, including the 2024 measles epidemic, which had one of the highest global incidence rates (530 cases per 1 million population).⁹ Misinformation and vaccine hesitancy remain ongoing barriers to effective immunization efforts. Obesity affects around 17 per cent of children under 5,¹⁰ and among children aged 10 to 14, it was found that 21.6 per cent were either overweight or obese, with boys (29.67 per cent) significantly more affected than girls (13.78 per cent), indicating an upward trend in childhood obesity rates over the past two decades.¹¹

11. Gender-based violence and violence against children, including violence in schools and online violence, remains a persistent and underreported issue, deeply rooted in structural, social and institutional barriers. Existing social services lack the capacity and resources to address the issue and provide an institutional response. Access to durable solutions for children, especially the most vulnerable, including the lack of alternative care options, exposes them to risks and increases vulnerability to trafficking, abuse and violence. A high number of children placed in institutional care are especially at risk of violence due to a lack of standardized procedures for monitoring child welfare in institutions, making it difficult to detect and address cases of violence. Children with disabilities are at heightened risk, as many are placed in institutional settings, further exposing them to neglect and abuse.

12. While in the past 5 to 10 years much has been achieved to protect children in conflict with the law, gaps remain in the area of protection of child victims and witnesses, enhanced protection of children in civil justice proceedings, and insufficient quality free legal aid.

13. Children and young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially those affected by violence, face mental health challenges such as trauma, anxiety and depression. However, access to child-specific mental health and psychosocial support services, including through primary health centres, is extremely limited. The stigma around mental health further discourages families from seeking care for affected children.

14. Early childhood education and care (ECEC) remains under-prioritized in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with limited investments and low public awareness, resulting in a gross enrolment rate of just 42 per cent (ages 3–5) in 2022/2023.¹² In the 2024/2025 academic year, the number of children enrolled in preschool institutions rose by 11 per cent, reaching a total of 45,772 children¹³ – among the lowest in Europe. Access to education remains especially limited for children with disabilities and Roma children. Children and young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina face obstacles in accessing quality education and acquiring relevant skills, with half of 15-year-olds

⁹ World Health Organization (WHO) European Region, Measles/Rubella (MR) Dashboard (database), available at <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoibjY4YmQyZDEtNzVjMC00YjU2LTg3OTQtZWU1OQ1MzcwODJlIiwidCI6ImY2MTBjMGI3LWJkMjQtNGIzOS04MTBiLTNkYzI4MGFmYjU5MCIslmMiOjh9>, accessed 23 May 2025.

¹⁰ Global Nutrition Report, Country Nutrition Report: Bosnia and Herzegovina (database), available at <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/nutrition-profiles/europe/southern-europe/bosnia-and-herzegovina/>, accessed 23 May 2025.

¹¹ Pavlović, Retko et al., 'Prevalence of overweight and obesity in school children in Bosnia and Herzegovina: A cross-sectional study', *Journal of Pioneering Medical Sciences*, vol. 13, No. 2 April 2024, pp. 5–14.

¹² Data provided by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as per request in March 2024.

¹³ Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, *Demography and Social Statistics: Pre-School Upbringing and Education in the School Year 2024/2025*, BHAS, Sarajevo, 2025.

being functionally illiterate,¹⁴ and 37 per cent of 14-year-olds not achieving minimum computer information proficiency.¹⁵ A significant gap between education and labour-market demands, combined with poor digital infrastructure in schools, further limits their opportunities for learning and growth.

15. Lessons learned for programming emerge from programme implementation, programme reviews, findings from the United Nations Common Country Analysis, UNICEF Situation Analysis, Country Programme Evaluation, and thematic evaluations on justice for children, early childhood development and education, immunization, and gender equality. They point to the need for more integrated, cross-sectoral approaches; sustained capacity development for service providers; improved outreach to the most excluded groups, particularly Roma children and children with disabilities; and greater investment in scalable, community-based models. Better use of data and stronger uptake of evidence in policy processes are essential for achieving systemic change. UNICEF will strengthen its shared value partnerships and promote digital transformation to improve access and accountability. Building on its recognized convening role, UNICEF will continue to drive equity-focused, cross-sectoral programming that delivers sustainable results for all children.

Programme priorities and partnerships

16. The overarching goal of the country programme is to contribute to the efforts of authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to advance children's rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a focus on the most vulnerable and marginalized. The programme will contribute to governments' priorities and support the advancement of key reforms to achieve European Union membership.

