

Annual Report 2019

SOUTH AFRICA

unicef 

for every child

Contents

UNICEF SOUTH AFRICA ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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Foreword

Muriel Mafico
Deputy Representative
UNICEF South Africa



Together we have achieved.

It is a pleasure to share with you UNICEF South Africa's 2019 Annual Report where we take the opportunity to showcase our achievements, learn from our experiences and highlight the challenges ahead in realising the rights of every child in South Africa.

Twenty-nineteen marked the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and 25 years of freedom and democracy in South Africa. On 16 June 1995 (the Day of the African Child and Youth Day in South Africa), the CRC became the first international treaty to be ratified by the newly formed democratic government of South Africa under President Nelson Mandela. This historic connection – between child rights, freedom and democracy – continues to resonate in the resilience of UNICEF's partnerships in South Africa today. Over the past quarter-century, the close working relationship between UNICEF, the South African government and partners across the board has contributed to positive change in the lives of children in this country.

While the challenges of inequality, inter-generational poverty and violence are a daunting reality, we take inspiration from what has been achieved together. From President Cyril Ramaphosa's historic announcement of the National Strategic Plan of Action to tackle Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Femicide, to the steps taken in advocating for the re-establishment of the Office of the Rights of the Child (ORC) in the Presidency; from the decision to include Early Childhood Development (ECD) within the Department of Basic Education (DBE), to the progressive implementation of the Child Support Grant (CSG) – in these milestones of 2019, UNICEF has been a leading voice.

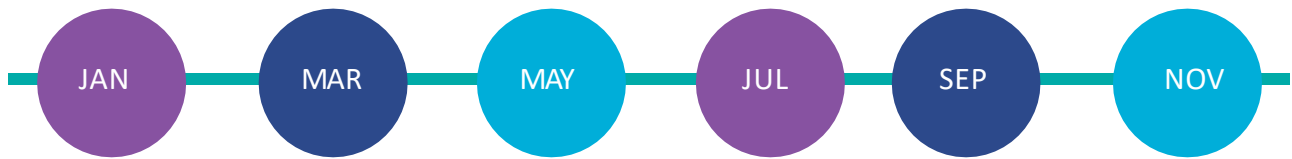
As such, more than a detailed profile of UNICEF's presence in South Africa, this report is testament to the strength of our partnerships and the journey we have embarked on together. I would like to extend a special word of thanks to our partners at all levels of the Government of South Africa. To our partners in academia, the private sector, civil society and communities across South Africa, UNICEF remains grateful for your continued support and collaboration. With our sights set on the road ahead, and through our joint commitment, we continue the agenda for every child.



Muriel Mafico

Deputy Representative UNICEF South Africa

2019 KEY HIGHLIGHTS



COVID-19 and a changing world

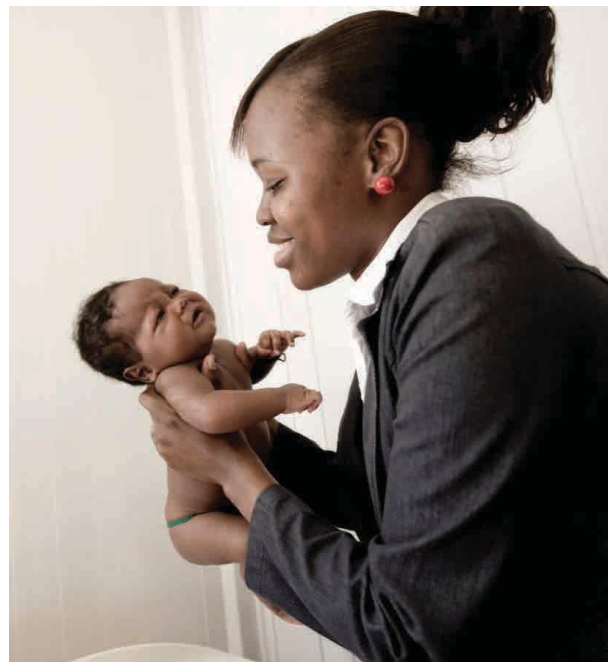
In December 2019, traces of a novel coronavirus disease were first recorded in Wuhan, China. In the months since, the world has had to adjust to a new reality of change and uncertainty as, together, we confront the global COVID-19 pandemic.

While there are many unknowns, we do know that having the facts is key to being properly prepared and protecting ourselves and our loved ones.

UNICEF continues to work with all our partners to assist vulnerable children and families and to provide up-to-date and trustworthy information that is grounded in the latest scientific research.

For current and reliable information, home-based learning resources for your child and to support UNICEF South Africa's COVID-19 relief efforts,

[visit **unicef.org/southafrica**](https://www.unicef.org/southafrica)



A quarter-century since the onset of democracy in South Africa, the year 2019 was marked by the progress made and the challenges that remain. The general elections held on the 8th of May were the sixth since 1994 and, beyond being a symbol of South Africa's triumph over apartheid and oppression, the elections provided a real indication of the strength and resilience of the country's constitutional democracy.

Free, fair and competitive, the successful general elections saw minor losses for the ruling African National Congress as well as the main opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, while smaller parties made marginal gains at the polls. Despite a reduced majority in the National Assembly, Cyril Ramaphosa was elected unopposed as the President of the Republic – a role that he has served in since the resignation of his predecessor, Jacob Zuma, in February 2018.

Ramaphosa's 2019 inauguration arrived with a promise of change. Recalling the lyrics of the late Hugh Masekela's famous song, "Thuma Mina", the Head of State's response to the pressing crises that face the country has been to say, "send me" – extending a call to all South Africans to be proactive, take responsibility and join in the fight for a better South Africa.

By-and-large, the response to the President's call has been positive with stakeholders in civil society, business and labour in South Africa committing to a series of social compacts, summits and commissions to address the nation's challenges. Some of these include investment and job summits to accelerate inclusive economic growth and create jobs; the continuation of The Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture tasked with uncovering high-level corruption; and a R1.6bn (US\$ 96m) allocation to the GBV Emergency Fund and the establishment of the Presidency's National Strategic Plan to Combat GBV and Femicide.





Yet despite these renewed efforts, 2019 also provided reminders of the depth of South Africa's challenges. A growing budget deficit and fiscal prioritisation were compounded by a faltering economy and concerns of a possible technical recession in 2020 which saw the year close with a 0.6 per cent contraction in GDP in the third quarter. In August, the torture, rape and murder of 19-year-old student Uyinene Mrwetyana at her local post office sparked an outpouring of anger and mourning with women across the country asking, #AmINext? The continued onslaught of GBV and violence against children (VAC) is a visible reality in South Africa that requires an urgent response.

In late March, Durban saw a resurgence in xenophobic violence targeted at foreign nationals ahead of the country's general elections and, in September, inner-city Johannesburg was the scene of similar attacks with foreign-owned shops looted and destroyed. Concerns over South Africa's power utility, Eskom, were aggravated by two periods of sustained load shedding in 2019, leaving businesses and households severely disrupted. Lastly, in November, the launch of a Statistics SA report assessing "Inequality Trends in South Africa" showed that the gap between those with and those without has not reduced but rather, inequality (specifically in income and wealth) is deepening in South Africa.

