

**Europe and Central Asia Region (ECAR)**

**Social Protection, Inclusion and Governance  
Sectoral and OR+ (Thematic) Report**

**January – December 2018**



*UNICEF/UN040288/Khetaguri*

Three-year-old Luka Kurdghelashvili (on the left) with his five-year-old brother Nika (on the right) in former School No 68 currently occupied by socially vulnerable families. Children in Georgia face a higher risk of poverty than any other population group in the country. In an effort to reduce child poverty, UNICEF supported the Georgian Government to revise the Targeted Social Assistance System that was instituted in 2015. The new methodology significantly improves targeting of poor children and introduced child benefits to 40 per cent of Georgia's children.

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## **C. Abbreviations and Acronyms**

CRC: Committee on the Rights of the Child  
ECA: Europe and Central Asia  
ECARO: Europe and Central Asia Regional Office  
EU: European Union  
MICS: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey  
NSO: National Statistics Office  
OR: Other Resources  
PF4C: Public Finance for Children  
SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals  
RKLA: Regional Knowledge and Leadership Agenda  
RTF-SI: Regional Thematic Funding for Social Inclusion  
R-UNDG: Regional United Nations Development Group

#### D. Executive Summary

In the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region, all of UNICEF's work is guided by the continued importance of strategically addressing the unfinished child's rights agenda, in particular the social exclusion of the most vulnerable groups of children. UNICEF supports Governments in the region to better understand the causes and consequences of poverty and social exclusion on the development of children. Based on strong analytical work, UNICEF provides technical guidance to partners to develop effective responses to ameliorate the negative effects of poverty and to give children the best chance in life. UNICEF's priority areas for the region are Child Poverty and Social Protection, Social Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups, Public Finance for Children and Realizing Child Rights at Local Level.

This is the final report for Regional Thematic Social Inclusion Funds, grant number SC1499070012, covering the 2018 grant period. Thematic funding for social inclusion enabled UNICEF to advance regional knowledge and capacity on a child's right to social protection and supported improvements at the country level. Major outputs for 2018 included the publication of *Child Poverty in Europe and Central Asia region: definitions, measurement, trends and recommendations*, highlighting that at least 22 million children are living below national poverty within the region. An *'In Focus' brief on Ending Child Poverty* stressed the cost of child poverty to societies in the region in terms of the impacts on children's cognitive development, future incomes and health in adulthood, and highlighted the importance of reforming social protection systems to better meet the needs of vulnerable children. As part of our joint work with other UN agencies towards SDG 1.3 on Social protection floors, *"Joint Advocacy Messages on Social Protection"* was also published.

Thematic support has helped to increase the visibility of UNICEF's work in social protection at country level. In Georgia, an additional 70,000 children are now benefiting from child grants based on UNICEF's support to policy reform. In Kyrgyzstan, 2,000 additional children were able to access child benefits after a revaluation of minimum incomes, while in Uzbekistan, local level monitoring and advocacy led to an extension of social protection to vulnerable children of single parents. Countries in the Western Balkans continued to record progress in outreach and facilitating access of excluded groups to social protection, for example the extension of health insurance cover to excluded Roma families in North Macedonia. During 2018 UNICEF provided policy inputs to debates and the design of social protection reforms around the region, including in Uzbekistan, Albania, North Macedonia, and Georgia. North Macedonia announced a reform of social protection to extend coverage to 60,000 additional children while in Georgia government has decided to increase the value of child grants substantially to improve the impact. In partnership with the World Bank and the Armenian Association of Social Workers a conference on "the role of Social Protection in the Sustainable Development agenda" highlighted the important role of social protection and the potential for reform of the national system.

In the area of public finance for children, UNICEF contributed to the regional and global advocacy agenda on Financing for Development, and to the design of ongoing initiatives to address public finances for children in health in Central Asia, and decentralized financing for Early Childhood Education. UNICEF undertook public finance related work in several countries, in particular the development of the first Child Focused Public Expenditure Analysis in the region in Armenia, and policy focused public finance budget briefs in North Macedonia, Armenia, Ukraine, Kosovo, Tajikistan and Moldova. These works have so far begun to contribute to dialogue with sector ministries on revision of health sector spending in North Macedonia, and on a new formula for financing pre-school education in Moldova. In Armenia, government has committed to adopting alternative models of pre-school and has included a budget line for this purpose.

