

**BENIN**  
**CHILD PROTECTION (Grant SC149906)**  
**THEMATIC REPORT**  
**January – December 2018**



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### C. List of Acronyms

ANDRCT:	National Association for the Defense of Traditional Religions
CPS	Centre de Promotion sociale / Social Promotion Centre
CRC:	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DDASM:	Social Affairs and Microfinance regional office
DFEA:	Office in charge of Family, Child and Adolescents affairs
FGM/C:	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
MICS:	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
MoRES:	Monitoring Results for Equity System
NGO:	Non-governmental organization
OCPM:	Child Protection Police Unit and Care Centre
OPSC:	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OPAC:	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OVC:	Orphans and vulnerable children
TFP:	Technical and Financial Partners

## D. Executive Summary

Recent surveys and studies<sup>1</sup> have provided a concerning diagnosis of the child rights situation in Benin, with mounting evidence of the deteriorating conditions of children. Although some progress was made during the 2014-2018 Programme of Cooperation, data from recent surveys and studies<sup>2</sup> show that the situation of violence and abuse against children in Benin remains alarming and affects all categories of children girls in all segments of the population. Social factors and cultural environment, often deep-rooted in practices, social norms and traditions, remain serious challenges to ending violence against children.

The increasing prevalence of physical punishment is a deep concern. The proportion of the children between 11 and 14 years having reported experiencing physical punishment or some form of violence and having suffered harmful methods of discipline has increased from 89% in 2012 (DHS) to 91% in 2018 (DHS 2017-2018). Cases of violence and physical abuse against children are rampant with a great rural-urban divide and large inequalities between departments.

The UNICEF-Benin Child Protection Programme focuses on strengthening the child protection system in Benin, ensuring optimal case management of children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable, avoid risky behaviour, make greater use of justice and protection services against violence and exploitation, and communities adopt practices consistent with human rights, including in situations of emergency.

A Gap Analysis of Social Welfare Services helped to map out the existing social services and their capacity to protect children throughout the country. This analysis enabled the government to develop an appropriate capacity building action plan for Social Promotion Centres. In partnership with the International Office for the Rights of the Child, UNICEF supported the Government in developing modules on child protection procedures and mechanisms for staff from different socioprofessional categories.

In 2018, 5,721 children (2,132 boys, and 3,589 girls) victims of violence, exploitation and abuse received appropriate care (psychosocial, legal, and educational support, food, clothing, etc.) and support from protection institutions. In addition, the partnership with the Association of Women Lawyers of Benin (AWLB) enabled 670 children in conflict with the law and victims of violence, abuse and exploitation to access legal support and 306 legal assistance. This support resulted in a total of 137 convictions against perpetrators of acts of violence against children. In addition, 260 voodoo children benefited from support for school or socio-professional reintegration and 1,147 actors of traditional cults took part in 20 social mobilization sessions.

With regard to civil registration, efforts have been accelerated to strengthen the system through the creation of secondary civil registration centres nationwide, and the recent launch of the RAPIDPRO platform to stimulate birth registration via SMS and prompt birth certificate retrieval. The government, through the RAVIP project, has also identified 2,500,000 persons, including 1,800,000 children lacking birth certificates, and embarked on the implementation of the Civil Status Development Project with the objective to provide them with birth certificates. UNICEF supported the Government in organizing awareness-raising campaigns through the media on the importance and benefits of civil registration, and in developing communication strategies and materials for the population and helped reinforce collaboration between the health sector and civil registration bodies by setting-up coordination mechanisms.

At the international level, with the support of UNICEF, the country submitted its report on the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and respectively presented its reports on the implementation of the

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<sup>1</sup> Multiple Indicator Survey (MICS 2014), Child Situation Analysis (SitAn 2017) and other studies

<sup>2</sup> Multiple Indicator Survey (MICS 2014), Child Situation Analysis (SitAn 2017) and other studies

CRC and its first two optional protocols at the 71<sup>st</sup> and 79<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva. Moreover, UNICEF supported the civil society through CLOSE, a network of NGOs, to develop and submit the UPR alternative report to the High Commissioner for Human Rights in its section on the Rights of the Child.

As part of the South-South cooperation to fight cross-border child trafficking, the governments of Benin and Gabon have signed a partnership agreement (2018). This agreement is the result of advocacy and technical support from technical and financial partners including the US Embassy, Terre de Hommes and Unicef.