17. The country programme will focus on driving systemic and sustainable change for children, especially for the most vulnerable, including children from poor households, children from remote areas, Roma children, children with disabilities, children without parental care, children in institutional care, children in contact with the law, refugee and migrant children, and children affected by disasters, climate and other emergencies. This will occur through strengthened cross-sectoral collaboration, policy reforms and expert advice, targeted capacity-building, the promotion of child-focused policies, budgets and plans, and leveraging advocacy and public and private partnerships for greater scalability and impact, as well as a targeted approach to addressing non-discrimination.

18. The country programme derives from the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2026–2030, with clear linkages and references included in the Annex (RRF). Its overarching framework is the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2030. The country programme is guided by extensive consultations with government partners, youth and children, as well as Agenda 2030, European Union Accession Agenda and 2017 Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, alongside other child-specific and child-related recommendations from the 2025 Universal Periodic Review, UNICEF Gender Action

¹⁴ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, *PISA 2018 Results (Volume I): What Students Know and Can Do*, OECD, Paris, 2019.

¹⁵ Agency for Pre-Primary, Primary and Secondary Education, 'Agency presented ICILS 2023 results for Bosnia and Herzegovina', news note, APOSO, Sarajevo, 12 November 2024. Fraillon, Julian, ed., *An International Perspective on Digital Literacy: Results from ICILS 2023 (revised)*, International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement, Amsterdam, 2024.

International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement, Data Repository (database), available at <https://www.iea.nl/data-tools/repository>.

Plan, 2022–2025, and the UNICEF Disability Inclusion Policy and Strategy, 2022–2030.

19. The following interconnected strategies are context-specific and will be applied with the aim to maximize resources and achieve high level results: providing evidence to influence and support policy and decision-making for systemic changes; optimizing resources and business models; diversifying partnerships and leveraging public and private finance, and promoting child-responsive domestic finance, to ensure adequate and equitable financing for all children; engaging families and communities to support social and behaviour change (SBC) to foster child development and tackle harmful social norms; conducting high level advocacy and mobilizing the influence of media and businesses to advance child rights; and harnessing digital transformation and innovation .

20. The focus of the next country programme comprises three leadership areas of work where UNICEF is considered the partner of choice in the country and where it has demonstrated leadership and the ability to convene partners to drive systemic changes for children:

(a) **Strong foundation for all children:** UNICEF is prioritizing a strong foundation for every child's development, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable. Targeted and coordinated technical support for evidence-based policy changes, and capacity-building, will be provided to health, ECEC and social protection service providers to ensure that quality services are provided to every child and that every child enjoys nurturing care during their early years, including through parenting.

(b) **Skills for life for all children and young people:** UNICEF is prioritizing children and young people learning, skilling and transition to work, focusing on vulnerable groups, through technical support to education authorities to integrate twenty-first century skills into education curricula, capacity-building of teachers in line with European Union frameworks, digital transformation of the education sector, and ensuring child and youth participation in policy and programme design.

(c) **Comprehensive safeguarding of all children and young people:** UNICEF is prioritizing creating safe and resilient environments for all children and young people through targeted interventions to protect children and young people from violence, including in the digital world, and to promote mental health, equity, and inclusion, with special emphasis on vulnerable groups. UNICEF will prioritize targeted interventions to strengthen violence prevention and response systems, including for gender-based violence, while promoting mental health support and strengthening emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction.

21. The impact of growing climate, disaster, and environmental challenges on children and youth, especially from vulnerable and marginalized communities, is recognized across all programme components. These challenges will be addressed through coordinated and targeted efforts to generate child-focused evidence to inform shock responsiveness of systems, including policies and financing that integrate climate change, disaster risk reduction and environmental sustainability into countrywide and local agendas, and to empower children and youth to influence these policies and drive sustainable solutions.

22. To address disparities between boys and girls, particularly in relation to violence, social norms harmful to girls and women, and unequal access to services, UNICEF will work on violence prevention, the promotion of caregiving that is responsive to the needs of girls and boys, inclusive education, and access to protection and social services for the most vulnerable through advocacy, capacity-strengthening and targeted interventions grounded in robust data and research.

23. SBC strategies will be embedded across programme components, with the shift towards strengthening governments' capacities to apply behavioural insights, address biases among front-line workers and foster meaningful community engagement. This approach will support the sustained uptake of services such as immunization, healthy lifestyles and nutrition practices, boost parental demand for ECEC and early childhood development (ECD), and contribute to transforming harmful norms, including violent disciplining, gender stereotypes, stigma and discrimination.

