Child survival, health and well-being in the context of COVID-19
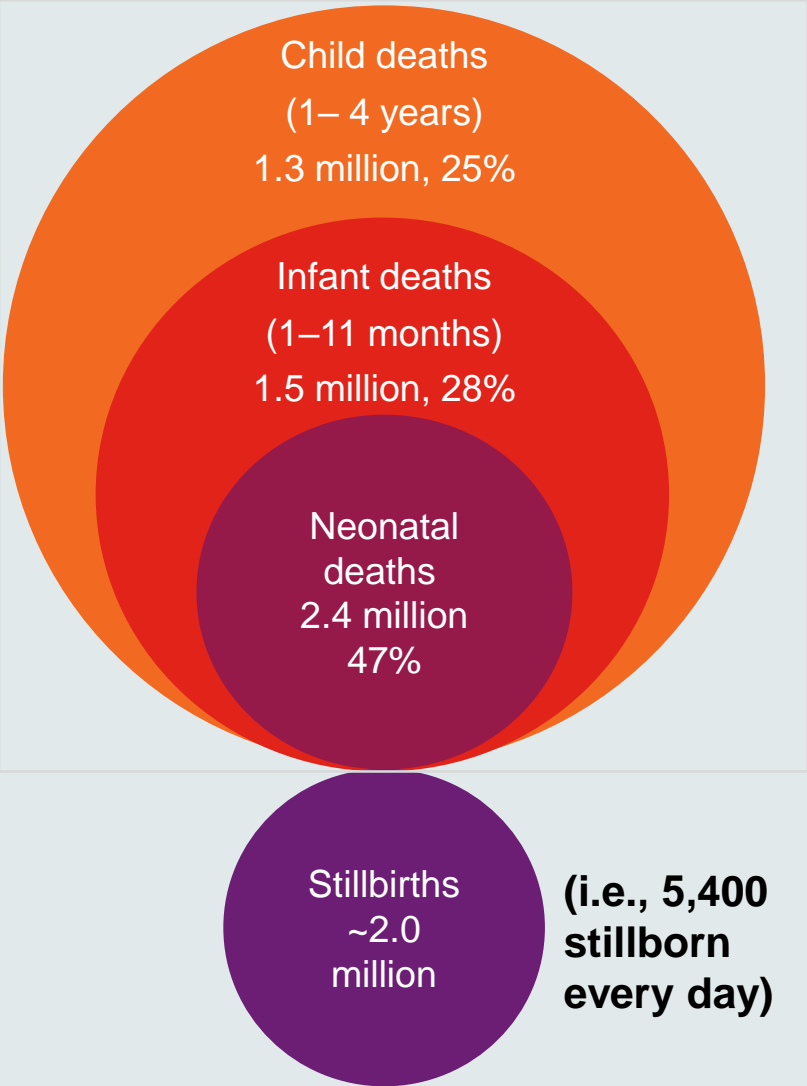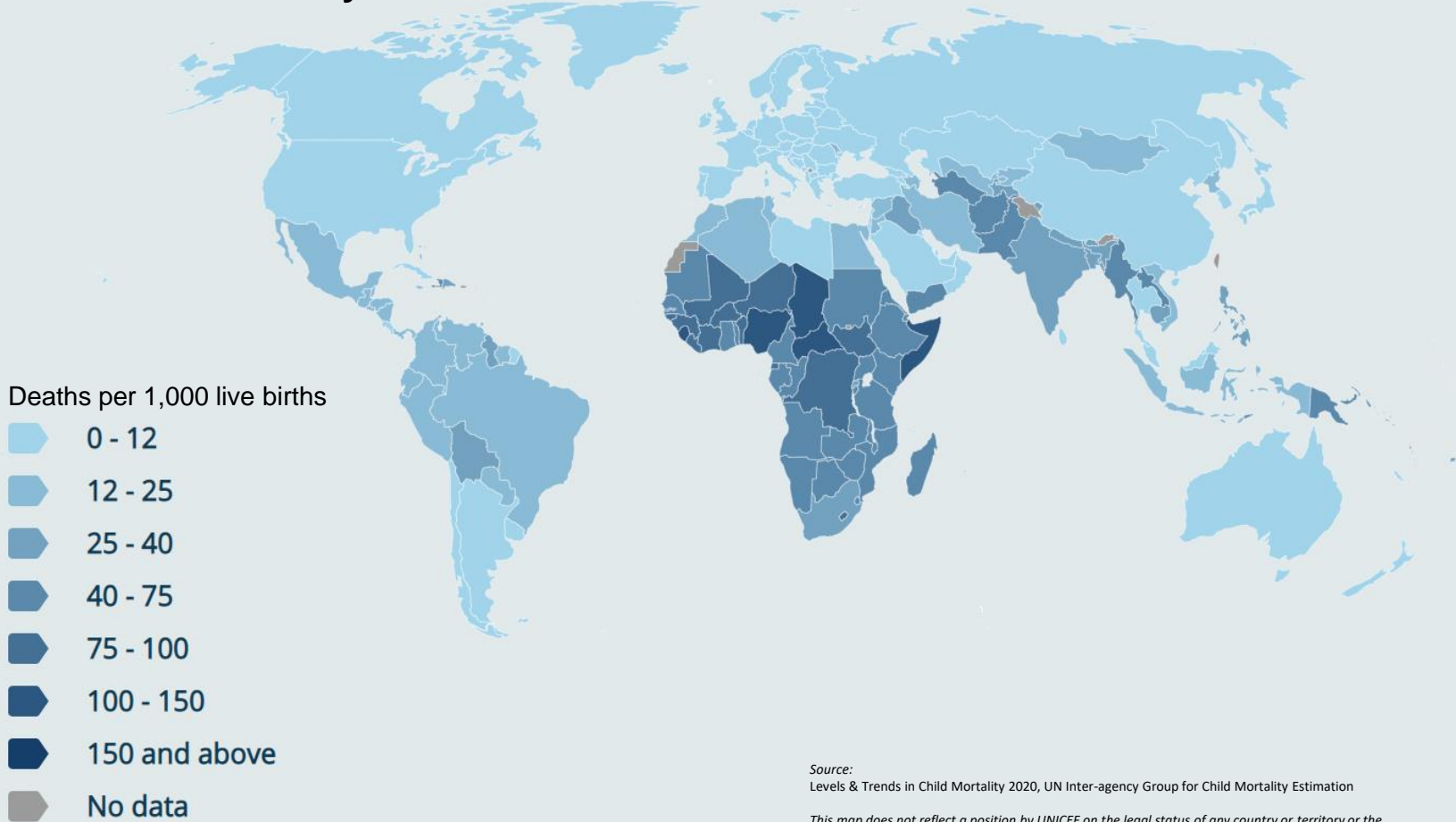
UNICEF Executive Board – 2021 first regular session – 9–12 February 2021
Item 5 (a) – Country programme documents – A. Kampo, Associate Director, Health