While these challenges are concerning and a reminder of the hard work ahead, 2019 was also a year of celebration for South Africans who were proudly represented on the world stage. The Springboks, the country's national rugby team, beat England in the Rugby World Cup Final and went on to lift the trophy for the third time since their iconic first victory in the tournament in 1995. Much like that first time, this achievement showcased the power of sport in bridging divides and bringing South Africans together. More than this however, the victory served as a powerful symbol of transformation as Siya Kolisi, the team's first black captain, realised a life-long dream that started on the gravel rugby fields of Zwide township in the Eastern Cape. A month later, Zozibini Tunzi was crowned Miss Universe 2019. Zozibini's achievement has been widely celebrated and her activism – in championing education and leadership opportunities for women – has served as an inspiration to millions of young girls across the country.

It is in these moments of radiance and excellence that a glimpse of South Africa's potential can be seen. Despite the deep challenges, the accomplishments of a few are celebrated by all and serve as an abiding inspiration for what a future South Africa can be. For children now, and generations to come, realising this vision is an urgent imperative.



Isibindi Safe Parks provided a protective & nurturing environment for more than **70,000 children** nationally.



Child-led forums were held in both the National and KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Parliaments to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.



UNICEF co-hosted the Global Child and Youth Care Conference in Durban from 1-4 July, with **1,300** childcare practitioners from 28 countries.



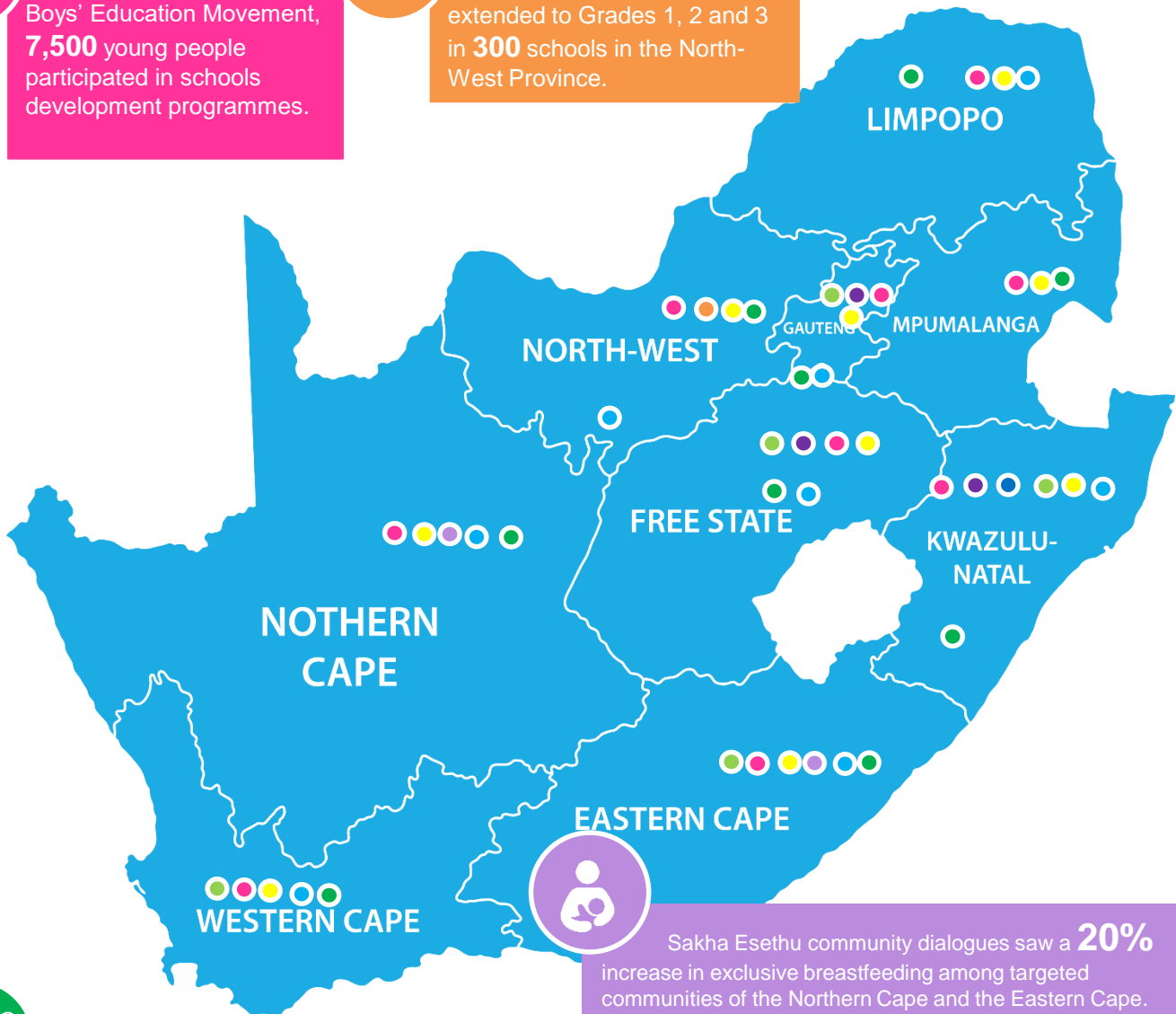
UNICEF supported the roll-out of WASH facilities to schools across the country through the Presidency's SAFE programme.



Through the Girls' and Boys' Education Movement, **7,500** young people participated in schools development programmes.



The early grade reading programme was scaled-up and extended to Grades 1, 2 and 3 in **300** schools in the North-West Province.



Sakha Esethu community dialogues saw a **20%** increase in exclusive breastfeeding among targeted communities of the Northern Cape and the Eastern Cape.



Over **3,500** educators received physical education training through the Physical Education and Sports for Development (PES4D) programmes.






Over **1,600** volunteers were recruited to UNICEF South Africa's Volunteer Programme from universities across the country.



More than **200** people received counselling support following xenophobic violence in Durban.

Leveraging political momentum and opportunities, UNICEF South Africa operated at several strategic levels in 2019. Achievements were recorded across programmatic areas in consolidating long-standing projects, responding to emerging risks to children and reducing pervasive inequalities across key child indicators.


 <p>U-Report South Africa achieved critical scale of its user-base with over 90,000 users.</p>	 <h2>First 1000 Days</h2> <p>The Mother-Baby Package – providing essential care to mothers and newborns in the ‘First 1000 Days’ – was rolled out in 5 provinces with UNICEF support.</p>	 <h2>Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV</h2> <p>UNICEF led a joint review of national efforts to improve pediatric assessment tools and accelerate PMTCT of HIV at all levels.</p>
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 <p>South Africa regained its polio-free status in September 2019 through strengthened routine immunisation.</p>	 <p>UNICEF continues to address Parliament on an ongoing basis, ensuring high-level and sustained access to many of the country’s governmental policy makers.</p>	 <p>MomConnect, a UNICEF-supported WhatsApp and SMS platform, reached 3.2 million pregnant women and mothers with targeted health promotion messages.</p>
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	<p>UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Department of Social Development in the drafting of a new National Plan of Action for Children.</p>	 <p>UNICEF advised the Presidency ahead of the announcement to commit R1.6bn (US\$96m) towards the National Strategic Plan of Action on GBV and Femicide</p>
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<p>UNICEF’s CEO Network, a group of business leaders from more than 25 South African corporates, leveraged their influence and resources for children.</p>	 <p>46,664 ECD practitioners and Grades R to 3 educators received online in-service training through UNICEF’s financial and technical support.</p>	 <p>UNICEF presented a costed investment case for child-care, protection and youth empowerment at numerous engagements throughout 2019.</p>
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 <h1>70%</h1> <p>of the 2,584 Techno Girl alumni were studying in engineering, science or commerce in 2019.</p>	 <p>300,000 learners benefitted from structured quality Physical Education programmes nationally.</p>
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	<p>Some 350,000 learners actively engaged in dialogues on social issues through the Girls’ and Boys’ Education Movement.</p>
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Health & Nutrition: Every child survives and thrives



Health

Health & Nutrition: Every child survives and thrives

At the start of 2019, UNICEF renewed its commitment to help every child survive and thrive. In responding to South Africa's major health challenges, three key focus areas were prioritized: strengthening health systems for evidence-based planning and the monitoring of a comprehensive package of health; strengthening paediatric Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and the continuation of HIV/AIDS prevention specifically in the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) among young girls and women; and improved maternal and child health services including nutrition services for mothers and children.