Total resources allocated under Regional Thematic Funds for Social Inclusion, grant number SC1499070012 for 2015-2018 were \$211,678. The majority of funds were utilized during 2015 to 2017, with \$85,494 spent in 2018. During 2018 the majority of funds were from global thematic and other sources.

Under the current Regional Office Management Plan (2018-2021), the Social Policy Section is building on past progress and accelerating programming to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) commitments to ending extreme poverty, extend social protection, and track public finance for social services. This involves ramping up advocacy and knowledge generation around social protection, child poverty, and public finance for children, while extending technical support and guidance at the country level.

## **E. Strategic Context**

The Europe and Central Asia region comprises of 21 countries<sup>1</sup> of which only Tajikistan is classified by the World Bank as a Low-Income country. Six countries in the region are considered Lower-Middle Income economies while the rest are Upper Middle Income.<sup>2</sup> However, in all ECA countries, entrenched exclusion of specific population groups leads to high disparities and to increasing equity gaps. These gaps in rights realisation are compounded by income inequality. Further, issues related to conflict and migration are exacerbating the situation of socially excluded children living in poverty and those living in poverty.

Deep-set social attitudes, discrimination and prejudice towards excluded groups and weak institutional capacity at sub-national levels limit the pace and effectiveness of progressive and inclusive reforms to tackle child rights violations in the social sector. Progress in reducing child poverty in the region has been patchy, with falling poverty rates in some countries and increases in others, and the overall level of investment in social protection for children has been falling, although there are signs that trend is beginning to be reversed. Although less than 50 per cent of countries currently measure child poverty on a regular basis, the latest estimates suggest there are at least 22 million children across the region living below national poverty lines.<sup>3</sup> Those most at risk include families with four or more children, those from rural areas, children with disabilities and from ethnic minorities, such as the Roma in South Eastern Europe. Cash and social care are not adequately working together to prevent family separation, social exclusion, vulnerability and inequity. Despite the persistence of child poverty across the region, countries are not yet allocating sufficient resources towards social protection for children. Coverage of benefits among the poorest is low, the value of benefits is not adequate, and vulnerable and excluded beneficiaries face numerous obstacles to access support.<sup>4</sup>

A key consideration for all UNICEF's work in the region is the continued importance of strategically addressing the unfinished child rights agenda, in particular, the social exclusion of the most vulnerable groups of children. Social inclusion and inequities are the focus of regional strategies, which are based on the UNICEF Strategic Plans (2014-2017) and (2018-2021), contextualized for the region.

UNICEF works on social inclusion on behalf of the poorest and most marginalized children to assist countries in understanding the patterns and drivers of child poverty and exclusion and in developing effective

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<sup>1</sup> Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo (UNSRC 1244), Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation (no UNICEF country office), Serbia, Ukraine, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

<sup>2</sup> For more information on income classification please see World Bank: <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>

<sup>3</sup> UNICEF (2018) *Child poverty in Europe and Central Asia region: definitions, measurement, trends and recommendations*

<sup>4</sup> UNICEF (2016) *Social Monitor: Social Protection for child rights and wellbeing in Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia*

responses. Priority areas of focus in the region for 2018 guided by the UNICEF Strategic Plan, and the Regional Office Management Plan were:

- **Social protection and child poverty**, to ensure countries measure both monetary and multi-dimensional child poverty and address it through policies, programmes and budgets, and to help strengthen social protection systems for greater impact on child wellbeing.
- **Public finance for children**, to influence government decisions about spending on children and social services and reduce spending disparities among different population groups.
- **Realizing child rights at local level**, to support local government capacity to plan consultatively, organize services, prepare for emergencies, budget equitably and monitor the impact of what they do on children.

Conflict and political instability have affected several countries in the region. Turkey hosts the largest number of refugees in the world: over 4 million, including 1.7 million children. The protracted nature of the conflict in Syria and the large refugee population is putting a strain on the already overstretched response capacities of the government and partners alike. Some countries in the Balkans continued to be affected by migration into the European Union (EU), although the numbers have declined since 2015. Several Balkan countries experienced ongoing political instability and polarisation; there were renewed tensions and intensified fighting in Eastern Ukraine. Increasing dissatisfaction with job opportunities, stagnant incomes, and increasing mistrust of institutions are contributing to rising political and social tension across most of the region.