## E. Strategic Context of 2018

The Republic of Benin is a small coastal country in West Africa, with an estimated population of 10 million people in 2013 (General Census of Population and Housing, 2013), increasing by 3.52% per year and spread over 114, 763 square kilometres. Children under 18 years account for 52 per cent of the total population and majority live in rural areas (55.9 per cent). Women compose 51 per cent of the total population. Benin has one of the highest demographic growth rates (2.9 per cent) in the West African region (average, 2.6 per cent).

Violence against children in Benin is mostly linked to cultural practices and remains prevalent and affects most of the children. According to the two most recent surveys (MICS 2014 and DHS 2017), 91,1% of children continue to experience violence at school, at work, at home, and within the community. However, an improvement has been noticed with regard to the child labour where the rate of child labour has decreased from 52% (MICS 2014)<sup>3</sup> to 33%<sup>4</sup>. Child marriage remains an issue where 31.1% of girls under 18 and 8.8% of those under 15 are victims. Furthermore 9,2% of the women are victim of female genital mutilation (FGM) and many are victim of violence and abuse. Those who come into conflict with the law do not always have access to proper protection and justice services.

The Child Protection Programme activities in 2018 are fully aligned with the SDGs, national action plans, UNICEF's strategic plan (2018-2021) and WCAR Key Results for Children (KRC 5 and 6) which aim at removing barriers to the reduction of violence against children and child marriage. In 2018, the programme focused on supporting the implementation of sectoral policy action plans, namely the National Child Protection Policy and the National Justice Sector Development Policy, which aim at overcoming these barriers to ensure that children and adolescents thrive in a protective environment.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Affairs which worked in close collaboration with other sectoral ministries, non-governmental organizations, the civil society and other partners and young people, the country has helped to sustain and accelerate the fight against violence against children, especially child marriage. The most meaningful change that occurred between 2017 and 2018 was the increase in the national budget of the amounts allocated by the Government to Social Promotion Centres (CPS) from CFA Franc 2 million in 2017 to CFA Franc 4 million per centre in 2018, and to the Central Child Protection Police Office from CFA franc 30.000.000 to CFA franc 70.685.000 per annum. Moreover, the Government ensured the recruitment of 150 social workers who were deployed in the Social Promotion Centres with the aim to strengthening their operational capacities.

Different partners (US Embassy, Terre de Hommes, UNICEF) carried out advocacy initiatives resulting in stronger commitment from public authorities to fight the phenomenon and reduce cross-border child and

<sup>3</sup> Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (2014)

<sup>4</sup> Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2017

human trafficking. In 2018, the Government developed a national action plan to fight human trafficking. After more than ten years of negotiations, a cooperation agreement with Gabon to fight child trafficking between the two countries. The latter will now enable the two countries to develop actions plans and jointly work to ensure the arresting, prosecution and judgment of child traffickers, to prevent child trafficking across their borders and to rescue and provide care for victims of child trafficking.

The programme promoted the establishment of an operational civil registration system, with an aim to ensure that all children countrywide have their birth certificates at hand, and that henceforth all newly born babies have their birth certificates issued systematically at their birth. To enhance civil registration, the Government, through the Administrative Census for Population Identification (RAVIP), estimated about 2.500.000 people (1.800.000 children), in need of birth certificates.

To top all these results, the Government of Benin, in compliance with its commitments at the international level, finally presented its reports on the two protocols to the CRC (OPSC<sup>5</sup> and OPAC<sup>6</sup>) to the Geneva Committee in September 2018. The country is in the process of analyzing the recommendations for the development of an implementation action plan.

Several obstacles hinder the achievement of goals set in the country to enhance child protection. These include social norms and harmful practices, that are very conducive to taboos and friendly settlements of cases of violence against children, particularly cases of sexual abuse. They also lead to an increase of the lack of denunciation and of impunity.

The lack of appropriate response and referral mechanisms, the insufficiency of and disparity in the availability of appropriate and quality care in the country due to budgetary constraints and shortages of trained staff, particularly in the most remote areas, and the weakness of prevention mechanisms hinder the progress towards adequate protection of children from violence.

In addition, funds are becoming increasingly difficult to mobilize at the national and international levels. UNICEF advocacy at the State level continues for increased budgets, child friendly budgeting in the social sectors, a more rational use of the resources available, an improved coordination of interventions and synergy of actions. Strategies for domestic resource mobilization, appropriate utilization, and efficiency are increasingly being developed to address the situation of children.