24. UNICEF envisions a future in Bosnia and Herzegovina where children and youth are active participants in shaping policies. UNICEF efforts will focus on strengthening its participatory practices, empowering external partners to adopt similar approaches in their programming with and for children and youth, and advocating for systemic changes to institutionalize their engagement.

Health and nutrition

25. The Health and Nutrition Programme will focus on contributing to building a strong foundation in life for all children. It will continue to provide technical support to authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to strengthen primary healthcare systems and quality health and nutrition services, for children, adolescents and parents. Specifically, the Health and Nutrition Programme will strengthen and institutionalize parenting and home visiting programmes to address inequities in service access for vulnerable groups. UNICEF will work intensively with authorities to institutionalize SBC communication and community engagement interventions, in particular in the marginalized communities and communities with low immunization coverage, such as the Roma community. Building on previous efforts, the programme will scale up early childhood intervention support through the health system for children with disabilities with education and social protection referrals. Targeted evidence-based advocacy and stronger cross-sectoral collaboration and partnerships with international finance institutions (IFIs), the European Union and the private sector, will strengthen the coherence and quality of legal and regulatory frameworks, including inadequate financing.

26. The programme will also contribute to the comprehensive safeguarding of all children and young people by building the capacities of health authorities to provide preventive and responsive mental health services for children, young people and parents, while fostering resilience to climate and environmental challenges. UNICEF will provide technical support to health authorities and education authorities, in collaboration with civil society and youth organizations, to raise awareness, reduce stigma and promote healthy lifestyles.

Education and skills

27. UNICEF aims to support authorities to ensure that children and young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina enjoy inclusive, equitable, safe, resilient and quality education, that equips them with a strong foundation and the skills, knowledge and values required to thrive in their personal lives, contribute to the workforce and actively participate in society.

28. The Education and Skills Programme will contribute to building a strong foundation in life for all children through evidence-based advocacy and technical support to education and local authorities to drive cost-effective investments in innovative, flexible and alternative ECEC programmes. Building on previous efforts, UNICEF will scale up early childhood intervention support through the education system for children with disabilities, with health and social protection referrals. UNICEF will also provide technical assistance to education authorities and academia to develop family engagement programmes.

29. The Education and Skills Programme will contribute to skills for life for all children and young people by providing technical assistance to education authorities to embed twenty-first century skills into curricula and facilitate multiple flexible pathways for young people's learning. UNICEF will support authorities in creating mechanisms that empower children and youth to engage meaningfully in policymaking and designing programmes critical for their development, well-being and future, also contributing to social cohesion in society, including through peace education.

30. Through close cross-sectoral collaboration, the Education and Skills Programme will contribute to comprehensive safeguarding of all children and young people through technical support to authorities to implement violence prevention programmes in schools, adopt standard operating procedures, allocate resources and implement preventive and responsive measures and programmes aimed at ensuring the well-being of students and safe and continuous learning in times of crises, including student's safety in the digital realm.

31. Systemic reforms throughout the education sector will focus on effective digital transformation, placing relevance and quality at the heart of education. Teachers' continuous professional development will be a key lever for change.

Social policy and child rights monitoring

32. To advance systemic improvements in child rights governance, UNICEF will provide technical support to human rights institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina to strengthen the monitoring of CRC implementation through participatory mechanisms, and promote the consistent application of child rights standards. Recognizing the critical role of data in evidence-based policymaking, UNICEF will support producers of administrative data and statistics to enhance the generation, sharing and use of disaggregated data, and will engage in advocacy for increased evidence generation for children across government, civil society and academia to inform the development of child-responsive policies. In parallel, UNICEF will work across sectors to build the capacity of both duty bearers and rights holders through strengthened child rights education, ensuring a more informed and engaged society in advancing children's rights.

33. Contributing to a strong foundation for all children, the Social Policy Programme will ensure holistic, multisectoral services for children with disabilities by institutionalizing functional disability assessments, referral systems and enhanced data management in social protection frameworks. Also, to address multidimensional child poverty and inefficiencies in social sectors, the Social Policy Programme will sharpen its focus towards generating more robust evidence, diversifying partnerships to advance policy reforms and advocating for more efficient budgeting across social sectors at all levels. A particular emphasis will be placed on linking child cash benefits with social services, and addressing the gaps in adequacy and coverage of child cash benefits, especially for children and families living in remote areas, Roma communities, children with disabilities, and those exposed to crisis and climate change.

