



Gender Equality

Global Annual
Results Report 2024

unicef 
for every child

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Hawa dresses in her bright yellow hijab school uniform before her half-hour walk to Mustaqbal School in Xaar-Xaar, a community that hosts internally displaced people in Galmudug State, Somalia. Hawa was able to enroll in school for the first time after being forced to leave the family's rural farm where basic services, including education, were not available.

Expression of thanks: © UNICEF/UNI719174/Qadari

Specialists at the Prosthetics Centre in Sana'a Governorate ensuring Khadija's prosthetic limb is properly fitted and suitable for her to use comfortably. Khadija is a nine-year-old girl from Yemen who faced a life-changing event when an infected lesion on her leg led to amputation. The centre, supported by UNICEF, provided her with a prosthetic leg, rehabilitation, and psychological support, helping her regain her ability to walk and adjust to her new life.



Expression of thanks

UNICEF programmes are funded entirely through the voluntary support of millions of people around the world and our partners in government, civil society and the private sector. Voluntary contributions enable UNICEF to deliver on its mandate to protect children's rights, help meet their basic needs and expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. We thank all our partners who contributed so generously in 2024 to our work to achieve greater gender equality around the world. It is their support that allows us to provide technical, operational and programming assistance to countries to address gender inequalities and impact the lives of millions of girls and boys, women and men across the world.

UNICEF would like to convey special appreciation to partners that have provided thematic contributions. The flexibility of these resources provides sustainability for programmes and allows UNICEF to offer a full range of support to countries and regions. In this regard, we would especially like to thank the governments of Germany, Luxembourg, Iceland and Canada and private sector partners Clé de Peau Beauté, Chloé, Max Factor, Sylvamo and others, for their contributions to the 2024 Global Thematic Fund for Gender Equality. We look forward to growing our collaborations in the future.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

BEP	balanced energy protein	PHC	Primary health care
FGM	female genital mutilation	STEM	science, technology, engineering and mathematics
GAP	Gender Action Plan	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
HPV	human papillomavirus	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
ICT	information and communication technology	VINA	Vitamin A Supplementation in a New Age
MHH	menstrual health and hygiene	WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
MHPSS	mental health and psychosocial support	WHO	World Health Organization
NEET	Not in education, employment or training		
PEP	Post-exposure prophylaxis		



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Students from 6th and 7th grades at an Atal Tinkering Laboratory under the Atal Innovation Mission of the Government of India, designed to foster curiosity, creativity, and imagination in girls and boys and inculcate skills such as design mindset, computational thinking, adaptive learning, physical computing, etc.



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Executive Summary

Sarah, 20, carries building tools in her work suit while completing a wall-building assignment at Salima Technical College, Malawi. Through the UNICEF-supported Social Protection for Gender Empowerment and Resilience (SP-Gear) project, Sarah received a scholarship that helped her to attend technical college and afford essentials. She says "My goal is to build a nice house for my parents and to continue with school to do engineering..."

Equal opportunities for girls and women remain out of reach in many parts of the world. Each year, millions of preventable maternal and newborn deaths continue to occur, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.¹ Globally, 1 billion adolescent girls and women suffer from undernutrition, anaemia or micronutrient deficiencies.² One in five women have experienced sexual violence during childhood, and one in three face physical or sexual violence in their lifetime.³ Girls are disproportionately excluded from education and economic opportunities, leaving them more vulnerable to child marriage, HIV and early pregnancy. Girls are also less likely than boys to be in education, employment or training.⁴ Compounding these issues, girls and women are often burdened with water collection duties, lack access to basic sanitation, and face gender-based inequalities in social protection and unpaid care work.

Alarming, no country with available data has met even half of the 16 Sustainable Development Goal targets most critical to adolescent girls' well-being. UNICEF remains committed to bold, evidence-driven action to accelerate progress for gender equality and ensure that every girl and woman can thrive. UNICEF is ramping up efforts, together with partners, to drive meaningful progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women. Clear, timebound targets have been set out in the Gender Action Plan (GAP), 2022–2025,⁵ with UNICEF meeting or surpassing 70 per cent of output milestones at the end of 2024.

Results for gender equality as well as girls' and women's empowerment have improved significantly since the GAP was introduced in 2022. UNICEF, alongside a range of partners globally, has expanded coverage of services for anaemia and HIV prevention and treatment, including a near doubling of HIV treatment for pregnant and breastfeeding women since 2010. At the same time, more well-trained front-line community workers are delivering critical health, nutrition and immunization services. The availability of tailored mental health services for girls, as well as for boys and women, continues to grow.

In 2024, UNICEF advanced its Adolescent Girl Programme Strategy⁶ across 63 countries, reaching over 30 million people with dynamic, girl-centred initiatives that are designed with and for adolescent girls. Key achievements included delivering skills-building programmes, expanded human papillomavirus vaccination and – in addition to girl-centred programming – large-scale public communication campaigns that reached 15 million adolescents and 90 million parents and caregivers in 2024.

UNICEF continues to build collaborations with girls' and women's rights organizations, enabling girls to play a more direct role in shaping policies and programmes. In 2024, 82 country offices established partnerships with grass-roots girls' and women's rights groups, 30 more than in 2022, with a total value of US\$142 million. Global partnerships, such as the United Nations Population Fund and UNICEF

joint programmes on ending child marriage and female genital mutilation remain vital, reaching over 10 million girls with critical services.

Institutionally, UNICEF strengthened the use of gender equality analyses to inform country programming, including in humanitarian contexts, and has increased gender equality-focused expenditures from 11 per cent to 14 per cent of total expenditures. This is on track to meet the United Nations system's 15 per cent benchmark. UNICEF has also achieved gender parity in its staffing globally, including at the Director level, and continues to refine its policies to make the organization a more inclusive and transformative workplace.

In 2024, UNICEF received US\$48.6 million in Other Regular contributions for gender equality programming. Public sector partners, including Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Germany, Denmark and Canada, contributed the largest share of this funding at 86 per cent while private sector partners contributed 14 per cent. Global thematic funding for gender equality remained steady during 2024 with US\$5.1 million in contributions from public and private sector partners.

FIGURE 1. Gender Equality – OR contributions received by fund type and resource partner, 2024

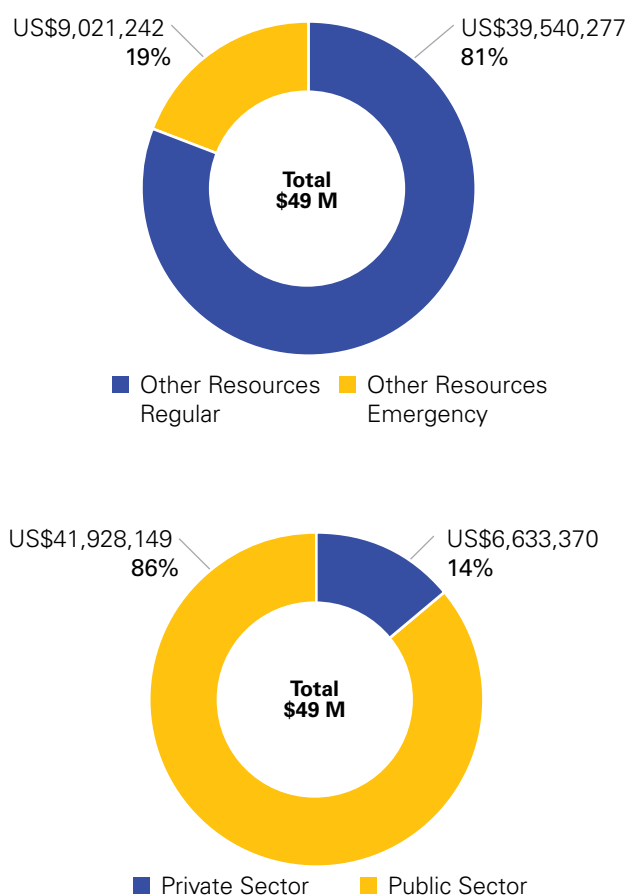


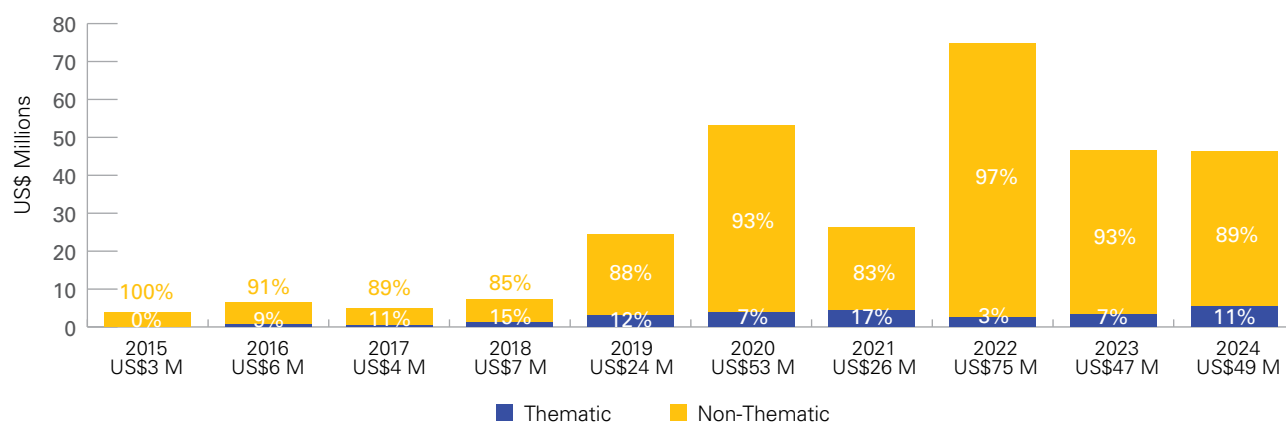
FIGURE 2. Top 20 resource partners to gender equality by total contributions, 2024

Rank	Resource Partner	Contributions Received, 2024
1	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	14,565,669
2	Germany	11,938,159
3	UN Joint Programme	2,527,250
4	Denmark	2,436,050
5	United States Fund for UNICEF	2,141,906
6	Canada	2,053,954
7	Spain	1,896,866
8	France	1,619,970
9	European Commission	1,538,051
10	Japan Committee for UNICEF	1,423,814
11	UN Multi Partner Trust Fund	1,309,883
12	German Committee for UNICEF	806,267
13	UN Women	773,049
14	Luxembourg	605,548
15	Danish Foundation for UNICEF	400,000
16	French Committee for UNICEF	308,776
17	United Kingdom	213,599
18	Belgian Committee for UNICEF	201,485
19	Iceland	200,000
20	United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	198,353

UNICEF extends sincere thanks to the governments of Germany, Luxembourg, Iceland and Canada and private sector partners Clé de Peau Beauté, Chloé, Max Factor, Sylvamo and others who contributed to the Fund, including

through National Committees. Their generous support has been crucial for UNICEF's gender equality programmes and high-impact initiatives around adolescent girls.

FIGURE 3. Gender Equality - OR contributions received by type of funding, 2015–2024: Thematic vs non-thematic





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Delivering results for girls and women

In Cambodia, students from Se San Sovathpheap School participate in local life skills education activities under UNICEF's Generation Future initiative. Generation Future's youth-led projects develop students' knowledge of real-world issues and empowers them with the skills to take positive action on challenges in their local communities, including climate change, gender equality in STEM, advocacy and volunteerism.

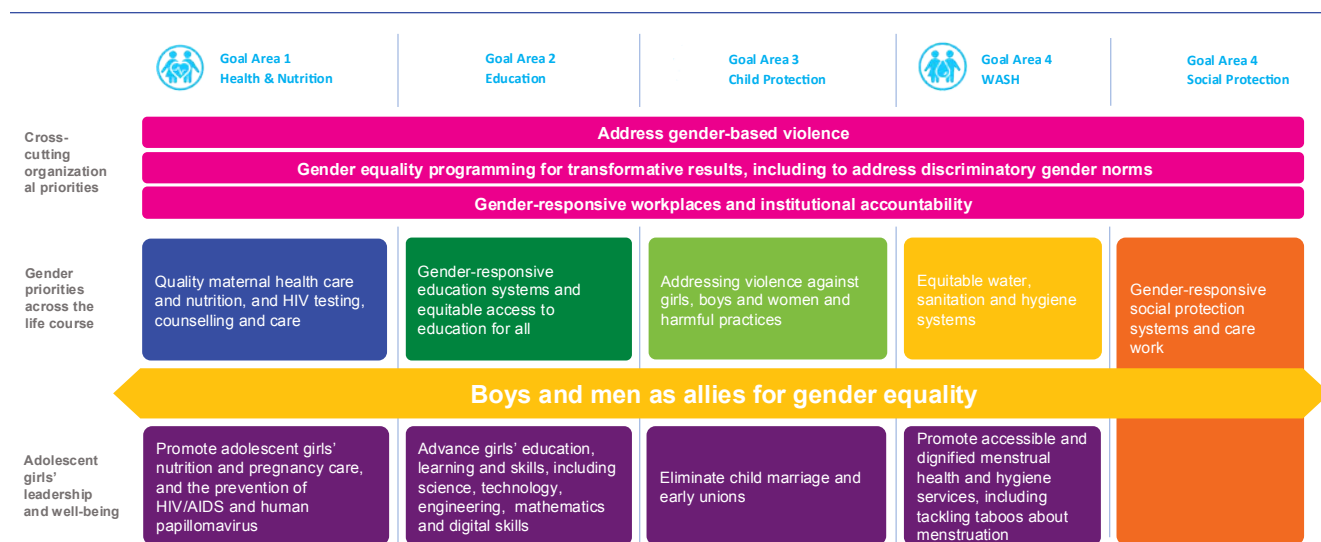
Strategic approach

UNICEF is driving integrated programming for gender equality results across its five goal areas: health and nutrition, education, child protection, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and social protection (see Figure 4). This work is grounded in UNICEF’s whole-of-institution approach that ensures accountability through rigorous benchmarks, leadership oversight and targeted financing, especially in humanitarian settings. UNICEF is committed to workplace practices and policies that support its goals on

gender equality, investing in gender-disaggregated data and research, and leveraging strategic partnerships with girl- and women-led organizations.

In addition to its work for all children, UNICEF places a special emphasis on adolescent girls, who represent an extraordinary, often overlooked source of leadership, innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship. UNICEF co-designs (with and for adolescent girls) accelerated programming to unlock this potential and meet their diverse and overlapping needs.

FIGURE 4. UNICEF Gender Action Plan 2022–2025: Results framework



POWER4Girls: Delivering change with and for girls

In 2024, UNICEF marked a milestone with the design and piloting of POWER4Girls, officially launched in March 2025 – a bold, multisectoral initiative designed to translate commitments to girls’ empowerment into tangible, lasting change. In partnership with civil society partner We are Purposeful, the Government of Iceland, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany and a global network of civil society, government and philanthropic allies, POWER4Girls represents a new partnership and financing model that places girls at the centre of change.

Operating across 22 countries in its design phase, POWER4Girls has already reached over 5 million girls and community members through adolescent-friendly health and nutrition services, skills training and economic empowerment opportunities that protect and support adolescent girls and their families to thrive. The programme strengthens national systems, elevates girl-led networks and movements, and ensures proven models for girls’ well-being are sustainably scaled and embedded into policy.

