

Mali

Social Inclusion and Swedish Thematic Fund Report

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for every child

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ANAM:	National Agency for Medical Assistance
CPD:	Country Programme Document
COPIL:	Steering Committee for the Single Registry
COTECH:	Technical Committee for the Single Registry
CREDD:	Strategic Framework for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development (Cadre stratégique pour la relance économique et le développement durable)
CT-CSLP:	Technical Unit in charge of the Poverty Reduction Strategic Framework
DNPSES:	National Direction in charge of social protection (within the MSAH)
EMOP:	Mali Household Survey (Enquête Modulaire et Permanente auprès des Ménages)
FGM:	Female Genital Mutilation
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product
GNI:	Gross National Income
GoM:	Government of Mali
ILO :	International Labour Office
INFTS:	National Training Institute for Social Workers
INSTAT :	National Statistics Institute
IPC:	Poverty index at commune level (Indice de Pauvreté des Communes)
LMD :	Bachelor, Masters and Doctorate degrees (Licence Maîtrise Doctorat)
MICS:	Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey
MODA:	Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis
MSAH :	Ministry of Solidarity and Humanitarian Action (Ministère de la Solidarité et de l'Action Humanitaire)
NGO :	Non-Governmental Organization
ODHD-LP:	Sustainable Human Development and Poverty Reduction Observatory
OECD:	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OR :	Other resources
PDESC :	Local development plan (Plan de Développement Economique, Social et Culturel)
PER :	Public Expenditure Review
RAMED:	Free health care scheme (régime d' assistance médicale)
RR :	Regular resources
RSU :	Single registry for protection beneficiaries
SMART:	Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition
SDG:	Sustainable Development Goals
SK:	Swedish Kroner
TFP:	Technical and financial partners
UNDAF:	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNICEF:	United Nations Children's Fund
USD:	United States Dollar
WASH:	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WCARO:	West and Central Africa Regional Office for UNICEF

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a detailed elaboration of the results achieved under the component Social Inclusion of UNICEF Mali in 2018. It highlights the contribution of Swedish Thematic funding and the partnerships that allowed UNICEF to achieve the results. We thank the Government of Sweden for its funding and look forward to working together in 2020 to achieve even better results for the women and children of Mali.

The results are presented for the two outputs of the Social Inclusion outcome, which are related to child poverty and public finance, and social protection respectively.

Social inclusion falls under the fifth goal area in the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018 to 2021: Every child has an equitable chance in life. Every child has the right to fulfil his or her potential. The aim of this goal area is to support global efforts to reduce child poverty and discrimination against children through improved policy environments and systems for disadvantaged children. At a global level, UNICEF Mali's social inclusion programme is guided by the UNICEF Strategic Plan (2014 to 2017). At country level, the social inclusion programme was guided by the UNICEF Mali Country Programme (2015-2019) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF 2015-2019). The social inclusion programme was also guided by the Government of Mali (GoM) national economic blueprint, the CREDD.

Social inclusion programming activities facilitate the mainstreaming of the equity agenda, strategic policy advocacy, as well as budgeting for children and partnerships. Successful social inclusion results would allow the most deprived and excluded children and families to access opportunities and resources necessary to realize their rights and full potential, without discrimination based on disability, gender, socio-economic status, or other factors.

UNICEF Mali was able to achieve several results in 2018 under the social inclusion outcome, including:

Mainstreaming of child in Government policies and national plans: 2018 marked the last year of implementation of the strategic framework for economic recovery and sustainable development (CREDD 2016–2018), but also the preparation for the new CREDD 2019–2023. UNICEF took advantage of this opportunity and conducted a situation analysis of Malian children with the specific aim of directly influencing the direction of the CREDD 2019–2023 and ensuring that children's issues are visible. The draft CREDD document fully integrates issues related to children deprivations (nutrition, education, health and poverty) in its diagnostics and its results matrix, which are expected to be reflected in the priorities for the next five years. Additionally, numerous high-level advocacy efforts led by UNICEF with partners (EU Delegation, World Bank, other United Nations agencies) were undertaken to ensure children and young people are at the centre of Government policies and national plans.

