

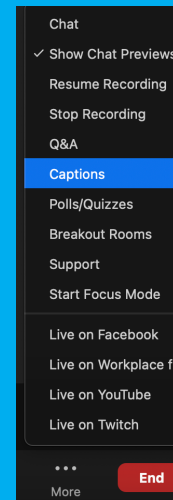
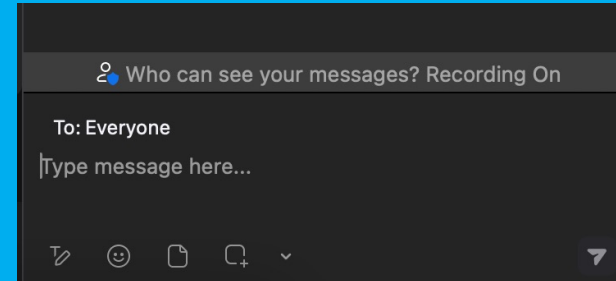
**Good practice from the global Evaluation of UNICEF
Social Protection Responses towards Universal Child Benefits**

Strengthening Child-sensitive Social Protection System

Partnering with International Financial Institutions

Housekeeping rules

- Ask your questions in the chat box
- Share any comments or resources in the chat
- Session will be recorded
- English captions are available
- Please do keep your microphone on mute during the session



Rémy Pigios,

Social Policy Manager, UNICEF Tunisia

Currently based in Tunis and working on child-sensitive social policies for the Maghreb region. Remy is an econometrician who holds a pre-doctorate diploma in Mathematics and Econometrics from la Sorbonne. Previously, Rémy worked as an actuary in the finance sector and as an economist in various roles within the Ministries of Economy and Finance in Paris, Singapore, and Chad. Over the past 15 years, Rémy has supported UNICEF's engagement in the field of Social Policies and research at the regional office for West and Central Africa, in Chad, Senegal, and Ethiopia. He has also worked in various positions with the FAO and the World Bank.



UNICEF's strategies for mobilising resources to support child-sensitive social protection

Hearing from the Tunisia Country Office

| Tunisia | Remy Pigois, Social Policy Manager

March 21, 2023



National context

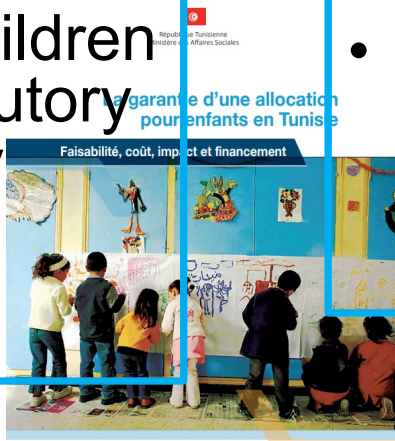
- **Tunisia was facing substantial socio-economic challenges prior to COVID-19:** rising disparities, income inequality and youth unemployment
- **These challenges were severely aggravated by the COVID-19 crisis** and the resulting economic disruption (9.2% decline in GDP in 2020), generating widespread job and income losses and driving many into poverty
- **The impacts of the economic crisis on children have been both severe and widespread**
- **Fiscal space, already tight, was further constrained** by a soaring debt burden as revenues fell and spending rose

UNICEF simulations estimate that child poverty increased from 19% in 2018 to 29% in 2020, raising the number of poor children to over 1 million and setting the country's progress back by 15 years

The need for a universal child benefit (UCB)

Child poverty & SP

- Poverty rate for children (21% in 2015, 26% in 2021) is almost double that for adults
- Child poverty is over 50% in some inland regions
- But only 59% of children covered by contributory or non-contributory social protection



Subsidies dominate social protection

- Fuel & food subsidies weigh heavily on the budget (4% of expenditure in 2020), compared to only 0.5% for social transfers
- But subsidies (especially for fuel) are neither cost-effective nor equitable