What sets POWER4Girls apart is its dual approach: investing in large-scale systems change while directly resourcing girl-led networks and organizations. The initiative is also generating crucial evidence on cost-effectiveness and scalability to guide future investments and strengthen accountability. The vision of POWER4Girls is clear: to unlock the power of adolescent girls to shape their futures, their communities and our world.

Goal Area 1: Every child survives and thrives

UNICEF continues to make strong progress in improving health outcomes for girls and women by enhancing service delivery, strengthening health systems, promoting positive health-seeking behaviours, and partnering with local women's and girls' networks to reach and support the most underserved communities.

Enhancing maternal and newborn care

Despite notable progress in maternal and newborn health since 1990, advances have stalled over the past decade. Preventable maternal deaths, stillbirths and newborn deaths remain alarmingly high. The latest global estimates report a combined 4.5 million deaths globally, with sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Southern Asia experiencing the largest numbers of fatalities.⁷ Maternal complications continue to be a major cause of death for adolescent girls.

UNICEF remains steadfast in expanding critical maternal and newborn health interventions in high-burden countries. It continues to strengthen strategic partnerships with the World Health Organization, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Bank. Through the Every Woman Every Newborn Everywhere initiative,⁸ UNICEF drives evidence-based action, monitors progress and cultivates shared learning, ensuring that every pregnant woman, new mother and newborn has the best possible chance of survival, health and well-being, no matter where they are.

UNICEF supports countries to scale up access to essential, high-quality and equitable maternal and newborn services. These are delivered through primary health-care services, including home visits, by equipped and knowledgeable front-line health workers with effective referral pathways to secondary and tertiary care. In 2024, UNICEF strengthened systems for primary health care in 135 countries across all regions and contexts, including development and humanitarian contexts, up from 97 countries in 2021.



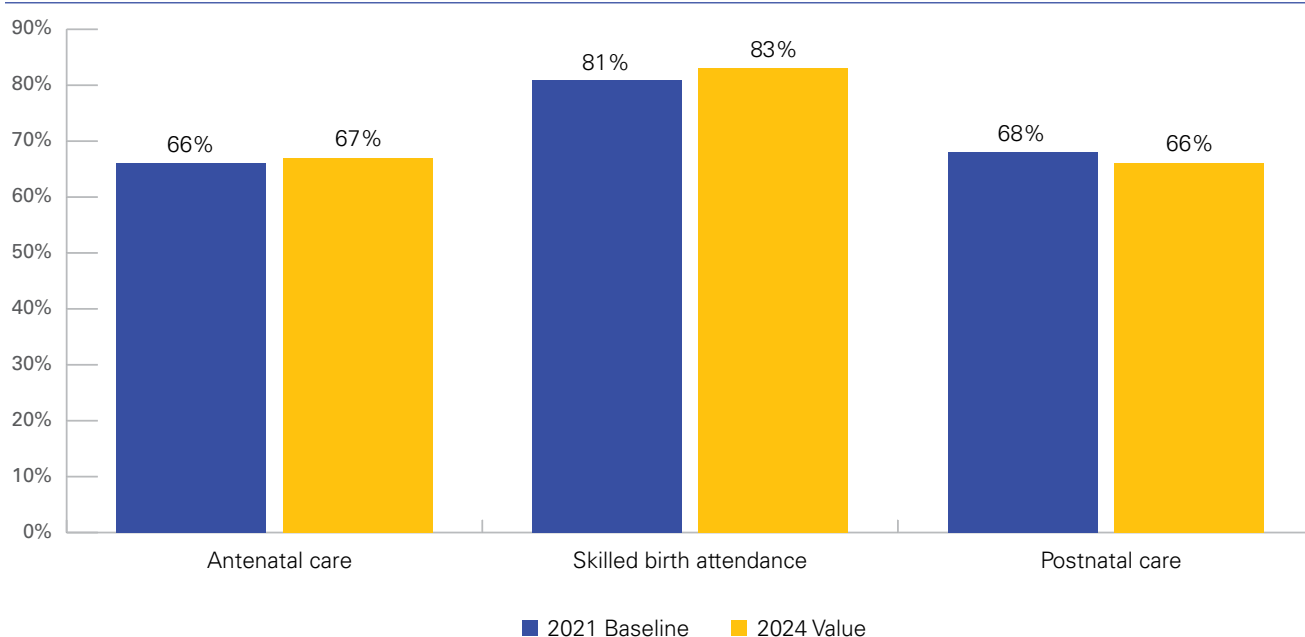
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At Odienné Regional Hospital in northern Côte d'Ivoire, Kouyate and her husband Souleman care for their premature twin boys, born at just 1,500 grams each. Through kangaroo care—holding their babies skin-to-skin—they provide vital warmth, comfort, and stability.

Global progress on key maternal health indicators has stagnated, underscoring the urgent need for increased investment to meet 2025 targets. In 2024, 67 per cent of pregnant women received at least four antenatal care visits – only a marginal increase from 66 per cent in 2021. Similarly, postnatal care coverage stood at 66 per cent in 2024, slightly below the 2021 baseline of 68 per cent (see Figure 5). Access to timely, essential health services during pregnancy is vital to prevent and manage complications that may arise before, during and after birth, and to reduce maternal and newborn morbidity.

In 2024, UNICEF-supported programmes facilitated 35.6 million live births in health-care facilities, bringing the cumulative total to 154.9 million since 2021. These efforts remain on track to reach the cumulative target of 179 million by 2025. The proportion of live births attended by skilled health personnel rose to 83 per cent in 2024, up from 81 per cent in 2021 (see Figure 5).

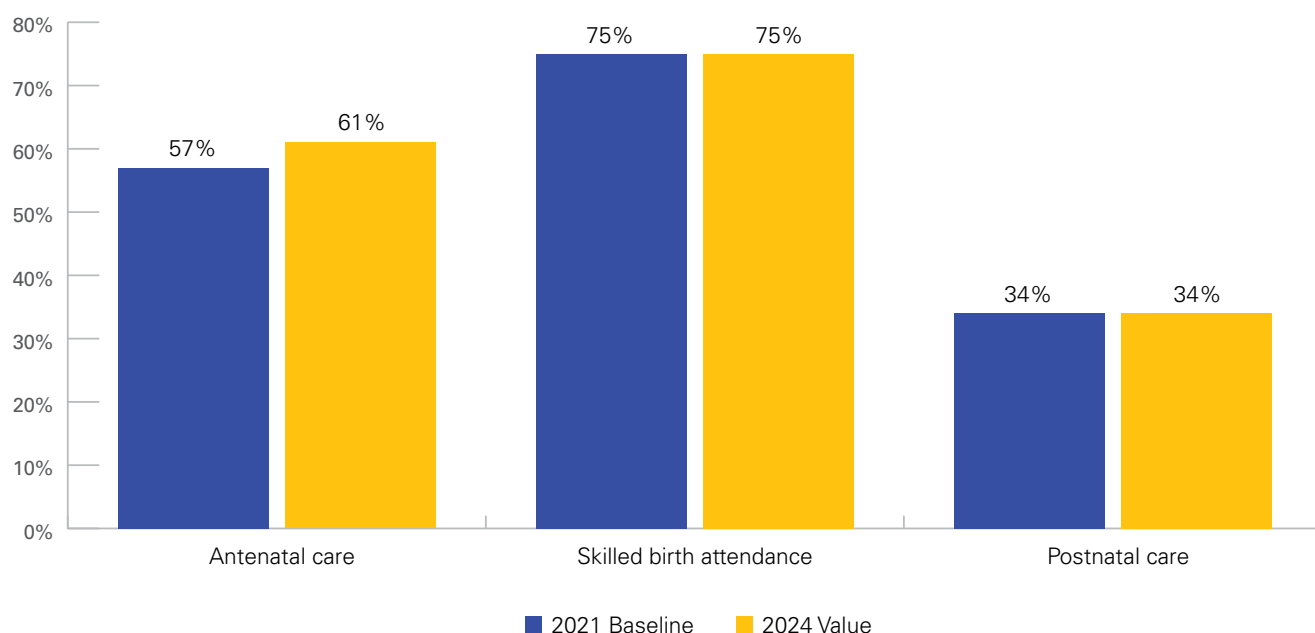
FIGURE 5. Pregnant girls and women aged 15–49 years receiving antenatal and postnatal care and skilled birth attendance



Nearly 12 million adolescent girls aged 15–19 years and more than 325,000 girls aged 10–14 years are expected to give birth in 2025.⁹ Access to maternal health care continues to be a challenge for these girls. In 2024, maternal health results for this cohort of adolescent girls were lower than rates for girls and women 15-49 essentially

unchanged from baseline figures (see Figure 6): 57 per cent of pregnant adolescents received antenatal care; 75 per cent of live births were attended by skilled health personnel; 61 per cent of adolescent mothers received postnatal care.

FIGURE 6. Pregnant adolescent girls aged 15–19 years receiving antenatal and postnatal care and skilled birth attendance



Promoting adolescent health care

In 2024, at the request of governments, UNICEF supported 44 countries to integrate adolescent health priorities into national programmes, primary health care services or through school and digital platforms, up from 27 countries in 2021. UNICEF also expanded multi-country programmes such as Laaha – a digital platform designed by and for girls and women as a virtual safe space – to reach additional countries. These programmes are now available in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Czechia, Ecuador, Iraq, Lebanon, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, the State of Palestine and Ukraine, with new modules on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and gender-based violence. Despite these achievements, more targeted efforts are required to support community-based front-line systems for adolescent girls, especially to ensure adolescent mothers and caregivers receive quality care without stigma or discrimination.

UNICEF reached 60 million children, adolescents, parents and caregivers with community-based MHPSS services in 2024, including nearly 23 million in humanitarian settings. In Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, UNICEF collaborated with national stakeholders and partners to embed MHPSS into national efforts to support vulnerable groups, including victims of gender-based violence and child labour, and children receiving social protection services in communities. In Peru, UNICEF partnered with the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations and the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion to deliver a comprehensive package of sessions focused on MHPSS, gender-based violence and empowerment, among other topics. More than 3,000 vulnerable adolescent girls

benefitted from the sessions, complementing the country's cash transfer programme, which currently supports 400,000 vulnerable adolescent girls. Early findings indicate that access to information and decision-making capacity among participants has improved by up to 80 per cent.

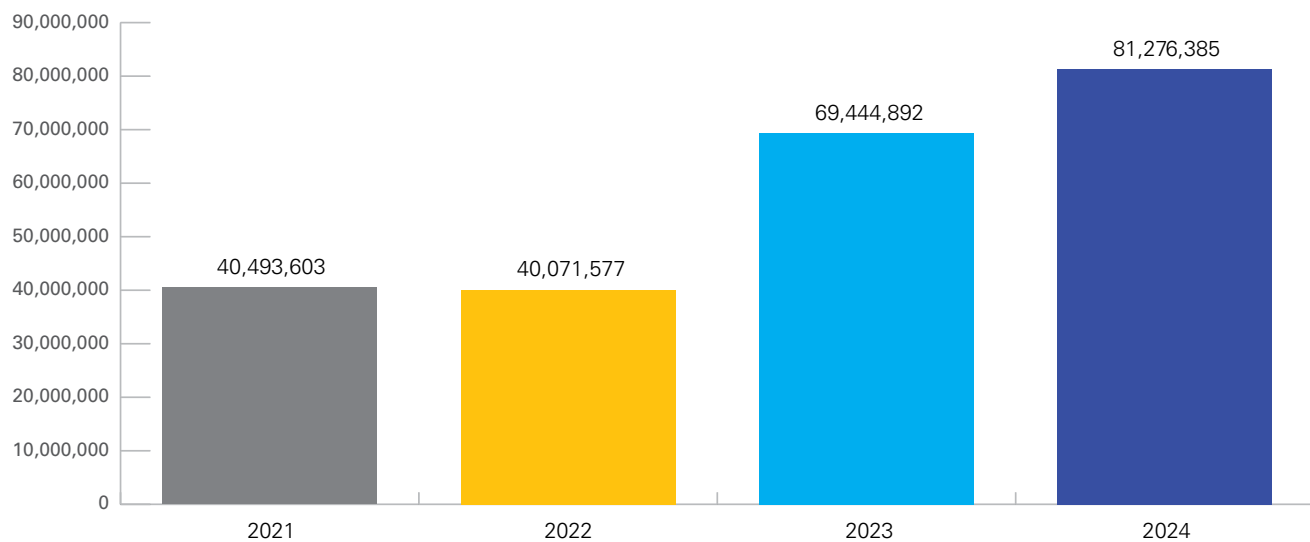
Nutrition

Globally, 1 billion adolescent girls and women suffer from undernutrition, deficiencies in essential micronutrients and anaemia – conditions that severely undermine their health, well-being and potential.¹⁰ UNICEF supports proven strategies to reduce the impact of discrimination on the nutrition of women, girls and children, especially in humanitarian contexts when national systems fail or are insufficient.

In 2024, 45 per cent of pregnant women benefitted from UNICEF-supported programmes for anaemia prevention, up from 37 per cent in 2021. In the same year, UNICEF released its first global guidance on gender equality programming in nutrition, urging greater investment in anaemia prevention alongside other key nutrition priorities.

UNICEF and partners continued to support integrated programming for adolescent girls on the prevention of anaemia and other forms of malnutrition, reaching 81.2 million girls aged 5–19 years in 2024 (see Figure 7). Additionally, gender-responsive nutrition programmes tackling anaemia and malnutrition were implemented in over 50 countries – an increase from 28 countries in 2021.

FIGURE 7. Number of girls aged 5 to 19 years who benefited from gender-responsive programmes for the prevention of anaemia and all forms of malnutrition (Strategic Plan indicator 1.7.1)



In Cobán, Alta Verapaz, a grandmother and her granddaughter listen to radio messages produced by the Municipal Commission for Food and Nutritional Security (COMUSAN), promoting good nutrition practices. These messages are part of a social and behavior change communication strategy under the European Union and UNICEF-supported project.

Between late 2023 and 2024, UNICEF launched several initiatives to prevent malnutrition in girls and women. The Improving Maternal Nutrition acceleration plan targets malnutrition and anaemia during pregnancy by reaching 16 million girls and women across 16 countries with essential nutrition services. In Rwanda, UNICEF introduced multiple micronutrient supplementation for pregnant women, marking a major shift from iron–folic acid supplements, and reached 65,000 women across seven districts. UNICEF also forged new partnerships with several organizations to help scale up this approach nationally in the coming years.

Immunization

To address gender-related barriers to immunization, UNICEF, in partnership with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and Global Affairs Canada, is advancing gender equality analyses in 55 countries and supporting related government-led immunization workplans.

In the Papua Province of Indonesia, where immunization rates have been consistently low, UNICEF has made inroads in promoting shared caregiving responsibilities within families to improve health outcomes for children. In 2024, after six months of implementation, there was already a tangible impact whereby fathers were adopting more active roles in their children’s health and well-being, such as by taking their children to vaccination clinics and ensuring their immunization schedules were followed. Similar initiatives in the Plurinational State of Bolivia have already resulted in expanded vaccination coverage, reaching 87 per cent of eligible children across 64 municipalities with vaccines against the most prevalent childhood illnesses: diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis.

UNICEF, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and other partners renewed efforts in 2024 to revitalize access to the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine that helps to prevent cervical cancer, and aimed to reach 86 million adolescent girls by the end of 2025. In addition to supporting governments

on procurement of the vaccine, UNICEF is promoting demand for the vaccine through partnerships with girls’ and women’s organizations and broader community-based efforts. In the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Government and UNICEF have partnered to achieve 100 per cent HPV vaccination coverage through an ambitious community-based campaign focusing on 127,586 girls aged 10–13 years who had never been vaccinated against HPV.