Achievements

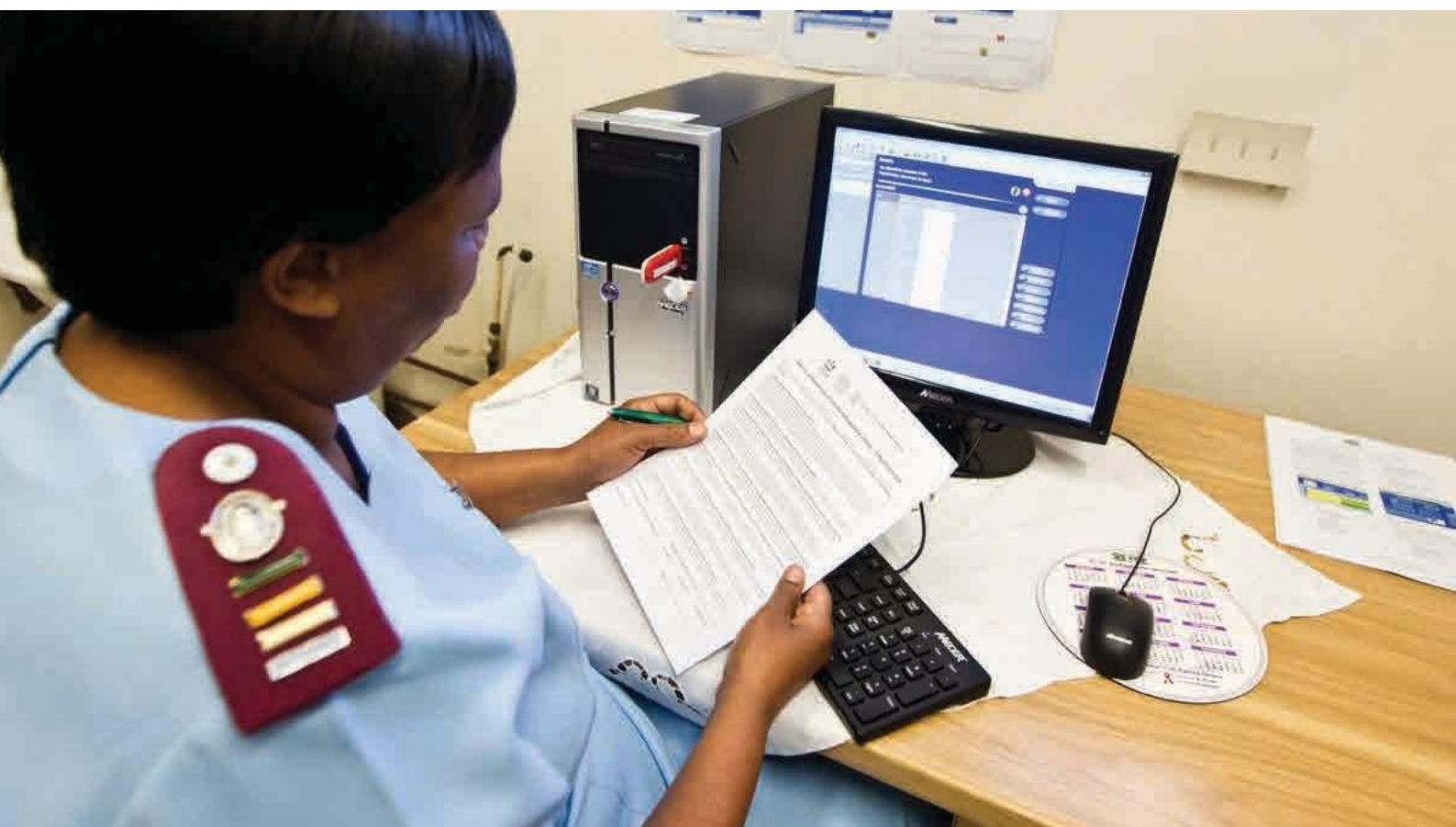
- UNICEF played a critical role in the development and deployment of the Mother-Baby Package which has been rolled out by the National Department of Health (NDOH). The package provides pregnant women and mothers with comprehensive essential Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) for the First 1,000 Days.
- The NDOH was supported in implementing activities to reduce morbidity and mortality among premature babies through the application of life-saving interventions, such as Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC).
- Technical assistance (planning, coordination, collation of data and facilitation of workshops) was provided to the Last Mile focus districts in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape provinces and to Tshwane in Gauteng Province. More efforts were geared towards identifying, within each district, the high-burden facilities in high-transmission communities and developing tailored micro-plans to reach targets.
- Following the withdrawal of South Africa's polio-free status by the Africa Regional Certification Commission (ARCC) in late 2018, UNICEF, together with the World Health Organisation (WHO), strengthened routine immunization and overall vaccine preventable disease surveillance systems. As a result of these efforts, South Africa regained its polio-free status in September 2019.
- UNICEF also supported the training of health care workers in effective vaccine management and related logistics.
- During the same immunisation drive, UNICEF, WHO and the NDOH, developed and conducted an equity-based analysis that identified eight municipalities that constitute the highest number of unimmunized children. The findings are considered of strategic importance towards improving immunization coverage in South Africa and will be used in municipality-specific plans in the future.
- In May, UNICEF supported the implementation of community dialogues with groups of mothers in the Eastern Cape province through the Sakha Esethu project, in partnership with Nelson Mandela University and the Amathole health district.
- Due in part to the Sakha Esethu project, the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the targeted communities in Northern and Eastern Cape provinces increased from 10 per cent to 30 per cent between 2017 and 2019. The evaluation found that the mother mentors continued with community mobilisation and reached additional people – indicating that the intervention continued to grow naturally because of the initial participative training.
- MomConnect, an SMS and WhatsApp based tool of the NDOH, reached 85% of pregnant women and mothers in South Africa (3.2 million subscribers within the last 3 years) through received targeted health promotion messages. UNICEF supported further improvement in the MomConnect Helpdesk in 2019.



- At the request of the Minister of Health, UNICEF assisted the NDOH in developing a National Health Helpdesk for all MNCH, HIV/AIDS and nutrition-related messaging, by expanding the MomConnect platform and including other small-scale helpdesks.
- UNICEF's resources contributed to strengthening the coordination capacity of the South African Civil Society Organisation Coalition for Women, Adolescent and Child Health and nutrition (SACSoWACH) to advocate for newborn, child, adolescent, women's and maternal health.
- In collaboration with the University of Limpopo Trust, UNICEF introduced a newborn care initiative to tackle neonatal mortality rates in South Africa. Respectful Maternity Care interventions – including a birth companion throughout pregnancy, delivery and the postnatal period and creating space for care, psychological support and privacy during labour and antenatal care – were piloted in clinics in the Greater Letaba sub-district in Limpopo Province.
- UNICEF, working together with Mothers2Mothers, provided financial and technical support to scale up the implementation of the Youth Alive peer mentor model focusing on adolescent girls and young women (AGYW). The programme provides psychosocial support to pregnant AGYW and has been adopted in Tshwane district. A notable achievement was the agreement reached with Tshwane district to employ the peer mentors as their staff. This will ensure that the program continues beyond UNICEF support. The programme has been effective and UNICEF, with partners, is supporting its expansion in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal provinces.
- UNICEF supported the DBE to develop the South African School Food and Beverages Guidelines to provide much-needed guidance on healthy eating, drinking clean and safe water and engagement in physical activity within the school environment.