There are a number of international and regional commitments with implications for UNICEF's work on social inclusion, social protection and public finance for children. The SDG framework with targets on eliminating extreme poverty and reducing multidimensional poverty is bringing greater attention to child poverty in the region, while the specific targets on expanding access to social protection and monitoring of levels of public expenditure on social protection and social services will also be a platform for greater accountability. The 2016 General Comment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on Public Budgeting for Children is assisting countries in the implementation of Article 4 of the CRC covering budgets for children. The General Comment identifies States' obligations and makes recommendations on how to realize all the rights under the Convention, especially those of children in vulnerable situations, through effective, efficient, equitable, transparent and sustainable public budget decision-making. This is a strong platform for advocacy around public investment for children. The Grand Bargain agreement of 2016 between more than 30 of the biggest donors and aid providers, aims to get more humanitarian financing into the hands of people in need. First proposed by the former UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing in its report "Too Important to Fail: addressing the humanitarian financing gap" as one of the solutions to address the humanitarian financing gap, one key objective of the Grand Bargain is to increase the use and coordination of cash-based programming and, where possible, use, link or align with local or national social protection systems.

## **F. Results in the Outcome Area**

### **1. Social Protection and Child Poverty**

Between 2015 and 2018, UNICEF ECARO made significant investments in Social Protection and Child Poverty. During 2018 ECARO made considerable advances in analysing child poverty, developed clear joint

United Nations advocacy messages on social protection systems, and initiated work around public budgets for children in several countries. Earlier analysis and advocacy is also beginning to filter through to policy change and, in some cases, to improvements in social protection provision for children and families. Montenegro and Tajikistan have published new child poverty figures; Georgia, Kazakhstan and North Macedonia have announced reforms to increase the number of children benefiting from social transfers or the value of transfers; and Armenia, Kosovo, Moldova, Tajikistan, North Macedonia and Ukraine have generated evidence to improve budgetary allocations and expenditures for children.

Child poverty measurement is a prerequisite to designing effective policies necessary for the realization of child rights and adhering to international legislation and standards. In 2018 [Child Poverty in Europe and Central Asia region: definitions, measurement, trends and recommendations](#) was published, highlighting that at least 22 million children are living below national poverty lines within the region. An [‘In Focus’](#) brief on Ending Child Poverty stressed the cost of child poverty to societies in the region in terms of the impacts on children’s cognitive development, future incomes and health in adulthood, and highlighted the importance of reforming social protection systems to better meet the needs of vulnerable children. UNICEF also contributed to two regional UN publications: The [Issue Based Coalition on Social Protection United Nations Development Group \(UNDG\) Europe and Central Asia: Joint Advocacy Messages](#); and the [UN Economic Commission for Europe \(UNECE\) Guide on Poverty Measurement](#).

2018 was a year of good progress in improving knowledge and understanding of child poverty in our region:

- **In Tajikistan**, together with the World Bank, we supported the publication of the first child poverty figure since 2009, showing that poverty has continued to fall, but also revealing the extent of seasonal poverty among children.
- **In Uzbekistan**, UNICEF worked with the World Bank on [“Listening to Citizens of Uzbekistan”](#), showing that children, and people living with a disability, are particularly vulnerable to poverty.
- UNICEF supported **Montenegro** to produce its first child poverty estimate in five years, released in December 2018.

UNICEF’s partnerships with other UN agencies working on social protection were greatly strengthened through the establishment of the Regional UNGD Issue-Based Coalition on Social Protection. The objective of the group is to support coordinated engagement on social protection at country level through a joint vision of social protection, technical support and knowledge sharing. Key achievements of the group include, sharing various tools for application in analysis of social protection systems at country level, joint discussions on social protection in Ukraine, and with the drafting of a regional advocacy paper on social protection as part of regional SDG agenda. During 2018 the group participated in several UN Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) missions to Ukraine, Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. A checklist on social protection was used to focus inputs on the key issues in social protection systems in relation to the SDG 1.3 targets, and the potential role of the UN agencies in support. In partnership with the World Bank and the Armenian Association of Social Workers a conference on “the role of Social Protection in the Sustainable Development agenda” in Yerevan in October 2018 highlighted the important role of social protection and the potential for reform of the national system.