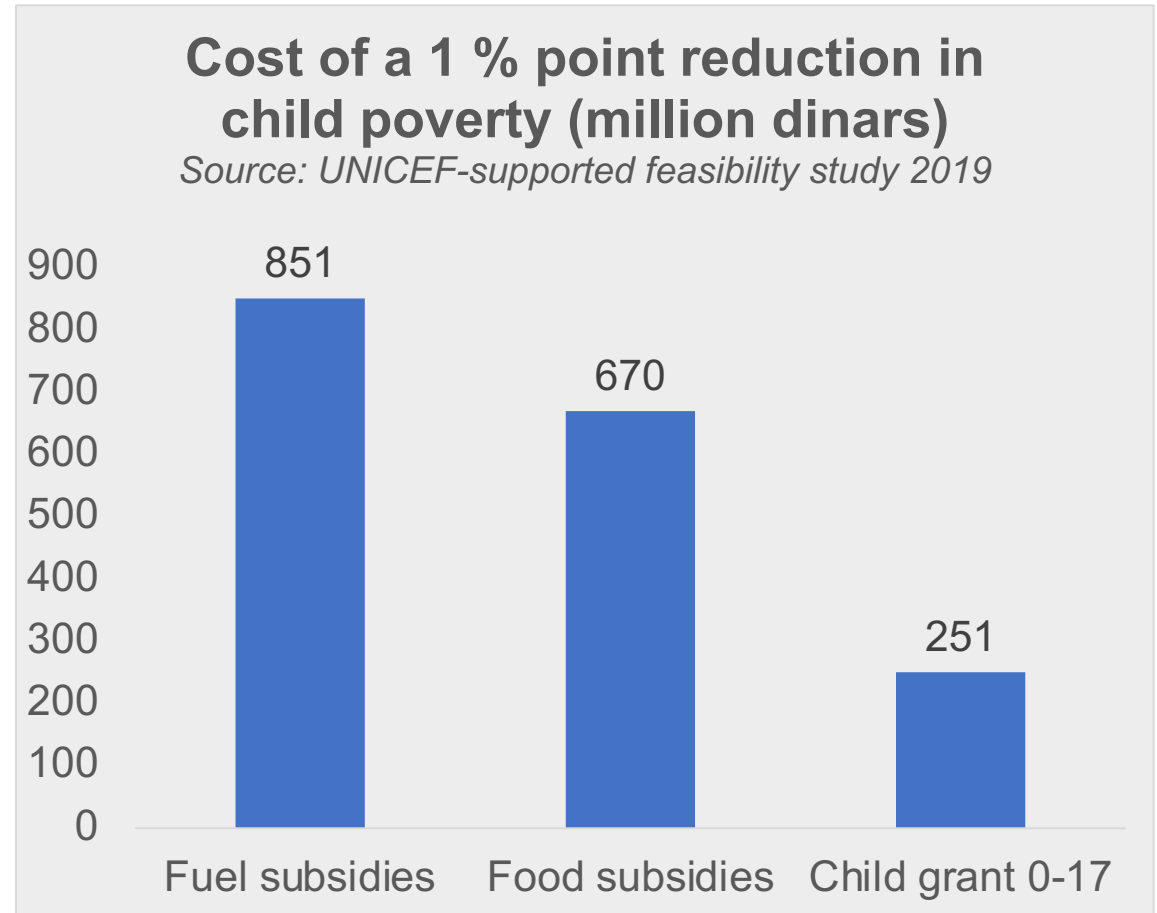
A universal child benefit would be:

- **More affordable**
- **More cost-effective in reducing poverty**
- **More equitable (benefit incidence)**



From evidence-based policy advocacy...: UCB would be cheaper, more cost-effective and more equitable

- UCB progressive because more children in poorer households
- More cost-effective than subsidies
- A way to attenuate the negative social effects of subsidy removal & safeguard social cohesion
- Administratively simple
- Affordable, requiring only **a modest proportion of the fiscal space** generated by subsidy removal – *key argument to Ministry of Finance*



To... resources & results at scale for children

Impact

- ❑ UNICEF **mobilized \$26 M** from the Government of Germany to support the implementation of a 30 TND per month child benefit for children 0-5 years and to double the Government's back-to-school allocation (50 TND) for children 6-18 years via the national social protection system, reaching 12% of all children under 5
- ❑ Evidence collected enabled **leveraging \$50M from the World Bank and JICA** to continue support the programme through budget support (using child benefit targets as a disbursement indicator)
- ❑ The **government institutionalized** the 0-5 child benefit by Presidential Decree in Jan.2022 and has now included the child benefit for all children under AMEN Social in the national development plan 2023-2025



To... financing & results at scale for children

0-5 YEARS OLD CHILD BENEFIT



Nutrition:

Some **82%** of beneficiary households stated that the quality of their children's **nutrition had improved** since the start of monthly benefit



Schooling:

The number of beneficiary households with at least one child aged 3–5 **attending pre-school increased from 70%** at the start of the programme **to 86%** at the end of the programme



Healthcare:

Access to health services and care **rose from 60% in February 2021 to 74% in October 2021**



Improving caregivers' mental well-being:

At the start of the programme **80%** of parents and guardians reported to live under permanent stress - this **number reduced to 60%** at the end of the programme



Scheme implementation with the support of social workers:

The evaluation demonstrated that the ownership, management and implementation of the scheme through the national social protection system was a key success factor

Testimonies from Beneficiaries and Social Workers



Mohamed El Aziz Ben Ghachem

Senior Specialist, Social Protection & Jobs, World Bank, Tunisia

Aziz is senior social protection specialist in the Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice at the World Bank in Tunisia. He is currently the Task Team Leader of an operation and a series of a technical assistance that supports the Tunisia national Social Safety Net Program (AMEN), Children Allowance for 0-5 years old of the poorest HHs, and the policy dialogue related to Social Protection reform. Since joining the World Bank in 2017, he has been involved in policy initiatives and operations related to Social Protection and Governance, including digital transformations to enhance delivery systems, digital identifications, interoperability, and social registry. He co-authored the 2019 diagnostic report on identification systems in Tunisia as part of the ID4D initiative. Prior to joining the Bank, Aziz worked for more than 10 years in the design and implementation of complex projects in the public and private sector in different countries.



