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Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda**

Country programme document

China

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for China is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of \$4,250,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$137,750,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2026 to 2030.

* The present document was submitted for processing late due to technical reasons.

** [E/ICEF/2025/27](#).



Programme rationale

1. China has the world's second-largest child population, with an estimated 158 million boys and 139 million girls, with children representing 21.1 per cent of the total population in 2020.¹ The country is experiencing a profound demographic transition that has significant impacts on children and their families. The number of births has halved since 2016, and the total fertility rate was 1.3 in 2020,² below the replacement level of 2.1. At the same time, the population is ageing quickly, with 22 per cent of the population aged 60 years and older in 2024.
2. The World Bank classifies China as an upper-middle-income country. Although China is on track to become a high-income country by 2030, its gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is lower than the global average. As with many developing economies, China is confronted with the realities of ensuring balanced development, especially in western and central regions that have lower performing social indicators and lower GDP rankings. The regional disparities in economic development pose an obstacle to ensuring adequate public expenditure for children's well-being.
3. China eliminated absolute rural poverty in 2020, but many children still face some challenges. Efforts are needed to aid understanding of those challenges and inform interventions to address them, as well as to strengthen the social protection system, enhance the resilience of communities and individuals, and reach every child with quality services.
4. Rapid urbanization in China, accompanied by massive internal migration, has resulted in a huge number of migrant children and fairly large number of children left behind.³ Many migrant children have inadequate access to quality services, while children left behind are at a higher risk of violence and mental health issues than other children. Thus, children affected by migration require more targeted and equitable social services.
5. China has achieved all of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators relating to child survival. However, challenges remain in providing accessible, affordable, quality healthcare services in remote areas and among vulnerable groups. This is particularly so at the community level, where health facilities need to improve management of high-risk pregnancies and the quality of maternal health and nutrition services. Additionally, overweight and obesity, mental health issues, noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and the impact of climate threats and environmental issues present new health challenges. Children and adolescents face health risks due to environmental degradation and pollution.
6. Clear gaps remain in service provision, with an uneven distribution of quality services for the care of children up to 6 years old. Responsive caregiving, one of the most fundamental elements for optimal early childhood development, is inadequately promoted. China has more than 750,000 premature births annually;⁴ survey data from some western regions indicate around 29 per cent of children aged 3 to 5 years are

¹ National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBS), UNICEF China and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) China, *What the 2020 Census Can Tell Us About Children in China: Facts and figures*, 2023.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid. Data collection with revised methodologies on the situation of migrant children and children left behind is ongoing.

⁴ Ohuma, Eric O., et al., 'National, regional, and global estimates of preterm birth in 2020, with trends from 2010: A systematic analysis', *The Lancet*, vol. 402, no. 10409, 7 October 2023, pp. 1261–1271.

developmentally off track,⁵ and 1.6 million children under 6 years old have disabilities.⁶ Child injury is the leading cause of death among children aged 1 year and older.

7. Mental health problems worth attention include the following: 16.3 per cent of mothers experience symptoms of depression and anxiety during the perinatal period;⁷ 4.7 per cent of children aged 6 to 16 years are affected by anxiety and 3 per cent of children have symptoms of depression.⁸ Lack of awareness contributes to low levels of access to mental healthcare.

8. China has achieved the Sustainable Development Goal targets on wasting and the targets on stunting are on track, but the country still falls short on overweight and maternal anaemia. The rate of overweight (including obesity) in school-aged children (aged 6–17 years) has increased sharply, to 19 per cent in 2017.⁹ The rate was higher in urban areas and in the eastern region, and higher among boys than girls. Micronutrient deficiencies, particularly anaemia, persist and are more prevalent among young children under the age of 2 years and pregnant and breastfeeding women,¹⁰ especially in the western rural areas and among ethnic minority groups.

9. China has achieved universal compulsory education with gender parity. However, high-quality education is not accessible to all, particularly to children in rural or underserved regions, children with disabilities and specific learning needs, children affected by migration, and children from ethnic minority communities and from the poorest household quintile. To achieve universal provision of high-quality preschool education, more effort is needed to enhance the capacity of teachers and bridge urban-rural and regional gaps.