UNICEF has the capacity to influence positive change and promote child rights at various levels and to act as a convener for the civil society, other UN agencies and the donor community. It has therefore created a broad partnership around key issues including awareness-raising on subjects pertaining to social norms. Its high-level advocacy towards strengthened child protection against violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect resulted in the direct support of the President of Benin for the adoption of the National Child Protection Policy in October 2014.

UNICEF uses its advantageous position to support the creation of an enabling environment for the respect of child rights, both at the local and the national level by promoting the development of “child friendly” laws, policies, institutions and procedures, and by advocating for an increase of allocations to basic social services.

Furthermore, UNICEF’s strategic position of interfacing between policy formulation and practices and its technical knowledge enables it to work very closely with the Government to improve legislations and policies as well as to contribute to the enhancement of community practices. Thus, it is regularly consulted and convened to programming and planning fora, especially in the fields of education, health, protection, and social

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<sup>5</sup> Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

<sup>6</sup> Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict

inclusion. This enables it to influence the programmes and budgets of different departments at national and decentralized levels to ensure that child rights are taken into consideration and to lobby for child-sensitive interventions and budgeting.

In view of mobilizing all concerned actors, UNICEF supported programmes are implemented in coordination and with the association of possible stakeholders and key-actors involved in interventions that can have an impact on the children's lives in Benin. For instance, in the child protection area, community dialogues have become a widespread practice. Thus, a dialogue initiated with traditional and religious leaders led to the reduction of the initiation period of children in convents, to the promotion their access to health care, improved sanitation and to education as well as to reduction of social practices that are harmful to them during the initiation process.

UNICEF works alongside other development partners and agencies to support the achievement of national development goals in Benin, especially those related to the SDGs. The organisation plays a significant role in the achievement of sectoral goals defined in the Poverty Reduction Strategy regarding health, education and protection. UNICEF also developed strong relationships with key decision-makers upstream and downstream.

Despite the efforts made by the Government in the past years, the system remains characterized by a proliferation of bodies and actors involved in child protection with a lack of clear division of roles. The actors in the key sectors do not work together to provide a coordinated response to children in need. Child protection system remains generally insufficient to meet the needs of children despite mounting evidence on the seriousness of the conditions of children and outcry from civil society. The capacity of service delivery and child protection to ensure the respect of child rights remains hampered by governance issues, ineffective implementation of the existing policy framework.

## F. Results in the Outcome area

The Thematic Fund contributed to the achievement of meaningful progress under Goal Area 3 of the 2018-2021 of the Global Strategic Plan and Priorities 1, 2 & 4 (1. Violence against children; 2. Child marriage; 4. Children on the move) of the Regional Strategic Plan.

### **5,721 children victims of abuse, violence and exploitation have access to quality care and support**

In 2018, 5721 children (2132 boys, and 3589 girls) victims of violence, exploitation and abuse received appropriate care (psychosocial, legal, and educational support, food, clothing, etc..) and support from protection structures. They benefited from rehabilitation activities through different programmes (awareness-raising information and life skills training). Furthermore, the children were informed on their rights, and received basic training through group discussions on how to respond to violence and protect themselves. Social enquiries, negotiations and sensitizations sessions were carried out by the facilitators, some parents, caregivers, peer educators and tutors. The sensitization induced market traders and other vendors to allow children under their charge to attend on a regular basis learning and leisure activities organized at the care shelters by partner NGOs. All these initiatives were an opportunity to offer vulnerable children and child labor or other victims a chance to reconnect with their childhood and to lead a quasi-normal life.

### **137 perpetrators are punished for crimes against children**

The partnership with the Association of Women Lawyers of Benin (AFA), allowed in 2018, 670 child victims and in conflict with the law to benefit from legal support and 306 to have access to legal assistance that resulted in a total of 137 convictions against perpetrators of acts of violence.



## **Benin is endowed with a National Communication Strategy**

To address harmful practices and social norms, initiatives were conducted to aim to break the culture of silence that continues to hamper reporting and denunciation of acts of violence committed against children. Thus, a national communication strategy was adopted to promote communication for positive behavior, awareness amongst communities and commitment of traditional and religious leaders to fight against violence.

To this end, twenty-one (21) actors recruited to coordinate the activities at the community level acquired the necessary knowledge to communicate on the concepts such as the child, violence against children, marriage and the rights of the child, C4D, etc. for a successful implementation of the zero-tolerance campaign against child marriage.

## **Communities are empowered through social dialogue**

At the community level, 120 dialogues were conducted in UNICEF intervention districts through the Centres for Social Promotion (CPS) and community leaders. These dialogues helped broaden the knowledge and enhance the capacities of 1,8463 women, men and children on child protection issues and fostered community participation, social cohesion and the engagement for a more protective environment for children. They also resulted in commitments and the elaboration of communal action plans under the leadership of local authorities.