A photograph of a Tunisian flag flying on a tall pole against a clear blue sky. The flag is red with a white circle in the center containing a red star and crescent. In the background, a stone building with a tiled roof and a small tower is visible. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Building partnerships with international financial institutions and donor agencies to improve financing for child-sensitive social protection systems :

UNICEF's partnership with the World Bank in Tunisia

Presented by: Mohamed El Aziz Ben Ghachem (World Bank)

March 2024

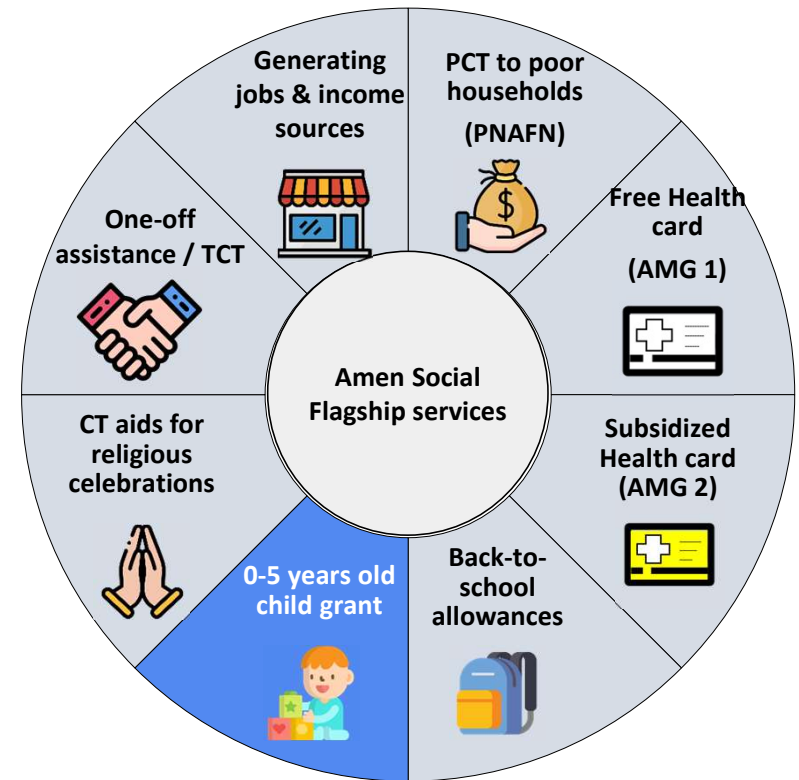
Context Overview

- **Since 1986:** Tunisia has focused its non-contributive social protection system on a cash transfer program and free or subsidized health care programs.
- **Since 2016:** the World Bank began supporting the government's initiatives in implementing a comprehensive social safety net program, known as the AMEN Social program.



- The child allowance for **0 to 5 years** stands as a testament to the successful partnership between UNICEF and the World Bank in Tunisia.

Amen social : An integrated social safety net program offering multidimensional services