10. Particularly in rural areas, some adolescents and youth in technical and vocational education and training schools are not acquiring sufficient transferable skills, which are essential for a successful school-to-work transition. Adolescents in rural areas are lagging behind their urban peers, with an attendance rate of only 58.2 per cent for 19-year-old adolescents living in rural areas.¹¹ In 2024, 15.8 per cent of urban adolescents and youth aged 16 to 24 years were unemployed.¹²

11. Not all children are learning in protective school environments; children attending rural and boarding schools are often at risk. Qualitative data suggest that a large proportion of children experience bullying.¹³ Such cases of violence underscore

⁵ Zhang, Yunting, et al. 'Assessing the inequality of early child development in China: A population-based study', *The Lancet Regional Health: Western Pacific*, vol. 14, no. 100221, 2021.

⁶ State Council Information Office, 'Current situation and existing problems of rehabilitation for children with disabilities in China', https://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2018-06/01/content_5295374.htm, accessed on 18 March 2025.

⁷ Nisar, Anum, et al., 'Prevalence of perinatal depression and its determinants in Mainland China: A systematic review and meta-analysis', *Journal of Affective Disorders*, vol. 277, 1 December 2020, pp. 1022–1037.

⁸ Li, Fenghua, et al., 'Prevalence of mental disorders in school children and adolescents in China: Diagnostic data from detailed clinical assessments of 17,524 individuals', *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, vol. 63, no. 1, January 2022, pp. 34–46.

⁹ China Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Nutrition and Health Surveillance, 2017.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ NBS, UNICEF China, UNFPA China, *What the 2020 Census Can Tell Us About Children in China: Facts and figures*, 2023.

¹² NBS, <https://data.stats.gov.cn/english/easyquery.htm?cn=A01>, accessed on 18 March 2025. 2024 annual estimation is the arithmetic average of monthly data. The data exclude students in school.

¹³ Ran Hu, Jia Xue, and Ziqiang Han, 'School bullying victimization and perpetration among Chinese adolescents: A latent class approach', *Children and Youth Services Review*, vol. 120, January 2021.

the need for stricter oversight and accountability at schools and better linkages with child protection services. The availability of mental health resources is uneven, particularly in rural or underfunded schools. Children affected by migration and children with disabilities face additional vulnerabilities, including discrimination and neglect.

12. The lack of nationally representative data on violence against children, including online violence, hinders monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal 16.2. Eliminating violence against children remains an important priority, as highlighted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child.¹⁴ Crimes against children have been rising, and the number of individuals prosecuted for crimes against minors had an average annual increase of 5.4 per cent from 2020 to 2023.¹⁵ Some 196 million children aged 6–17 years have online access.¹⁶ In line with global trends, they face increased exposure to online risks and potential harms, including bullying, sexual abuse and exploitation, harmful content and misuse of personal data.

13. The number of children in alternative care has decreased significantly over the past decade, yet 144,000 orphaned children remain in alternative care, including 38,000 in residential facilities and 105,000 in kinship and foster care.¹⁷ A large proportion of abandoned children living in residential care (i.e. child welfare institutions) have severe disabilities or serious illnesses.¹⁸ Gatekeeping and support to vulnerable families need to be further strengthened to prevent family separation.

14. China is in the process of consolidating a preventive and responsive child protection system at the national and subnational level, with effective coordination, clear accountabilities, adequate resources and integrated services that are inclusive and responsive to the needs of girls and boys. Safe mechanisms for reporting violence against children, supporting child victims of violence and referring cases to specialized services and the child justice system require further strengthening in terms of making these services more child-friendly and reducing geographical disparities in access.

15. China highly values addressing climate threats, particularly environmental threat adaptation for vulnerable groups such as children. Guided by its policy documents, such as the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2035 and the China National Climate Change Health Adaptation Action Plan (2024–2030), the country strives to strengthen health outcomes and interventions for vulnerable groups, including children. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement encourage support from United Nations entities for adaptation actions.

16. Disparities between girls and boys in child development have decreased due to evolving policies, legislation, family structure and social values. While overt discrimination against girls and women in accessing public resources and opportunities has diminished, in private spheres subtle biases still limit the potential of both girls and boys.

17. Significant gaps exist in data for monitoring the country's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2024, global databases contained

¹⁴ United Nations human rights treaty bodies, CRC/C/CHN/CO/3-4, 29 October 2013.