- **Religious and traditional leaders commit themselves to eliminate sexual violence and child marriage:**

Traditional and religious leaders developed action plans highlighting concrete preventive measures to ensure that “Zero” child marriage is celebrated within their communities. Measures included: (i) refusing to celebrate or ordain any marriage of children under 18; and (ii) requiring identification or birth certificates of both the future bride and groom before celebrating their union. To date, some leaders have become “Zero tolerance champions”, others have participated in the production of awareness-raising videos/clips alongside local artists to sensitize their peers on child marriage.



Finally, in February 2018, over 30 national representatives from major faith-based organizations representing Catholic, Protestant, Celeste, Muslim, and Voodoo faiths signed a charter to mark their engagement in ending child marriage and sexual violence against children within their constituencies and communities. Religious and traditional leaders worked together for three days to draft the charter based on their faith common values on child rights and protection, taking into consideration the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The charter represents a major step for inter-religious collaboration, in the light of the Zero Tolerance

Campaign. Partnering with traditional and religious leaders has been a very successful strategy as their engagement was highly instrumental in achieving the campaign’s results. They are now able to spread information, raise awareness and mobilize their communities to lead the process of reviewing and adapting social norms (or religious principles) that may be detrimental to children’s well-being.

- **Teacher’s engagement is strengthened**

25 teachers were trained and acquired knowledge on children's rights, sexual violence and abuse, child marriage, communication for development and communication techniques and 5 action plans were developed (one plan per municipality) specifying mechanisms to support the fight, especially within school clubs in their respective school establishments. Thanks to the training, an alert was given by the teachers during the



Gogounou municipality training: they reported two cases of proposed marriages between students and teachers. The chief of the CPS who was informed, immediately carried out the necessary investigations.

- **Youth Mobilization intensifies across the country**

In 2018, UNICEF continued supporting the National Youth Platform, whose membership increased to around



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60 youth associations. In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs, the youth platform organized a social mobilization tour across four departments where they trained youths on civic engagement, child protection and the campaign objectives. As a result, more than 300 adolescents and young people were “recruited” as Zero Tolerance champions. In addition, five “Zero tolerance” watch committees were set up in Benin's largest cities with the aim to spearhead, implement and monitor the Youth Platform’s activities at the decentralized level, and report back on cases of sexual abuse and child marriage.

- **Musicians and other artists say “NO” to child marriage**



UNICEF, through a participatory production methodology with local singers and other artists, has been working on the production of awareness raising “edutainment” materials to trigger public debate and mobilize communities to better protect children from sexual violence and child marriage. Slammers, comedians, musicians and singers, puppetry masters, writers and illustrators from all regions of Benin joined forces and creative talents to produce a package of communication materials.

- **Child Friendly Parishes engage in child abuse prevention**

Monthly, the teams of Caritas Abomey delivered key-messages on child rights based on Bible verses, in 16 targeted parishes, within the framework of the “Child Friendly Parishes”, an inter-religious initiative launched by Caritas. This approach aimed to raise awareness on children’s rights grounded on religious beliefs and texts (Bible, Koran). Other religious leaders (parish priests, imams, pastor of the Church of Heavenly Christianity, dignitary of the voodoo cult) were encouraged to pass on child protection messages while preaching. Sensitization tools and 15 “report boxes” were also positioned in several places of worship. Fifteen inter-religious child protection parish groups were set up and received training on peer-education. The latter played a part as Caritas’ whistle blowers within the communities and were equipped to identify and report cases of violence against children.

- **Partnership with NGO promotes the rights of children in convents**

In 2018, owing to the partnership established with the National Association for the Defense of Traditional Religions (ANDRCT), 260 voodoo children benefited from support for school or socio-professional reintegration. Besides, 1,147 actors of traditional cults were involved in 20 sessions of social mobilization to fight violence against children.

- **Local media and NGO join efforts to realize children's rights**

The NGO “Comité de Liaison des Organisations Sociales de Défense des Droits de l'Enfant” (CLOSE) is the largest national coalition of children's rights in Benin, regrouping more than 50 civil society organizations involved in advocacy and in the monitoring of the implementation of the CRC and other international legal instruments on children's rights ratified by Benin. Within the framework of the same partnership, CLOSE also signed agreements with 25 community radio stations in 2018, which allowed the production and broadcast of 1,072 programmes on child protection issues, in French and in various national languages. A strategic partnership was established between CLOSE and the National Youth Platform, which enabled the youths and adolescents to systematically participate in talk shows and press conferences and to voice their opinion.