34. Regarding skills for life for all children and young people, technical support will be provided to the social protection sector in enhancing the livelihoods of social protection beneficiaries, including through social entrepreneurship schemes and integrated case management.

35. In contributing to the comprehensive safeguarding of all children and young people, the programme will collaborate with other programmes in supporting shock responsiveness of service delivery systems to ensure that vulnerable families and

children, especially those with disabilities, receive timely support during crises, including climate-related events.

Child protection

36. In this country programme, UNICEF will place violence against children, including gender-based violence and online violence, at the forefront of all child protection interventions. Through these interventions, the programme will contribute to the comprehensive safeguarding of all children and young people by shifting social and gender norms towards zero tolerance for violence, addressing biases among front-line professionals, and promoting community and family-based care for children by expanding cross-sectoral collaboration and partnerships to develop, institutionalize and roll out evidence-based SBC programmes. UNICEF will provide technical expertise to authorities, including education authorities, through prevention of violence against children programmes in schools, to strengthen capacity, improve cross-sectoral cooperation and referral mechanisms, and digitalize case management systems across all sectors. Enhancing and digitalizing data collection and monitoring will further support evidence-based advocacy for adequate financing, resource allocation and policy reforms, particularly focused on protecting child victims and witnesses and integrating children's best interests in civil and administrative processes. Additionally, UNICEF will facilitate access to child-friendly justice services and promote awareness of children's rights and redress mechanisms, and will support refugee and asylum response transition by ensuring critical child protection services are fully integrated in the government-led response until the end of 2027.

37. Contributing to the strong foundation in life for all children, targeted technical assistance will be provided to authorities, civil society organizations (CSOs) and academia to implement the government vision outlined in the Road Map for Deinstitutionalization in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2023–2030.

Programme effectiveness

38. Programme effectiveness will support the efficient and effective design, management and coordination of the country programme. It will support all programme outcomes, with programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and reporting, targeted communication, and evidence-based advocacy activities on child rights issues, SBC, cross-sectoral programmatic issues such as gender equality, and leveraging the European Union, IFIs, and public and private partnerships. Innovation and digital transformation will be supported to accelerate changes within and across sectors.

Partnerships, resource mobilization and fundraising

39. UNICEF will diversify and continue building on its long-standing partnerships with the authorities, United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, the European Union, private sector, civil society, academia and the media, to bring innovative models to scale by leveraging domestic, public and private funding and financing. A greater focus will be given to the partnership with the European Union through European Union-United Nations dialogue and close collaboration on advocacy, policy, leveraging of resources for children and increased and stable financial support to UNICEF. Partnerships with International financial institutions will be further strengthened to harness expertise and resources across sectors with a focus on digital transformation and public finance. Effective collaboration with United Nations sister agencies, through outcome result groups and United Nations joint programmes, will broaden space for UNICEF to scale up its contributions in achieving countrywide priorities and a sustainable development agenda for children

in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As part of joint efforts to advance gender equality, UNICEF will contribute to the UN gender equality accelerator, focusing on violence against women and girls and women's economic empowerment.

40. Partnerships with the private sector will be strengthened to leverage its influence in support of children's rights. The Business Advisory Council, established by UNICEF, and high-value partnerships, are proven spaces to support child rights, while individual giving will create a space for every individual to be part of the UNICEF mission. Partnerships with traditional and digital media will be harnessed to strengthen the reach and advocacy of UNICEF, engaging key audiences, particularly young people, to drive awareness, interaction, behavioural change and social mobilization.

41. Authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina will endorse UNICEF efforts to mobilize and leverage resources, assets and expertise from the local and regional private sector to support UNICEF programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, ensuring all donations received are tax-exempt and that donors benefit from tax deduction.

42. Recognizing the UNICEF mandate and legal status as an international organization, authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina shall not subject the aforementioned tax exemption or any other acts to the registration of UNICEF under domestic legislation applicable to charities. Authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina shall ensure that donors to UNICEF enjoy the tax and other regulatory benefits in equal conditions as donors to registered domestic charitable organizations.

43. Authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina will take all necessary regulatory measures to facilitate and promote UNICEF programmes and fundraising operations, including by facilitating the creation of bank accounts and the import and export of goods.