¹⁵ Supreme People's Procuratorate, '243,000 individuals got prosecuted for crimes against minors from 2020 to 2023', https://www.spp.gov.cn/zdgz/202403/t20240301_646775.shtml, accessed on 18 March 2025.

¹⁶ China Youth League, Annual Report on Children's Internet Use (forthcoming).

¹⁷ Ministry of Civil Affairs, *China Civil Affairs Statistical Yearbook, 2024*,

¹⁸ Ministry of Civil Affairs, 'China further improves the life quality of orphans' (translation), https://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2019-02/11/content_5364682.htm, accessed on 18 March 2025.

internationally comparable data for China for only 26 of 48 child-related indicators (54 per cent).

18. The new country programme, which is based on the 2021–2025 country programme evaluation, prioritizes the well-being of disadvantaged children amid the country's rapid modernization. It aims to integrate key cross-cutting issues (gender, climate threats and disability) into its programme components and enhance service quality and private sector engagement.

19. Lessons from the current country programme show that embedding advocacy and innovations across activities and fostering a culture of norms and standards among national stakeholders can enhance programme success. The programme has demonstrated adaptability in response to changing contexts, ensuring sustainability through strong government partnerships. It has successfully integrated child-related issues into national policies, ensuring long-term impact, and has demonstrated scalability of models, particularly in education and social protection.

Programme priorities and partnerships

20. By 2030, the country programme envisions that more children and their families will benefit from and have equitable access to quality services that are responsive to the specific needs of girls and boys, disability-inclusive and climate-smart. This includes child and social protection systems that increasingly protect their rights, including in emergency situations. UNICEF will work with the Government at the national and subnational levels and with civil society, private sector and other partners to implement these approaches in laws, policies and standards that benefit the most vulnerable children.

21. The strategic intent is to promote the development of children, particularly in the western and central regions that have lower-performing economic and social indicators, and to accelerate achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The main programming shift focuses on strengthening child-focused policies, laws and strategies and creating scalable models for systemic improvements. UNICEF will work with the Government to advance rural revitalization, promoting the development of rural children and reducing the urban/rural development gap.

22. The programme aligns with the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2029 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2026–2030 in support of the Fifteenth Five-Year Plan and National Plan of Action for Women, 2021–2030 and the National Plan of Action for Children, 2021–2030. It is underpinned by risk-informed analyses, the gender programmatic review, recommendations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child and a recent national consultation process with partners and stakeholders, including children. Recognizing the status of China as an upper-middle-income country and given its transition towards high-income status, the country programme is designed with a gradual exit strategy from its current form, laying the foundation for a future revised typology geared towards upholding the rights of children through engagements on policy, advocacy and partnerships.

23. The programme will continue to foster South-South and triangular cooperation, facilitating knowledge-sharing and collaboration with other countries based on evidence-based good practices. Strategic actions will be implemented to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in China and other countries.

Healthy growth and development

24. This programme component will support more children, adolescents, women and caregivers to benefit from improved health and nutrition policies and strengthened climate-smart and resilient health systems at the primary healthcare and community level. It will focus on improving policies addressing disparities in mental health, NCDs, early childhood development, environmental health and nutrition services. Focus will be placed on vulnerable child populations at risk of development delays and/or disabilities. UNICEF will support improving the capacity of primary healthcare systems to provide affordable and accessible mental health and NCD services to children, pregnant women and caregivers.

25. UNICEF will help to ensure equitable access to quality healthcare for children, prioritizing nurturing care and early childhood interventions for children with higher-risk conditions such as prematurity, developmental delays and disabilities. This will include strengthening primary healthcare system capacities, advocating for robust monitoring and surveillance, and promoting sustainable financing to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure for families with children at risk. UNICEF will enhance the capacity and accessibility of child and newborn healthcare services in the central and western regions and in rural areas.

26. UNICEF will strengthen environmental health interventions to protect children and adolescents from environmental threats, including chemical poisoning, air pollution, road traffic injuries and drowning. This will include scaling up children's environmental health monitoring, public-awareness initiatives and sharing best practices to strengthen the capacities of policymakers and service providers.

27. UNICEF will support the ongoing development of policies and regulations on the marketing of unhealthy foods, food procurement for children centred around educational institutions, and food taxes and subsidies. UNICEF will support the promotion of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and prioritize the prevention of overweight, obesity and micronutrient deficiencies (iron and iodine) among pregnant women and vulnerable children.