Community health workers

UNICEF scaled up support for front-line health workers in 2024, supporting capacity development programmes for these invaluable workers in health, nutrition and HIV in 74 countries (up from 50 in 2021). Community health and nutrition workers, the majority of whom are women, play an essential role in delivering critical health services and information, often in hard-to-reach communities and during emergencies.

In 2024, one year into implementation, the UNICEF-supported Community Health Delivery Partnership accelerated access to equitable, high-quality essential health services through community-based primary health care. Some 1.2 million health workers received skills and support for delivering essential maternal, newborn and child health services through UNICEF-supported programmes, reaching a total of 3.6 million workers since 2021.

In Afghanistan, UNICEF strengthened the capacity of 30,000 front-line community health and nutrition workers (49 per cent women) to proactively augment their service delivery in ways intended to mitigate the harmful impacts of women’s and girls’ restricted movements. This included supporting referrals to life-saving services and adapting care to the unique vulnerabilities and needs of women, men, girls and boys. In coordination with key national and local stakeholders, this initiative covered 2,400 health facilities, including 96 fully equipped hospitals in 34 provinces.



A health worker vaccinating a young out-of-school girl at a community outreach event in Indonesia.



In Kaldar district, Mazar-e-Sharif province, northern Afghanistan, Community Health Worker Zarghona distributes iron folic acid (IFA) tablets and educates families on preventing anemia during a UNICEF-supported nutrition campaign.

HIV and AIDS

The triple elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B continued to be a central priority for the organization. Globally, about 84 per cent of pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV now receive antiretroviral drugs to prevent vertical transmission of HIV to their children, up from 48 per cent in 2010. Yet there are still significant gaps. Over 40 per cent of the estimated 1.4 million children aged 0–14 years living with HIV worldwide are not receiving antiretroviral drugs, with coverage remaining extremely low in some regions.

For many adolescent girls, vulnerability to HIV is part of a cycle that is difficult to escape. In Eastern and Southern Africa, girls are six times more likely than boys to acquire HIV. Adolescent girls are disproportionately held back by the 'triple threat' of early pregnancy, HIV and gender-based violence. Compared with older women, adolescent girls also tend to have poorer adherence to HIV treatment and are less likely to be virally suppressed than adult women

living with HIV. In Eastern and Southern Africa, about one quarter of all pregnant women or mothers living with HIV and needing treatment are aged 15–24 years.

UNICEF is supporting young girls and women, including pregnant and parenting adolescents, through integrated strategies and programming. These include peer-led and community-based interventions using networks of adolescents and young people who promote HIV testing, access to care, treatment and mental health services. In 2024, of 37 UNICEF priority countries, 33 implemented combination HIV-prevention interventions that focused on adolescent girls and young women and/or young key populations.

In Namibia, UNICEF-supported skills programming, covering life skills, financial literacy and HIV awareness, reached vulnerable girls (90 per cent of whom were out of school, pregnant, breastfeeding or parenting), with positive results. At the end of the programme, results suggested that over 80 per cent of girls had acquired new skills and had increased HIV awareness.

Case study: Empowering women and saving lives through multiple micronutrient supplementation

Globally, 571 million girls and women aged 15–49 years are living with anaemia, and millions more suffer from undernutrition.¹¹ In many parts of the world, inadequate diets, limited decision-making power and entrenched social norms that discriminate against girls and women result in them eating last, eating the least and consuming the least nutritious foods. These persistent inequalities have far-reaching impacts, from increased maternal deaths and low birthweight infants to child stunting and the perpetuation of poverty across generations.

Multiple micronutrient supplementation is just one of the ways in which women are being reached with essential vitamins and minerals, including vitamin A, to boost their nutrition and health. UNICEF and partners – with support from Global Affairs Canada – launched the Vitamin A Supplementation in a New Age (VINA) programme – an ambitious, three-year initiative spanning 15 sub-Saharan African countries.¹² VINA's overarching goal is to reduce mortality among children aged 6–59 months by expanding access to life-saving vitamin A supplementation, while embedding gender equality and women's empowerment at the heart of delivery strategies.

In 2024, **UNICEF expanded its evidence base** to inform targeted programming, literacy campaigns, community strategies and training curricula for health workers. Ten countries (up from six in 2023) conducted or initiated gender barrier analyses in 2024. Additionally, nearly **8 million people** were reached (up from 3 million in 2023), with high-impact campaigns in Angola, Benin, Chad and Guinea, promoting awareness of both vitamin A supplementation and gender equality. The number of women's groups engaged more than doubled – from 41,636 to **88,204** – reaching over **1 million** women and men. These groups serve as vital channels for education, service delivery and community mobilization. Finally, over **66,000 health and community workers** received gender-responsive care training in 2024, embedding equity into service delivery. In Guinea, for example, **42 per cent** of trained community volunteers were women, up from 28 per cent in the previous year.

As the initiative enters its final year, VINA remains on track to prevent an estimated 17,000 child deaths annually and to leave behind a stronger foundation for gender-equitable health systems. The lessons from VINA point to the power of combining nutrition and gender equality interventions to achieve sustainable development outcomes.

Goal Area 2: Every child, including adolescents, learns and acquires skills for the future

Around the world, millions of girls and young women continue to face entrenched barriers that limit their access to education, employment and training. While significant strides have been made in narrowing the gender disparity in primary education, progress remains uneven, and far too many are still being left behind. As of 2023, an estimated 122 million girls remained out of school, with the highest concentrations in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Poverty, child marriage and entrenched discrimination continue to block their paths to learning and opportunity.¹³

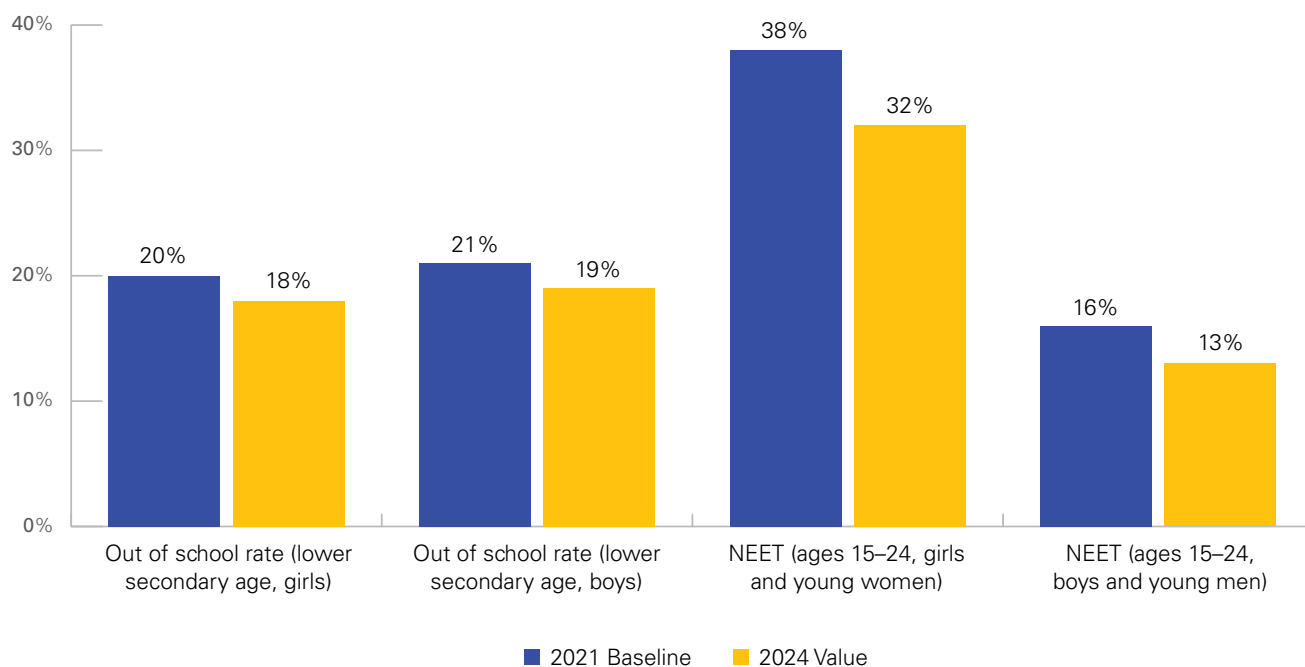
At lower secondary age (11–14 years), participation rates for girls and boys begin to diverge. By the age of 15 years, the gap becomes stark: adolescent girls and young women are more than twice as likely to be excluded from both education and employment compared with their male peers. In 2024, 32 per cent of adolescent girls and young women (aged 15–24 years) were not in any form of education, employment or training compared with 13 per cent of adolescent boys and young men (see *Figure 8*).¹⁴



Seven-year-old Nar, a Lahu girl, reacts with joy as her father, 39-year-old U Law, reads her a storybook at their home in Pan San Kya village, Myanmar.

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FIGURE 8. Proportion of girls and boys of lower secondary age out-of-school and proportion of girls and young women and boys and young men aged 15–24 years not in education, employment or training (NEET)



In 2024, UNICEF remained committed to ensuring every child – especially the most vulnerable – has access to inclusive, quality education. UNICEF helped 26 million out-of-school children and adolescents (12.4 million girls) to access education. This included 8.9 million children living in emergency situations, 3.7 million children on the move and 72,875 children with disabilities (sex disaggregated data not available). In partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNICEF strengthened the technical capacities of ministries, civil societies and young advocates across 36 countries. In the Central African Republic, this resulted in the Ministry of Education requesting UNICEF to perform an assessment of its education system to identify areas of gender inequalities and led the Government to begin developing its first national policy on girls’ education.

Momentum is building globally. In just three years, the share of countries with gender-responsive systems for education access rose to 56 per cent from 38 per cent in 2021. UNICEF also supported 18.3 million children (51 per cent girls) to access education through digital platforms, reaching nearly 50 million children (51 per cent girls) since the beginning of the current Strategic Plan, 2022–2025. The National Girls’ Empowerment Initiative (‘Dawwie’) in Egypt has helped to improve the digital capacities of more than 50,000 adolescents (75 per cent girls) and engaged 1.8 million people in community dialogues to end harmful

practices against girls. This national initiative is being scaled up with valuable domestic resources in collaboration with UNICEF and other partners.



Girls and boys at Eleke Primary School in Kenya use a sewing machine to make sanitary pads - a practical skill gained through the Life Skills Education programme, empowering them to support community health, promote girls’ education, and build self-sufficiency.

Skills4Girls: Unlocking futures for adolescent girls

In a world where digital fluency, green innovation, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) competencies are reshaping the future of work, millions of adolescent girls remain sidelined – cut off from the skills, technologies and opportunities they need to thrive. Up to 90 per cent of adolescent girls and young women remain offline in low income countries, compared with 78 per cent of their male counterparts. They are also underrepresented in STEM and information and communication technology (ICT) fields and face steep barriers to owning and using digital devices: women and girls make up only 35 per cent of STEM students, and only 3 per cent of students in ICT. These inequalities are not only stalling individual potential – they are also undermining collective progress.

Recognizing this urgent challenge, UNICEF launched Skills4Girls in 2019 – its flagship global initiative focused on advancing skills development for adolescent girls.¹⁵ Skills4Girls aims to unlock the potential of girls as the professionals, innovators, changemakers and leaders of tomorrow. The initiative spans over 20 countries and, in 2024 alone, reached more than 6.4 million girls, empowering them with the skills, knowledge, tools and confidence to thrive in the twenty-first century economies and build brighter futures. Additionally, the Skills4Girls initiative engages other key stakeholders to foster supportive environments for girls to thrive. In 2024, nearly 6.7 million adolescent boys, parents, teachers and communities were reached through training, community dialogues and awareness campaigns. Activities addressed harmful gender norms, child marriage and stereotypes about girls' careers, while promoting inclusive skills training and education that benefit both girls and boys, driving broader social change.

The Skills4Girls programme has identified key challenges that adolescent girls and young women face in accessing opportunities to build their skills in diverse settings and transitioning to decent employment on an equal footing with their male peers. Countries where UNICEF works often face hurdles such as low levels of foundational, job-specific and digital skills, educational systems that perpetuate gender discriminatory stereotypes or teaching materials and practices, and limited access to technology, especially in rural areas. To address this, UNICEF has invested in increasing opportunities for girls to develop their voice, leadership, agency and job-readiness, particularly through job-specific, STEM and digital skills, both in and out of school settings. Advocacy with governments and collaboration with

ministries of education are essential to secure national investment and integrate these programmes into formal education systems.

In fragile and conflict-affected areas, harmful gender norms and systemic barriers further impact both delivery and participation. By engaging boys, teachers, parents and community leaders, Skills4Girls is working to challenge these norms, create enabling environments for girls to thrive and drive lasting change.

Skills4Girls' approach shows its unwavering commitment to placing girls at the centre. From programme design to evaluation, adolescent girls are not just participants; they are co-creators of the solutions to unlock their potential. Through mentorship, leadership training, safe learning spaces and career-linked pathways, Skills4Girls challenges stereotypes, transforms mindsets and builds systems that work for and with girls. Backed by generous support from partners including Clé de Peau Beauté, Chloé, the Government of Iceland, Max Factor, and most recently, Sylvamo, Skills4Girls is helping to rewrite what is possible for girls around the world.

Bangladesh: From learning to earning

One of the most inspiring examples of Skills4Girls in action at scale is unfolding in Bangladesh.

Adolescent girls in Bangladesh – particularly those who are out of school – face intersecting barriers to education, economic independence and safety. To address these challenges, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and key private sector partners, is using the Skills4Girls initiative to transform how girls learn, grow and transition into meaningful work.

In 2024, new teaching and learning materials were rolled out for girls and boys in grades 6 to 9, benefiting 9.8 million students nationwide, of which 5.3 million were girls. These new resources are helping to challenge gender norms early and embed skills-based learning across the curriculum. Recognizing that teachers are key agents of change, the programme also trained over 50,000 educators through online platforms in skills-based gender-inclusive teaching methodologies and approaches. New tools, such as gamified learning modules and comics focused on

adolescent health and well-being, were piloted in 24 schools, engaging 7,330 students and making learning both more inclusive and more relatable.

At the system level, UNICEF supported the launch of a centralized digital assessment system and a new curriculum portal, both designed to personalize learning and improve education access for all. These innovations are helping schools to become more responsive to the diverse learning needs of students, especially girls.

For those already out of the formal education system, the Alternative Learning Pathways initiative offers a crucial second chance. In 2024, marginalized adolescent girls received six months of training in high-demand skills like IT support, tailoring, and graphic design, combined with mentorship and psychosocial support. Early outcomes from the 2023 cohort show that 80 per cent of Alternative Learning Pathways graduates secured employment, helping to delay early marriage and challenge harmful social norms. Additionally, ongoing research across 24 schools is capturing real-time data and feedback, helping UNICEF and partners to continuously refine and scale these efforts for even greater impact.



A few months ago, Ananya joined UNICEF's self-defense training program, a turning point in her life. The skills she learned gave her the confidence to stand up to harassment on the streets and protect herself. Now, every Friday, she trains her friends, empowering them with the same skills to face life's challenges.