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 and nutrition	876	5 800	6 676
Education and skills	876	6 770	7 646
Social policy and child rights monitoring	1 076	3 100	4 176
Child protection	876	6 000	6 876
Programme effectiveness	551	1 555	2 106
Total	4 255	23 225	27 480

* Other resources (emergency) (ORE) may be mobilized, as required, through humanitarian appeals processes.

Programme and risk management

44. The country programme will be implemented in line with the UNSDCF and will ensure compliance with the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2030, policies and procedures. This CPD outlines UNICEF contributions to Bosnia and Herzegovina results, and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the country programme.

45. The risks assessed for this country programme include recent negative trends and expected further decline of official development assistance from several traditional partners, having a domino effect on Bosnia and Herzegovina and its fiscal space, economic and political uncertainties, digital inequities, and the impact of climate change.

46. Risk-mitigation measures will include a greater focus on i) outcome-level results through diversifying and leveraging partnerships, including other United Nations agencies, IFIs, the European Union, Western Balkans countries, and public and private financing for scale; ii) strengthened governance and oversight to promote efficiencies and optimize resources; iii) the optimization of the new business models; iv) well-developed preparedness mechanisms; and v) digitalization.

Monitoring, learning and evaluation

47. UNICEF will make a strategic shift towards enhancing data governance principles, ensuring that children's rights are protected, including in the digital era. UNICEF will leverage digital tools to enhance coordination, utilize established partnerships, and form new partnerships and jointly advocate with other international actors to accelerate reforms, scale evidence-generation efforts and enhance child rights monitoring.

48. UNICEF will advocate for conducting a multi-indicator cluster survey after almost 15 years to ensure up-to-date data for SDG indicators and monitoring. Partnerships will be expanded with national and international academic institutions to close knowledge gaps, and provide additional evidence for advocacy, planning, monitoring and reporting.

49. Progress towards planned results will be monitored twice per year based on the results and resources framework of the CPD, the multi-year workplans, and the UNSDCF, through programme reviews with the Government and implementing partners.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Bosnia and Herzegovina – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2026–2030

Convention on the Rights of the Child: Articles 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 18, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 39, 40; General Comments nos. 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 15, 19, 25, 26

National priorities: European Union Growth Plan and Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17

UNSDCF outcomes involving UNICEF:

Outcome 1: By 2030, public institutions and the private sector catalyse gender-responsive, climate-resilient and sustainable green growth, promoting social equity and decent jobs (Strategic Priority 1: Inclusive green growth)

Outcome 2: By 2030, people, especially persons at risk of being left behind and persons with disabilities, benefit from improved quality and inclusive education, lifelong learning opportunities, and enhanced, gender-responsive health and social protection systems (Strategic Priority 2: Human capital development)

Outcome 3: By 2030 people contribute to and benefit from more effective and accountable institutions, fostering gender equality, youth empowerment, peace and social cohesion (Strategic Priority 3: Accountable institutions and social cohesion)

Related UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2030 Impact results: 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
Outcome 2:	1. By 2030, children, young people and parents/ caregivers, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from more efficient, resilient, inclusive and gender-responsive health, nutrition and ECD systems and services	Percentage of children receiving at least three doses of DTP (UNSDCF 2.b, SDG 3.b.1) B: 55% T: 64%	Entity public health institutes and joint reporting forms (WHO and UNICEF)	1.1 By 2030, the health system is strengthened to offer quality and timely immunization services and foster trust in immunization	United Nations agencies, European Union, IFIs, Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Civil Affairs, ministries of health, public health institutes, Agency for Quality and Accreditation in Healthcare in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AKAZ), Agency for Certification, Accreditation, and Health Care Quality Improvement of Republika Srpska	876	5 800	6 676
		Number of children under 5 years of age who benefit from a minimum package of interventions to promote early stimulation, nurturing care and responsive parenting to support ECD (SDG 4.2.1)	Programmatic reports	1.2 By 2030, the health system is strengthened to provide optimal health and nutrition services for all children, youth and parents				