28. UNICEF will enhance institutional nutrition services by improving infant and young child feeding counselling through the primary healthcare system and integrating maternal nutrition services into routine antenatal care. UNICEF will promote a multisystem approach towards creating healthy food environments, integrate nutrition education in schools, and strengthen referral mechanisms to health services for children with obesity. UNICEF will support campaigns to empower children, with a focus on children left behind, caregivers, young people and pregnant women. Such campaigns will empower them to demand nutritious foods and adopt healthier lifestyles, to improve their knowledge and skills related to healthy nutrition practices in early childhood, and to address negative social and cultural norms, including on unhealthy attitudes about weight.

Quality and inclusive education

29. This programme component will aim to ensure inclusive quality education for all children and adolescents, preparing them for the school-to-work transition with transferable, digital and green skills. Priority will be given to girls, children with disabilities, children from rural communities, and children living in western and central regions. Safe learning environments (both offline and online) and child rights safeguarding in rural and boarding schools will also be emphasized.

30. This component aligns with national education reform and modernization plans and will support government efforts to develop and implement policies and

regulations on inclusive education and affordable early childhood care. This will include improving quality standards for monitoring and evaluation of preschools and secondary school education services, and guidelines and curricula for child protection and risk resilience in schools at all levels.

31. UNICEF will continue supporting education authorities to develop and test scalable models of child protection in schools: science, technology, engineering and mathematics, digital education, life skills development, youth engagement and entrepreneurship programmes. UNICEF will support capacity-building of education administrators, teacher trainers, school leaders and childcare providers. UNICEF will assist education partners in underdeveloped provinces to adopt a multiple-pathways approach for developing transferable, digital and green skills.

32. UNICEF will support the government scale up of community-based family support and responsive care services for children up to 6 years old, and implement social and emotional learning in pre-primary education while expanding it to secondary education. Furthermore, cross-sectoral engagement on disability inclusion and adolescent development, including through climate skills and mental health support, will be strengthened.

33. Strategic alliances with the Government, industry and the private sector will be expanded to address education challenges in acquiring twenty-first century skills, youth entrepreneurship and employability. Advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence and big data, will be adopted to enhance teacher training and children's learning outcomes, while ensuring safety and well-being and promoting child and youth participation.

Child protection

34. This programme component will seek to ensure that all children in China, especially those in underdeveloped areas and affected by migration, live in safer environments; are increasingly protected from all forms of violence; and benefit from quality, inclusive, resilient and well-resourced child protection systems. The programme will promote systemic changes, strengthen child protection systems through preventive and support services; and address the root causes of violence.

35. The programme will support strengthening policy and legislative frameworks in line with international standards; improve data and evidence for policymaking; and support advocacy for increased spending on child protection. It will enhance governance, accountability and coordination across government departments for an effective child protection system.

36. UNICEF will support the expansion of child protection services through scale up of the county-township-community tiered system model, testing it with differentiated levels of support for less developed areas to ensure resilience to shocks. UNICEF will assist the Government to standardize social and child protection services; build social service workforce capacities at scale; and support strengthening gatekeeping and preventing family separation and institutionalization. Additionally, UNICEF aims to enhance safe and equal access to justice that is responsive to the needs of girls and boys, and to provide disability-inclusive services for child victims of violence, including online violence. The organization will enhance services for children in conflict with the law while also strengthening justice services and workforce capacities for children in contact with the law as offenders, victims of violence or witnesses.

37. UNICEF will promote social and behaviour change interventions to address stereotypes about gender, persons with disabilities and violence against children and women. Community approaches, such as parenting programmes, community worker

engagement and support to civil society organizations, will raise awareness and facilitate access to reporting of violence against children and access to assistance.

38. UNICEF will foster partnerships with the Government, academia and civil society. Partnerships with the private sector will emphasize building a safe digital environment and promoting positive norms. The programme will embed expanding international cooperation on child protection systems, issues related to justice, alternative care for children deprived of parental care and protecting children online.

Child-focused climate action

39. This programme component will enhance climate-smart, child-centred, quality social services, child-friendly spaces and related infrastructure in the public and private sectors in a sustainable and equitable manner, with a specific focus on those most affected by climate threats.