Routine monitoring of child poverty: Monetary child poverty was estimated retroactively since 2015, using the yearly household survey data. Since 2018, Mali is also able to track child monetary poverty on a yearly basis through its household survey (EMOP). UNICEF efforts led to retroactive calculation of child monetary poverty from 2015–2017 and as a result, the Government institutionalized collection of the indicators through this annual survey, conducted by its Central Statistical Office (INSTAT).

Noticeable efforts on the 2030 agenda: Following the mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support (MAPS) mission and the prioritization exercise for SDG targets conducted in 2017, Mali volunteered to present a national report on implementation of the SDGs at the United Nations High-

Level Panel in July. With UNICEF's support, the Government elaborated its baseline status report on SDGs, using reference values for indicators on child monetary poverty (SDG 1.2.1) from the EMOP and child multidimensional poverty (for SDG 1.2.2). Baseline values were also provided for all SDGs, except for SDG 14 (on preservation of seas and oceans). At the sub-national level, local development plans in 22 per cent of communes have an increased focus on programmes and strategies aimed at increasing children's access to basic social services, as well as child deprivation indicators.

Enhanced Social protection coverage for vulnerable families: A total of 67,867 households covering 393,629 children benefited from the national safety nets programme compared to 60,715 households covering 352,147 children in 2017. The 2017 interim evaluation of the *jigisemejiri*, the national safety nets programme, showed no results for nutrition outcomes in children, despite noticeable improvements in overall household wellbeing. As a result, *jigisemejiri* was enhanced with, a nutritional preventive package. The number of children having benefited from health care free of charge under the Regime assistance Medicale (RAMED) also increased sharply and stood at 20,538, including 15,289 children in Mopti and Sikasso, the two regions where this programme is supported by UNICEF.

UNICEF Mali also placed a strong emphasis on *youth engagement and innovation*. In this regard youth participation has been strengthened through the "U-Report" online survey platform for 50,000 children, giving them an opportunity to express their views on issues that concern them: child marriage, child labor, begging, hygiene, nutrition, etc

As the sole donor for the social inclusion programme, the Swedis Thematic Fund is highly appreciated. This support has been used to support major activities such as the child poverty and budget analyses (including the fees of the consultant who trained the national team and the cost of various workshops), the revision of local development plans to mainstream children, setting up of village committees to identify indigent in new districts that will benefit from the free health scheme and strengthening information system in the social protection sector. The execution rate of the Sweden Thematic is very high (98%).

STRATEGIC CONTEXT OF 2018

Despite a projected 5.0 per cent growth in GDP for 2018 and a forecast 4.9 per cent for 2019, economic growth has generally not been inclusive over the past few years. Furthermore, increased military spending has further reduced resources for social sectors. Military spending has risen from less than 1 per cent in 2011 to 3 per cent of GDP in 2018, in other words an increase from 4.2 per cent to 11.8 per cent of public expenditure for the same period and a further 8.7 per cent annual grow rate is projected for the coming years. Human development remains low, with the country ranking 182 out of 189 countries and territories on the 2017 Human Development Index (HDI). Poverty continue to be widespread, with 44.5% of households living below the national poverty line. Furthermore, the security situation has deteriorated, pushing Mali to rank 18th most insecure country out of 191 according to the Risk Management Index (INFORM). Indeed, six years after armed conflict broke out in northern Mali, and despite some significant progress since the signing of the Algiers Peace Agreement in 2015, the country experienced a rapidly deteriorating security situation, particularly in the Center and border areas with Niger and Burkina, as well as a series of severe humanitarian crises. Protracted conflict and displacement, adverse weather conditions, commodity price fluctuations, a food and nutritional crisis, and political tensions are among the major challenges the country faced and that affected children and women.

2018 was a critical year for the Government of Mali as major strategic documents were due for revision, including: The Strategic Framework for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development (CREDD), the Action Plan for Social Protection Policy, the Health and Social Development programme (PRODESS), the ten-year Education Programme (PRODEC II) and the ten-year plan for the empowerment of children, women and families 2020–2029. Therefore, 2018 provided a window of opportunity to comprehensively examine the strategic frameworks, sectoral programmes and action plans, and align their respective visions with government priorities for achieving the SDGs.