unicef
for every child

Despite progress, child survival remains a challenge

5.2 million deaths of children <u>under 5</u> in 2019 (i.e., 14,000 deaths every day)

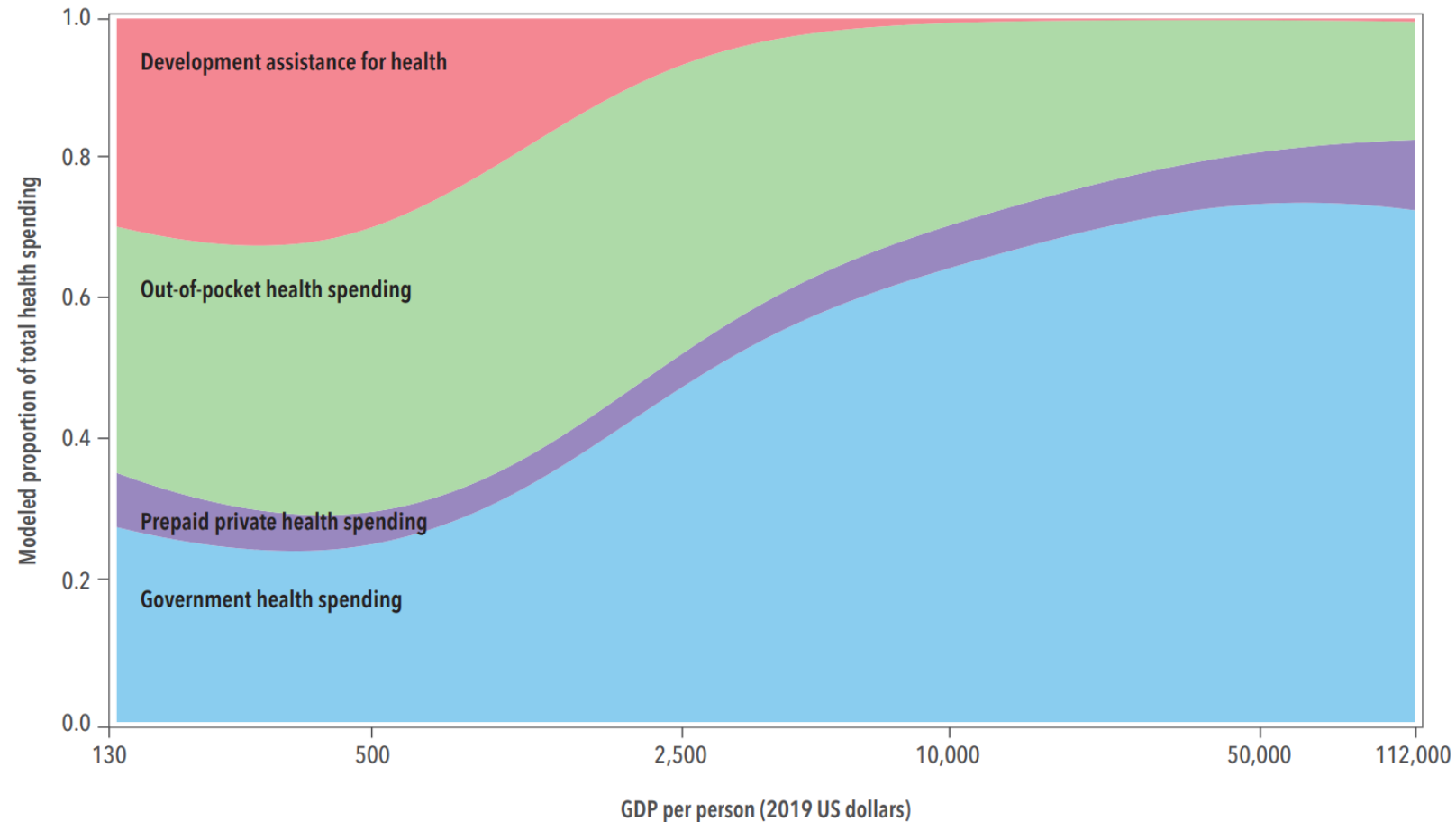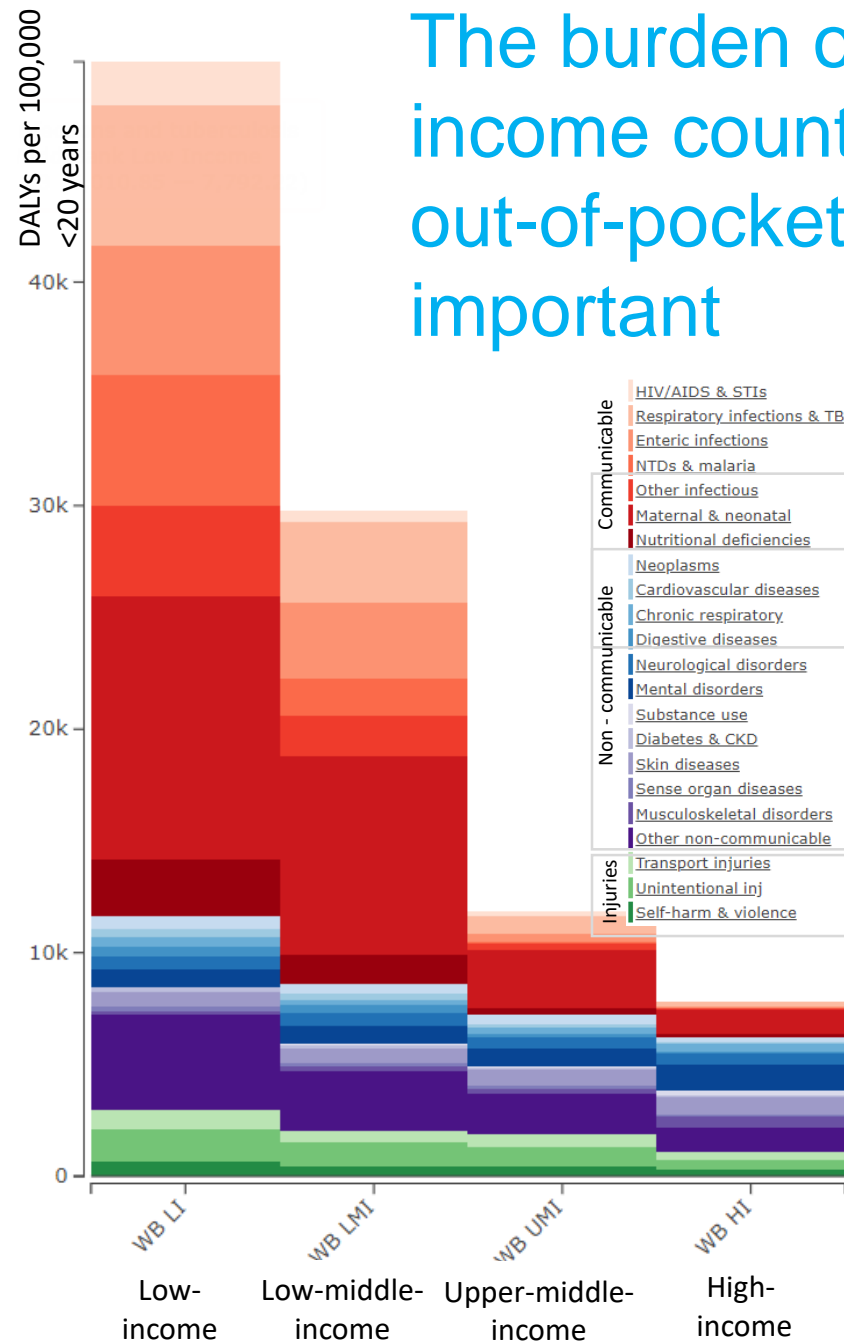Child deaths
(1– 4 years)
1.3 million, 25%