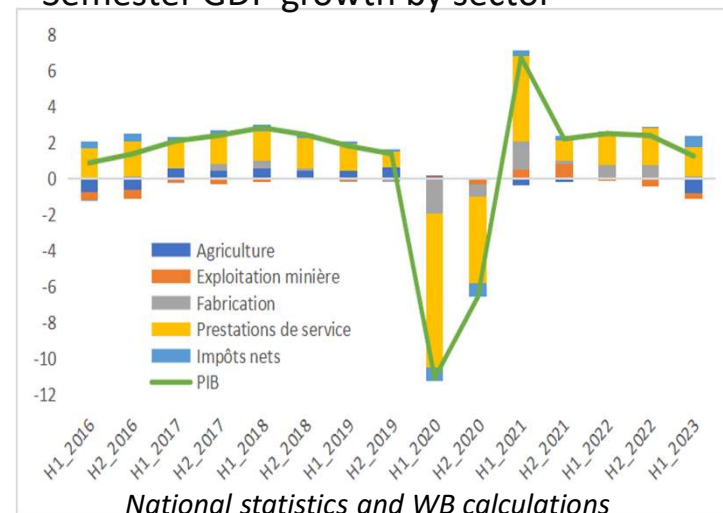


Economic challenges

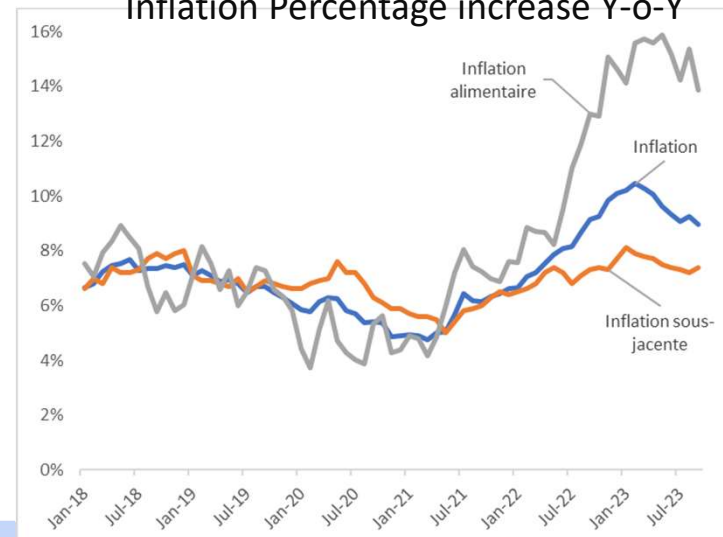
Tunisia has faced economic challenges aggravated by the COVID-19 crisis, Ukraine war, and droughts:

- **National monetary poverty** rate rose from 15% in 2015 to 17% in 2022.
- **Child monetary poverty** increased from 19% before COVID-19 to 26% in 2022, reaching 50.2% in the center-west region of the country.
- ➔ The Tunisian government envisions implementing a **universal child benefit (UCB)** starting with **the poorest and most vulnerable households**, before gradually expanding to cover **all Tunisian children**.
- ➔ Progress has been made towards achieving the goal of a UCB, through the **collaborative efforts of the UNICEF and the World Bank in Tunisia** which is based on their shared expertise in social protection.

Semester GDP growth by sector



Inflation Percentage increase Y-o-Y



Challenges in the contributive scheme and the need for a universal child benefit

Current contributive scheme

- Delivered by the different national social security funds (CNSS and CNRPS).
 - Allowance of 7 TND (2,26\$) per month for the 1st child, 6 TND for the second and 5 TND for the third.
 - Does not cover the entire population.
- ➔ Insufficient for the poorest and most vulnerable population.

Non contributive 0-5 child benefit

- Covers all children in the social registry.
 - 30 TND (9,7\$) per child per month.
- ➔ As of December 2023, over **140 thousand children** are benefitting from **allowances for ages 0 to 5**.

TUNISIA COVID-19 SOCIAL PROTECTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE SUPPORT PROJECT

\$700 million operation from march 2021 to march 2026 :

Component 1 (US\$599 million): Cash Transfers to Mitigate the Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis.

TCT to 900K HHs

PCT expansion from 8 to 10% of the poorest from the total population

Enhance targeting



Component 2 (US\$60 million) Cash Transfers for Human Capital Development.

Support institutionalization of the FA 0-5

Support the Cash+ and digital payments

Co-finance the FA 0-5

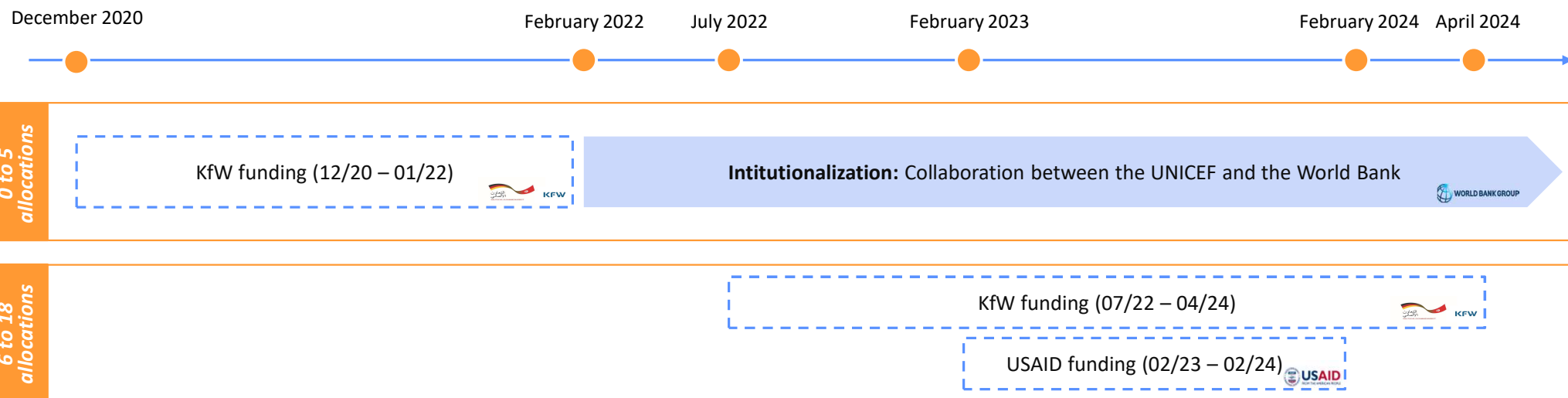
Component 3 (US\$41 million): Strengthening the Social Protection System.