UNICEF's contribution to the outcome social inclusion in 2018 are reported in this report following the reformulation of the outputs which was recommended during the mid-term review of the CPD that took place in 2017. The rationale for this reformulation was twofold: (i) to align the outputs with UNICEF's new strategic plan, national development priorities and the Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs); and (ii) to follow a results-based approach with a theory of change, whereby there is a clear logical flow between activities, outputs and the outcome. As a result, the three outputs were reorganized in two outputs:

- Output 1: By end of 2019, the coordinating bodies of CREDD and the SDGs and related structures have the capacity to use analyses on Child multidimensional poverty and on child-sensitive budgeting in their planning
- Output 2: By end of 2019, the national and regional coordination bodies of social protection programs have the skills and resources to ensure the care of poor children and those living with a disability through the various social safety nets (health, education, nutrition)

Interventions to achieve the first output have been centered around child vulnerability and budget analyses to inform policy development, while strengthening the capacity of institutions in charge of poverty reduction and national development planning at national and subnational levels, within the context of the broader development agendas (the SDGs and agenda 2063 for Africa).

Similarly, the interventions realized under the second output will aim at reinforcing the capacities of the institutions in charge of coordinating social protection at national and at subnational levels, while supporting specific social protection programmes

RESULTS IN THE OUTCOME AREA

Achievements recorded in the social inclusion outcome area contributed to supporting the government to ensure that national and sub-national social policies are more inclusive and equitable, promoting the resilience of families and vulnerable communities. Major achievements include: mainstreaming of child in Government policies and national plans, routine monitoring of child poverty, noticeable efforts on the 2030 agenda and enhanced social protection coverage for vulnerable families.

In 2018, the Government of Mali produced a child-sensitive draft of its national strategic framework CREDD II, incorporated child monetary and multidimensional poverty in its routine data collection and analysis infrastructure and in CREDD II. GoM achieved a milestone in producing a child multidimensional poverty analysis, with UNICEF assistance. UNICEF helped foster ownership and appropriation of this exercise, primarily through training of a new cross-sectoral team of government technical experts who now have the skills to produce regular updates of this analysis.

The process and the analysis were critical in ensuring the visibility of children in the new CREDD document; and the enhanced local capacity of technical experts will facilitate more effective monitoring of implementation of other critical social policies.

Under UNICEF's lead, the Government pioneered its first multi-sectoral national dialogue on a social protection floor with the intention to integrate it in its strategies to meet the demands of the 2030 Agenda (SDG target 1.2.3) and commitments for the National Social Protection Policy. UNICEF created the platform and partnerships for this milestone to take place, through its regular work and support to the social protection sector.

Output 7.1: By the end of 2019, the CREDD and ODD coordination bodies and related structures have the capacity to use analyses on child multi-dimensional poverty and on child-sensitive budgeting in their planning.

The major achievement under this output is the mainstreaming of child deprivation into the new strategic framework for economic recovery and sustainable development (CREDD 2019–23). Furthermore, child monetary poverty is now estimated annually from the yearly household survey data (EMOP). Thanks to UNICEF support, SDG target 1.2.2 is now being monitored by the Government through a nationally-owned child poverty measure.

The preliminary estimates of the multiple overlapping deprivation analysis (MODA) were refined; confirming that 55.8 per cent of children in Mali are deprived in at least three dimensions (MICS 2015 data for 2017). UNICEF advocated for regular monitoring of child monetary poverty using annual household survey data (EMOP). Subsequently, the child monetary poverty rate was computed for 2015 (50.2 per cent), 2016 (50.0 per cent) and 2017 (47.5 per cent). Both child monetary poverty and child multidimensional poverty rates are among the priority SDG indicators and were included in the 2018 baseline SDG report for Mali. The report, which was elaborated with technical and financial support from UNICEF, provides baseline values for more than 90 SDG indicators, spanning 16 of the 17 SDGs, with data disaggregation to the commune level, the lowest geographic administrative level.