Oseni, a biology teacher at New Era Girls' School in Nigeria, explains why national initiatives like the Girls' Employability and Skills Partnership are vital for adolescent girls. Supported by UNICEF the programme currently reaches 44,550 adolescent girls and young women, including those with disabilities, aged 13 to 24 years. The programme equips participants with education, life skills, and high-quality, market-relevant training to enhance their employability and entrepreneurial potential in local labor markets.

Goal Area 3: Every child, including adolescents, is protected from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices

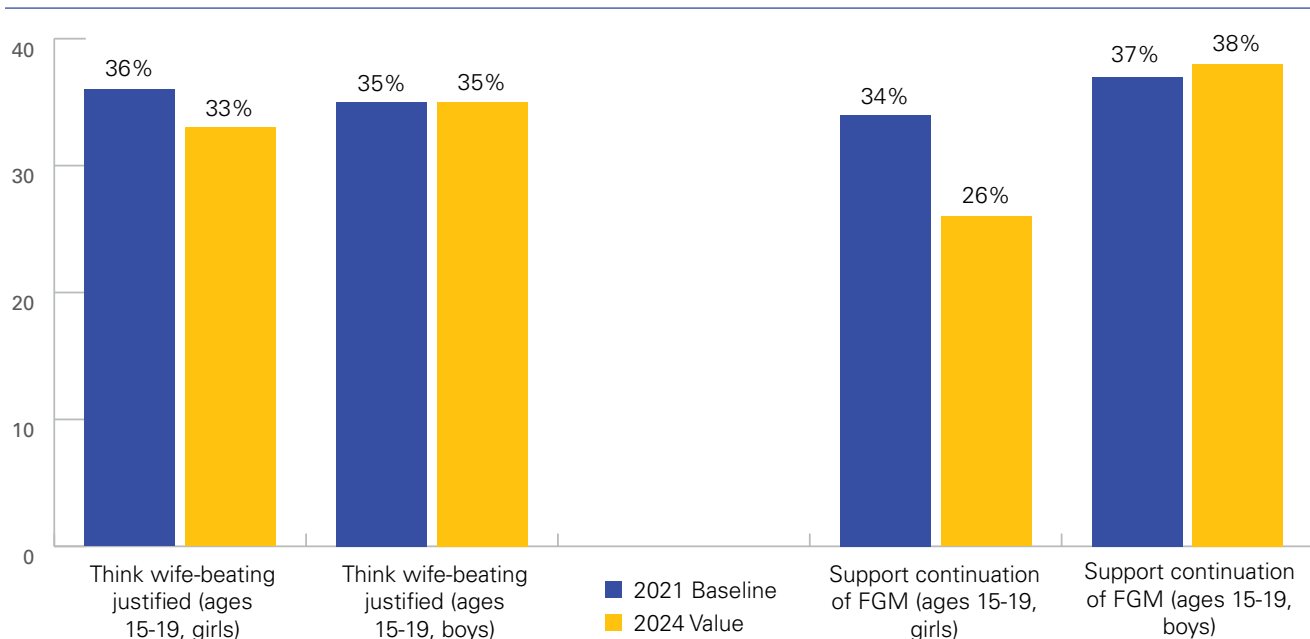
Violence against girls and women remains a pervasive global challenge. One third of women and nearly one in four ever-married or ever-partnered girls aged 15–19 years have endured physical or sexual partner violence in their lifetime. According to global estimates on sexual violence in childhood published by UNICEF in 2024, 650 million – or one in five – girls and women alive today have been subjected to sexual violence as children, including over 370 million who have experienced rape or sexual assault in childhood.¹⁶ These statistics underscore the urgent need for intensified efforts to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children and women.

Parenting and caregiver programmes are proven to reduce violence against girls, boys, women and men. In 2024, UNICEF supported 18.5 million parents and caregivers across 96 countries with carefully tailored caregiving programmes tackling violence, a more than five-fold increase since 2021. In China, UNICEF partnered with the Government to embed programming on positive parenting practices in the nation-wide family education system, reaching more than 30,000 caregivers across 11 provinces through an expanded low-cost model, indirectly benefiting over 3 million children.

Ending female genital mutilation

Support for gender-based violence and female genital mutilation (FGM) is high, even among young people (see *Figure 9*). The prevalence of FGM remains high, with over 230 million girls worldwide having undergone FGM.¹⁷ In 2024, UNICEF worked across 19 countries to eliminate FGM, engaging with girls, families, communities and institutions to support lasting change. Collective efforts under the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation¹⁸ provided prevention and protection services to 758,000 girls and women in 2024, a more than 300 per cent increase since 2021. Given that over 70 million girls in south-east Asia have experienced FGM, UNICEF and UNFPA have launched a new four-year regional programme, with support from the Government of Australia, to gather data, advocate for change and raise awareness.

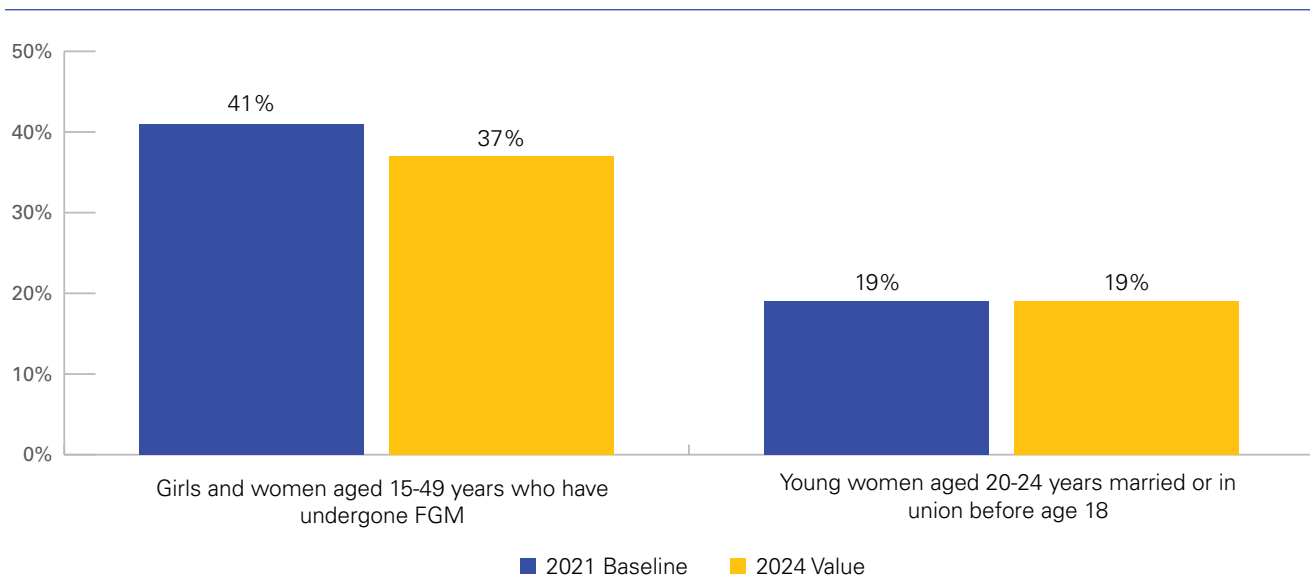
FIGURE 9. Percentage of girls and boys aged 15–19 years who think wife-beating is justified and who support the continuation of FGM



A pivotal moment in 2024 was an attempt to repeal the 2015 Women’s (Amendment) Act against FGM in the Gambia, which brought global attention. UNICEF, in collaboration with UNFPA and many other partners, including girl leaders and the Children’s National Assembly of the Gambia, rapidly scaled up advocacy for the protection of the rights of girls and women, preventing

the repeal. In the Sudan, UNICEF advanced efforts to combat harmful practices by establishing 430 girls’ clubs that reached 450,000 adolescent girls with life skills and awareness about FGM and facilitated access to child protection services. Community engagement initiatives mobilized 386,424 individuals, while 8,797 people received specific training to address harmful practices.

FIGURE 10. Girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone FGM, and young women aged 20–24 years married or in union before the age of 18 years



Ending child marriage

UNICEF and partners sustained efforts to keep the global spotlight on ending child marriage, including through the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage¹⁹ and other initiatives. While the prevalence of child marriage continues to decline – in 2023, one in five young women (aged 20–24 years) were married in childhood versus nearly one in four 10 years ago – progress remains uneven globally and is not fast enough to achieve target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Nearly half of all child brides live in South Asia (45 per cent) with the next largest cohort live in in sub-Saharan Africa (20 per cent). To achieve the Sustainable Development Goal target of eliminating child marriage by 2023, a twenty-fold acceleration is required.²⁰

In 2024, UNICEF supported prevention and care interventions to address child marriage across 33 countries, benefiting 10.6 million adolescent girls: a significant increase since the baseline (7.6 million in 2021). In Benin, as a measure to prevent child marriage and advance girls' education, UNICEF supported 130,000 vulnerable girls at risk of marriage to stay in school through a multipronged programme approach that included cash transfers, parenting support and community outreach. UNICEF also supports national strategies to end child marriage. For example, in Malawi, UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare on a national strategy to end child marriage.



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In Tonk District, India, Vasundhara sits with her grandmother, Badam Devi, who, along with Vasundhara's mother, helped her prevent a child marriage at age 11. Now President of the Adolescent Girls Federation, Vasundhara leads menstrual health campaigns, supports Bal Panchayats, and was nominated for the 2020 International Children's Peace Prize.

Goal Area 4: Every child, including adolescents, has access to safe and equitable water, sanitation and hygiene services and supplies, and lives in a safe and sustainable climate and environment

Millions of people around the world still lack access to basic drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. In 2024, in more than 100 countries, UNICEF continued to drive progress on providing equitable access to safe WASH facilities, exceeding Strategic Plan milestones.

In 2024, through UNICEF-supported programmes, over 18 million people gained access to at least basic sanitation services, over 33 million to safe water and over 20 million to basic hygiene. More than half of those reached were girls and women. In humanitarian settings, UNICEF-



In Ashat village within the Tokar locality in the Sudan, children and adults collect water from a rehabilitated facility that now serves around 350 households. The motorized water system brings safe water closer to families who previously walked 4 km across a valley to access it—transforming daily life in Gorora and Tokar localities.

supported WASH programmes responded to several large-scale emergencies in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Somalia, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and Yemen.

In Ukraine, UNICEF facilitated safe and equitable water and/or sanitation access for almost 5.2 million people, including approximately 2.3 million women and 417,000 girls. WASH interventions were integrated with gender-based violence risk mitigation and awareness-raising efforts through the addition of thematic leaflets in hygiene kits and making information materials available in all rehabilitated WASH facilities.

In 7 out of 10 households with water off premises, women and adolescent girls aged 15 years and older are primarily responsible for water collection away from the home.²¹ Recognizing the disproportionate burden of water collection on girls and women, UNICEF installed more than 2,100 solar-powered water supply systems across 69 countries in 2024, enhancing the reliability and proximity of water access.

Women are disproportionately affected by poor WASH services yet constitute the minority of decision-makers and leaders in the WASH sector. UNICEF is working with women and girl leaders to advocate for more equitable, climate-friendly WASH services. In India, UNICEF and the Government worked together to provide an opportunity for rural women in the State of Jharkhand to participate in the WASH sector. As a result, 29,000 women have become 'Jalsahiya', responsible for water quality testing and communicating the decisions of water sanitation committees to the rest of the village. The women serve as treasurers and joint signatories of these committees, with many of them taking on new roles and becoming elected leaders in village administration.

Throughout 2024, UNICEF championed gender equality in WASH by supporting 13 countries to create strategies that ensure girls and women are included and actively take part in decision-making. In several countries, including Egypt and Nigeria, UNICEF helped to develop policies to support girls and women and empower them to speak up for better facilities, take advantage of leadership opportunities and improve access to menstrual health products.

Accessible, dignified menstrual health and hygiene

Barriers to accessible, dignified menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) can limit girls' access to education. UNICEF actively works to improve policies that promote widespread access to affordable menstrual supplies and reduce the stigma surrounding the MHH needs of girls and women. In 2024, in 63 countries, UNICEF-supported MHH services and information benefited more than 11.9 million girls and women. Of these, 3.7 million, including girls and women with disabilities, were in humanitarian contexts.

Cumulatively, the number of women and adolescent girls whose MHH needs are being met reached 37.8 million by the end of 2024, which is on track to meet the Strategic Plan, 2022–2025 target of 40 million. In 2024, UNICEF also expanded equitable access to WASH services in institutions, reaching over 8,600 schools in 88 countries and 3,800 health-care facilities in 76 countries. This included providing clean water, hygiene education, accessible single-sex toilets and MHH facilities. In Senegal, UNICEF supported the menstrual health of 113,700 girls through the provision of separate toilets in nearly 5,000 schools, 20,000 hygiene kits and access to washable sanitary pads, including those produced locally through vocational training for young women.

Goal Area 5: Every child, including adolescents, has access to inclusive social protection and lives free from poverty

Social protection is vital to address the causes and consequences of child poverty, which hits girls and female-headed households the hardest. Child poverty is a known risk associated with child marriage, for example. The United Nations estimates that more than 1.4 billion children worldwide lack access to social protection benefits.²² To address this gap, UNICEF works to support more gender-responsive social protection systems that respond to the specific needs of girls and women. In 2024, nearly half of all UNICEF-supported countries (60 of 136) supported such programmes, a nearly three-fold increase from 22 in 2021. In Bangladesh, UNICEF has worked with partners to support direct cash transfers with complementary social services for adolescent mothers, which is helping to improve access to health services and nutrition for mothers and their children. In Ghana, UNICEF leveraged the national Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty cash transfer programme to identify households with girls at risk of child marriage and support them with a package of interconnected services, including social protection and violence-response services.

Addressing the global care crisis

Girls and women spend up to three times more of their time on domestic chores and care responsibilities than boys and men, which interrupts their learning and participation in the labour market.²³ In 2024, with UNICEF support, 42 countries took action to support care policies such as parental leave, affordable childcare and child benefits – an increase from 13 in 2021. In the Republic of Moldova, UNICEF facilitated a national dialogue on the European Union Child Guarantee to enhance childcare policies and support for families, including for families with children with disabilities. As a result, a comprehensive road map was developed and approved by the Government for implementation. UNICEF is also partnering with the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to disseminate the results of a significant evidence base of more than 60 publications, including 11 studies and 6 evaluations, to enhance evidence-informed policymaking and research uptake on gender-responsive social protection at the global, regional and country levels.



In Kabul, Afghanistan, 8-year-old Fatima and her 3-year-old brother Ali play in the daycare room while their mother attends a cooking demonstration at a UNICEF-supported nutrition centre. Run by women for women, these centres offer malnutrition screening, counselling, and hot meals for families in urban neighborhoods.

Gender equality in humanitarian action

In humanitarian crises, UNICEF prioritizes the specific needs of girls and women, works to reduce the risks they face, and ensures their meaningful participation in the humanitarian response. In 2024, 94 country offices implemented gender-equality commitments outlined in the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, up from 89 in 2022, and demonstrating growing alignment with UNICEF's broader agenda for inclusive emergency response.

UNICEF continued to strengthen partnerships with women- and girl-led organizations, recognizing their essential role in advancing locally driven solutions. In 2024, UNICEF transferred US\$2.4 billion to partners operating in both development and emergency contexts. Of this, US\$142 million – representing 6 per cent – was directed to local civil society organizations led by women.