40. The programme will promote the holistic development of children in China by strengthening evidence-based policies and frameworks that can make public services climate resilient and reduce emissions. To build resilient communities, the focus will be on the most marginalized children. UNICEF will integrate child and youth perspectives into climate and environment policies, planning and reviews, and promote greater recognition of child-sensitive indicators.

41. The component will promote transformative and scalable climate-smart technologies for social services, focusing on adaptation and mitigation. It will align with the country's nationally determined contributions, as well as policies and priorities contained in the Fifteenth Five-Year Plan and the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2035.

42. UNICEF will broaden partnerships across sectors, including the private sector, state-owned enterprises and academic institutions. The focus will be on child-sensitive climate information, behaviour change interventions and early warning and response. These efforts will seek to address infrastructure and regulatory bottlenecks, reflect children and climate considerations into economic frameworks, and enhance community capacity to mitigate and adapt to environmental threats and use of early warning systems.

43. This programme component will support all other programme components and cross-cutting issues to achieve a holistic approach, including the development of a multi-year climate action plan for all sectors.

Child-centred social policy

44. This programme component will aim to enhance children's participation in social protection programmes and family-friendly services, improving their multidimensional well-being. It will particularly benefit children from low-income families, children living in rural areas, migrant children, children left behind, children with disabilities and those affected by shocks. UNICEF will support the Government with technical assistance, evidence generation and modelling. Equity will be emphasized, with a focus on the most vulnerable. Children. UNICEF will support the Government to integrate child-friendly principles into planning, policymaking and local governance.

45. In public finance and governance, UNICEF will promote a comprehensive, integrated and inclusive social protection framework, providing safeguards against various risks while enhancing individual and household resilience to future shocks. UNICEF will support the scale-up of child-friendly and child-focused governance, with participation from children and caregivers, strengthening social protection,

integrating family-friendly policies and enhancing government capacity for child-friendly planning, child-friendly spaces, budgeting and monitoring and evaluation. Support will be provided to scale up the Child-Friendly Cities Initiative with an emphasis on children's meaningful participation.

46. The component will enhance child-centred policymaking across government administrative systems by supporting local governments in the planning, implementation and coordination of child-related services. This will include providing technical tools, capacity-building and technical assistance to improve financing capacity, consolidate financing mechanisms and optimize budget allocation and related systems, which will address gaps in public service access and reduce family care burdens.

47. The awareness of and responsibility for service delivery and provision of public goods will be enhanced, in partnership with the Government, research institutions, academia and the private sector. A multisectoral cooperation mechanism will be established, leveraging capacities in technology, data and innovation and addressing modernization demands to benefit children across China. Improved monitoring and evidence generation will advance children's multidimensional well-being.

Partnerships and engagement

48. UNICEF will collaborate with the Government of China to mobilize resources from the public and private sectors, in alignment with the country's laws and regulations, while adhering to UNICEF regulations, rules and policies, to support its programmes of cooperation, in China and worldwide, including in the humanitarian context. In close communication and consultation with the Government and with its consent, UNICEF will leverage financial and non-financial support from the Government, individuals and the private sector to fund UNICEF programmes on children's rights. Partnerships with corporations, philanthropies and foundations will be strengthened to leverage expertise, technologies and global presence and reach to develop, test and scale up solutions for children. UNICEF will continue to expand the sales of cards and other gifts.

49. UNICEF South-South and triangular cooperation will align with global and regional organizational strategies, including the UNICEF Africa strategy¹⁹, the Pacific Islands Memorandum of Understanding²⁰ and the UNICEF-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) engagement strategy.²¹ It aims to influence child rights perspectives in the overseas development efforts of China along the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals and international standards and the mutual sharing of best practices with national institutions. China is implementing the Global Development Initiative, which has as its stated aim to advance the Sustainable Development Goals. The Initiative will therefore serve as a collaborative platform for scaling up the child-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goal globally.

50. External relations and communications will help UNICEF to build trust for its fundraising initiatives to increase public awareness of children's rights. This will involve brand visibility, public advocacy, international communication and social and behaviour change, aligning advocacy with the Sustainable Development Goals. Communication will also emphasize long-term recognition of UNICEF and its partners.

¹⁹ UNICEF, UNICEF contributions to Africa's development agendas, E/ICEF/2024/32, New York, 1 August 2024.