The investments made by UNICEF in this area of work began to bear fruits also at country level. Several countries in the region have reported positive developments in a child’s right to social protection, ranging

from increases in coverage of cash transfer programmes and approval of new legal frameworks to provision of sustainable funding for social care services, expanded outreach to excluded families and children, and expansion of approaches to adapt social protection in humanitarian situations.

- **Georgia:** The Country Office continued during 2018 to provide the Government with support to ensure that existing social protection programs are sensitive to children and their families. UNICEF especially continued support to the reform of the Targeted Social Assistance (TSA) program through Welfare Monitoring Survey (WMS) data analysis and preparations for a TSA impact evaluation.

As of November 2018, the number of children under 16 receiving TSA and child benefits rose to 130,200. The 2017 WMS data showed that 29.8% of all children in Georgia were benefiting from at least one of the social cash transfer programs and 43% of children below the absolute poverty line were covered by TSA and child benefits. Through the reform, in 2018 a total of 2,913 individuals received higher benefits than under the previous program, including 176 single mothers, 447 breastfeeding mothers and 47 pregnant women. Moreover, due to the increased focus of the TSA on children, 143 breastfeeding mothers, 62 single mothers and 18 pregnant women now received the full amount of TSA. Without UNICEF's support to the TSA reform, 1,628 children, 225 breastfeeding mothers, 99 single mothers and 36 pregnant women would not have qualified for child benefits.

Finally, in November and December 2018, UNICEF organized two conferences for municipalities from Eastern and Western Georgia to raise awareness and exchange experiences on the Child Protection Referral Procedures and local social assistance programmes. During a training integrated into the conferences, around 100 municipal representatives increased their knowledge and skills in the planning of local social protection programs, public finance and program budgeting.

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Actioning one of the main recommendations from the 2017 Situation Analysis of Children with Disabilities, UNICEF Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) further promoted the 'International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health for Children and Youth' (ICF-CY). The country's current disability categories still mostly reflect the medical model rather than the social model of disability, and therefore need to be aligned to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Through two workshops led by an international expert in ICF and organised by UNICEF together with WHO, professionals from the education, health and social protection sectors who work with or for children with disabilities gained first-hand experience in using the ICF concept and categories. Next steps will include a review of the existing assessment tools for classification and their complementarity to the ICF, as well as training for the assessment commissions at municipal level.

UNICEF BiH continued providing technical support to relevant policymakers to advance social protection policy and legislative reform, and modest progress was observed. In Republika Srpska (RS), the new Law on Child Protection (regulating cash benefits) was implemented as of January 2018. The new Law expanded the scope of cash benefits, both means-tested and universal (e.g., maternity benefits, universal cash benefits for the third and fourth child in the family, and disability-related benefits). The total budget for child cash benefits increased by an estimated US\$ 18 million from 2018 to 2019, ensured through an income tax increase from 1.5 to 1.7 per cent allocated to the RS Children's Fund.

The Management Information System (MIS) for child cash benefits was improved. While the RS Government funded the overall investment in hardware enhancement and upgrading of the existing electronic database, UNICEF BiH supported the development of a by-law regulating the data, reporting requirements and procedures between the RS Children's Fund and Centres for Social Work (CSWs). About 130 social workers and other professionals from RS CSWs were supported to develop stronger capacities for administering child cash benefit in line with the new by-law and upgraded MIS.

As part of the integrated Social Protection and Inclusion (SPI) local governance approach, UNICEF BiH maintained close partnerships with five municipalities and one Canton, with initial support provided for establishing permanent multi-sectoral platforms to strengthen cooperation across the social sectors. This resulted in joint evidence-based action planning, implementation and monitoring of social protection and inclusion interventions for children and youth. UNICEF supported local partners to identify gaps in social service provision for the most vulnerable groups, and provided seed funding to establish new social services, with the condition that local authorities sustain the new services from their budgets after the seed funding ended. Four out of six new target locations since 2017 already committed continuous funding from local budgets to sustain the services as of January 2019, and in the other two this is still under discussion.