To address the urgent mental health needs in crises, UNICEF delivered community-based MHPSS to 60 million children, adolescents, parents and caregivers in 2024, including nearly 23 million in humanitarian contexts. UNICEF also scaled up efforts to reach more than 100 per cent (16.7 million) of the number of women, girls and boys in humanitarian situations it aimed to reach in 2024 with risk mitigation, prevention and response interventions to address gender-based violence.

UNICEF also expanded its support to WASH programmes in several large-scale emergencies in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Somalia, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and Yemen. In Ukraine, UNICEF facilitated safe and equitable water and/or sanitation access for almost 5.2 million people, including approximately 2.3 million women and 417,000 girls. Additionally, in 63 countries, MHH services and information provided by UNICEF reached more than 11.9 million girls and women, including 3.7 million in emergencies. Cumulatively, UNICEF continues to expand access to MHH for women and adolescent girls in need, especially in humanitarian settings.

To inform and guide these efforts, UNICEF conducted rapid analyses on gender equality in 62 countries in 2024, outlining priority actions for girls and women. Additionally, 87 per cent of country offices (112 of 129) ensured a core package of gender-based violence mitigation services were available – a critical humanitarian intervention. These results reflect a strong upward trajectory during UNICEF's current Gender Action Plan, 2022–2025, reinforcing its commitment to placing girls and women at the centre of emergency preparedness and response.

Sudan: Expanding social protection for women and children in crisis

In 2024, UNICEF significantly scaled up its cash transfer programme for mothers and children to benefit an additional 27,000 women and 135,000 family members in Kassala and Red Sea states. Additional support was provided to 50,000 women and families affected by severe flooding. Further expansions in the program have resulted in 96,200 women and 481,000 family members supported in three states in the country, providing a vital safety net for Sudan's most at-risk populations. UNICEF has invested in supporting these families with additional services, such as linkages to birth registration and health and nutrition services.



Mohamed cradles his one-year-old son, Morei, in the yard of their home in Obada village, Rural Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic (the). Once severely malnourished, Morei has recovered after receiving life-saving treatment and care. Today, he is a thriving, active child whose smile brings renewed hope and joy to his family.



Pupils stand outside their classroom at Almassat Primary School for Girls in Madeinat locality, Gedaref state, Sudan. Previously, girls in Madeinat endured long and tedious walks of 2-3 km to the nearest girls' school, crossing the main town and a busy market.

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**Spotlight on the
Global Gender Equality
Thematic Fund 2024**



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UNICEF works across 12 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to bring positive change for children. The Global Gender Equality Thematic Fund makes vital contributions to SDG 5: Gender equality and the empowerment of all girls and women.

1. UNICEF’s Global Gender Equality Thematic Fund: Building a foundation for every child’s future

Gender equality is not only a fundamental right; it is a powerful driver of progress. When girls and women are empowered to access education, health care, protection and economic opportunities, entire communities benefit. Yet structural inequalities, harmful social norms and chronic underfunding continue to hold back millions of girls and women around the world.

UNICEF is working to change that, not only through targeted programmes but by transforming the systems that shape gender equality outcomes in every part of a child’s life. Guided by the Gender Action Plan 2022–2025, UNICEF’s work spans health, education, protection, climate resilience and social protection to ensure that girls and women in all their diversity can survive, thrive and lead. The impact is real and offers hope for a more equitable future.

At the heart of this effort is the Global Gender Equality Thematic Fund, UNICEF’s most strategic vehicle for advancing gender equality at scale. Its flexible, multi-year design allows UNICEF to respond to urgent needs, scale up what works and strengthen the systems that deliver lasting impact.

The value is clear: every dollar invested in gender-responsive programming for adolescent girls yields more than four times the return through gains in health, education and productivity, and reduced costs of inaction.¹ These investments do not just change lives; they transform futures.

“Gender equality is not just a goal, it is a game-changer. Thanks to our partners, UNICEF is advancing one of the most transformative investments we can make in children, communities and shared progress. Your support is helping unlock a more just and inclusive future for all.”

Kitty van der Heijden, Deputy Executive Director, Partnerships, UNICEF

Gender equality is not an ‘add-on’. It is a foundation for development, for resilience and for every child’s right to a safe, healthy and empowered life.

¹ United Nations Children’s Fund ‘Right on the Money: Making the Case for Rights-Based Investments in Adolescent Girls’, UNICEF, New York, 2024, <www.unicef.org/media/163431/file/en-brief-right-on-money-2024.pdf.pdf>.

2. Financial results

Investment catalysing progress for generations

The most powerful progress in gender equality is built not just on time-bound programmes but on systems that last. UNICEF and its partners are creating more inclusive, equitable and resilient futures for girls and women.

In 2024, the Global Gender Equality Thematic Fund mobilized US\$5.1 million in contributions from committed private and public partners. UNICEF extends sincere thanks

to the governments of Germany, Luxembourg, Iceland and Canada and private sector partners Clé de Peau Beauté, Chloé, Max Factor, Sylvamo and others who contributed to the Fund, including through National Committees. Their generous support has been crucial for UNICEF's gender equality programmes and high-impact initiatives around adolescent girls.

These contributions are not just closing gaps – they are sparking change, empowering girls, shifting social norms and strengthening the systems that uphold the rights of women and girls now and for generations to come.

Top Global Gender Equality Thematic Fund partners by contributions received, 2024²

Sector	Donor	Amount (US\$)
Public	Germany	1,648,478
	Luxembourg	605,548
	Iceland	200,000
	Canada	43,575
Private	United States Fund for UNICEF	965,906
	UNICEF Country Office PSFR	651,186
	French Committee for UNICEF	308,776
	United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	198,353
	Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF	140,000
	Dutch Committee for UNICEF	98,902
	Japan Committee for UNICEF	92,727
	German Committee for UNICEF	30,000
	Italian Committee for UNICEF – Foundation Onlus	20,000
	UNICEF Philippines Country Office PSFR	20,000
	Spanish Committee for UNICEF	20,000
	UNICEF Indonesia Country Office PSFR	15,000
	UNICEF Viet Nam Country Office PSFR	10,000
	Korean Committee for UNICEF	10,000
	Canadian UNICEF Committee	10,000
	UNICEF Malaysia Country Office PSFR	10,000
	UNICEF Thailand Country Office PSFR	10,000
	Grand Total	

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding. PSFR: Private sector fundraising.

² The thematic funding contributions relate to the Strategic Plan 2022–2025.



Wearing helmets, Saifu (left), Issahak (middle) and Fusioni (right) stand in their welding workshop at Walewale Technical Institute, in the town of Walewale in North-East Region, Ghana.

© UNICEF/UNI680045/Noorani

Why flexible funding matters

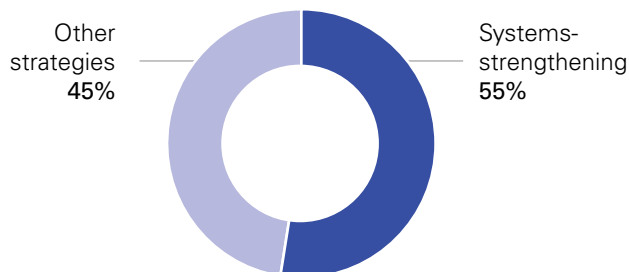
The Global Gender Equality Thematic Fund is not just a funding stream; it is a catalyst for lasting change. Its flexible, multi-year support over the four-year period of UNICEF’s Strategic Plan (2022–2025) enables UNICEF to align with country priorities, respond swiftly to emerging challenges and invest in the systems that uphold the rights of girls and women.

In 2024, UNICEF incurred US\$2.8 million in flexible funding expense from the Gender Equality Thematic Fund. These investments helped reduce prevalence of child marriage and female genital mutilation, empower adolescent girls, and advance gender equality across health, education, protection and climate resilience.

This funding is a cornerstone of UNICEF’s Gender Action Plan (2022–2025). It enables long-term planning and adaptive programming, which are especially crucial in underfunded areas and humanitarian settings, where rigid, short-term funding cannot meet evolving needs.

When received at the global level, flexible funding becomes a powerful tool for equity. It reaches the most marginalized girls, strengthens public systems and scales proven solutions. Every flexible dollar moves UNICEF closer to a world where all girls and women can survive, thrive and lead.

UNICEF expense by programme strategy, 2024



In 2024, 55 per cent of Gender Equality thematic funding was spent on strengthening systems that uphold the rights of girls and women.

Note: The category ‘other’ consists of strategies which enable systems-strengthening, including advocacy and communications; social and behaviour change; data and research; digital transformation; innovation; partnerships and engagement; and support to programme delivery.

A call to scale: What works

Achieving SDG 5: Gender equality is not a distant goal – it is an urgent global imperative. Progress requires more than stand-alone programmes. It demands a deep shift towards strengthening the systems that uphold the rights of girls and women, challenge inequality and expand opportunity in every setting.

The Global Gender Equality Thematic Fund is UNICEF’s most strategic mechanism for driving that change. It enables countries to scale what works, invest in inclusive systems, and dismantle the social and structural barriers that hold girls and women back.

These investments go beyond short-term impact. They embed gender equality into the core of health, education, protection, social policy and climate systems, creating lasting pathways for girls and women to grow up safe, healthy and empowered to shape their futures.

We invite more partners to stand with us. Together, we can accelerate progress, scale solutions and build a world where every girl has the freedom, opportunity and support to reach her full potential.



Transparency with Thematic Funding

UNICEF has a strong financial transparency record, including for thematic funding. We encourage UNICEF partners to the Global Gender Equality Thematic Fund to visit the Transparency Portal and access real-time information on spending in the countries receiving funds.

3. The footprint of the Global Gender Equality Thematic Fund

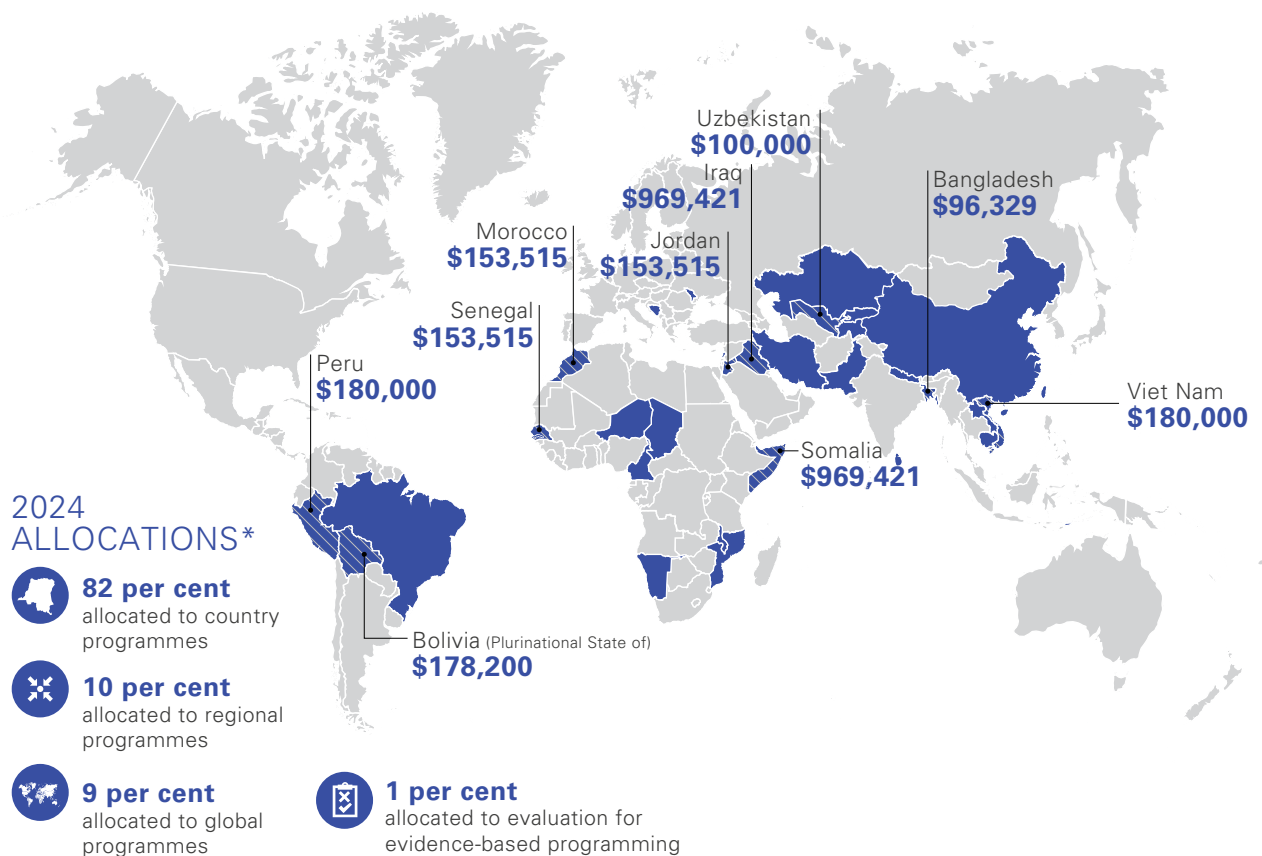
The Global Gender Equality Thematic Fund enables UNICEF to deliver impact for girls and women across every region, through coordinated investments at three levels:

- At the **country level**: Investments support national efforts to empower adolescent girls, equip them with skills, prevent harmful practices and advance gender equality in education, health, protection and climate resilience.
- At the **regional level**: Investments strengthen technical expertise and foster collaboration to scale proven, context-sensitive strategies.

- At the **global level**: Investments support UNICEF’s technical leadership in pioneering global tools, guidance and communities of practice to embed gender equality across all programming for children.

Each level reinforces the others, helping shift systems, shift power and shift outcomes for girls to grow up safe, healthy and empowered to lead.

GLOBAL Gender Equality Thematic Fund allocations around the world³



Note: The map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or area or the delimitation of any frontiers.

³ The map shows all countries that received allocations from the Gender Equality Thematic Fund between 2022 and 2024. The 10 highest allocations in 2024 are shown with full amounts.

4. From programmes to policy: A systems shift for gender equality

Gender inequalities are vast, but UNICEF's response is equally bold. Across every region, UNICEF is driving a shift from fragmented interventions to strong, integrated systems that place gender equality at the core of every child's right to survive and thrive.

UNICEF's systems-strengthening model is anchored in workforce development, policy and legislative reform, social and behaviour change, data and evidence, infrastructure for service delivery and sustainable financing – and proven in delivering measurable and holistic results.

In 2024, flexible thematic funding enabled UNICEF to deliver transformative results by dismantling structural barriers, shifting harmful norms, and empowering girls and women across both development and humanitarian settings.

This work is not about short-term change. It is about building the systems, leadership and social consensus that ensure girls and women are safe, valued and able to lead not just now, but for generations to come.

Below are some headline sector results for which Global Gender Equality thematic funding, as part of a broader portfolio of funding, was a key contributor.

Legal and policy change

Achieving gender equality starts with changing the rules that shape opportunity. UNICEF works with governments and civil society to draft national policies, revise legislation and mobilize public budgets, ensuring the rights of girls and women are protected not just in practice, but in law.

- In the **Gambia**, UNICEF with UNFPA supported civil society organizations and faith-based organizations to advocate against efforts to reverse the ban on female genital mutilation. The law was successfully upheld in 2024, and FGM remains criminalized in the Gambia.

UNICEF also works to improve policies that promote inclusive access to essential services, removing the barriers that hold girls back from reaching their full potential.