Strengthening the governance

Support digital transformation

M&E , GRM and communication

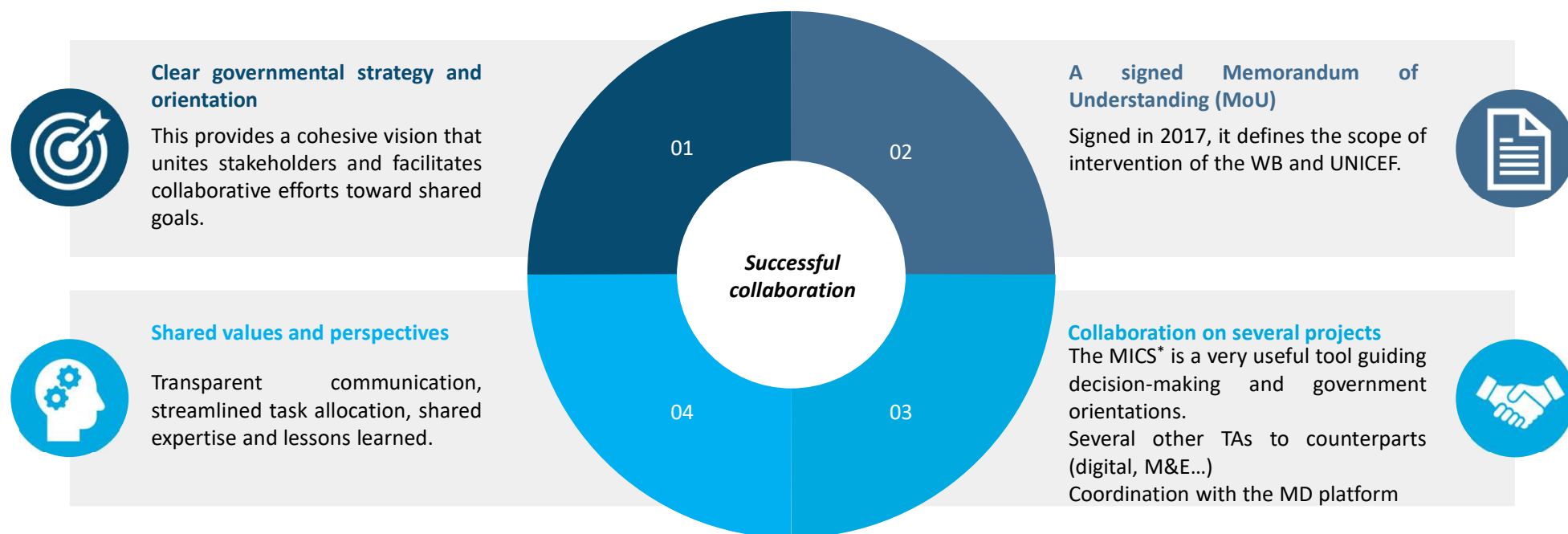
Collaborative progress between the WB and the UNICEF in implementing child allowances



- **Children aged 0 to 5:** Collaboration between UNICEF and the World Bank in addressing the needs of this age group, which was based on institutionalizing the KfW’s (German Bank for development) pilot project.
- In recent years, the Tunisian government has been committed to developing human capital and it even obtained a loan from the WB and the JICA to continue supporting the 0-5 age group allocations.

Pilot program

Success factors of the UNICEF / WB partnership



*Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)



Thank you for your attention!

Aziz Ben Ghachem
Senior Social Protection specialist
abenghachem@worldbank.org

Munkhtuul Batbaatar

Chief of Social Policy, UNICEF Mongolia

Munkhtuul has 20 years of experience in development economics and public finance management. Her expertise spans the development and implementation of fiscal policies, budget frameworks, financing reforms across various sectors. She has led and managed UNDP, European Union, World Bank Asian Development Bank projects in Mongolia aimed at enhancing access to health services for disadvantaged groups, driving employment transformation, localizing Sustainable Development Goals, and strengthening economic capacity. She holds a Master's degree in Public Finance and a Bachelor's degree in Management. Prior to her current role at UNICEF, Ms. Munkhtuul served as the Director-General of the Finance and Economics Department at the Ministry of Health, Head of the Treasury Department at Ministry of Finance, Head of the Finance Department at the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.