Events & Advocacy

- Together with partners, UNICEF launched a symposium to commemorate World Breastfeeding Week from 1 – 7 August 2019 at Kalafong Hospital outside Pretoria. Under the theme “Empower Parents: Enable Breastfeeding”, the programme was opened by First Lady, Dr Tshepo Motsepe, and received inputs from Health Minister, Dr Zweli Mkhize and MEC for Health in Gauteng, Dr Bandile Masuku.
- From June to September, UNICEF supported the NDOH to develop and implement a national media and advocacy strategy for promoting good breastfeeding practices.
- UNICEF supported the tenth Child Health Priorities Conference, a platform for child health practitioners, NGOs, business, academics and advocates to share best practice and engage on opportunities and challenges faced by children in South Africa.
- A ‘mock roll-out’ of the new PMTCT policy at the Last Mile Provincial Review was conducted. The exercise proved valuable in identifying gaps in implementation and informed the finalisation of the guidelines in November.
- UNICEF participated in the UN Joint Programme on AIDS. The joint programming provided a forum to share information on where collaboration is possible, avoid duplication, make use of limited funding efficiently and leverage each agencies’ comparative advantage to provide a more comprehensive response to the epidemic.
- UNICEF documented a South Africa case study titled “factors for success in eliminating mother to child transmission”. The case study showcases various actions that led to the notability of the program resulting in implementation of successful interventions that led to huge reduction in mother to child transmission of HIV.





Research & Policy

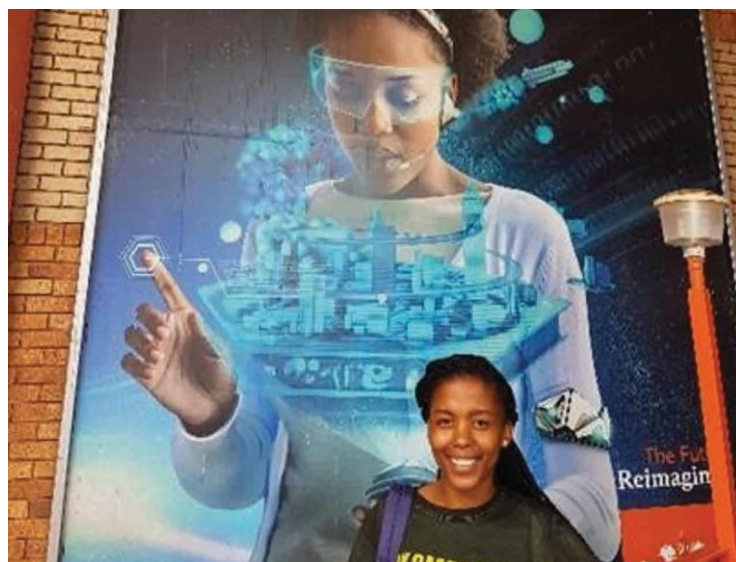
- To have a comprehensive understanding of the quality and coverage of health and HIV/AIDS services, UNICEF and development partners supported the NDOH in conducting a joint review of HIV, STI, Tuberculosis (TB) and PMTCT programmes. UNICEF led the review of the PMTCT and paediatric HIV programme, with a focus on data collection and reviewing the assessment tools. The findings of the assessment will be used to identify gaps and actions to strengthen the quality of the programme as well as monitoring at national and provincial levels.
- In continued partnership with the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS), UNICEF supported the generation of data and analysis to improve PMTCT and paediatric HIV programme implementation for children and adolescents. The support has generated age disaggregated data which is not routinely collected by the department of health, enabling a more accurate monitoring of HIV infection rates as well as the number of HIV infected people both knowing their HIV status and receiving anti-retroviral therapy.
- UNICEF South Africa engaged in innovative approaches to data collection and strategy development through participatory action research and evidence generation. This was undertaken in partnership with the WITS Health Consortium, the University of Limpopo Trust, Nelson Mandela University and community-based organisations such as Mothers2Mothers.
- UNICEF partnered with the Children’s Institute for the publication of the fourteenth issue of the South African Child Gauge, which in 2019 focused on “Child and Adolescent Health.”
- In supporting the implementation of the South African Government’s National Food and Nutrition Security Plan (NFNSP), UNICEF developed the guidelines and key messages for promoting healthy eating, drinking and physical activity among school children and adolescents. These guidelines include the Integrated National Food and Nutrition Security Communication Strategy (INFNSC) and the Integrated Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (IMAM).
- UNICEF provided strategic advice to the NDOH on the draft National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill specifically in relation to: (1) defining and costing the benefit packages, particularly for MNCH interventions, and (2) district health systems strengthening.
- UNICEF supported the NDOH in finalising the monitoring and implementation framework for The Regulations Relating To Foodstuffs For Infants And Young Children. This included the development of the relevant monitoring tools and capacity building workshops for provincial and district representatives.

Education: Every child learns



Education: Every child learns

Evidence of progress in basic education is notable with South Africa having one of the highest schooling participation rates on the continent. Up to 96 per cent of learners in the compulsory years of schooling (7-15 years) are in school, participation remains consistently high across provinces and gender parity has been reached. There are however significant challenges that remain. Drop-out rates are high over grades 9, 10 and 11. Despite spending many years within the education system, only 40 per cent of learners complete their final year of schooling, leaving 60 per cent with no qualification beyond grade 9. Reading competencies are low, with up to 58 per cent of primary school children not being able to read with meaning, and a large proportion of children being behind two years, by age and grade, in their reading proficiencies. UNICEF's work in South Africa is geared towards strengthening the system for the delivery of holistic, comprehensive and equitable ECD and Basic Education in line with the National Development Plan (NDP) and other sector policy blueprints. In 2019, UNICEF worked closely with the DBE to consolidate the gains made in previous years, expand existing projects and undertake new challenges in enhancing education systems and improving learning outcomes for all children and adolescents. The impact of this work is evident in crucial evidence-based policy interventions and an improved system.



Achievements

- Crucial workforce capacity for the delivery of comprehensive ECD was realised through technical and financial support for the training of ECD practitioners and grades R to 3 educators on learning through play. The Powerful Learning Around You (PLAY) online in-service training programme saw a cumulative total of 214,647 foundation phase teachers, grade R educators and ECD practitioners receive new skills in effectively implementing learning through play. Of this total, 61,049 were trained in 2019.
- The high impact early grade reading programme was scaled-up and extended to grades 1, 2 and 3 in 300 schools in the North-West Province. Notably, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) supported the extension of this intervention (EGRS II) in all schools in two districts in Mpumalanga province, based on UNICEF's initial ground-breaking work in the North-West province. UNICEF continues to monitor this work that focuses on the use of technology in delivering cost-effective quality coaching in two districts. In addition, UNICEF continues to play a role in the overall monitoring of progress on early grade reading as part of the National Reading Coalition (NRC) and as a member of the Reading Improvement Programme National Steering Committee.