The Government continued to benefit from UNICEF's technical and financial assistance for SDG agenda implementation. Specifically, UNICEF supported the Government to present its first Voluntary National Report at the United Nations High-Level Panel in July 2018. The preparation of this event was preceded by an extensive SDG campaign, which included a survey on Malians' understanding of the SDGs, human-interest stories from different regions of the country (written by child journalists trained by UNICEF), and awareness raising activities performed by 1,260 youths supported by UNICEF.

In 2018, UNICEF supported the Government in development planning at sub-national level; local authorities and technical counterparts at regional level benefitted from UNICEF technical and financial assistance to include programmes and strategies aimed at increasing children's access to basic social services in the revised plans, as well as child deprivation indicators. As a result, the socio-economic and cultural development plans (PDSEC) were reviewed for 152 communes (out of the 703 communes in Mali), including 149 rural communes and 3 urban communes.

Financial resource allocations to the social sectors remain a concern. As well as the inadequate levels of expenditure, efficiency of public expenditure in social sectors is a concern. For example, the education sector received 17 per cent of the national budget in 2017 and 2018, yet the education system fails to keep children in school. For every 100 children admitted to a representative school in Year 1, only 8 would be promoted each year and graduate without losing any time. Health sector

expenditures are even more discouraging, with only 5.3 per cent allocated in 2018, compared with 7.1 per cent in 2017 (89.7 per cent executed) and 5.6 per cent in 2016. These percentages fall far below the recommended allocations, which stand at 20 per cent for education (Global Partnership for Education) and 15 per cent for health (Abuja Declaration). Equity is also an issue for public expenditure in social sectors. For instance, while social protection expenditure in Mali was assessed at 5.1 per cent of GDP in 2016, safety nets account for only 0.6 per cent of GDP, about one-tenth of the total expenditure in the sector. Most expenditure was related to social insurance and general subsidies, which primarily benefit the economically better-off. Social protection expenditures that benefit mostly children account for only 0.3 per cent of GDP or USD 42.3 million USD. Almost half of Mali's population is comprised of children below 15 years of age. If the Government of Mali were to adopt a universal child and orphan benefit scheme, it would cost an estimated 2.2 per cent of GDP (International Labour Organization, 2017), equivalent to 328 million USD per year. The financial gap therefore remains significant and is estimated to exceed 285 million USD per year.

Output 7.2: By the end of 2019, coordination bodies of social protection programmes at national and subnational levels have the skills and resources to take care of the poorest children and those living with disability, through various safety social nets (health, education, nutrition)

Under this output, UNICEF continued its focus on strengthening national capacities to allow the Government of Mali to be able to deliver social protection to vulnerable families. UNICEF support was articulated around expanding access to free health care to the poorest children and setting up a single registry for social protection beneficiaries.

In 2018 social protection coverage for vulnerable families was enhanced, with 67,867 households benefiting from *Jigisemejiri*, the largest and most critical social safety net programme at the beginning of the year, compared to 60,715 households at the beginning of 2017, an increase of 12 per cent). This equates to 393,629 children reached at the beginning of 2018, compared with 352,147 children at the beginning of 2017.

UNICEF's consistent advocacy and technical support resulted in reinforcement of *Jigisemejiri*. However, the 2017 interim evaluation of *Jigisemejiri* (in which UNICEF participated) showed no results for nutrition outcomes in children, in spite of improvements in overall household wellbeing. As a result, *Jigisemejiri* was enhanced in 2018 with a nutritional preventive package to ensure all households with children under five receive nutritional support in addition to a cash transfer. The 2018 mapping of cash transfer programmes in Mali revealed that 361,696 households had benefited from an average amount of US\$ 300 in 2017, funded primarily by development partners, but also by Government. The total amount disbursed through cash transfers in Mali is divided across three purposes as follows: development (58 per cent), emergency (29 per cent) and resilience (13 per cent).