Infant deaths
(1–11 months)
1.5 million, 28%

Neonatal
deaths
2.4 million
47%

Stillbirths
~2.0
million

(i.e., 5,400 stillborn every day)

Under-five mortality rate

Deaths per 1,000 live births

- 0 - 12
- 12 - 25
- 25 - 40
- 40 - 75
- 75 - 100
- 100 - 150
- 150 and above
- No data

Source:
Levels & Trends in Child Mortality 2020, UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation

This map does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers.
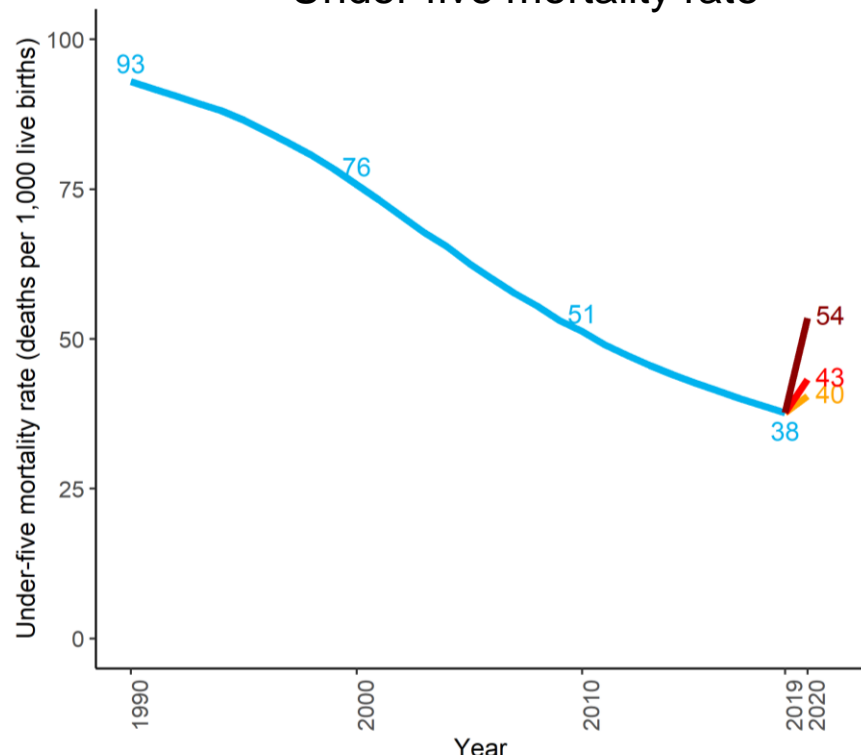
The burden of disease in children is highest in low/low-middle-income countries; where government health spending is low, out-of-pocket spending is high and development assistance is important
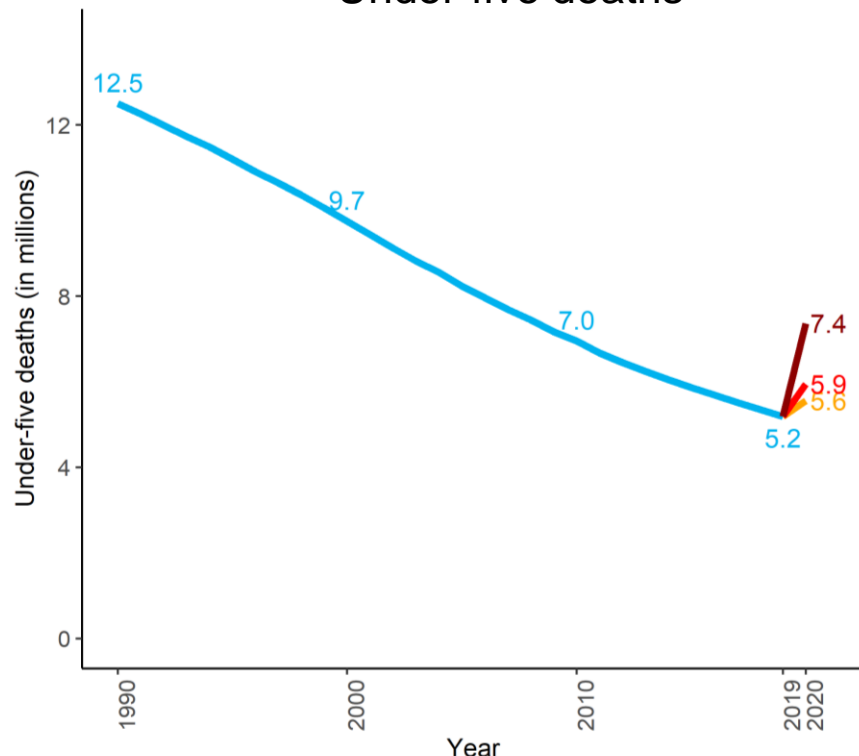
Disruptions in essential health services due to COVID-19 are threatening decades of progress

Global under-five mortality rates and deaths, 1990–2019, and scenario-based projections using the LiST model for 2020

Under-five mortality rate

93
76
51
38
54
43
40

Under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)