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- UNICEF reached a total of 3,816 educators in 554 schools in the Free State, Gauteng, and the Eastern Cape provinces, through an innovative "Manipulatives in the Foundation Phase Initiative" that uses objects to engage early learners, in grades R to 3, through play-based learning.
- Sector capacity was boosted by embedding two technical assistants in the DBE to provide crucial support to the curriculum branch in undertaking the ECD function shift prioritised by the Presidency and mandated by the NDP.
- UNICEF implemented a seminal coaching course for coaches and subject advisors on early grade reading in African languages – the first of its kind in South Africa – to further improve the quality of "teaching reading with meaning" for better learning outcomes.
- With the help of the Woolworths Trust (WWT), UNICEF deployed low-cost and high-efficiency Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) stations in 20 schools in Gauteng Province, providing a conservative 30,000 foundation phase learners from 50 schools with a healthy enabling environment for learning and participation. In addition, 350 key school community stakeholders became advocates for healthy schools through information sessions addressing oral hygiene and the importance of handwashing with soap.
- UNICEF continued to confront barriers to education in schools – such as violence, alcohol and drug abuse and gender stereotypes – through direct support in implementing the National School Safety Framework (NSSF). One hundred and fifty-five key sector stakeholders were capacitated to monitor school related gender-based violence (SRGBV). In addition, the manual to prevent and manage alcohol and substance abuse in schools, was field tested. Notably, these key interventions targeted sub-national levels, reaching all nine provinces to enable effective implementation of national protocols for the management and reporting of sexual abuse, harassment and corporal punishment in schools. As a result of this increased capacity, six provinces extended their own training to their districts reaching 488 school level officials including School Governing Bodies.

- The space for youth participation and civic engagement was enhanced for some 7,500 young people through skills development offered via various UNICEF platforms including the vibrant school-based clubs and the Girls' and Boys' Education Movement (GBEM).
- UNICEF further entrenched efforts to uplift more adolescent girls from disadvantaged communities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) via the Techno Girl programme, benefitting 1,000 girls in 2019 through job shadowing in STEM-related careers.
- More than 3,500 educators and government officials were capacitated on the delivery of quality physical education through the Physical Education and Sports for Development (PES4D) programmes. The programmes are designed to counter inactivity and associated ills as well as encourage school participation through a diversified in-school curriculum enrichment programme. In addition, the year saw 300,000 learners benefit from structured quality physical education and approximately 350,000 learners actively engaged in dialogues on social issues that affect them.
- UNICEF intensified its youth leadership through the Youth Leadership Programmes – an offshoot of GBEM clubs. Conducted by trained learners of the GBEM clubs, the programmes highlight GBEM implementation approaches during training camps and road shows. By having their voices heard on topical issues, this strategic intervention increased young people's involvement in their communities on issues affecting their growth and development.
- UNICEF continued to position itself as a key convener and stakeholder on national priorities within the sector, and played a crucial part in rolling out WASH facilities, in predominantly rural parts of South Africa, through the Sanitation Appropriate for Education (SAFE) programme that is spearheaded by the Presidency. Starting with a target of 3,988 primary and secondary schools in South Africa without appropriate sanitation and WASH facilities, SAFE made significant progress throughout the year, with less than 2,000 schools remaining at the end of 2019.



Events & Advocacy

- The year 2019 marked a historic milestone for ECD, as decades of policy divergence ended with the final decision to shift the responsibility for ECD provision from the Department of Social Development (DSD) to the DBE. UNICEF was not only a strong advocate of this change, but also formed a key catalyst in drafting the first ECD Migration Plan which is now being finalised under the "ECD Function Shift" document.
- UNICEF played a management and coordination role between partners and the provincial Departments of Education in the implementation of the Foundation Phase Initiative.
- This year underscored UNICEF's convening power and advocacy. UNICEF chaired the National Steering Committee for the SAFE initiative; is a member of the steering committee of the primary school reading improvement programme; worked on the design of WASH interventions in Gauteng Province; and directly influenced the work on sexual and reproductive health focusing on menstrual hygiene management.

Research & Policy

- UNICEF directly aided the development of the assessment tool for ECD and the guidelines for the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for children birth to four years. The assessment tool is a key instrument in delivering holistic and quality ECD services as defined in the national integrated ECD policy implementation document.
- Strategic support to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) was provided and included the development of a Learning Through Play Framework for ECD and Foundation Phase teachers and practitioners.
- The DBE was supported with the integration of play-based learning into its existing monitoring tool. The tool is an easy-to-use assessment for ECD practitioners and educators that implement the NCF for children birth to four years of age.
- The Magic Classroom Collective – which focuses on bilingual literacy and numeracy in the foundation phase in rural parts of the Eastern Cape – continued to contribute to a dramatic increase in the mean grade 3 learner score in home language literacy at 33.2 per cent – up from 11.7 per cent since the start of the programme in 2010.
- UNICEF conducted monitoring research on the impact of the Techno Girl programme by tracking the performance of 2,584 alumni at higher education institutions with findings indicating that nearly 78 per cent of the girls who benefitted from the programme are studying in one of three scarce skills fields, i.e. engineering, science and commerce.
- UNICEF provided financial and technical support in the development of advocacy material, programme documents and Sport for Development (S4D) play and activity-based curricula for both the GBEM programme and some S4D partners.
- Through a UNICEF training programme for volunteer food handlers, 100 volunteers from 50 pilot schools were trained in preparing safe and nutritious meals under hygienic conditions to further strengthen the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP).



Child Protection and Social Policy



Child Protection and Social Policy: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

- The joint collaboration between UNICEF and the DSD achieved important results. In one key instance, UNICEF supported the DSD's Social Work Administrative Tools Taskforce to strengthen the social welfare workforce and systems of South Africa. The taskforce streamlined and refined the generic case management tools, developed a case management workflow process, and simplified reporting processes including piloting of the digitisation of the reporting process. In another, UNICEF's Positive Parenting trainings with the DSD were rolled out nationwide in all nine provinces. More men were involved in child-care programmes as a result of intensified collaboration with government and the Sonke MenCare Justice Programme.
- The response to children affected by migration and displacement in South Africa was advanced through strengthened collaboration with the DSD, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and civil society working for children on the move.
- UNICEF provided psychosocial and in-kind support to families and children affected by xenophobic violence in Durban, where up to 200 people, including 14 children of refugees and asylum seekers, were displaced. UNICEF also supported 400 women and children that were affected by the violence later in the year.
- A successful social protection assignment was completed, providing capacity to Namibia's social protection department to support the completion of country-wide consultations and to assist in a financing and policy proposal to the Finance Ministry.
- UNICEF's 'cash-and-care' model was reinforced through a pilot undertaken in Johannesburg in 2018 and 2019 with the Centre for Social Development.



- UNICEF, together with other UN agencies, successfully participated in a bid to secure more social protection financing for respective country programs. The joint programme funding will boost existing public finance work and help UNICEF to deepen its commitment to equity-sensitive national policies such as the social protection floor and the development of integrated modalities linking cash transfers and care. Importantly, the funding will enable UNICEF to work closely with key institutions that can help in producing equity-sensitive national policies such as the National Planning Commission (NPC), the DSD and the National Treasury, and will also enable UNICEF's advocacy agenda in promoting the importance of multidimensional poverty tools.
- Events & Advocacy
- In 2019, UNICEF undertook a major shift in its strategic position on child protection. Through high-level advocacy – in delivering speeches at multiple international and national fora and regularly contributing on broadcasting media channels – UNICEF further raised awareness of the importance of protecting children, leveraged an intensified commitment to ending VAC and advanced child rights.
- The President's announcement of the National Strategic Plan of Action on GBV and Femicide (NSP) and the allocation of R1.6bn (US\$ 96m) to this effort, demonstrates the highest political commitment to ending violence against women and children. UNICEF advised the Presidency and the Interim GBV Steering Committee in the development and budgeting of the NSP and successfully integrated VAC into the plan. UNICEF continues to support the Presidency and partners with the implementation of the NSP as well as the Emergency Plan in the context of the One UN Gender Theme Group.