The number of children that benefitted from free health care under the RAMEd increased sharply and stood at 20,538 in 2018 compared with only 3,376 in 2017). This included 15,289 children in Mopti and Sikasso, the two regions where this programme is supported by UNICEF since its inception. This result has been made possible through intensification of interventions in Mopti and Sikasso, as well as activities such as setting up of village committees and social surveys to identify future beneficiaries. In 2018, UNICEF supported the RAMEd programme in another region, Kayes.

The pilot phase of the single registry for social protection beneficiaries was launched, with data on 2,000 beneficiaries of both *Jigisemejiri* and the RAMEd. UNICEF is supporting establishment of the single registry by providing the technical team with adequate material (servers, data connections) and by training and actively supporting the technical and steering committees.

The Government of Mali has launched a process for defining and establishing the social protection floor in Mali across its functions and programmes. Under UNICEF's leadership, the Government of Mali pioneered its first multi-sectoral national dialogue on the social protection floor with the intention to integrate it in its strategies to meet the demands of the 2030 Agenda (SDG target 1.2.3) and commitments for the National Social Protection Policy. UNICEF created the platform and partnerships for this milestone achievement.

The national dialogue on the social protection floor was officially launched (4th Edition of the National Conference on Social Protection: Operationalization of a social protection floor in Mali) with an aim to enhance implementation of both the SDG agenda (target 1.2.3) and the National Social Protection Policy (NSPP). To disseminate the NSPP widely among the population, messages, including how the most vulnerable can access social protection, were broadcast on 30 local radio stations.

The year concluded without major progress in elaborating the next action plan for the implementation of the NSPP, even though the current plan is expiring. Furthermore, the expiring action plan has not been evaluated and social protection interventions in Mali are still not coordinated with humanitarian interventions, despite being managed within the same ministry.

UNICEF contributed to the results achieved under the social inclusion outcome through strategies such as capacity building (a multidisciplinary national technical team was trained to conduct child poverty analysis, both monetary and multidimensional), evidence generation (UNICEF supported the national observatory on sustainable development to produce the baseline report on SDGs), and advocacy (resulting in child deprivations being included in the CREDD diagnosis and strategy reports, launch of the social protection floor dialogue, and inclusion of nutrition prevention package in the *jigisemejiri* social safety net). In addition, local authorities and technical counterparts at regional level benefited from UNICEF technical and financial assistance to revise local development plans to include an increased focus on children's access to basic social services and child deprivation indicators.

UNICEF's contribution to the outcome was achieved through key partnerships, mainly with the Government of Mali, but also with other development partners such as the World Bank, WFP and FAO for social protection. UNICEF also collaborated with a national NGO, Groupe de Suivi Budgétaire to analyze the 2019 Budget Law with a focus on allocations to the social sector.

Despite some progress, several constraints remain, which hindered achievement of the outcome. First, A deteriorating security situation, increased military spending and the Government's inability to collect revenues (particularly customs revenues at border crossings in the insecure areas) have had a major impact on liquidity in 2018. Consequently, the 2019 budget allocation growth projection for the social sector is negative. Secondly, data collection/analysis and subsequent needs assessments still lack a gender perspective. As a result, child needs and priorities, whilst taken into account in the CREDD, are not subjected to a rigorous gender analysis. Furthermore, child poverty and SDG data are not currently disaggregated by gender.

Results assessment framework

The results reported above are summarized in a simplified results assessment matrix, which takes into account the outcome and output indicators, with their baseline, target values as well as a record of progress.

Table 1: Results assessment matrix by output, 2018.