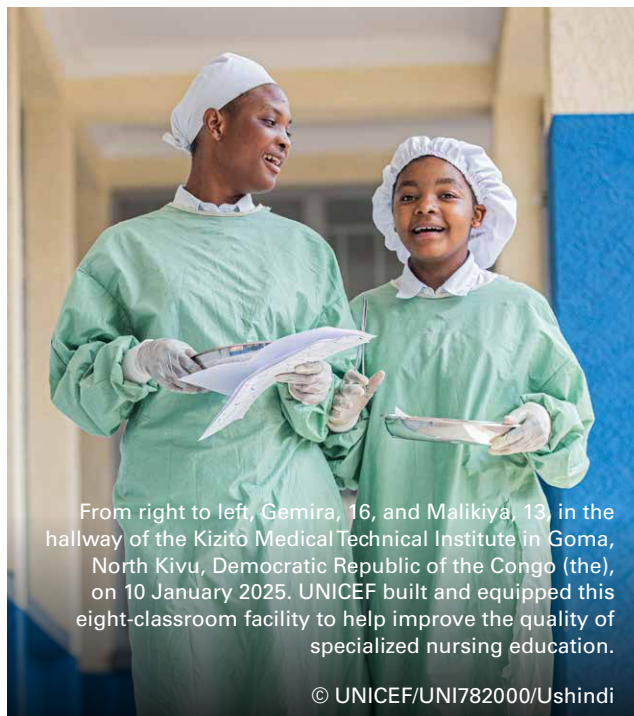
- In **Brazil**, UNICEF empowered **690 adolescent girls** across 8 Brazilian cities, building their leadership and advocacy skills to influence policymaking. As 'agents of change' they have collectively secured commitments from local policymakers on issues such as menstrual dignity, public safety and gender-based violence, and reached **4,650 adolescents** with information and support through peer education.

Workforce development

At the heart of every resilient system are the dedicated front-line workers, most of them women, who deliver essential services and life-saving information, often in remote areas and during crises. Through its multisectoral approach, UNICEF is investing in this critical workforce, ensuring that those on the front lines are trained, equipped and empowered to advance gender equality and transform lives.

Country-level investments brought these global frameworks to life:

- In **Morocco**, UNICEF's cross-sectoral programming helped reduce school dropout rates by **3.2 per cent** across six districts. Local partners trained front-line workers on gender equality, supported girl-led advocacy, and engaged adolescent girls in research and skills-building that advanced learning, leadership and empowerment.
- In **China**, UNICEF strengthened science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education for girls in rural areas, training teachers in gender-sensitive pedagogy and creating inclusive learning materials. Science camps sparked interest in technology and innovation for over **374,000 girls** in remote communities.



From right to left, Gemira, 16, and Malikiya, 13, in the hallway of the Kizito Medical Technical Institute in Goma, North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo (the), on 10 January 2025. UNICEF built and equipped this eight-classroom facility to help improve the quality of specialized nursing education.

© UNICEF/UNI782000/Ushindi



Students participate in a Meena Raju Manch session focused on gender awareness and play-based learning at Zilla Parishad Primary School in Arni village, Dharashiv District, Maharashtra, India.

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- **In Viet Nam**, more gender-responsive education has benefited nearly **137,000 adolescent girls** to date. UNICEF interventions have improved the knowledge and skills of over **450 teachers** in inclusive STEM, student career orientation and bilingual education to support **30,000 students** – 51 per cent of them girls, including from ethnic minority groups. National STEM events promoted girls' leadership in science and technology, engaging more than **4,200 students**. These efforts fostered cultural sensitivity, reduced gender stereotypes and expanded equitable career pathways.

Infrastructure for service delivery

Strong infrastructure is the backbone of gender equality. Around the world, women and girls are disproportionately impacted by inadequate access to basic services, from social protection to clean water, safe sanitation and inclusive learning environments. These gaps affect health, dignity, mobility and opportunity. UNICEF plays a vital role in keeping these systems running and ensuring they serve every girl, everywhere.

In 2024, UNICEF delivered measurable progress in expanding gender-responsive infrastructure across critical sectors:

- UNICEF introduced and expanded girl-focused programmes (designed with and for adolescent girls) in 63 countries, aligned with the Adolescent Girl Programme Strategy. These dynamic, girl-centred initiatives reached over **30 million girls** in 2024, driving measurable change in empowerment, well-being and leadership.

The Global Gender Equality Thematic Fund made targeted impact at country level:

- In **Iraq**, UNICEF helped scale up social protection coverage to **550 vulnerable adolescent mothers** by expanding the 'girl-centred cash-plus model', which is addressing poverty through cash transfers and enabling access to integrated health services.
- In **Jordan**, in partnership with the Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship and local community-based organizations, UNICEF launched a digital skills programme targeting vulnerable youth, especially girls. Around **120 adolescents and youth** (65 per cent female, 40 per cent refugees) were equipped with market-relevant skills such as programming, data analytics, graphic design and digital marketing. As a result, **42 youth** – 80 per cent of them young women – secured freelance or creative digital jobs.
- In **Peru**, more than **260 adolescent girls** participating in the Skills4Girls initiative gained access to hands-on training in web programming and project-based learning. Mentoring and family engagement strengthened the girls' confidence and established a strong support system, with 95 per cent reporting satisfaction on completion of the course.
- In the **Niger**, following political instability in 2023, UNICEF launched a pilot digital learning programme for displaced girls in Niamey and surrounding areas.
- **200 out-of-school girls and boys** received learning support from qualified teachers in addition to support with temporary learning spaces and digital tablets.

- **40 vulnerable girls** were given a second chance in learning through school re-enrolment. With additional support, 67.5 per cent passed their lower secondary exams – nearly double the national average. The girls also gained access to digital and computer literacy training.
- **250 leaders and 350 young people** were engaged in the promotion of extracurricular activities and delivering peer support to empower girls.
- **1 million people** were reached through community engagement activities on the promotion of girls' rights.
- In **Senegal**, in coordination with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF empowered **100 vulnerable adolescents** (79 per cent girls) aged 10–14 with cutting-edge digital, leadership and entrepreneurial skills through participation in a six-day boot camp focused on robotics, leadership and personal development.
- In **Somalia**, UNICEF supported a formative study across three districts to understand the diet-related norms and behaviours of adolescent girls. The evidence generated helped inform new, locally tailored social and behaviour change action plans – increasing access to iron folate supplementation and expanding efforts to prevent gender-based violence.
- In **Cameroon**, a gender barrier analysis was conducted on vaccination and vitamin A supplementation, helping to inform planning and programme delivery to improve health outcomes for girls.

When data drive action, equity accelerates. Through sustained support for research, monitoring and financing strategies, UNICEF is working to ensure every girl and woman has the opportunity to survive, thrive and lead.

Data, evidence and financing for gender equality

Robust data are the foundation of meaningful gender equality progress. They inform policy, guide funding and ensure that resources reach the girls and women who need them most. Data and evidence are what turn good intentions into real-world results – enabling governments to design targeted interventions, track progress and improve accountability.

In 2024, UNICEF deepened its investment in data systems and evidence generation to advance more equitable outcomes for girls and women across sectors. Key milestones included:

- In partnership with the **University of Cape Town, the University of Oxford and the University of the Witwatersrand**, UNICEF produced 'Right on the Money', a policy brief demonstrating the powerful economic returns of investing in adolescent girls through targeted, gender-responsive interventions. The findings show that smart investments in girls are not only morally right but economically sound, and are supporting advocacy efforts globally.
- Through the **Spring for Impact** initiative, in-depth research and documentation efforts have helped identify innovative methods and tools for capturing the results of adolescent girl empowerment projects – improving how results are measured and strengthening the planning and development of girl empowerment programmes.

Results that last

Systems-strengthening is a long-term investment, but one with transformative returns. In 2024, Global Gender Equality thematic funding, as part of a broader portfolio of funds, was a powerful catalyst to dismantle barriers, ensure equal access to services, and create environments where gender equality is not only encouraged but sustained.

- In **66 countries**, UNICEF challenged discriminatory norms that drive harmful practices and perpetuate inequality.
- **27.6 million people** were engaged in community dialogues – shifting attitudes, reshaping expectations and building momentum for change.
- **6.4 million adolescent girls** in 20 countries gained access to quality learning opportunities, building their confidence, digital fluency and employability to succeed in the 21st-century workforce through the Skills4Girls initiative.

These are not just numbers – they are lives improved, futures protected, and systems made stronger for generations to come.



Scan the QR code or click on the image to read UNICEF's Data Companion and Scorecard for more information on progress against SDG and Strategic Plan targets. Thematic Funding as part of UNICEF's overall funding portfolio contributes to this progress.

5. Impact story

Powering the future: Girls leading Bolivia's green and digital transformation

Imagine a world where every girl is empowered to innovate, lead, and transform her community. In Bolivia (Plurinational State of), this vision is becoming a reality, thanks to UNICEF's ground-breaking Global Gender Equality Thematic Fund.

Bolivia's high-altitude Andean region offers immense potential for harnessing solar and wind power. Yet the country's energy mix remains heavily reliant on thermal sources such as natural gas and diesel, with minimal investment in alternative energies. Given this vast renewable energy potential, digital and green skills are of vital importance. However, a deep-rooted divide persists between girls and boys in STEM, with only 30 per cent of university students being women.

UNICEF's response is transformative. Through innovative partnerships and the Skills4Girls initiative, in 2024, UNICEF empowered over 670,000 girls and young women to lead Bolivia's transition to a sustainable energy future. Key pillars of this initiative include:

- **Rewriting the rulebook:** Collaborating with government agencies to create policies that support girls in STEM and green energy sectors, and securing sustainable investments to ensure long-term impact
- **Empowering the front lines:** Training a network of female mentors in digital and green technologies and implementing hands-on learning experiences that link digital skills to climate action
- **Girls leading the charge:** Launching girl-led innovation projects and community-based solutions, and training young women to become leaders in STEM and climate action
- **A united front:** Coordinating a multisectoral approach to integrate digital and green skills into education and community services, and partnering with universities, the private sector and women's organizations to support girls' transition into STEM careers.



Mary, 15, is the 2024 champion of the national robotics tournament FIRST Bolivia. She won the gold medal in the category of disruptive inventors thanks to her prototype Pacha Uma, a robotic boat made of totora reeds to collect rubbish from Lake Titicaca.

© UNICEF/UNI822248/Ruiz

At the heart of this initiative are powerful stories of innovation and impact. Yessica, a participant from a rural community, invented an automated pod irrigation system to support small-scale farming and increase food production in areas where water scarcity is a serious challenge.

"Life here is very difficult due to the lack of water, but this mainly happens because we base our production on rain. So, I started thinking about how I can help my community," she explained.

Her invention uses a humidity sensor to deliver water precisely to plants when needed, optimizing resources and boosting yields – a shining example of UNICEF's commitment to empowering girls in STEM and green energy.

Your investment, their future: Your investment in this initiative is a declaration that every girl deserves the chance to thrive, to be heard, and to shape her own future. With your support, we can create a generation of empowered young women, capable of learning, innovating, and contributing positively to their communities.

Over 20 countries are now engaged in girl-centered initiatives in STEAM, digital and green fields. In 2024, UNICEF's global Skills4Girls initiative reached 6.4 million adolescent girls with the skills and opportunities they need to join the 21st-century workforce.

6. Hearing from our donors and partners

Clé de Peau Beauté: Empowering girls for a brighter future



Since 2019, global luxury skincare and make-up brand Clé de Peau Beauté, part of the Shiseido Company Limited, has partnered with UNICEF to support global efforts to advance gender equality and girls' empowerment. Through a global cause-related marketing campaign, the partnership focuses on creating opportunities for adolescent girls through STEM education, skills development and protection initiatives. A portion of the sales from Clé de Peau Beauté's best-selling The Serum contribute to programmes in specific countries, as well as the Global Gender Equality Thematic Fund. This catalytic support empowers UNICEF to break down barriers for girls worldwide by expanding access to quality education and STEM training, challenging harmful gender norms through community-driven change, reinforcing protection systems against violence, exploitation and discrimination, and advocating for gender-responsive policies at every level.

Beauty with purpose: Investing in the next generation

Clé de Peau Beauté believes that 'radiance' comes from within, and that the key to a better world lies in unlocking the power of girls through education and opportunity. Its partnership with UNICEF reflects a shared vision of unlocking girls' potential as future leaders, innovators and change-makers.

"Our partnership with UNICEF is rooted in the belief that when girls are educated and empowered, they transform their lives and their families, communities and societies. Through this partnership, we are proud to support initiatives that give every girl the opportunity to shine." – Mizuki Hashimoto, Chief Brand Officer, Clé de Peau Beauté

Clé de Peau Beauté's long-standing commitment to UNICEF is helping to forge a world where every girl can realize her fundamental right to learn, lead and thrive.

Iceland and UNICEF: Championing gender equality through bold investment

UNICEF deeply values Iceland's pioneering leadership in advancing gender equality through systems-strengthening investments. As one of the first public donors to UNICEF's Global Gender Equality Thematic Fund, Iceland's catalytic support – now doubled to ISK 50 million annually through 2028 – is transforming opportunities for girls worldwide by embedding gender action across education, protection and leadership systems.

"The Icelandic government is proud to be involved in these important projects. Gender equality and the empowerment and education of girls are key issues in development cooperation and the progress of societies." – Martin Eyjólfsson, State Secretary of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland

This strategic funding accelerates high-impact initiatives globally, reaching youths and girls with programmes on STEM, prevention of gender-based violence, and vocational and leadership development for refugee girls, while driving gender-responsive legislation, policies and inclusive water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and health infrastructure. By strengthening key systems to address underlying causes of gender inequality, Iceland's investment is creating a ripple effect that transforms entire communities – ensuring girls today become the change-makers of tomorrow.

"At a time of widespread cuts across the aid sector, Iceland's increased contribution is a vital show of leadership and solidarity. It is helping drive real results for girls and sends a powerful signal about what matters most." – Kitty van der Heijden, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director



Mampi, 16 years old, 9th grade class, is sewing a sanitary pad, Mali.

© UNICEF/UNI560593/Keïta



© UNICEF/UNI1812713/Mirindi Johnson

Looking forward

Dorcas sits for her first exam at Lycée Cirezi in Bukavu, South Kivu province, Democratic Republic of the Congo (the). After years of conflict and displacement disrupting education in the region, Dorcas is among many students returning to the classroom with support from a UNICEF programme working to restore learning opportunities and hope for children in eastern Congo.

As this report highlights, UNICEF is reaching more girls and women with quality services and opportunities for empowerment than ever before. Strong and lasting partnerships with governments, civil society and girls are driving progress in education, health and protection, while dedicated resources are being channelled to girls' and women's organizations on the front lines of change, particularly in humanitarian settings. Momentum is growing, with national governments and private, public and philanthropic allies rallying behind programming that advances gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women.

Yet much remains to be done. As UNICEF looks ahead to its new Strategic Plan and Gender Equality Action Plan, both for 2026–2029, it will be critical to preserve and scale up foundational investments in girls' and women's empowerment. Key priorities include the following:

- Expanding health and nutrition initiatives for girls and women, while centring and supporting growing cohorts of female community front-line workers

- Scaling up proven solutions for girls' skills development and transition to meaningful employment, including targeted social protection measures to remove financial barriers to learning
- Sustaining UNICEF leadership and strong partnerships for gender equality within the United Nations system, ensuring continued high performance and progress in prioritizing gender equality withing country programmes and financing, and tracking and reporting on impact.