- World Children’s Day, which was also the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention of the Rights of Child, was commemorated in Parliament with the Minister of Social Development. Some 350 children had their voices heard and engaged with parliamentary chairs of portfolio committees on issues affecting them in both National Parliament and the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature.
- UNICEF’s costed investment case for childcare, protection and youth empowerment in South Africa was presented at various strategic platforms (regionally and nationally) throughout the year and proved a strong motivator for accelerated investments in Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) services. As a result, new partnerships were forged with the Influential Women Circle (IWC), the Graça Machel Trust, the Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation and companies like VIACOM, Telkom, Govchat and The Guardian in accelerating investment in PEI programmes. The investment case was presented at the International Council of Philanthropies hosted by UNICEF PFP in South Africa itself.
- UNICEF co-hosted the Global Child and Youth Care Conference in Durban from 1-4 July, with 1,300 childcare practitioners from 28 countries. Through UNICEF’s advocacy efforts, corporate partners contributed to the funding of the conference, and the event was widely covered by South African media. The outcomes of the conference included a commitment by UNICEF and partners to (1) strengthen a child protection workforce on the continent, building on the role of child and youth care workers from South Africa, and (2) to develop further training curricula for such. The model has since drawn the attention of other countries and organisations, with the UNHCR employing the model in Greece in response to the refugee crisis there. The conference showcased the strategic partnerships that UNICEF South Africa has strengthened, both in South Africa and globally in implementing PEI programmes. Pro bono participation by famous musicians and UNICEF Youth Ambassadors served to further emphasise the plight of childcare, protection and youth empowerment during the conference.
- With governance and capacity issues in State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) drawing attention away from social sector budgets, UNICEF placed a renewed effort and focus on keeping the social sector spending agenda high on national and provincial policy-makers’ priorities.
- Throughout the year, UNICEF South Africa advocated for investment into PEI programmes and called for zero tolerance to VAC. This advocacy culminated in the drafting of a MoU for a social compact between the state, corporate partners and UNICEF in accelerating investments in integrated safe spaces for children to use after school.
- In addressing budgetary constraints, UNICEF enjoyed direct and close working relations with both government and civil society organisations through the Budget Justice Coalition. An event was held in October 2019 and hosted participants from civil society and international development organisations.



Child Protection and Social Policy: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

- Through successful advocacy, UNICEF supported parenting programmes will be standing agenda items in the National Family Services Forum as well as the KwaZulu-Natal Family Services Forum, thus enabling greater co-ordination and monitoring of the programmes at national and sub-national levels.
- UNICEF joined global advocacy initiatives such as the Global Early Childhood Development Photography project to celebrate fathers in Parenting Month in June 2019. Through UNICEF's technical and financial support a programme brief – supporting increased male involvement in parenting, more equitable caregiving and violence prevention – was developed.
- UNICEF continued to provide technical support to the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development resulting in the review and revision of the National Policy Framework on the Management of Sexual Offences, which is part of South Africa's Emergency Response Action Plan.
- UNICEF's recommendation to the Appropriations Committee in the national Parliament was accepted in 2018. In 2019, the national Budget Review explicitly referenced the recommendation and required all treasuries and social sector departments to work together to address the growing spending arrears issue.
- Government and other crucial stakeholders were mobilised to support a proposal for developing an information management system to track and produce real-time data on the wellbeing of children receiving social grants. The proposal has been well received and consultations are ongoing.
- UNICEF supported the DBE to officially announce a national protocol for the management and reporting of sexual abuse and harassment in schools as part of the DBE's national strategy to address SRGBV.



Research & Policy

- The most significant result of UNICEF's child poverty work has been in building consensus among social sectors and government departments around the impact of multi-dimensional poverty, through the Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analyses (MODA) tool. In addition, the technical work for the completion of the MODA tool was concluded with fine-tuning of the tool and the writing of a final comprehensive report scheduled for 2020.
- UNICEF also completed the South African Child Support Grant case study as part of the organisation's Universal Child Benefit (UCB) research and policy campaign with the final study set to be published in 2020.
- UNICEF completed its technical assistance to the DSD in the development of a new National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC). The key results were an acceptance by the DSD and other stakeholders that the NPAC presents an opportunity to consolidate the development of centralised coordinating structures, which will ensure that children's issues receive the highest technical and political support.
- UNICEF's submission on the country's Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) 2019 was well received by the parliamentary committee who strongly endorsed UNICEF's presentation.
- UNICEF supported the 2019 national launch of the End Child Prostitution and Trafficking report on sexual exploitation of children online. Materials to raise awareness about online safety were developed and engagements have begun with telecommunications companies to safeguard children online. In December, South Africa's progress in developing online safety for children and adolescents was presented at the Global Meeting on Online Safety in Addis.





- Commitments to the plight of unaccompanied minors (UAM) were underscored at a global mayoral forum in Durban where UNICEF signed a global compact on UAMs. Funding was leveraged from the European Union to work with partners like the UNHCR, Save the Children, the Red Cross, provincial DSD and other civil society organisations to ensure every child has the right to identity, social protection, safety and education. Further to this, a plan was established to ensure that UAMs are identified and recorded in a digitised system so that they have access to a range of services.
- The cash-care agenda continues to receive a high level of priority within and outside of government. To increase the overall impact of social grants for children, UNICEF actively supported the DSD to develop a policy that integrates beneficiaries of cash transfers with a range of complementary services. UNICEF contributed conceptual expertise to this process.
- UNICEF's 'cash-and-care' agenda was affirmed by a pilot research project conducted by the University of Johannesburg, in collaboration with the city of Johannesburg, during the implementation of the programme. The findings show that children on grants whose caregivers are in parenting programmes do better at school, eat better and do their homework better than children whose parents are not in parenting programmes.
- UNICEF continued to produce high quality and accessible budget briefs that summarise the key trends in each sector and what these budgets mean for children and their well-being. The budget briefs continue to be used by a wide range of stakeholders.



- By working with partners across sectors and disciplines, UNICEF mainstreamed children's issues in all areas of public policy-making.
- For advocacy around a common vision for an ORC, UNICEF facilitated the engagement of key partners to work together including the Presidency, Parliament, civil society organisations and academic institutions. UNICEF further provided technical advice in the development of the position paper on the ORC and organised for a 15-member delegation from South Africa to attend a learning visit on child rights in Sweden.
- In advocating for a centralised and coordinated child rights structure, UNICEF worked closely with the DSD in providing a platform for the voices of children through the Children's Parliament. UNICEF also provided assistance to the DSD in the development of a new NPAC.
- UNICEF addressed a nationally screened Budget Committee with Parliament at both national and regional levels. Presided over by the Minister of Social Development, Parliament hosted a World Children's Day commemoration with active youth and government participation.
- Together with other UN agencies, UNICEF successfully secured more social protection funds for individual country programmes. The joint programme funding will help boost existing public finance work and will enable UNICEF to work more closely with the NPC, the DSD and National Treasury in producing equity-sensitive national policies.
- The social sector spending agenda was kept high on national and provincial policy-makers' priorities. UNICEF's recommendation to the Appropriations Committee was accepted and National Parliament continues to facilitate UNICEF's influence over broader public finance policy and outcomes. This form of policy action remains a vital avenue for highlighting the rights of children.
- With Statistics South Africa, UNICEF completed the technical phase of developing a MODA tool. The tool is an important step in regarding children's poverty as a complex problem and allows for greater urgency and accuracy in tracking and reporting on child poverty in South Africa. The incorporation of the MODA into government reports is a further contribution to realising the socio-economic rights of children.
- UNICEF worked directly with civil society organisations through the Civil Society Budget Justice Coalition. The close collaboration enhanced UNICEF advocacy goals and allowed UNICEF to develop a keener sense of the central issues that need foregrounding and better technical analysis.