Outcome/Output indicator	Baseline (2017)	Target value (2018)	Progress
Outcome: By the end of 2019, the CREDD and ODD coordination bodies and related structures have the capacity to use analyses on child multi-dimensional poverty and on child-sensitive budgeting in their planning.			
Number of child poverty analyses based on the most recent survey data	0	>=2	The final report of the child poverty analysis using MICS 2015 data has been published in 2018. The report of the study on poverty at commune level (IPC 2017) is published. The baseline report for the SDGs indicators is published.
A national social protection framework is developed, adopted and budgeted by the Government of Mali	No	Yes	The national social Protection policy was validated and disseminated in the 10 regions of Mali (plus the district of Bamako). Key messages of the national social protection policy were disseminated to a large public in the 10 regions.
Output 1: By the end of 2019, the CREDD and ODD coordination bodies and related structures have the capacity to use analyses on child multi-dimensional poverty and on child-sensitive budgeting in their planning			
National government measurement of child poverty using multidimensional measures	No	Yes	According to the child poverty report published by Government of Mali in 2018, 55.6% of children were suffering deprivations in at least three dimensions simultaneously in 2015.
National government measurement of child poverty using monetary measures	No	Yes	Using EMOP data, the child monetary poverty rate was computed for 2015 (50.2 per cent), 2016 (50.0 per cent) and 2017 (47.5 per cent). It is reported in national baseline SDG report
Share of the national budget on education	17%	17%	The allocation of 17% of national budget to education sector was actually met (17.1%)
Share of the national budget on health	6%	6%	The national budget law allocated 6% to health sector in 2017. However only 5.3% was actually disbursed to the sector.
Output 2: By the end of 2019, coordination bodies of social protection programmes at national and subnational levels have the skills and resources to take care of the poorest children and those living with disability, through various safety social nets (health, education, nutrition)			
Existence of valid national social protection strategy and/or policy	Yes	Yes	The policy document is still valid. However, its action plan came to expiration on 31/12/2018 and needs to be evaluated. A new action plan also needs to be designed.
Beneficiaries of cash transfers are linked	No	Yes	Beneficiaries of the national safety nets programme jigsawemejiri are provided with

with other programs information and services			information on the RAMED and HMOs
Number of poorest families who have become member of a health mutual organization (HMO)	0	500	2176 poorest families have become member of a HMO, as a result of linking jigisemejiri to other social programmes (using the cash transfer to pay for the premium)
Number of indigent households who have used health services at least once during the year	6461	19 488	9 273, which is 47.58% of the target

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Swedish Thematic Fund is highly valued by the Social Inclusion, since Sweden is the only partner to fund the outcome area in the CPD 2015-19 in addition to UNICEF regular resources (RR).

Resources received under the STF allowed to ensure continuity in activities initiated in the previous year, as well as to initiate new activities that all contribute to achieve the results under each output. More specifically, following production of evidence such as the coupling of the EMOP and the SMART surveys or the survey on poverty at commune level with a poverty index analysis (IPC) that were funded in 2017, funding under output 1 was dedicated to undertake the child poverty and budget analyses (including the fees of the consultant who trained the national team and the cost of various workshops) and to support the process of revising local development plans to mainstream children. Meanwhile thematic fund allocated to Output 2 mostly financed identification of more indigent in new districts (in Mopti and Sikasso) and in Kayes with a focus on the delivery of receipts to beneficiaries, as well as strengthening information system in the social protection sector.

The budget was 98% executed in 2018. Table 2 summarizes planned budget for Social Inclusion program in 2018, by output, while Table 3 reports the actual funds utilization.

Table 2: Planned budget by outcome area 2018 (in US dollar)

Intermediate Result	Funding Type	Planned Budget ¹	Funded Budget ¹	Shortfall ²
OUTPUT 1 [CHILD POVERTY AND PF4C]	RR	300,000	300,000	0
	ORR	325,000	235,000	90,000
OUTPUT 2 [SOCIAL PROTECTION]	RR	200,000	200,000	0
	ORR	335000	160,000	175,000
Sub-total Regular Resources	RR	500,000	500,000	0
Sub-total Other Resources - Regular	ORR	660000	395,000	265000
Total RR + ORR for 2018		1,160,000	895,000	265,000

The overall estimated budget for the Social Inclusion outcome was 1,160,000\$ US of which 895,000\$ US have been mobilized at this date. The overall gap of 265,000 \$ US mostly related to output 2 (social protection) was not addressed. This has impeded the identification of poor people as potential beneficiaries of the RAMED in Bamako, which was planned to be implemented through a local NGO.

The mobilized resources were almost fully executed at the end of the year.