²⁰ Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Children's Fund and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, 11 July 2024.

²¹ Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Framework agreement for cooperation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations Children's Fund, 29 June 2021.

51. UNICEF will leverage resources in China to help to address global programmatic and humanitarian essential supply needs for children. UNICEF will also collaborate with partners in China and globally to advance research, development and equitable access to affordable, quality supplies supporting children's health and development globally.

Programme effectiveness

52. This programme component will enhance the delivery of programme results through planning, monitoring, data, research, evaluation and reporting to inform evidence-based decision-making; mainstreaming equitable, disability-inclusive programming and prioritizing social behaviour change strategies across sectors; supply procurement and operational support; and other key areas of programme enhancement as part of cross-cutting elements across all programmes.

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>
Healthy growth and development	250	10 450	10 700
Quality and inclusive education	250	10 450	10 700
Child protection	250	29 850	30 100
Child-focused climate action	250	9 750	10 000
Child-centred social policy	250	27 850	28 100
Partnerships and engagement	1 000	22 000	23 000
Programme effectiveness	2 000	27 400	29 400
Total	4 250	137 750	142 000

Programme and risk management

53. This document outlines UNICEF contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures.

54. Governance oversight includes mandatory country management team and programme management team coordination meetings, and high-level government annual reviews to assess progress and adjust programmes. Programme risk will be managed through risk management tools, monitoring and emergency preparedness plans involving the country office and its partners. UNICEF uses the harmonized approach to cash transfers, strengthens accountability to affected populations and implements measures to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse and ensure child rights safeguarding.

Monitoring, learning and evaluation

55. Programme monitoring and evaluation will be conducted in collaboration with the Government, based on the results and resources framework. Reviews will be supported by regular joint field programme monitoring activities with the Government and United Nations agencies to guide course correction and support UNSDCF reporting.

56. To enhance the situation analysis of children and improve the availability of data on the child-related Sustainable Development Goals, UNICEF will support methodological studies and advocate with government ministries and departments for the release of relevant official data and the collection of child-focused Sustainable Development Goals data. UNICEF will introduce international best practices to partners and connect them with global networks.

57. UNICEF will use the costed evaluation plan and the country's strengthened national evaluation systems and capacities to advance child-focused evaluations.

Annex

Results and resources framework

China – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2026–2030

Convention on the Rights of the Child: Articles 2–3, 5–6, 12–15, 17–19, 23–26, 28–31, 34.

National priorities: Sustainable Development Goals 1–7, 11, 13, 16; Fifteenth Five-Year Plan; Education Modernization Plan 2035; National Plan of Action for Women, 2021–2030 and National Plan of Action for Children, 2021–2030; and related policies and plans.

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

People and Prosperity:

1. By 2030, more people benefit from high-quality, affordable, inclusive and climate-resilient social services and social protection across the life course, with improved well-being, leaving no one behind.
2. By 2030, China's transition to a high-quality and inclusive economic development model characterized by innovation, delivers more balanced sustainable development between rural and urban areas, shared prosperity, decent work, and equitable opportunities for all.

Planet:

3. By 2030, all people benefit from China's accelerated green transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient, inclusive and gender-responsive development and sustainable management of the environment, natural resources and biodiversity.

Partnerships:

4. By 2030, China strengthens its international development cooperation contributions and partnerships towards SDG attainment in line with international norms and standards, with an emphasis on leaving no one and no country behind and gender equality.

Related UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2029 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
1, 2, 4	1. By 2030, children, adolescents, women and caregivers benefit from improved health and nutrition policies and strengthened	Scale of integration of mental health services into primary healthcare for children, adolescents, pregnant women and caregivers B: Limited T: Partially	UNICEF/partner assessment	Primary healthcare system strengthening Health system capacity-building in remote areas	National Health Commission (NHC) National Disease Control and Prevention Administration	250	10 450	10 700