In close collaboration with the RS Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MoLSP), UNICEF supported a cost analysis of two selected social services: day care services for children with disabilities and family counselling services. The costing analysis included a mapping of best practices from countries in the region, as well as existing practices in BiH, both in the public and non-governmental sectors. It provided a framework and guidance on standards and costing options, that will be used to guide further policy discussions as part of the development of a new Law on Social Services in FBiH and possible Social Protection Law revisions in RS.

UNICEF BiH continued policy discussions with the FBiH MoLSP about poverty and the social assistance targeting modalities, including the definition of the monetary, social security minimum for FBiH. The initial three scenarios developed in 2017 were further elaborated and fiscal projections made based on different variables and eligibility criteria, including families with children. These costing options will inform the finalisation and adoption of the Law on Social Protection in FBiH in 2019.

- **Tajikistan:** The Country Office launched a new partnership with the Government on humanitarian cash transfers. Tajikistan—being a country prone to natural disasters often affecting already vulnerable populations—will focus on investing in the national social protection system and piggyback on the existing TSA programme to provide cash to the affected population. Through South-South cooperation facilitated by UNICEF, 10 concerned national stakeholders could enhance their understanding and capacity in humanitarian cash transfer programming in Nepal, which would result in the Government's agreement to pilot a new humanitarian cash transfer programme in 2019.
- **North Macedonia:** With poverty still impacting close to 30% of children in the country, and a Gini coefficient of 32.5 percent signalling substantial inequality, there is a need for urgent action to support the right of all children to an equitable start in life. UNICEF has worked closely with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and other partners (such as the World Bank and UNDP) on a comprehensive reform of the country's social protection system. Most particularly, a new law on



Social Protection has been developed and is expected to enter into force in early 2019. Once the reform is fully completed, it is expected that more than 60,000 children (a nearly 20-fold increase) will benefit from poverty-targeted child grants and enhanced, quality social services. Preliminary analysis suggests that the reform will make a marked contribution in the fight against poverty in the country, and particularly child poverty.

To support the full operationalisation of the new social protection system, UNICEF will continue to engage with Government to develop and adopt protocols for the implementation of cash benefits for children, and implement 'case management' in CSWs. The 30 CSWs are the country's main social protection hubs that administer all cash benefit schemes, deliver social support and care services, such as psycho-social support, and are responsible for the administration of foster care. Currently, the social welfare workforce operates on outdated procedures that are overburdened with administration and allow for very limited outreach work.

To support the overall reform of the social protection system, UNICEF commissioned an assessment on how to improve the performance of the social work profession in the country using behavioural insights. The assessment identified five motivational barriers relevant for professionals in the sector: a heavy burden of administration; invisibility of social outcomes; low salaries and little chance of progression; inadequate working conditions; and lack of discretion and rule-based culture. Specific recommendations, based on behavioural insights, were then provided for review and incorporation by the government.

UNICEF has also partnered with US-based Columbia University and developed a module to introduce case management in the country which will be introduced gradually in the next two years, expected to greatly enhance the capacity of CSW and their teams to more effectively and holistically support their clients – children and families at risk. In 2018, UNICEF worked with partners in government and civil society and made sure that every social welfare professional in the country is trained and equipped with tools to effectively manage cases involving children and families at risk.

## **2. Public Finance for Children (PF4C)**

Leveraging domestic resources in particular public budgets for children is a core role for UNICEF in the region and one in which there has been significant effort over the past years. Based on the stocktake of country office engagement in Public Finance for Children (PF4C), the region developed a strategic note to deepen engagement on PF4C based on the lessons learned and to build on new opportunities from the SDG targets related to means of implementation; the CRC General Comment on Public Budgets for Children, and other opportunities within the region.

Poverty and deprivation facing children relates to access to services, and the cost of those services for poor families, whether it is the out of pocket costs of healthcare, parental contributions for preschool education or for specialized services for children with disabilities. To start to change this and increase access for poor families, UNICEF is increasingly working with governments on the financing of these services.

In 2018, ECARO worked with country offices and with colleagues in the Regional Office to support leveraging of resources towards policies and services for the poorest children. We have supported 6 country offices to analyse budgets in health, education and social/child protection. Some of the findings, that are now being discussed with governments, include:

**In Armenia** there are many inefficiencies at primary and secondary levels, while many young children cannot access pre-school because of lack of funding.