UNICEF embraced South Africa's complex and changing media landscape through creative and diverse communication strategies. UNICEF's presence on television, radio, in the print media and through social media platforms has been instrumental in raising crucial awareness of children's rights and establishing new partnerships. Increased engagement through social media channels is an indication of the heightened brand awareness of UNICEF in South Africa as the leading voice for children in the country.

- There has been a steady increase in UNICEF's media engagement in 2019, particularly with regard to interviews and the contribution of opinion pieces. This engagement in turn generates more interview requests. A notable example was UNICEF's partnership with Woolworths to build handwashing stations and improve nutrition in schools, which was profiled on a national television show.
- Social media activity increased with higher viewership on UNICEF South Africa's Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube channels. This coincides with a major leap forward in terms of brand awareness, reaching 74 per cent as per the 2019 Barometer Survey.
- There has been ongoing work on UNICEF South Africa's new website. In addition, UNICEF brand awareness has been raised through the consistent effort invested in producing high quality graphic designs to accompany programmatic activities and general public engagements.





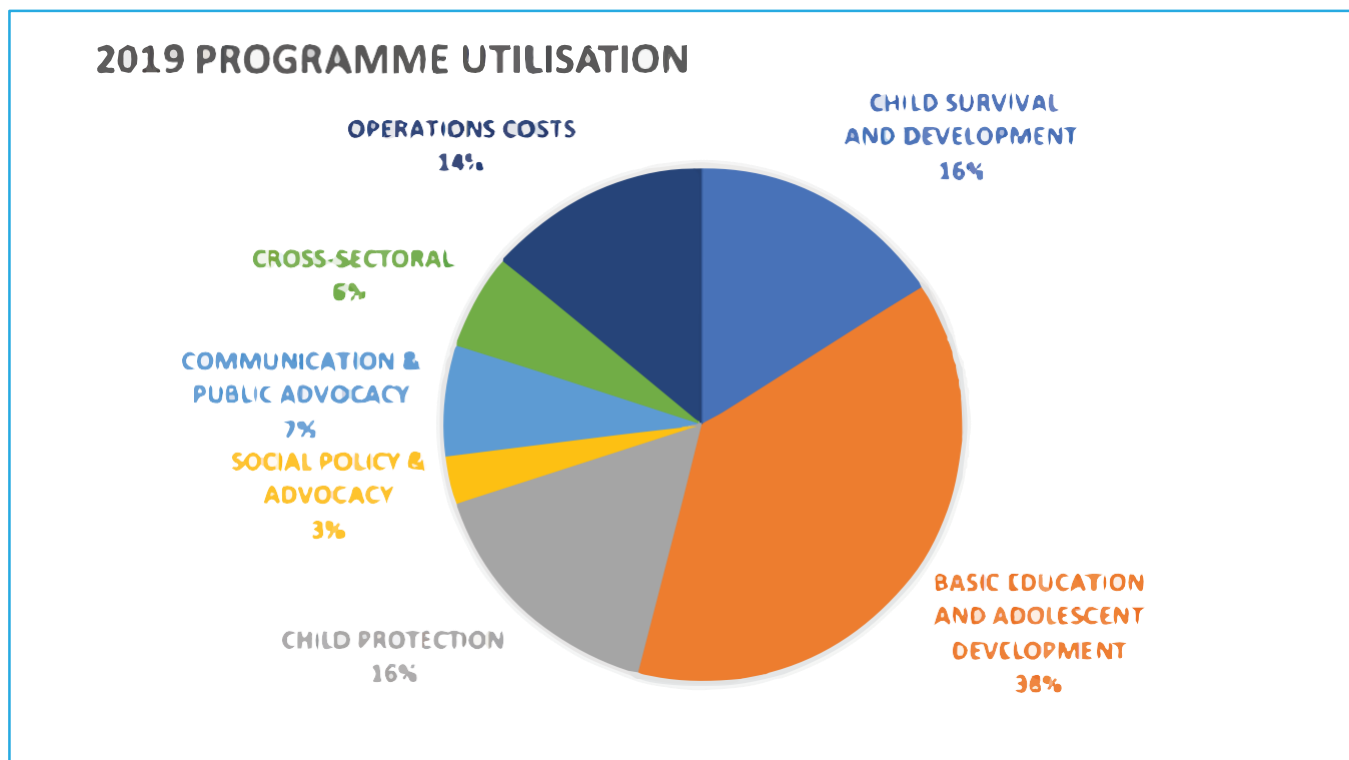
In 2019, UNICEF South Africa's fundraising team focused on developing new strategic partnerships, while strengthening existing ones. Engaging the private sector, major donors and individuals remains a key strategy for UNICEF in building strategic alliances to advocate for children and their rights.

- UNICEF's three-year partnership with Woolworths continued to record important results through improving the quality of food in schools and focusing on related hygiene such as handwashing.
- In addition, The My School, My Village, My Planet initiative, selling a UNICEF-branded shopping bag, has raised crucial funds and UNICEF brand awareness.
- US\$130,000 (R2 million) was leveraged through the Tiger Brands Foundation for WASH in schools.
- Communication partnerships with Mango Airlines, South African Airways and Ster-Kinekor raised important brand awareness. Through a partnership with the men's clothing retailer Markham, a GBV prevention campaign was run in 110 stores with proceeds going to MenCare.
- Four UNICEF CEO Network meetings were convened in Johannesburg and Cape Town with 20 CEOs and Corporate Social Investment (CSI) Managers to discuss business, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and child rights. Securing impactful commitments from the group, the network provides an opportunity to explore the critical role that companies can play in delivering sustainable results for children in South Africa.
- Eleven corporate partners participated in the global UNICEF survey on Family Friendly Workplace Policies in May. As a follow up, UNICEF conducted a mapping of non-financial partnership potential in South Africa and interviewed participating corporate partners on policies and child rights within their companies.
- A meaningful dialogue with corporates in South Africa was conducted, resulting in organisational policy changes and the raising of resources and funds. An example of this is in-kind support and non-financial engagement is evident in Family Friendly Workplace Policies and the Children's Rights and Business Principles.
- The Influential Women Circle, an initiative created by this section, raised more than US\$26,000 USD (R450,000) for UNICEF in supporting #ENDviolence and the emergency response to Cyclone Idai in Mozambique.
- The number of individual donors continued to grow in 2019, with 2500 individuals supporting UNICEF on a regular basis. The focus on major donors was also consolidated through a meeting held in Cape Town that secured new major donors in support of UNICEF's work.

Support from our Donors

UNICEF South Africa relies on the support of donors to fund our work. It is through the generous support of our partners in the private sector, governments around the world, and individual donations that we are making a meaningful difference in South Africa.

Funds raised are allocated in accordance with our programme goals.