100
75
50
25
0

1990
2000
2010
2019
2020

Year

Under-five deaths

12.5
9.7
7.0
5.2
7.4
5.9
5.6

Under-five deaths (in millions)

12
8
4
0

1990
2000
2010
2019
2020

Year

— UN IGME 1990–2019
— Scenario 1: (coverage reductions of 9.8–18.5% and wasting increase of 10%)
— Scenario 2: (coverage reductions of 18.8–26.9% and wasting increase of 20%)
— Scenario 3: (coverage reductions of 39.3–51.9% and wasting increase of 50%)

Though the real impact is still not clear without available data, it is estimated that in just one year under a severe scenario (39.3–51.9% disruptions in health services and 50% increase in wasting), there could be **more than 2 million additional deaths (45% increase)** of children under five – **moving us back on the curve by a decade**

How UNICEF is responding to health in the context of COVID-19…

1 Safeguard UNICEF's core programmes: maximize access to safe essential health & nutrition services, safe schools, immunization, child protection, emergencies and more

2 Access to Covid-19 vaccines: markets, procurement & distribution, cold chain, country preparations

COVAX

3 Community engagement, protect health workers, prepare supply chains, and country preparedness

4 Access to testing, built on community-level antigen and antibody testing; country preparedness, training

5 Cross-cutting: Strong in-country health systems, training and in-country support, community engagement, communication & information

UNICEF/UNI347498/Urdaneta

Progress on SDG3 on health and well-being is at risk…

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A world where no child dies from a preventable cause and all children reach their full potential in health and well-being
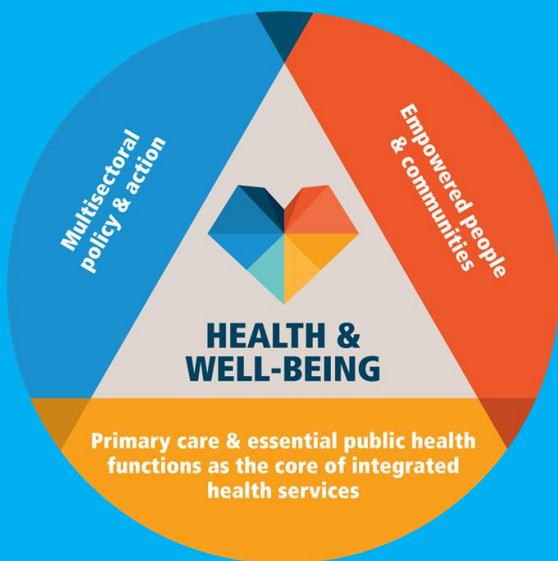
This takes:

Universal health coverage for every child

Which requires:

Primary health care

UNICEF strengthens primary health care through the following approaches:

1. Addressing inequities in health outcomes to accelerate coverage, leaving no one behind

2. Strengthening health systems, including community health
   [financing, workforce, data and digital health, supply chains, implementation research]

3. Promoting integrated packages of care across the life course
   [MNCH, nutrition, immunization, HIV, ECD, adolescent health, disabilities, NCDs, injuries, env. health]

4. Ensuring multisectoral programmes and implementation
   [WASH, social protection, education – including for school health, child protection]

5. Supporting emergency preparedness and resilience
   [Risk-informed programming for humanitarian situations, including public health emergencies]

UNICEF's actions:

Advocate for every child's right to health	Influence government policies	Strengthen service delivery	Empower communities
• Support data capture, evidence generation and use • Engage with partners, including private sector • Expand available resources	• Support evidence-based policymaking and financing for primary health care • Promote scale-up of effective interventions and innovations • UN working together • Share knowledge and promote South-South exchange	• Build capacity of management and health providers • Support programmes, including service provision, in particular at the community level and in emergencies • Strengthen health workforce and supply chain systems for primary health care	• Engage for social and behaviour change • Generate demand • Strengthen accountability

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Multisectoral policy & action

Empowered people & communities

Primary care & essential public health functions as the core of integrated health services

Thank you!

UNICEF Executive Board – 2021 first regular session – Item 5 (a) – Country programme documents

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