**In Macedonia**, the country now has one of the lowest levels of public health investment, and the cost of healthcare for children is a deterrent for some parents to access healthcare. As public health spending on children has fallen, infant and child mortality has risen.

UNICEF ECARO has provided technical advice and support to **Georgia, Turkmenistan, and Armenia** to leverage resources for pre-school education through costing and cost benefit analyses. We have developed guidance notes to roll out sector public finance analysis, and in the case of child protection to support the public finance component of deinstitutionalization, to other country offices.

### **3. Realizing child rights at local level**

The Regional Office produced a multi-country study of decentralisation in the region, focusing on one area which is frequently placed under the responsibility of local governments: Early Childhood Education. The study undertook detailed research around the functions, capacities, fiscal frameworks, and monitoring of service provision and service quality in four countries in the region.

Regional thematic funding is a flexible mechanism for funding social policy interventions in the Europe and Central Asia region. The pooled thematic funding provides a critical foundation that allows UNICEF to deliver on its key commitments to children. It allows the UNICEF Regional Office to perform its core roles, including evidence generation, convening and coordinating, capacity building and advocacy. These functions are catalytic for creating change for children at the policy level. Thematic funding accounts for the vast majority of resources available to the Regional Social Policy section and thus results achieved above would not have happened without this critical funding stream.

### Results Assessment Framework

This section reviews the progress made against the Regional Office targets set in the Regional Office Management Plan 2018-2021, covering the areas of social protection, child poverty and social inclusion of vulnerable groups.

ECA Planned Results 2018-2021	Key Strategies	Key Performance Indicators			Progress to end 2018
		Indicators	Baseline	Targets	
Governments provide access to children and their families to adequate cash services to ensure minimum standard of living, and where possible, reduce child poverty.	RO will support COs to generate evidence on impact, design alternative policy and programme options, engage in advocacy and dialogue with Governments on reforms, and facilitate peer-to-peer learning	Number of COs supported to have activities that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>enable Governments to have beneficiaries of cash transfers linked to other programs, information and services</li> <li>enable Governments to increase the inclusion of excluded children into social protection</li> <li>support Governments to have legislation bylaws and regulation on cash transfers and/or family benefits</li> <li>have data and evidence on how social protection systems are responding to child poverty and deprivations (health, education, nutrition etc.)</li> </ul>	3  0  7  0	8  5  11  6	Support to Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Kazakhstan on integrated social protection systems.  Support to Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and North Macedonia resulted in Kazakhstan and North Macedonia already taking policy decisions to expand coverage.  Supported Montenegro, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Albania on data gathering, analysis and evaluations.
Governments progressively improve the adequacy, efficiency, effectiveness, and equity of public spending for children	RO will support COs to develop sector and macro analyses of public spending for children, enhance regional lesson learning and sharing, and promote innovative means to enhance citizen participation for greater accountability of public spending for children at sub national level.	Number of COs supported to have activities that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>generate evidence on budgets and their linkages to child outcomes to improve budget allocations / expenditures for children</li> <li>support citizen empowerment to participate in sub national budget process to improve budget transparency and accountability</li> </ul>	1  2	21  5	Tools were developed to support improved PF4C integration within country programmes throughout the region, and support and mentoring was given to six country offices to produce high quality budget analyses with recommendations for governments in six countries, together with policy influencing strategies based on the analyses.  An initial mapping was carried out and work with ADAP team was completed, offering direct support country offices on mechanisms for engagement

<p>Gov'ts regularly measure and monitor child poverty, and use this to inform policy and programmes.</p>	<p>RO will support country offices to dialogue on appropriate measures of child poverty, build regional partnerships for networking on child poverty and advocacy, removing financial barriers for child care/promoting parental leave policies and conduct policy analysis to identify effective policy responses.</p>	<p>Number of COs supported to have activities that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Governments to develop national measures of child poverty using multidimensional measures</li> <li>• Support Governments to develop national measures of child poverty using monetary measures</li> <li>• Undertake advocacy shaped by child poverty analysis</li> </ul>	<p>2 2 0</p>	<p>6 9 6</p>	<p>Support given to Montenegro to publicise child poverty results.</p> <p>Country Office entry points were mapped and UNECE Task Force submission completed.</p> <p>The Child Poverty report was completed, translated, and published on the website.</p>
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## G. Financial Analysis

The Regional Office created the UNICEF ECA Regional Thematic Funding for Social Inclusion (RTF-SI) as a pool of funds categorized as Other Resources (OR), soft-earmarked to support the achievement of the UNICEF Strategic Plan Outcome Area 7 (Social Inclusion), in the ECA region. The UNICEF Regional Office for ECA manages the funding and, in consultation with Country Offices, determines which country programmes within the region will receive funding. The Regional Office also implements directly small shares of these funds. Allocation of the RTF-SI is decided by the UNICEF Regional Director, upon recommendation by the Regional Social and Economic Policy Advisor in consultation with other colleagues and UNICEF offices in the region.