At a time when global development assistance is shrinking and threats to the rights of girls and women are mounting, the world needs a clear, unwavering path to gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women, backed by domestic investments, national leadership and the voices of girls and women. UNICEF is committed to doing its part to help to lead that charge as a strong and vibrant partner. Because when girls and women rise, everyone thrives.



© UNICEF/UNI594400/Dejongh

Children at the playground of the Gulisi Primary School of Dangriga, in the south of Belize. UNICEF supports schools to be a safe space for girls and boys to grow mentally, emotionally, and physically.

Endnotes

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Financial Annexⁱ

Glossary of key terms

Income, revenue and contributions received

- **Income:** Income includes contributions received in a given year from public sector partners (governments, including the European Commission, inter-organizational arrangements, global programme partnerships, and international financial institutions) and revenue from private sector partners. UNICEF uses income to prepare the financial framework, which forms part of the UNICEF Strategic Plan. Income is not part of the audited UNICEF financial statements.
- **Revenue:** UNICEF recognizes revenue for the full contribution agreement value when the partner agreement is signed in line with requirements of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). This includes multi-year contribution agreements reflecting the full commitment of our partners for current and future years.
- **Contributions received:** Cash and contributions in kind received from resource partners within a calendar year.

Expenses and expenditures

- **Expenses** are recorded according to the International IPSAS and are accrual based. These are used for official financial reporting.
- **Expenditures** are recorded on a modified cash basis. They are used for budget reporting as they are aligned with cash disbursements and goods receipts (the way budgets are consumed).

Financial overview

Resources by type of funding

UNICEF has several funding modalities that work together to contribute to lasting impact; these include core and other resources, which include softly earmarked thematic funds, as well as tightly earmarked funds.

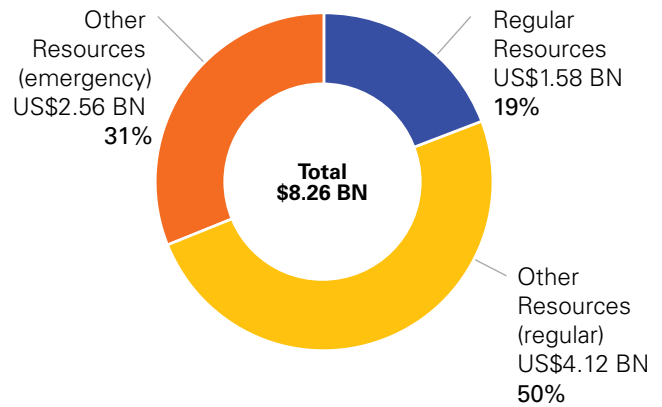
- Core Resources (RR) – contributions without restrictions within the framework of the Strategic Plan, to be used flexibly for children wherever and whenever the need is greatest.
- Other Resources Regular (ORR) – contributions that are earmarked by UNICEF partners for development programming. These can include flexible thematic funding at global, regional and country level. They can also be further earmarked for specific programmes or projects.
- Other Resources Emergency (ORE) – contributions that are earmarked by UNICEF partners for humanitarian programming. These can include flexible thematic funding for global, regional or further earmarked for specific emergency responses.

In a challenging economic climate, UNICEF’s total income reached US\$8.26 billion in 2024, a 7 per cent or \$657 million decrease compared to 2023. These resources entrusted to UNICEF represent a spectrum, from funding earmarked to specific programmes to flexible funds given without any restriction to address the most pressing needs of children and to invest strategically in programming for scale, sustainability and resilience. The contributions from the public sector decreased by \$483 million compared to 2023, while private sector contributions decreased by \$221 million.

In 2024, Core Resources (RR) – UNICEF’s most flexible funding – increased to 19 per cent of total income, from 18 per cent in 2023, to a total of \$1.58 billion.

The Funding Compact commitment of member states to increase core funding as share of the overall public sector and member states income fell short of the 30 per cent target in 2024. UNICEF is continuing to encourage partners to increase RR contributions as part of a broader portfolio approach across all funding types, ensuring the organization’s presence globally and its ability to bring about systemic change to meet the needs of every child, everywhere.

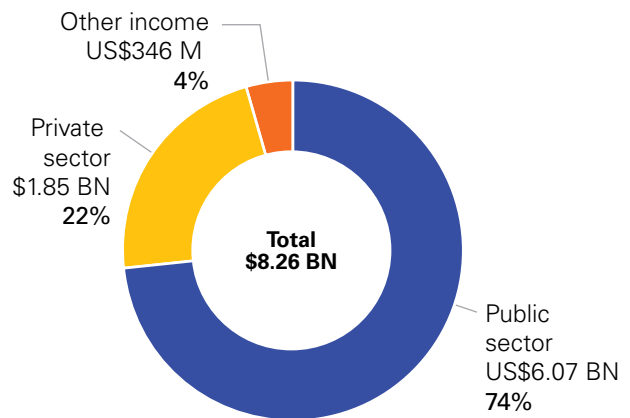
FIGURE A1: Income by type of funding, 2024



Resources by type of resource partner

In 2024, public sector income reached a \$6.07 billion, and made up 74 per cent of UNICEF’s total income. Private sector income amounted to \$1.85 billion in 2024, which was 22 per cent of UNICEF’s total income. Other income – including income from interest, procurement services and other sources – amounted to \$346 million or 4 per cent of UNICEF’s total income.

FIGURE A2: Income by type of resource partner, 2024



Thematic funding

Thematic funds are softly earmarked pooled funds categorized as Other Resources (OR) and designed to support the achievement of results at country, regional and global levels. For partners, contributing to UNICEF's thematic funding pools enables them to champion the principles of good multilateral resource partnerships. Thematic funds deliver a higher return on investment for results for children, as their lower indirect cost recovery allows a greater share of funding to be directed toward programming, while also benefiting from transactional efficiencies compared to more tightly earmarked contributions. Thematic funding contributions continued to decline in 2024, from a record high of \$1.20 billion in 2022 (primarily driven by private sector funding for the Ukraine crisis) to \$475 million in 2023, down to \$361 million in 2024, constituting only 5 per cent of total OR. Thematic funding as a proportion of total OR from member states specifically decreased from 8 per cent in 2022 to 4 per cent in 2024, below the Funding Compact target of 15 per cent by 2027.

Private sector contributions – representing 58 per cent (\$211 million) of total thematic funding in 2024 – came from National Committees, 35 country offices and additional individual donors, including through online donations. Public sector contributions were provided by 20 governments and accounted for 42 per cent of thematic funding contributions in 2024 (\$150 million).

Apart from the spike in contributions in 2021 and 2022, largely from humanitarian private sector giving, the average level of thematic funding over the past decade has never reached more than 10 per cent of total OR contributions. UNICEF encourages partners to channel more contributions through these softly earmarked funds to allow maximum flexibility at the global, country and regional levels to strengthen results for children.

FIGURE A3: Contributions received by type of funding, 2024: Thematic vs non-thematic

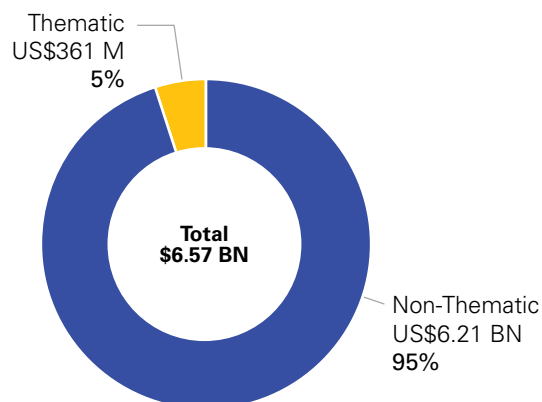


FIGURE A4: Thematic contributions received by resource partner, 2024: Public vs private

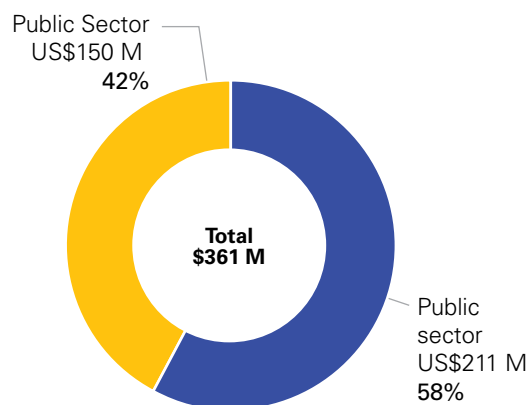
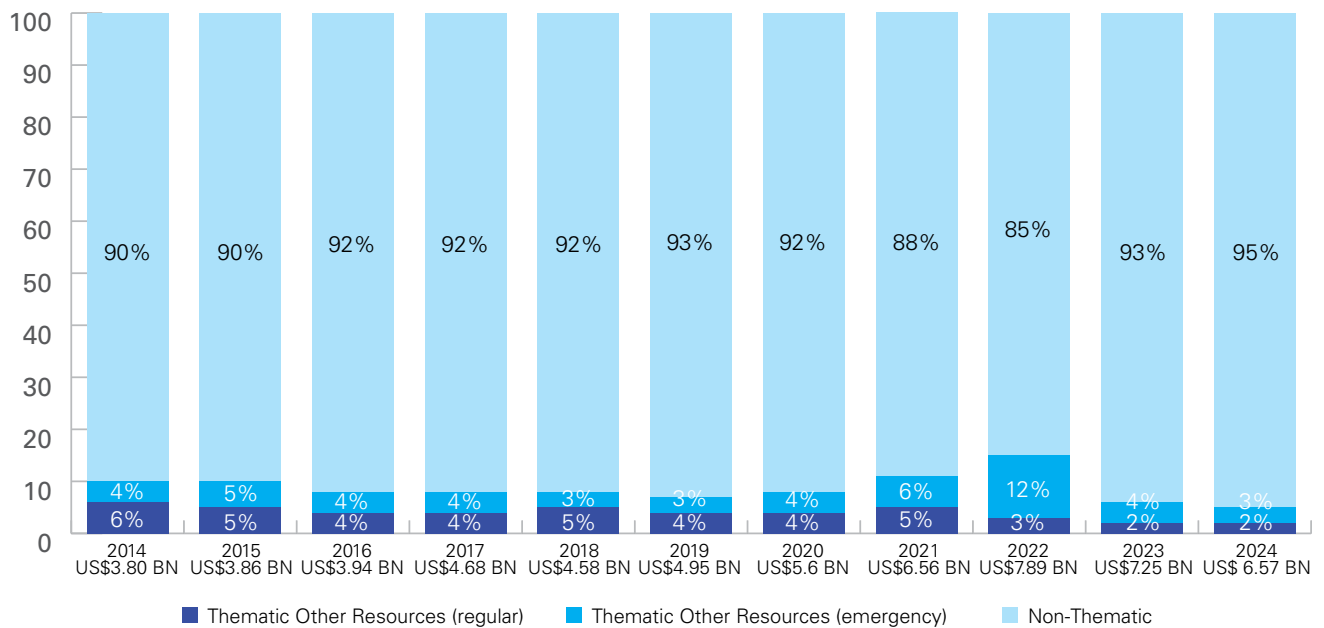


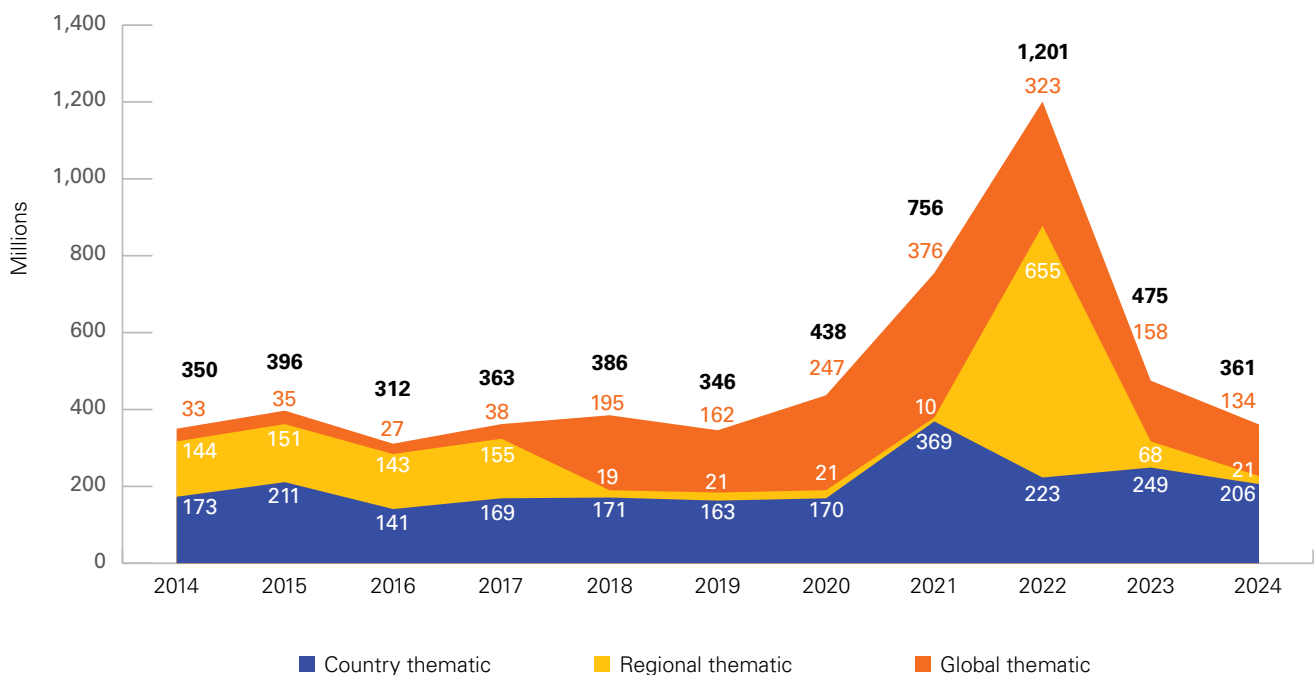
FIGURE A5: OR contributions received by type of funding, 2014-2024: Thematic vs non-thematic



In 2024, 57 per cent (\$206 million) of thematic funding was received through country-level pools, and 37 per cent (\$134

million) through global thematic funding and 6 per cent (\$21 million) through regional thematic funding.

