

**Montenegro**

**Child Protection**

**Marimo Berk and David Drummond Fund at the U.S. Fund for UNICEF  
Report**

**January - December 2018 (final year)**



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Prepared by:  
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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

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ADI-R	Autism Diagnostic Interview Revised
ADOS	Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule
CP	Country Programme
CRC	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRM	Child Rights Monitoring
CRPD	UN Convention on the Rights of Children with Disabilities
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAISY	Digital accessible information system format
ECD	Early Childhood Development
IE	Inclusive Education
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MONSTAT	National Statistical Office of Montenegro
NSSD	National Strategy on Sustainable Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VAC	Violence against children

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## Executive Summary

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The Government of Montenegro-UNICEF Country Programme (CP) (2017-2021) supports ongoing reforms in Montenegro through a holistic, evidence-based, result-oriented and multi-sectoral approach that focuses on key areas affecting child rights: health, childcare, social protection, education, participation, justice and finance. Particular attention is paid to strengthening institutional capacities for long-term strategic planning, evidence-based policymaking, child-focused budgeting and child rights monitoring. The CP focuses on children affected by poverty, adversity and exclusion - in line with the “leave no one behind” principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The key programme assumption is that as more boys and girls benefit from quality, equitable and inclusive services and live in supportive family environments – better protected from adversity, exclusion and poverty – this will contribute to progressive realization of the rights of all children in Montenegro.

The CP has three programme components, Social and Child Protection, Quality Education and Adolescent Empowerment, Child Rights Monitoring and Access to Justice.

The support from the Marimo Berk and David Drummond Fund through UNICEF USA was received as flexible funds, aimed at promoting inclusion of children with disabilities predominantly through the Social and Child Protection programme component. As disability is a cross-cutting theme, some important initiatives were also carried out in the Quality Education and Adolescent Empowerment, and Child Rights Monitoring and Access to Justice programme components.

Key achievements to which the Marimo Berk and David Drummond Fund contributed in 2018 include:

- 48% increase in the number of children benefitting from community and family based services per 100,000 child population compared to CP baseline (2014),
- 18% decrease in the number of children in institutional care compared to CP baseline (2015),
- 40% of all children with disabilities attending preschools in Montenegro participated in Young Athletes Programme,
- all kindergartens enabled to provide early detection and intervention services.

Other important achievements to which this grant contributed are: improved capacities of education, health and social service workforce on disability rights, early detection and intervention; enhanced access to information about disability rights; increased participation of children with and without disabilities in early intervention support; strengthened evidence base about cross-sectoral system support to children with disabilities and about child functioning at the national level (the latter in the forthcoming Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey). The strengthened evidence base will support the government to enhance the quality of current and introduce new services to meet the needs of children with disabilities and their families.

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## Strategic Context of 2018

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The main goal of UNICEF Country Office in Montenegro is to strengthen equitable, quality systems for the progressive realization of children's rights, with special focus on children affected by poverty, adversity and exclusion. All elements of the Government of Montenegro-UNICEF Country Programme for 2017 – 2021 are grounded in the Sustainable Development Goals. Montenegro was among the first countries in the world to nationalize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by adopting the National Strategy on Sustainable Development by 2030 (NSSD 2030).

In 2018 the Government of Montenegro continued to pursue reforms tied to three interlinked national priorities: the 2030 agenda, advancing accession to the EU, boosting macro-economic and fiscal reforms. Key milestones achieved by the Government in 2018 related to improving equity include: the release of new child poverty data; the adoption of the new Inclusive Education Strategy and scaling up of several programmatic interventions to improve IE culture and practices in schools; strengthening of the national home visiting nurses system; finalization of the independent evaluation of the child rights monitoring system resulting in the decision to strengthen the national Council on Child Rights.

UNICEF's strong focus on IE contributed to consistent increases in the number of children with disabilities enrolled in mainstream education over the last decade. In the 2017/18 academic year, 2,323 children with disabilities were attending regular schools – almost 10 times more than in 2009 (247 children). A key milestone in 2018 was the development and adoption of a new national IE strategy for 2019-2025, with UNICEF support. It sets out the directions for further increasing the number of children with disabilities in mainstream schools and ensuring that they learn and progress along with their peers. Several programmatic interventions were scaled up to improve IE culture and practices in schools, such as by expanding coverage with digital accessible information system (DAISY) format textbooks to 70 of the country's largest schools. Efforts were made to consolidate and scale up a programme for developing socio-emotional skills among primary and secondary school students, benefitting over 15,500 children and adolescents in 2018 through formal and non-formal education. The 'Young Athletes' programme was expanded to include 11 new kindergarten units in 2018 (details in the section below). To improve the quality of early childhood education and care UNICEF has been supporting the Government to strengthen the capacity of preschool teachers and staff to provide early intervention to children with disabilities. Remaining challenges include improving the quality of education services and support provided to children with disabilities and boosting their low enrolment in preschool and upper-secondary education.

Though progress has been made in various fields, children with disabilities are still among the most vulnerable and socially excluded groups. Limited data on children with disabilities has hampered policy and programme development. Only very limited publicly funded services are available for children with disabilities and their families. Challenges begin from the day of birth due to a lack of early detection services. Although the number of children in institutional care continued to decline (by 54% since 2010), children with disabilities remain over-represented (about two-thirds being children with disabilities). Intensified efforts are urgently needed to develop foster care and alternative care, and further increase support services for these children and their families, particularly children with disabilities.