### **The civil registration system is improved**



In 2018, The Government issued the official Decree creating secondary civil registration centres in the 77 municipalities nationwide. Due to long distance, parents cannot easily declare the birth of their children. To address this issue, the government through the Ministry of Interior officially set up civil registration centres that are supervised by village chiefs. They have been trained as focal points who receive birth declarations and assist families in obtaining their children's birth certificates.

In addition, RapidPro platform launched in 2018 is an open source platform based on the use of SMS to collect routine data in real time, track information and communicate with stakeholders in the field. Currently the platform has been set up and is being used in the six intervention municipalities of UNICEF (Kandi, Banikoara, Sègbana, Gogounou, Malanville, Karimama) in the Alibori department.

## **G. Financial Analysis**

### **Planned budget by thematic sector**

In 2018, a total of USD 2,230,549 was planned and USD 2,076,392 was funded (Table 1) for the thematic sector. The difference between the planned budget and the funded is due to the delay in the implementation of activities due to the constraints with partners.

**Table 1: Planned budget for the thematic sector**  
**Thematic sector: Protection from Violence and Exploitation**  
**Planned and funded for Country Programme 2018 (in US Dollars)**

Intermediate Result	Funding Type	2018 Planned Budget	2018 Funded budget
001 - COORDINATION, MISE EN ŒUVRE ET SUIVI	RR	243,000	64,851
	ORR		199,131
	ORE		0
002 - OFFRE SERVICES DE JUSTICE ET PROTECTION	ORR	490,000	77,119
	ORR		294,036
	ORE		0
003 - UTILISATION SERVICES DE PROTECTION	RR	755,000	80,730
	ORR		561,107
	ORE		0
	RR	135,000	68,515

004 - MISE EN PLACE SERVICES D'ÉTAT CIVIL	ORR		91,316
	ORE		0
005 - APPUI À LA COMPOSANTE DE PROGRAMME	RR	607,549	475,253
	ORR		164,334
	ORE		0
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,230,549</b>	<b>2,076,392</b>

**Thematic contribution for thematic sector**

A total amount of USD 298,242 was received in 2018 for thematic sector related to Child Protection.

**Table 2: Thematic contributions Received in 2018**

Donor	Grant number	Contribution Amount	Programmable Amount
Global - Child Protection		0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Expenditures in the thematic sector**

In 2018, a total of US 2,388,294 was spent to support investment sector related to Child Protection (Table 3).

**Tableau N°3: Expense by Results Area in Thematic Sector**

Fund Category	All Programme Accounts
Year	2018
Business Area	Benin - 1170
Prorated Goal Area	23 Protection from Violence and Exploitation
Row Labels	Expense
Other Resources - Regular	1,203,732
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	1,026,846
23-02 Harmful practices (FGM/C and child marriage)	37,194
23-03 Access to justice	139,692
Regular Resources	1,184,561
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	782,842
23-02 Harmful practices (FGM/C and child marriage)	-784
23-03 Access to justice	402,504
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,388,294</b>

**Thematic expenditures by results area**

Table 4 shows a breakdown of expenditures of Thematic contributions by results area. A total of USD 874,207 was utilized to contribute to the results achieved and described above.

**Tableau N°4: Thematic expense by Results Area**

Fund Category	All Programme Accounts
Year	2018
Business Area	Benin - 1170
Prorated Goal Area	23 Protection from Violence and Exploitation
Donor Class Level2	Thematic
Row Labels	Expense
Other Resources - Regular	29,181
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	29,181
Grand Total	29,181

**Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes**

Table 5 below shows a breakdown of expenses by specific intervention code. A total of USD 4,259,648 was spent to support the intervention of Child Protection.