I grew up as a refugee in Botswana during the 1980's apartheid era, this was also a time when drought ravaged swathes of Southern Africa. I know first-hand the difference that UNICEF's work makes in children's lives. As a parent, I want to pay it forward and give hope to children in need around the world.
 – Donald Liphoko



I believe it is my civic duty to give back in whatever small way that I can. And since today's children are tomorrow's leaders, helping them is helping the world in a way.
 – Jonathan Sampson



Volunteering with UNICEF has given me the opportunity learn about children rights and finding ways in which these rights can be improved. Volunteering with UNICEF means that I can be an active global citizen to advocate for the most vulnerable children across the world.

- Nhlalala Baloyi



Volunteering for UNICEF has been such an amazing experience for me. I have met some incredible individuals that I have learnt a lot from. I can't wait for more volunteer opportunities that will allow me to play my part in improving the lives of children.

– Pre-Eminence Nkomo



UNICEF SA has given us immense support and the voice to come up with initiatives that can help future generations. If every person were to experience their work through the volunteer programme, the world would be a better place.

– Nomfundo Brukwe

UNICEF South Africa successfully recruited over 1,600 volunteers from universities and academic institutions in 2019. Volunteers take on a crucial and dynamic role within the organisation, and we are grateful for their hard work, creative ideas and dedication to child rights.

UNICEF volunteers employed innovative techniques in their advocacy and recruitment activities, utilising social media, filmmaking and photography as mobilisation tools. Volunteers also consulted different section teams within UNICEF South Africa in generating creative ideas. The ongoing engagement between UNICEF staff and volunteers produces important learnings for a bottom-up, innovative and youth-focused approach to programme implementation.



Through scaled up technical support and technological innovation, the innovations team has worked across programmatic areas this year. Administered by young people for young people, U-Report is one such innovation, utilising user-centred social monitoring tools for community participation. This year, U-Report continued to address issues that young people care about, giving a voice to the youth in shaping the narrative on issues that affect them.

Achievements

- Through digital marketing and face-to-face recruitment, U-Report South Africa achieved critical scale of its user-base in 2019 with over 90,000 active users.
- U-Report is the primary social messaging platform endorsed by the Cabinet of the Government of South Africa to monitor the implementation of the National Youth Policy in partnership with the Department of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities.
- Utilising blockchain technology, U-Report developed value-based user-initiated products, services and tools for its users. By using “Zlto” (pronounced “zlato”) – a mobile platform for tracking and rewarding positive behaviour and micro-tasks – young people are connected to a platform where they can perform small jobs and exchange their credits for products such as bread, electricity and airtime.
- UNICEF, together with partners, polled over 11,000 young people through the U-Report platform to get their insights on topics including HIV risk perception, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and GBV. The results of the polls were used to facilitate a two-day workshop entitled Speak Up! Using Data to Advocate for Change in September.
- Through a collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF supported the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) in finding innovative ways to monitor the implementation of the National Youth Policy. U-Report assisted by monitoring five policy outcomes in (1) education, skills and second chances, (2) economic participation and transformation, (3) health care and combating substance abuse, (4) social cohesion and nation building and (5) optimising the youth development machinery.

- UNICEF, in partnership with the University of Cape Town’s School of Design Thinking, consulted young people on ways to improve social engagement amongst South African youth. The workshop resulted in the conceptualisation of a social platform that links youth to services and packages ranging from peer counselling, vocational training, employment advice and information on accessing places of safety. U-Report continues to work on developing this concept on the existing platform.
- As part of the drive to develop value-based user-initiated products, services and tools, U-Report South Africa created several chatbots linked to Generation Unlimited and other programmatic areas on topics such as menstrual hygiene management, employment & career advice, online safety and ECD for parents and care givers.
- To further improve on U-Report’s potential to impact positive social change, UNICEF employed the technical services of its youth development partner, the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), to reach out to young people in promoting civic participation and engagement.
- UNICEF developed the Technology Index, a matrix for strategic alignment and prioritisation of Technology for Development (T4D) projects. The Index is used for initial assessment of the strategic value of a new T4D Project.
- Significant progress was made in T4D management through the development of several tools, templates, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and T4D governance structures to support the capacity of programmatic areas.



Across all programmatic areas in 2019, UNICEF South Africa learned key lessons and grasped new opportunities.

- There was recognition of the importance of securing the highest political will in amplifying child rights and securing a commitment to take substantial steps. Political will at the highest level has seen major announcements in education and in addressing VAC and GBV. Support at this level has ensured that UNICEF was invited as a trusted partner to be part of critical processes related to early learning and education, child protection and health.
- The value of partnerships continue to prove critical in the delivery of results. The leadership of the DBE, research and policy inputs from academia and civil society, the work of implementing partners and the support of many in the private sector have together made significant gains.
- Similarly, a critical lesson learned was the importance of obtaining buy-in from strategic partners and the government before taking initiatives to scale. A key lesson in developing strategies has been the importance of engaging different stakeholders at every stage of the process – ensuring consistent messaging and objectives. A slow but united response proved more effective than a hasty, fragmented one.
- Working on numerous projects with many stakeholders, challenges emerge in the coordination of efforts and in developing a clear and strategic vision of the solutions. Recognising UNICEF's convening power in guiding stakeholder consultations and in driving the process, was a key lesson learned.
- A willingness to learn new lessons and an openness to recognise opportunities as they emerge can be challenging. For UNICEF South Africa, this ethos is a crucial element of our reflective practice and has been a highly rewarding aspect of our work.



ACRONYMS

AGYW - Adolescent Girls and Young Women	NPAC – National Plan of Action for Children
ARCC - Africa Regional Certification Commission	NRC - National Reading Coalition
CRC - Convention on the Rights of the Child	NSP - National Strategic Plan
CSG - Child Support Grant	NSNP - National School Nutrition Programme
CSI - Corporate Social Investment	ORC - Office of the Rights of the Child
DBE - Department of Basic Education	PEI - Prevention and Early Intervention
DHET - Department of Higher Education and Training	PES4D - Physical Education and Sports for Development
DPME - Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	PLAY - Powerful Learning Around You
DSD - Department of Social Development	PMTCT - Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV
ECD - Early Childhood Development	PrEP - Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
GBV - Gender-Based Violence	S4D - Sport for Development
GBEM - Girls' and Boys' Education Movement	SACSoWACH – South African Civil Society Organisation Coalition for Women, Adolescent and Child Health
HIV - Human Immunodeficiency Virus	SAFE - Sanitation Appropriate for Education
IMAM - Integrated Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition	SAIIA - The South African Institute of International Affairs
IOM - International Organisation for Migration	SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
INFNSC - Integrated National Food and Nutrition Security Communication Strategy	SOEs - State Owned Enterprises
IWC - Influential Women Circle	SOPs - Standard Operating Procedures
KMC - Kangaroo Mother Care	SRGBV - School-Related Gender-Based Violence
MNCH - Maternal, Newborn and Child Health	STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
MODA - Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analyses	T4D - Technology for Development
MTBPS - Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement	TB - Tuberculosis
NACCW - National Association of Child and Youth Care Workers	UAM - Unaccompanied Minors
NCF - National Curriculum Framework	UCB - Universal Child Benefit
NPC – National Planning Commission	UN - United Nations
NSSF - National School Safety Framework	UNHCR - UN High Commission for Refugees
OHCHR - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	USAID - United States Agency for International Development
NACCW - National Association of Child Care Workers	VAC - Violence against Children
NDOH - National Department of Health	WASH - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
NDP – National Development Plan	WHO – World Health Organisation
NFNSP - National Food and Nutrition Security Plan	WITS - University of the Witwatersrand
NHI – National Health Insurance	WWT – Woolworths Trust



unicef 

for every child



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