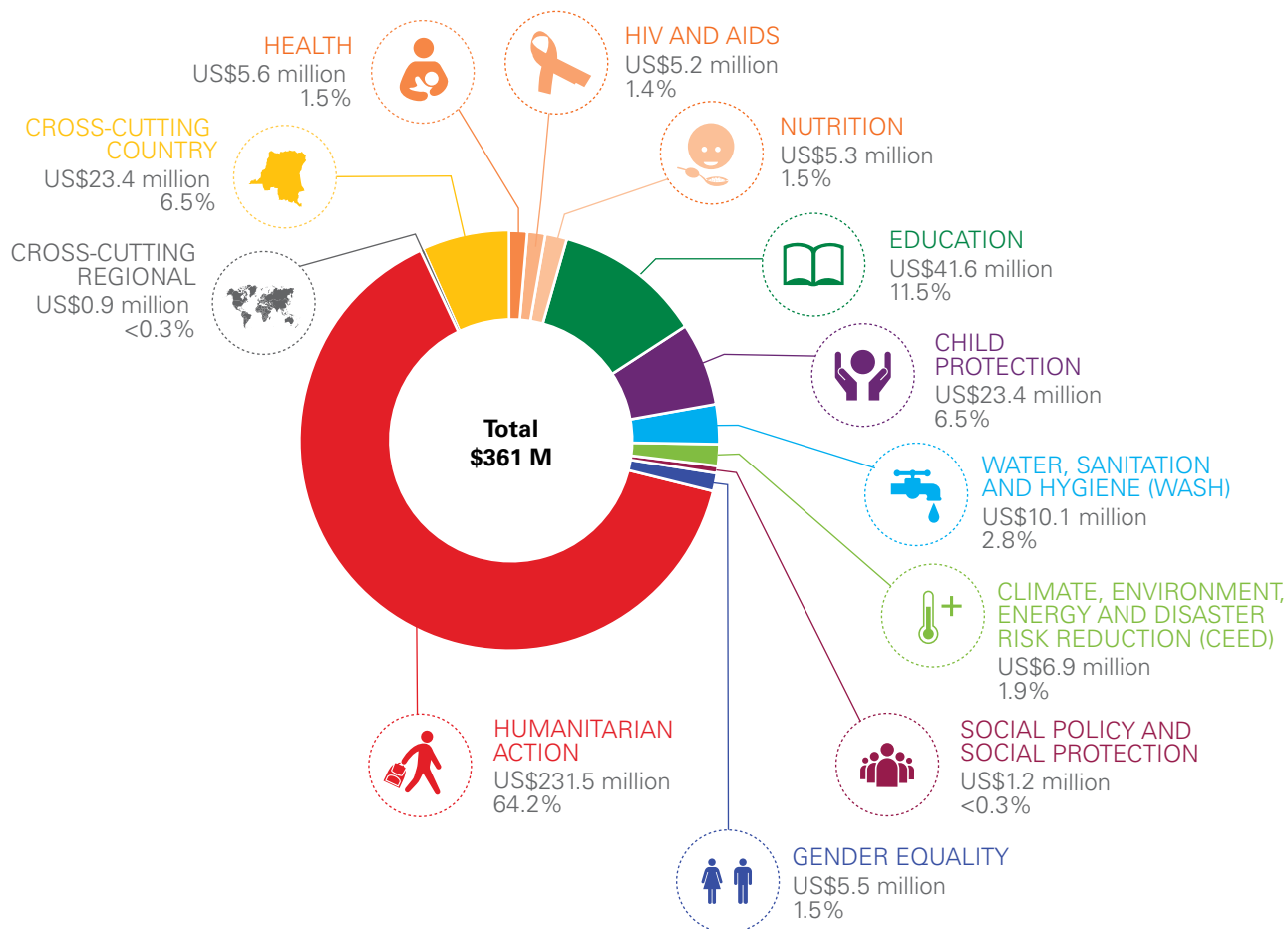
FIGURE A6: Thematic funding contributions received by type, 2014-2024



In 2024, the greatest amount of thematic funding received – 64 per cent – was for UNICEF’s humanitarian response. The increasing trend towards tightly earmarked resources

in development programming erodes the sustainability and predictability UNICEF needs to contribute to long-term impact for children in line with the SDGs.

FIGURE A7: Thematic contributions by funding pool, 2024



Donor Recognition

UNICEF programmes are funded entirely through the voluntary support of millions of people around the world and our partners in government, civil society and the private sector. Voluntary contributions enable UNICEF to deliver on its mandate to protect children’s rights, help meet their basic needs and expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. We take this opportunity to thank all our partners who contributed so generously in 2024 to our work for children around the world.

UNICEF would like to convey special appreciation to partners that have provided thematic contributions. This support enables UNICEF to respond effectively by strengthening systems across priority areas of work and promotes sustainability to achieve the greatest impact for children.

UNICEF’s Strategic Plan 2022-2025 includes the goal of doubling thematic funding as a share of all Other Resources. UNICEF is calling for member states to fulfill their Funding Compact commitment, and for all donors to increase flexible funding as a proportion of their overall portfolio of giving to UNICEF.

In 2024, the top 10 thematic funding resource partners contributed \$240 million, or 67 per cent of the total thematic contributions to UNICEF (see Figure 1). These partners provided 67 per cent of the total thematic funding for UNICEF’s non-humanitarian thematic pools, and 66 per cent of the total humanitarian thematic funding. The top three thematic funding partners in 2024 were Sweden, Denmark and the United States Fund for UNICEF. UNICEF would like to convey its sincere thanks to these partners for their ongoing and steadfast commitment to providing

flexible support to the organization. These three partners alone contributed 33 per cent, or \$119 million, of UNICEF's total thematic funding in 2024.

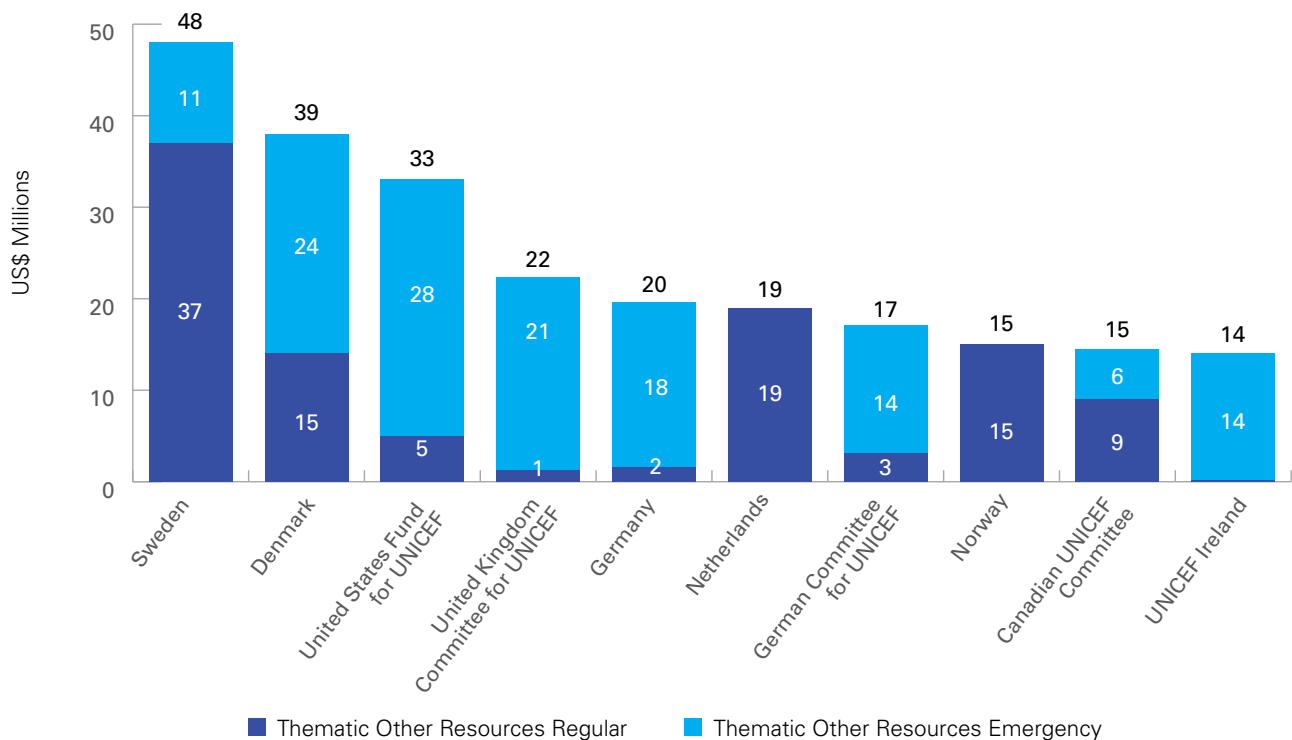
UNICEF would also like to recognize partners who have supported the new thematic modality of Country Programme funding for the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025. The Country Programme Document (CPD) thematic window, or flexible country window, allows maximum flexibility for UNICEF country offices to address challenges holistically, and supports an integrated approach, funding areas of work that may not be covered under other thematic grants or earmarked funding.

UNICEF is especially grateful to Sweden, a strong advocate and supporter of this modality. In 2024, Sweden remained by far the largest partner for CPD thematic funds, contributing \$10 million (41% of total contributions to this modality in 2024) to support Country Programmes

in Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. Sweden's contributions to CPD thematic funds since the outset of the current Strategic Plan up until 2024 amount to \$48 million (69% of total contributions to this modality).

In addition, UNICEF would like to recognize its private sector partners that are increasingly supporting the flexible country window. In 2024, the CPD thematic window received contributions from ten National Committees, which, together, contributed nearly \$13 million: the Canadian UNICEF Committee, the Committee for UNICEF Switzerland, the United States Fund for UNICEF, the German Committee for UNICEF, the Spanish Committee for UNICEF, the United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF, the Portuguese Committee for UNICEF, the Polish National Committee for UNICEF, French Committee for UNICEF and the Norwegian Committee for UNICEF.

FIGURE A8: Top 10 Resource Partners to Thematic Funding Pools, 2024, by Contributions Received



*Excluding UNICEF Country Office Private Sector Fundraising

Financial Information by Goal Area and/or sectorⁱⁱ

Gender equality

In 2024, UNICEF received a total of \$49 million in OR for Gender Equality, of which development contributions (ORR) accounted for 81 per cent. Public sector partners contributed the largest share of OR funding at 86 per cent while private sector partners contributed 14 per cent.

In 2024, the UNICEF programmes focused on gender equality received a total of \$5.5 million in thematic contributions, which accounted for 11 per cent of total OR contributions.¹ This represented an improvement on 2023. Thematic funding has been invaluable for ensuring catalytic gender programming in priority areas. Flexible, multi-year funds have allowed UNICEF to advance key gender priorities in line with UNICEF's Strategic Plan and Gender Action Plan, 2022–2025.

FIGURE A9: Gender Equality - OR contributions received by by fund type, 2024

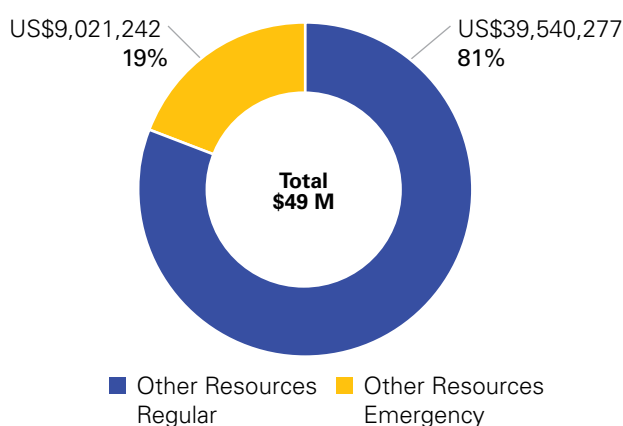
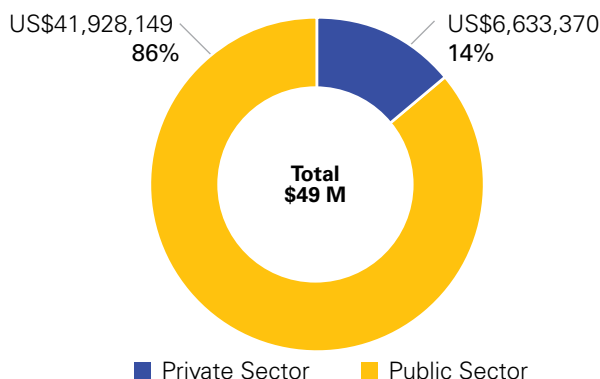


FIGURE A10: Gender Equality - OR contributions received by resource partner, 2024



¹ Thematic contributions received for gender equality, in 2024, include all grants with the respective grant coding (SC229909 and SC229939).

FIGURE A11: Gender Equality - OR contributions received by type of funding, 2015–2024: Thematic vs non-thematic

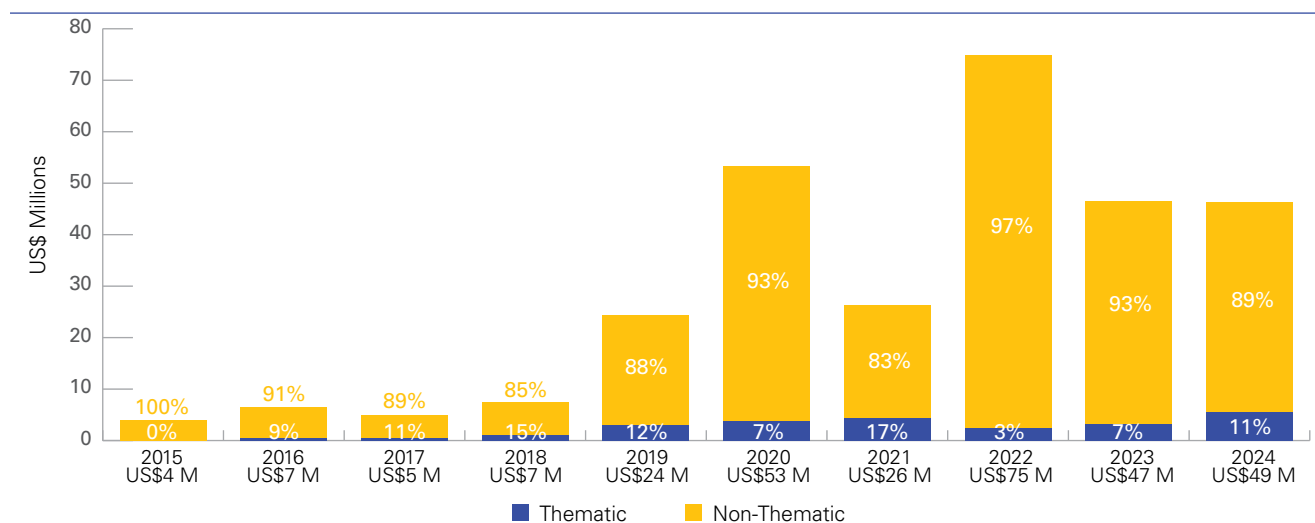


Table A1: Top 20 Resource Partners to Gender Equality by Total Contributions in US\$

Rank	Resource Partner	Contributions Received, 2024
1	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	14,565,669
2	Germany	11,938,159
3	UN Joint Programme	2,527,250
4	Denmark	2,436,050
5	United States Fund for UNICEF	2,141,906
6	Canada	2,053,954
7	Spain	1,896,866
8	France	1,619,970
9	European Commission	1,538,051
10	Japan Committee for UNICEF	1,423,814
11	UN Multi Partner Trust Fund	1,309,883
12	German Committee for UNICEF	806,267
13	UN Women	773,049
14	Luxembourg	605,548
15	Danish Foundation for UNICEF	400,000
16	French Committee for UNICEF	308,776
17	United Kingdom	213,599
18	Belgian Committee for UNICEF	201,485
19	Iceland	200,000
20	United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	198,353

Excluding UNICEF Country Office Private Sector Fundraising.

i All figures in this chapter have been rounded and may not add up to the totals.

ii Aside from OR contributions received for specific Goal Areas of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025, sectors and gender equality, other OR contributions were received for two or more Goal Areas and/or sectors. In total, \$2.77 billion was received as cross-sectoral OR contributions in 2024, of which 62% was for humanitarian response.



Published by UNICEF
3 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

www.unicef.org

August 2025

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