Table 3: Executed budget by outcome area 2018 (in US dollar)

Intermediate Result	Funded budget	Actual expenditure	Execution rate
Output 1: Child Poverty and PF4C	235,000	257,464	109%
Output 2: Social Protection	160,000	129636.1	81%
Total	395,000	387,100	98%

Since the initial agreement between UNICEF and Sweden did not plan for disbursement in 2019, the outcome area will be funded only through UNICEF regular resources (600.000USD) which are planned to cover staff salaries only.

FUTURE WORKPLAN

Based on the challenges faced and the lessons learned so far in the implementation of the CPD, some adjustment is required in 2019 to achieve the results of the outcome area by the end of the CPD. In addition, work undertaken in preparation of the next country programme document (CPD 2020-2024), namely the first draft of the programme strategy note and group works during the strategic moment of reflection in October 2018 allowed to have a preliminary formulation of future outcome and outputs for social inclusion.

Required adjustment in 2019

Regarding output 1, in addition to the yearly computation of child monetary poverty from the EMOP household survey, UNICEF has advocated for, and committed to support the computation of multidimensional child poverty every two years, when the EMOP is coupled with the SMART nutrition survey. UNICEF will continue to advocate for disaggregation of child poverty data by sex. While the output was achieved in terms of creating local technical capacity to deliver analyses on child multi-dimensional poverty, the Government is not equipped to deliver child-sensitive budgeting in their planning. The overall allocation to social sectors (education, health, social protection) as a proportion of the total budget in the 2019 Budget Law is predicted to decrease by two percentage points. Furthermore, the new budget formulation (programme budget) is non-transparent. UNICEF will reinforce its work in technical committees and groups to support the Government and civil society actors to ensure clarity in resource allocation and expenditures. UNICEF has made efforts to advance this critical output by increasing internal resources to reinforce

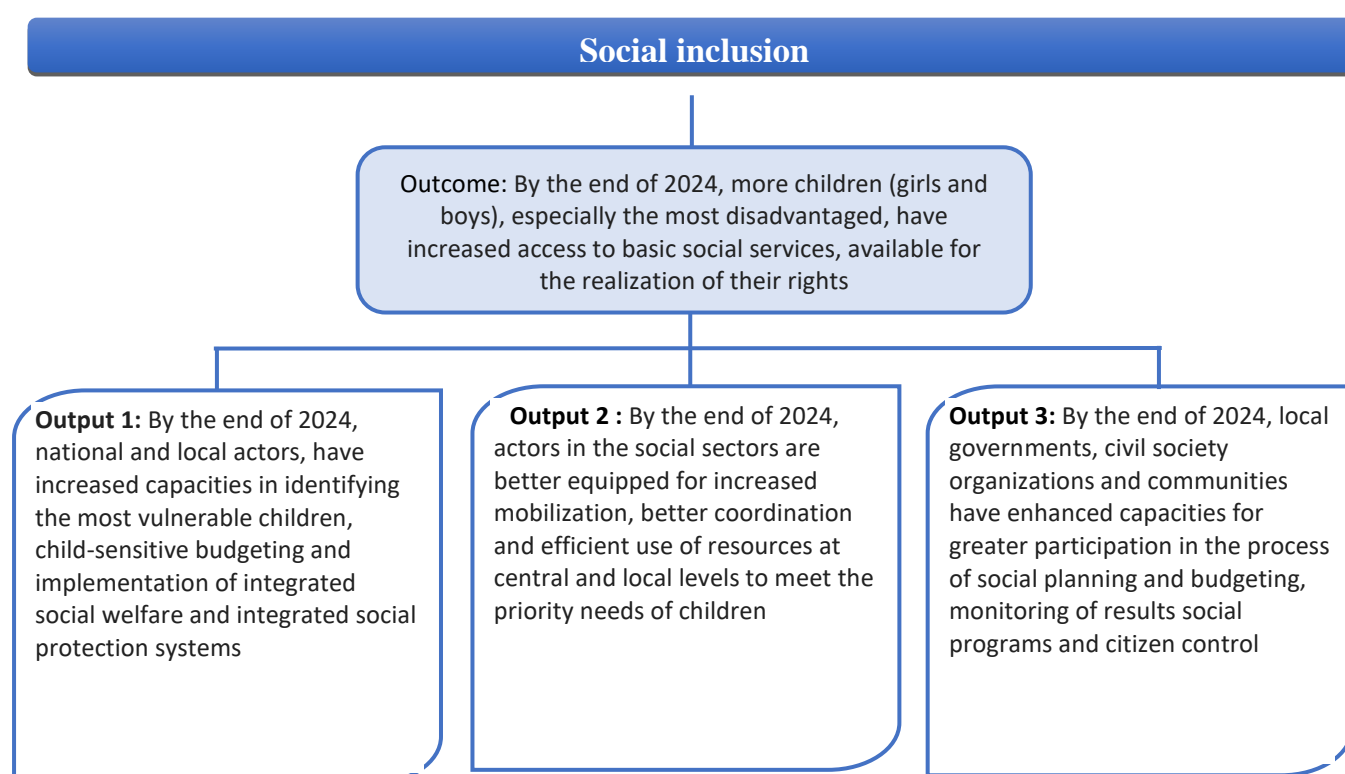
the work on financing social sectors and will pursue relevant partnerships with international and local actors and initiatives to attain this objective by the end of 2019.