Any donor (public or private) that wishes to support work related to Social Inclusion in Europe and Central Asia can contribute to the fund. Funds are pooled together with other contributions for the same theme. Instead of tracking expenditures by individual donor or project, consolidated expenditure is tracked for the pool. All donors to the pool receive an annual regional narrative result-oriented report, prepared by the Regional Office, and focused on results for children made possible with contributions from the partners. UNICEF also encourages an inclusive follow-up process where partners have a chance to provide feedback. The discussion focuses on moving forward the agenda of social inclusion in the region, bottlenecks and challenges and priorities for action based on experience and evidence. A cumulative consolidated annual certified financial statement per pool is provided to all contributors. The statement shows all contributions by donor and expenditures by country.

**Table 1: 2018 Planned budget by Thematic Sector**  
Thematic Sector 8: Social Protection, Inclusion and Governance  
Europe and Central Asia Region  
Planned and Funded for 2018 (in US Dollar)

Intermediate Results	Funding Type <sup>1</sup>	Planned Budget <sup>2</sup>
Child Poverty, Public finance for children and Social Protection	RR	10,000
	ORR	183,666
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>193,666</b>

<sup>1</sup> RR: Regular Resources, ORR: Other Resources - Regular

<sup>2</sup> Planned budget for ORR does not include estimated recovery cost (only programmable amounts).

**Table 2: Thematic contributions received for Thematic Pool 8 by UNICEF ECAR in 2018 (in US Dollars)**  
Thematic Pool 8: Social Protection, Inclusion and Governance

Donors	Grant Number	Contribution Amount	Programmable Amount
German Committee for UNICEF / TELEKOM	SC1499070012	197,368	83,666
<b>Total</b>		<b>197,368</b>	<b>83,666</b>

N.B. Total contribution received in 2015 for the period to 31.12.2018 was USD 197,368. The amount remaining to be used in 2018 was USD 83,666

**Table 3: Expenditures in the Thematic Sector**  
 Thematic Sector 8: Social Protection, Inclusion and Governance  
 Europe and Central Asia  
 2018 Expenditures by Key-Results Areas (in US Dollars)

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount*			
	Other Resources - Emergency	Other Resources - Regular	Regular Resources	All Programme Accounts
25-01 Child poverty analysis towards policy change / PF4C: Improving public expenditure effectiveness / efficiency	39,209	18,771	3,851	61,831
25-02 Cash Transfers: Technical support to government cash transfer system development and expansion / Linking cash to other programs, information and services / Technical assistance - Social protection	355,258	52,883	n/a	408,141
<b>Total</b>	<b>394,467</b>	<b>71,654</b>	<b>3,851</b>	<b>469,972</b>

**Table 4: Thematic expenses by results area**

Fund Category	All Programme Accounts	<input type="button" value="v"/>
Year	2018	<input type="button" value="v"/>
Business Area	ECARO, Switzerland - 575R	<input type="button" value="v"/>
Prorated Goal Area	25 Equitable Chance in Life	<input type="button" value="v"/>
Donor Class Level2	Thematic	<input type="button" value="v"/>
<b>Row Labels</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
Other Resources - Emergency	109,102	
25-01 Child Poverty / Public finance for children	38,986	
25-03 Adolescent empowerment	50,525	
25-04 Gender discriminatory roles and practices	19,592	
Other Resources - Regular	262,291	
25-01 Child Poverty / Public finance for children	17,863	
25-02 Social Protection	49,942	
25-03 Adolescent empowerment	160,420	
25-04 Gender discriminatory roles and practices	34,065	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>371,393</b>	