Leveraging partnerships
with IFIs to produce
evidence that informs
policymaking and financing

Munkhtuul Batbaatar, Chief of Social Policy (OIC DepRep)

21 March 2024

Strategic Plan 2022–2025 Goal Areas

GA 1: Health and Nutrition

1. Strengthening primary health care and high-impact health interventions
2. Immunization services as part of primary health care
3. Fast-track the end of HIV/AIDS
4. Health and development in early childhood and adolescence
5. Mental health and psychosocial well-being
6. Nutrition in early childhood
7. Nutrition of adolescents and women
8. Early detection and treatment of malnutrition

GA 2: Education

1. Access to quality learning opportunities
2. Learning, skills, participation and engagement

GA 3: Child protection

1. Protection from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect
2. Promotion of care, mental health and psychosocial well-being and justice
3. Prevention of harmful practices

GA 4: WASH and Clean Air

1. Safe and equitable water, sanitation and hygiene services and practices
2. Water, sanitation and hygiene systems and empowerment of communities
3. Climate change, disaster risks and environmental degradation

GA 5: Social inclusion and evidence

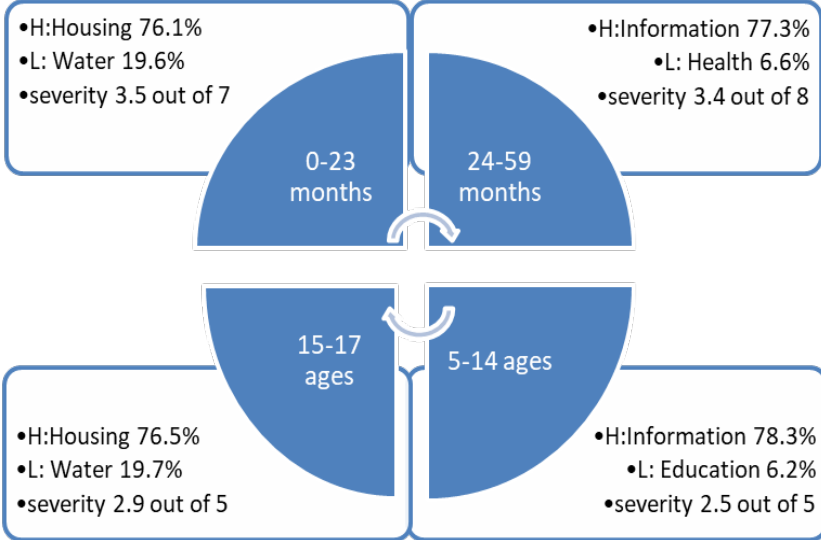
1. Reducing child poverty
2. Access to inclusive social protection



CPD Outcome 5: Social inclusion and Evidence



Children benefit from evidence-driven and child-sensitive anti-poverty policies and programmes, including social protection, that are adequately funded, thus progressively realizing their right to live free from poverty



Output 1: Strengthened national social protection system

- Universal cash transfer/social protection services

Output 2: Public financing for children

- Increased state investment for children
- Child-focused and child-rights informed budgeting

Output 3: Evidence-based policies and programmes to track multi-dimensional poverty

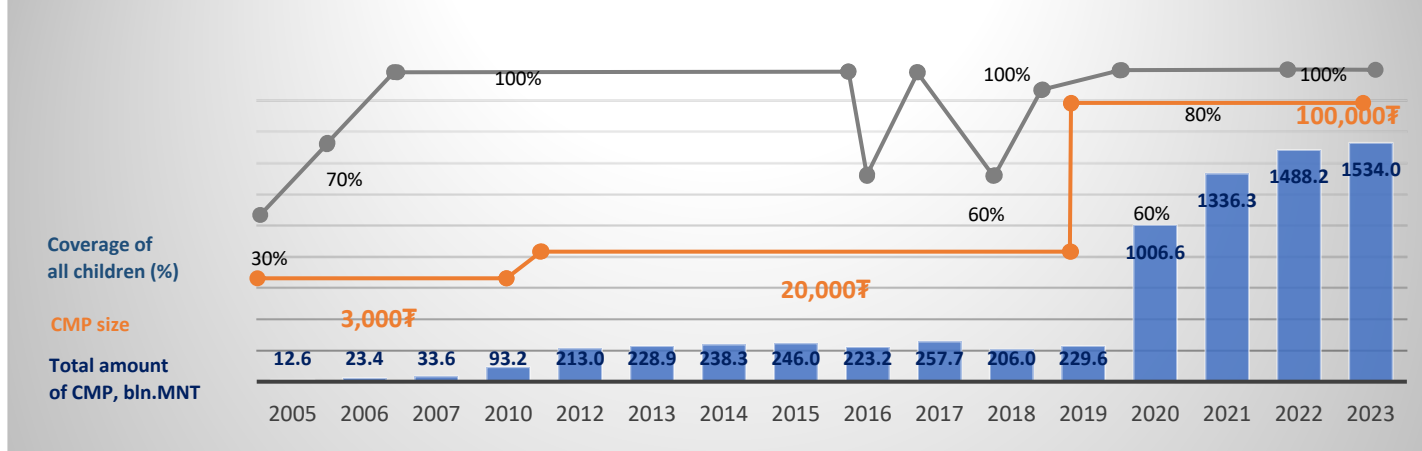
- Strengthened data collection
- Evidence-based policy advocacy