As for the social protection output, UNICEF is in the process of signing a memorandum of understanding with the Government and its partners to ensure that comprehensive packages of interventions support the realization of key results for children through *Jigisemeijiri*. Despite UNICEF efforts, no progress was made in 2018 towards elaboration of the next action plan for social protection, even though the current plan is expiring. Furthermore, the expiring action plan has not been evaluated and social protection interventions in Mali are still not coordinated with humanitarian interventions, despite being managed within the same ministry. To solve these issues adjustments to link social protection and humanitarian interventions are envisaged.

Priorities for the next CPD

Four priorities have been identified in the programme strategy note to be considered in the next CPD for Mali for the social inclusion outcome, namely: (i) an increased focus on child-sensitive public finance; (ii) child mainstreaming in national policies and development strategies; (iii) routine monitoring of child poverty and deprivation; and (iv) effective coverage of vulnerable children by social protection programmes.

This has been translated into a new formulation of the outcome and outputs as follows¹:



¹ This is the formulation at the time of this reporting, which is still work in progress.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

UNICEF Mali would like to express its sincerest gratitude to the Government of Sweden for the generous support to its Social Inclusion programme. These funds were fundamental in opening new avenues of dialogue with the Government of Mali through its ministries. This thematic grant made it possible to strengthen data and evidence generation, as well as technical assistance and capacity building. The thematic funds made it possible for UNICEF to work in areas that are otherwise unsupported by traditional funds thereby achieving positive results for the women and children of Mali. Engagement at the highest political level, policy dialogue and better visibility for children in national development strategies are some of the achievements of this grant.

UNICEF in Mali would like to thank all partners who have contributed to the implementation and on-going execution of the Social Inclusion program.

In particular, our acknowledgements go to:

- The Government of Sweden whose continuing support has allowed UNICEF in Mali and partners to contribute to strengthening the resilience of poorest families and communities in Mali;
- The national partners and counterparts who have actively participated in various aspects of the programme, namely the technical unit in charge of the poverty reduction strategic framework (CT-CSLP), the national statistics institute (INSTAT), the Sustainable Human Development and Poverty Reduction Observatory (ODHD-LP), the National Division in charge of social protection and Solidarity (DNPSES), the national agency for medical assistance (ANAM) and the regional directions of social development and solidarity (DRDSES);
- Our UNICEF colleagues in sections programmes in Mali country office for their collaboration, in regional office (WCRO) and at Headquarters for their invaluable support.

UNICEF in Mali would like to highlight the flexibility that the thematic contributions provide. These funds have made the achievements of the under social inclusion outcome area possible; through various strategies and approaches such as advocacy at all levels, evidence-base generation, institutional strengthening, and enhanced coordination.

ANNEX: REPORT FEEDBACK FORM

PBA No: SC149907

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 and return to our office as indicated below. Thank you!

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

Felix Ackebo, Deputy Representative

E-mail: fackebo@unicef.org

Online donor feedback form link:

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