Table 5: Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes

Fund Category	All Programme Accounts	▼
Year	2018	▼
Business Area	ECARO, Switzerland - 575R	▼
Prorated Goal Area	25 Equitable Chance in Life	▼
Fund Sub-Category	(Multiple Items)	▼
Row Labels	▼ Expense	
25-01-02 Child poverty analysis towards policy change (Profiling, mapping and identifying drivers of multi-dimensional and monetary poverty of children, modeling and simulation of policy options)	52,539	
25-01-06 PF4C: Improving public expenditure effectiveness / efficiency	700	
25-02-01 Cash Transfers: Technical support to government cash transfer system development and expansion (design, targeting, beneficiary selection, grievance mechanism, cash delivery mechanisms like	15,945	
25-02-05 Linking cash to other programs, information and services (information on essential family practices, livelihoods, psycho-social support, etc.)	134,209	
25-02-99 Technical assistance - Social protection	22,429	

## H. Future Work Plan

### *Social Protection & Child Poverty*

The region will continue to facilitate a programmatic environment in the region that progressively enables all children and their family or carer, with priority to those marginalized because of gender, geographic location, ethnicity, poverty and disability, to access an adequate package of cash benefits and social support services. UNICEF will step up advocacy and dialogue on social protection for children with partners and governments on the basis of evidence generated at the regional level, and detailed analyses undertaken at country level. With the launch of the global guidance on child poverty measurement, regional guidance on poverty measurement, and publication of a report on measurement and monitoring of child poverty in the region there will greater emphasis on advocating with governments to measure and monitor child poverty, and to use information on child poverty to formulate and implement policies to address it. In addition several countries in the region are undertaking Multiple Cluster Indicator Surveys which provide an opportunity for additional analysis on multi-dimensional child poverty. UNICEF in the region continues to participate in the UN's Regional Working Group on Social Protection along with ILO, UNDP and WHO.

### *Public Finance for Children*

The region will continue to build on the work of 2018, several other countries are planning budget analysis and several of those that commenced in 2018 are now moving on to support governments to address the issues identified in the briefs.

Two other pieces of analysis: on decentralized ECD including financing, and on financial options for childcare, are expected to be published in 2019.

**Table 6: Thematic Pool Area 8**  
Social Protection, Inclusion and Governance  
Europe and Central Asia

Planned Budget and Available Resources for 2019

Intermediate Result	Funding Type	Planned Budget <sup>1</sup>	Funded Budget <sup>1</sup>	Shortfall <sup>2</sup>
Child Poverty, Public finance for children and Social Protection	RR	175,909	80,000	95,909
	ORR	248,402	125,402	123,000
<b>Total for 2019</b>		<b>424,311</b>	<b>205,402</b>	<b>218,909</b>

<sup>1</sup> Planned and Funded budget for ORR (and ORE, if applicable) excludes recovery cost.

<sup>2</sup> Other Resources shortfall represents ORR funding required for the achievements of results in 2019.

## H. Expression of Thanks

UNICEF is grateful to Deutsche Telekom, the UNICEF National Committee for Germany, and other donors to Social Inclusion for their continued support and commitment to promoting social inclusion and equity for all children in the ECA region, particularly the most vulnerable.



## Report Feedback Form

UNICEF is working to improve the quality of our reports and would highly appreciate your feedback. Kindly answer the questions below for the above-mentioned report. Thank you!

Please return the completed form back to UNICEF by email to:

Name:

Email:

\*\*\*

**SCORING:** 5 indicates “highest level of satisfaction” while  
0 indicates “complete dissatisfaction”

1. To what extent did the narrative content of the report conform to your reporting expectations? (For example, the overall analysis and identification of challenges and solutions)

<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we missed or what we could do better next time?

1. To what extent did the fund utilization part of the report meet your reporting expectations?

<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we missed or what we could do better next time?

**SCORING:** 5 indicates “highest level of satisfaction” while  
0 indicates “complete dissatisfaction”

2. To what extent does the report meet your expectations in regard to the analysis provided, including identification of difficulties and shortcomings as well as remedies to these?

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we could do better next time?

3. To what extent does the report meet your expectations with regard to reporting on results?

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we missed or what we could do better next time?

4. Please provide us with your suggestions on how this report could be improved to meet your expectations.

5. Are there any other comments that you would like to share with us?

**Thank you for filling this form!**