**Tableau N°5: Expense by Specific Intervention Code (SIC)**

Fund Category	All Programme Accounts
Year	2018
Business Area	Benin - 1170
Prorated Goal Area	23 Protection from Violence and Exploitation
Fund Sub-Category	(Multiple Items)
Row Labels	Expense
23-01-01 Legal and policy framework related to violence, exploitation and abuse	132,814
23-01-02 Services to prevent or respond to violence, exploitation and abuse	800,757
23-01-07 Administrative data and Information Management System (IMS)including CPIMS+, GBVIMS+, MRMIMS+	29,883
23-01-17 Social and behaviour change communication on violence, exploitation and abuse	192,608
23-01-18 Child protection focused on care and support for children with disabilities	25,519
23-01-19 Violence, exploitation, and abuse - surveys (e.g. KAP, VACS), data analysis/research/evaluation evidence generation, synthesis, and use	36,062
23-01-24 Violence, exploitation, and abuse - planning, co-ordination and programme monitoring	45,937
23-02-03 Social and behaviour change communication for child marriage	32,797
23-03-03 Access to child-friendly police and justice sector services	157,735
23-03-04 Birth Registration/Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems	153,333

26-01-01 Country programme process (including UNDAF planning and CCA)	5,824
26-01-02 Programme reviews (Annual, UNDAF, MTR, etc.)	31,211
26-02-01 Situation Analysis or Update on women and children	95
26-02-05 Administrative data, registers and non-MICS household surveys and censuses	20,546
26-02-07 Data dissemination	112
26-02-08 Programme monitoring	5,322
26-03-01 Advocacy and partnership-building for social behaviour change	19,339
26-03-03 Children, adolescent and youth engagement and participation	2,864
26-03-05 Innovation, multi-media content production and dissemination	11,126
26-03-07 Strengthening C4D in Government systems including preparedness for humanitarian action	27,958
26-04-01 CO/RO Supply - technical assistance and collaboration in supply chain, procurement of goods and services, and logistics	5,082
26-05-11 Building global / regional / national stakeholder research capacity	920
26-06-12 Learning	37
26-07-01 Operations support to programme delivery	518,803
28-07-04 Management and Operations support at CO	130,054
30-05-01 Office compliance with UN SMS, SRM and implementation of Security Risk Mitigating Measures (MOSS)	1,556
Grand Total	2,388,294

#### **Planned budget for 2019**

The table 6 below shows a breakdown of planned budget and available resources for 2019. A total of USD **2,021,571** is planned of which an amount of USD **2,324,009** is available to date for the implementation.

**Table 6: Planned budget for the thematic sector**

**Thematic sector: Protection from Violence and Exploitation**

**Planned and funded for Country Programme 2019 (in US Dollars)**

Intermediate Result	Funding Type	2019 Planned Budget	2018 Funded budget
001 – Planification, mise en œuvre coordination et suivi /renforcement du système de protection de l'enfant	RR	402,000	538,541
	ORR		421,712
	ORE		0
002 - Promotion de l'offre et de l'accès aux services de qualité	RR	1,006,500	22,857
	ORR		831,330
	ORE		0
003 - Renforcement des capacités des communautés et abandon des pratiques néfastes	RR	613,071	69,000
	ORR		440,569
	ORE		0
Total		2,021,571	2,324,009

#### **H. Future Workplan**

Key Programme Areas under Goal Area 3 (Protection) of the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan will be supported by the new Global Thematic Fund, the Netherlands Embassy Fund, the Belgium Embassy fund, the UNPRD fund and Regular Resources from UNICEF. The funds will contribute to achievements related to prevention and response services for children at risk and victims of violence. As per the proposal, these funds provide an

opportunity for UNICEF to support the Government of Benin in dealing with a high priority regarding system strengthening, capacities building, service delivery and social mobilization. During the 2009-2013 period, activities will be carried out according to the three priority issues, namely:

- i) Violence and sexual abuse
- ii) Child marriage
- iii) Child labor (through a child mobility lens: economic exploitation/ child trafficking)

The three priorities were identified as critical, and to be addressed in a large participatory process with the government and partners, including young people. The new Benin-UNICEF 2019-2023 Programme of Cooperation, considering the results of the mapping of key actors in the child protection field will work to improve the situation, and narrow gaps for the most vulnerable groups.

To achieve this, the Country Programme will build on achievements and good practices from the 2014-2018 cycle to improve the equitable access of children and adolescents, particularly the most disadvantaged, to child protection quality services. It will ensure these services are accessible to all children, especially adolescents, victims of violence, abuse and exploitation. To this regard, it will give priority to the implementation of an integrated and inclusive child protection system up to the decentralized level in three priority focus departments of Benin.

### I. Expression of Thanks

UNICEF-Benin would like to express its deep gratitude to the Thematic Fund for the generous contribution in support of Protection activities in Benin during the entire period of the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan and the first year of the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan. This financial contribution focused on strengthening the national capacity at national and operational level, and on strengthening child protection system and improvement of the quality of services delivered.

UNICEF-Benin would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new Global Protection Thematic Fund.

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