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
	climate-smart health systems at the primary healthcare and community levels, focusing on mental health, NCDs, children with high-risk conditions, environmental health issues, and vulnerable nutrition groups.	Extent to which environmental health risks are integrated into primary healthcare with UNICEF support B: Limited T: Partial integration (environmental health risks) National Government is implementing actions to improve children's food environment B: 0/5 T: 4/5		Environmental and climate health capacity-building Strengthened nutrition policy, legislation and regulation Institutional nutrition services improvement for infant and young child feeding and maternal nutrition	Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE)			
1–4	2. Children and adolescents in China – especially children and adolescents with disabilities; children and adolescents from rural and ethnic communities; and girls – receive inclusive quality education that is fostered and sustained for lifelong development.	Participation rate in technical-vocational programmes (15-to-24-year-olds) by sex* B: 20.02% T: To be determined	Official statistics	Access to high-quality education for children and adolescents with disabilities and other specific needs Access to high-quality early childhood care and education in underserved areas Schools provide a safe environment Provision of transferable skills and livelihood opportunities	Ministry of Education (MOE) All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) China, Association for Science and Technology All-China Youth Federation	250	10 450	10 700

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
1, 4	3. By 2030, more children in China, especially the most vulnerable (children in less developed areas, in contact with the law and affected by migration) are increasingly protected from violence by a well-functioning child protection system that is resilient, gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive.	Phase of maturity of the child protection systems B: Enhancement phase T: Integration phase Extent of development of specialized systems of justice for children (six criteria in law and practice) B: 1/4 T: 4/4	UNICEF-supported assessment	Equitable and responsive laws, policies and governance better aligned with international standards Enhanced government capacities at all levels to provide equitable and high-quality services Enhanced skills and positive attitudes to prevent violence	National Working Committee on Children and Women ACWF Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA) Legislative Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress China Federation of Internet Societies (CFIS) China Social Work Academy Supreme People's Court Supreme People's Procuratorate Ministry of Public Security Ministry of Justice China Disabled Persons Federation	250	29 850	30 100

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
1, 3, 4	4. Climate-smart, child-centred, quality social services and related infrastructure in the public and private sectors are available and utilized optimally by children, adolescents and youth, targeting those most affected by climate risk, in a sustainable and equitable manner by 2030.	Level of integration of innovative climate-smart models for social sectors in national policies B: 0 T: 5	Official statistics	Increased government commitments and capacities to deliver climate-resilient and child-centred services Enhanced government capacities to provide green and low-carbon social services and facilities Enhanced government capacities for climate surveillance and planning	MEE Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) China Meteorological Administration	250	9 750	10 000
1, 2, 4	5. By 2030, more children in China – particularly children from low-income families, girls, children with disabilities, and children affected by migration and shocks –	Extent of action taken to support care work, including through family-friendly policies B: 8 T: 13	Government policies and announcements	Strengthened government capacity for monitoring and reducing multidimensional child deprivations Enhanced government	NHC National Development and Reform Commission Ministry of Finance State Taxation	250	27 850	28 100

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
	adequately participate in, utilize and benefit from integrated social protection programmes and family-friendly services, contributing to their improved multidimensional well-being	Extent to which measurement, analysis or policy advice has informed policies and programmes to reduce child poverty (Core Standard Indicator 5.1) B: L4/Point 3 T: L5/Point 4		capacity to strengthen integrated, equitable and disability-inclusive social protection system Enhanced government capacity to apply child and family-friendly governance and public finance management	Administration MCA International Poverty Reduction Center in China National Healthcare Security Administration Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development			
4	6. By 2030, progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for children in China is enhanced by strengthened support of the public and private sector, media and digital partners, academia, financial and technical institutions, knowledge and exchange between countries	Children in partner countries benefit from increased investment through China's international development cooperation financing B: No (0) T: Yes (25 projects)	Partnership records and reports	The country's contributions significantly enhance partner countries' child-related policies and investments. Greater support for children's rights among the public in China, as a result of UNICEF communication and advocacy Private sector support expanded towards	China International Development Cooperation Agency Ministry of Commerce NHC MOE MEE Ministry Emergency Management MARA	1 000	22 000	23 000

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
		Children benefit from global initiatives supported by the private sector in China B: 0 T: 5		achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.	ACWF CFIS Financial institutions Private sector			
	7. Programme effectiveness	Percentage of country programme results on track or achieved: (a) outcomes (b) output B: 63% (outcome)/ 67% (output) T:100% 100%	UNICEF/partner assessment	Programme coordination; planning, monitoring and evaluation, data, cross-cutting, operations	National Bureau of Statistics of China	2 000	27 400	29 400
Total resources						4 250	137 750	142 000

* Outcome indicator is aligned with UNSDCF indicator.