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Mongolia: Child Money Programme

Summary of the benefit level, coverage and total expenditure of the CMP since 2005



CMP was first introduced in 2005 as a conditional and poverty-targeted cash transfer to alleviate poverty in Mongolia

The programme has undergone changes in design of coverage, targeting measures, and conditionality approaches

Since July 2023, the CMP has evolved into a universal cash grant programme to all children in Mongolia without any conditionalities

The objective of the CMP hasn't been articulated in any law or regulation since its establishment. The government has introduced **several purposes** based on its funding, for example, to support **poverty reduction** when it was funded by welfare fund, or to support **human development** when it was funded by Human Development Fund.



CMP as Income Security



During the Covid-19 pandemic, 66 percent of households with children saw a drop in their household income due to the lockdown.

- As the household income decreased, the income structure changed. The share of CMP in the average monthly cash income of a single household reached 16%.



Main coping mechanism of households: Cutting back on consumption

- 18 percent of all households have reduced food consumption, and 60 percent of these households have reduced the consumption of children's food
- 3 out of 5 households spend most of their GDP on food, and 76 percent of these households spend only on food



1 of Government response to the Covid-19 pandemic: Increase CMP size 5 times (20k to 100k), as a result:

- Half of the households spent more on food consumption
- 1 out of every 3 households spent more on savings for children
- 1 in 5 households spend more on children's clothes and non-food items.

Universal
CMP
ensures
every Child
receives
support

REDUCED
POVERTY

STIMULATE
LOCAL
ECONOMY

REDUCED
INEQUALITY

IMPROVED
HEALTH
AND
NUTRITION

Enhanced
Education
Opportunities

CHALLENGES:

- ❖ lacking a clearly defined objective
- ❖ changes in design and implementation modalities
- ❖ lacking long-term financial commitment
- ❖ weak responses to shocks (economic shocks and price inflation)



An indirect assessment of the theoretical impact on poverty and inequality of the social protection policies implemented by the Government of Mongolia

A survey of beneficiaries of Government support to

**ADB & UNICEF
on Social protection**

System-readiness facilitated additional financial support during a crisis

Monitoring of shock-responsive FSP and CMP was done together.

Thank you.



Itgel Lonjid

Senior Social Sector Officer, ADB Mongolia

Itgel Lonjid is a Senior Social Sector Officer at the ADB Mongolia Resident Mission (MNRM) of the Asian Development Bank. She designs and administers the projects in education and social protection sectors and supports the portfolio administration at MNRM. Before joining ADB in 2008, she worked with the local and international non-government organizations, donor-funded projects, and private sector in the areas of human rights, local governance, cooperative development, and microfinancing. She holds a master's degree in international development policy from Duke University, the USA.