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
		B: 15,000 T: 30,000		1.3 By 2030, authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina have enhanced capacity to provide quality and integrated ECD and intervention services	(ASKVA), professional associations, universities, private sector, CSOs, religious communities			
Outcomes 1, 2 and 3	2. By 2030, children, adolescents and young people enjoy inclusive and quality education required for life, work and active citizenship	SDG indicator 4.2.4 Gross early childhood education enrolment ratio in: A) pre-primary education (ISCED 02, age 3–5) (UNSDCF c. 4.2.4) B: 43.4% T: 60%	Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BHAS) data	2.1 By 2030, the education systems are strengthened to offer inclusive access to all children, adolescents, and youth	Ministry of Civil Affairs, education authorities, Agency for Pre-Primary, Primary and Secondary Education (APOS0), European Union, OECD, Ministry of Communications and Transport, Communications Regulatory Agency, ITU, IFIs, national Internet service providers, private sector/businesses, ministries of education, ministries of youth, academia, CSOs	876	6 770	7 646
		SDG indicator 4.3.1.: Participation rate of youth in formal and non- formal education and training in the previous 12 months (by sex) (UNSDCF 2.d, SDG 4.3.1) B: 71.5% T: 78%	ILO/BHAS data	2.2 By 2030, education systems are strengthened to deliver relevant and quality learning 2.3 By 2030, education systems resilience is strengthened to provide learning continuity and authorities offer mechanisms for meaningful civic engagement				

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
Outcomes 1 and 2	3. By 2030, enhanced realization of child right to social protection through improved coverage, inclusive and shock- responsive social protection systems	Proportion of population covered by social protection systems B: 23% (child cash benefits) T: 45% (child cash benefits)	Social and child protection legislation framework and government databases	3.1 By 2030, human rights institutions and statistical agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina have effective participation mechanisms and capacities to generate, monitor, uphold and integrate data into child rights governance to inform the development, monitoring and implementation of evidence- based policies, strategies and plans for children and youth, with particular emphasis on vulnerable children and youth and their families 3.2 By 2030, social protection authorities, including local governments, have strengthened policy, legal frameworks and	SDG Council, relevant government authorities, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Republika Srpska Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Brčko District Department for Social Services, Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Civil Affairs, cantonal ministries of social policy, ministries of finance, health and education at entity and cantonal levels, Civil Protection, ministries of labour at entity levels, CSOs, European Union, IFIs, Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, Republika Srpska Ministry of Youth, Family and Sport, Institution of Ombudsmen of Bosnia and Herzegovina, BHAS, entity-level statistical offices, academia, United Nations agencies, business sector, media, youth and child networks, associations of parents of children with disabilities, targeted local governments, centres for social welfare, employment offices	1 076	3 100	4 176

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
				financial allocations for targeting and budgeting cash and social services for the most vulnerable children and families across Bosnia and Herzegovina 3.3. By 2030, social protection, education and health authorities have integrated functional assessment and referrals for children with disabilities across Bosnia and Herzegovina 3.4 By 2030, social protection systems integrated climate- and shock- responsive provisions				
Outcomes 2 and 3	4. By 2030, children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable,	Percentage of children in conflict with the law subject to a diversion order or a non-custodial measure	High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council (HJPC) data	4.1 By 2030, authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina offer stronger systems and	Entity ministries of justice, social welfare, interior, entity judicial and prosecutorial training centres, Bosnia and Herzegovina	876	6 000	6 876

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
	benefit from enhanced access to social welfare, family-based care and justice systems to ensure their right to protection from violence, abuse and exploitation	B: 28% T: 35% % of children in family-based care of the total number of children in all forms of formal alternative care B: 20% T: 35%	BHAS	measures that prevent and respond to violence against children, including online 4.2 By 2030, justice systems are strengthened to ensure that children in contact with the law receive fair treatment, protection, and support 4.3 By 2030, authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina offer strengthened social services that prevent family separation and offer family-based alternatives for children	Ministry of Civil Affairs, Federal Ministry of Social Policy and Labour, Republika Srpska Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Brčko District Department for Social Services, cantonal ministries of Social policy, BHAS, Ministries of Social Welfare, Interior, Education, Health, HJPC, CSOs			
	Programme effectiveness	Key performance indicators achieved: B: Yes T: Yes	UNICEF Country Office Dashboard Country management team minutes	5.1 Country office programme is efficiently managed, coordinated and funded to meet quality programming standards in	Media, private sector, Business Advisory Council, public development partners, European Union, United Nations agencies, IFIs	551	1 555	2 106

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
				achieving results for children 5.2 External relations are effectively managed so that UNICEF is positioned as the leading advocate for children 5.3 Programmes are effectively designed, monitored and reported on across sectors 5.4 Communications are effectively managed, positioning UNICEF as the leading voice, brand and enabler for children				
Total resources						4 255	23 225	27 480