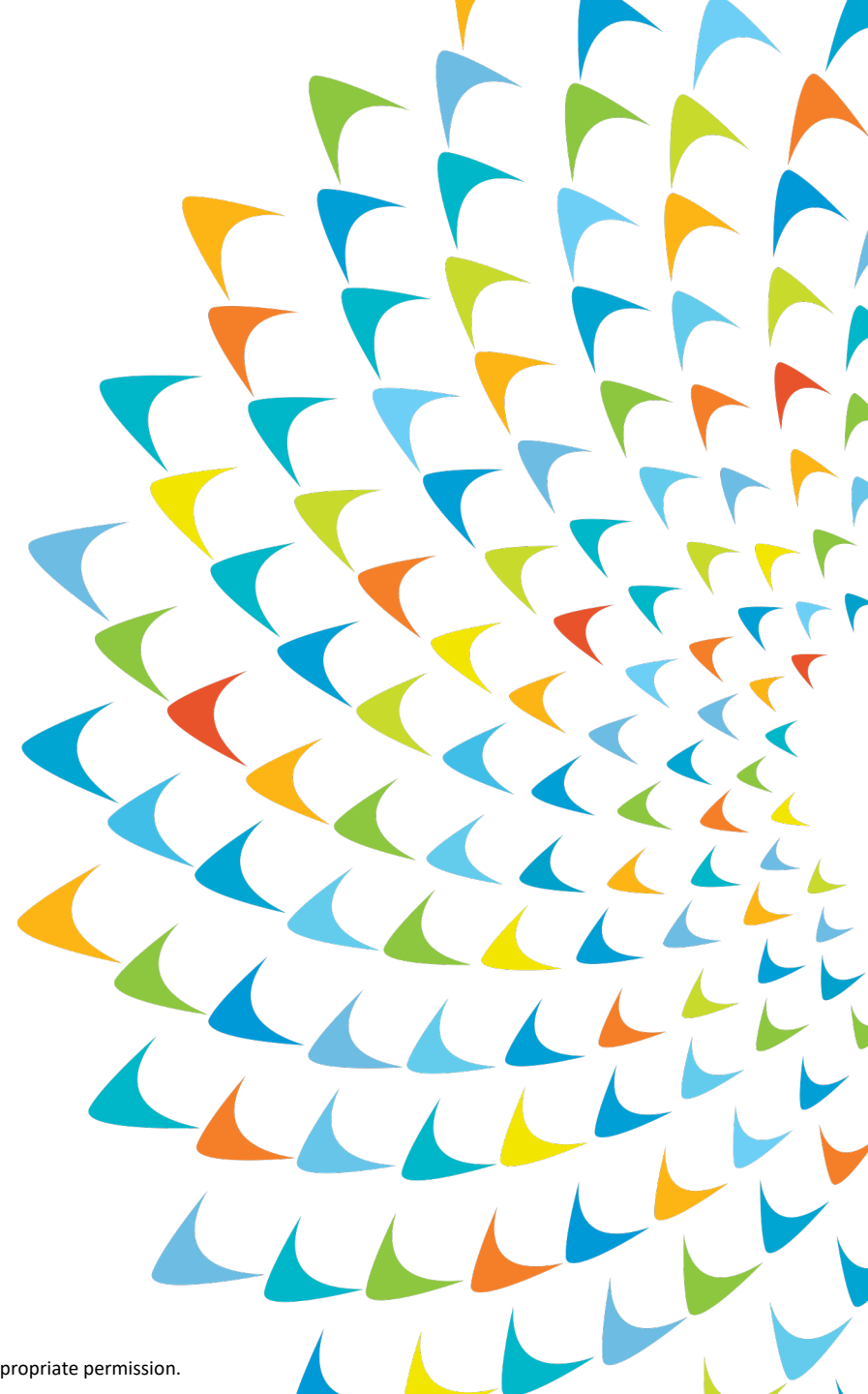




UNICEF's partnership with ADB in Mongolia to build and gather evidence –

Supporting the government in expanding the Child Money Programme (CMP) by producing complementary evidence pieces on the impact of the programme

21 March 2024





The Shock-Responsive Social Protection Project (SRSP)

- An emergency assistance loan of \$26.33 mln, requested by the Government of Mongolia.
- Financing for social protection measures to mitigate and reduce the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on poor and vulnerable groups
- Support to temporarily expand food support and cash transfers under two existing national social assistance programs – Food Stamp Program (targeted at 5%) and Child Money Program (universal)
- Financed a temporary increase in the monthly benefit level for all FSP beneficiaries for 5 months. The program reached 44,508 at the time of project completion in October 2020.
- Financed a share of the temporary increase in the monthly benefit level to all CMP beneficiaries for 6 months. With the top-ups, the benefits of MNT20,000 increased fivefold to MNT100,000 per child per month.



The Shock-Responsive Social Protection Project (SRSP)

- The project outcome to support the basic needs of the poor and vulnerable, especially women and children, was achieved. The outcome indicator targets were exceeded:
 - (i) food insecurity prevented during the COVID-19 outbreak for at least 240,500 poor people, including 53% women and girls; and
 - (ii) at least 1.12 million children (50% girls), registered in the IHD, receive timely CMP benefits.
- By October 2020, food insecurity was prevented for 241,937 food stamp recipients (44,508 households), of whom 53% were women and girls.
- The child grants reached 1,177,009 children, of whom 49% were girls.
- SRSP2 project supported 7 months of topped-up child grant benefits (January to June, and December 2021) with \$40.6 million. The total number of children increased from 1,190,283 in January to 1,208,411 in June and 1,220,158 in December 2022. On average, girls comprised 48.9% of the total.



The Shock-Responsive Social Protection Project (SRSP)

- ADB and UNICEF have conducted two studies
 - an indirect assessment of the theoretical impact on poverty and inequality of the social protection policies implemented by the government (ADB), and
 - a survey of beneficiaries of government support to understand how well the schemes have been implemented (UNICEF).
- The two studies were complementary, and together provided
 - a comprehensive insight in the effectiveness of social protection policies implemented by the government; and
 - guidance for further adjustments to the policies in the transition from the crisis to recovery.
- An evaluation of the government's social protection measures to address COVID-19 helped inform the government's decision to continue CMP top-ups as an effective and pro poor response that was able to rapidly reach a large share of the population.



Partnership with UNICEF

- **Joint studies** to assess the situation and progress becomes instrumental to understanding achievements and evolving challenges.
- **Advocacy and awareness** to develop capacity for advocacy on social protection issues, and to integrate the perspectives, voices and ideas of the disadvantaged groups into policy discussions and with policy makers.
- **Implementation** to enhance the result and impact of the specific projects and initiatives.
- **Good practice sharing to** integrate some of the good practices that UNICEF regularly shares through its knowledge work.

Thank you.