Violence against children (VAC) represents another key challenge. A 2018 survey revealed high level of tolerance for VAC, 55 per cent of adults believed violent discipline justified in some situations or effective. The number of VAC cases reported to Centres for Social Work increased by 28 per cent since 2015. The absence of consolidated data, including on child victims with disabilities, presents serious challenges. In 2018, the Parenting for Lifelong Health Programme reached 137 parents of children aged 2-9 (of whom 10% have a child with disability) in four municipalities. It was delivered by kindergartens, health centres

and NGOs – resulting in significant reductions in physical and emotional punishment and improvements in child and parent well-being. The programme will be scaled up in 2019/2020. The parent help line continued to provide counselling services and a national child helpline was set up in December 2018.

Montenegro's health sector is well placed to improve young child wellbeing, given its regular contact with pregnant women and young families. However, the potential role of home visiting services in promoting child health, early development and well-being is underutilized. Following an assessment of the home visiting system conducted in 2017 with the support of the Marimo Berk and David Drummond Fund through UNICEF USA, the Ministry of Health decided to strengthen the capacity of home visiting nurses on early childhood development (ECD). The first training-of-trainers took place in 2018; training will be intensified in 2019. UNICEF was requested by the Government in 2018 to strengthen capacities of health professionals in diagnosis and support of childhood autism, which was an important contribution to strengthening early detection services in the country (more details below).

The country is home to approximately 85,000 adolescent boys and girls (14 per cent of the country's population) yet they receive insufficient attention as a group. Since 2015 UNICEF has been playing a lead role in the joint UN youth empowerment programme to ensure that the most marginalized adolescent girls and boys are gaining the skills required for success in school and the labour market and empowered to make informed decisions about their own lives and future. U-Report Western Balkans, covering Montenegro, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244) and Albania, is a new platform for seeking the views of adolescents and youth and allowing them to effect societal change. In the multi-country U-report poll carried out in the three aforementioned countries on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 71% respondents stated that they knew someone with a disability and 66% respondents said that they believe that persons with disabilities do receive government support as defined by law and in a timely manner.

Given Montenegro's status as an upper-middle-income country, change strategies included: support for cross-sectoral programming (particularly in relation to disability, early childhood development, protection of children from violence and adolescent empowerment); continued strengthening of the system and service providers; strengthening national information systems; harnessing the power of innovation and technology; leveraging private sector partnerships; empowering children as change agents; effective external communications (including social media as a non-traditional communication channel), while also setting clear targets and measuring behaviour change. Evidence-generation was one of the main strategies used in 2018 to build a stronger knowledge base for informed policymaking related to ongoing reforms in different sectors, as well as implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

While Montenegro has made considerable progress in recent years toward upgrading its legal and policy framework on child rights, its implementation in terms of quality, inclusive services for children and adolescents and an effective child rights monitoring system require greater attention and investment. This 'implementation-gap' is common among societies in transition, driven by a complex set of inter-linked systemic and societal challenges: lack of multi-sectoral coordination and limited institutional capacities; insufficient systematic planning, budgeting and monitoring of programmes; limited systematic collection, analysis and use of disaggregated data for evidence-based policy making; persistent, negative or harmful social norms that constitute barriers for fulfilling child rights.

Another constraint faced by the current CP has been resource mobilization. As an upper-middle-income country and front-runner in the EU accession process, Montenegro has experienced decreasing levels of overseas development aid in recent years, which has limited resource mobilization opportunities from public sector donor partners. For this reason, the support of the Marimo Berk and David Drummond Fund through UNICEF USA was highly appreciated.

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## Results Achieved in the Sector

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The Marimo Berk and David Drummond Fund through UNICEF USA provided flexible funds for activities within the area of social and child protection, with a special focus on disability rights. Disability being a cross-cutting theme, some important initiatives were also supported in the areas of education, and child rights monitoring.

Below are results achieved by UNICEF CO in Montenegro in 2018 with the support of the Marimo Berk and David Drummond Fund through UNICEF USA.

### **1. Programme Component: Social and Child Protection**

This programme component aims to ensure that excluded children, including children with disabilities, gain better access to quality, equitable, inclusive and mutually reinforcing health, social and child protection services. Support from the Marimo Berk and David Drummond Fund through UNICEF USA was instrumental in enhancing the evidence base for improved implementation of national policies and services for children with disabilities.

#### **1.1. All children have the right to grow up in a family environment and to be included in the community.**

In practice, the realization of these rights requires the availability of family and community-based services. Until recently, the system relied heavily on placing children without parental care, or children with disabilities and adults with disabilities in institutions. With the support of UNICEF, UNDP and the European Union, in 2011 the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare embarked on an ambitious reform to replace institutions with family and community-based services. As Montenegro continues these reforms, it faces financial constraints to scale up community-based services. The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare therefore requested technical assistance from UNICEF and UNDP to develop a roadmap for expanding community-based services. A draft report has been prepared and will be launched in April 2019, providing evidence for introducing and scaling up new services as well as a costing analysis to support advocating for additional budgetary allocations.

#### **1.2. In order to pave the way for holistic social work provision in the country, an analysis of the work of so-called centres for social work was produced in November 2018 by the national Institute for Social and Child Protection with UNICEF support. Centres for social work are the key statutory agencies operating at the local level for social work provision and coordination of holistic and multidisciplinary support to vulnerable children and families. The purpose of this analysis was to take stock of the progress made in the reform of the work of the centres, as well as remaining challenges and bottlenecks in providing quality services to all families in need. Major finding of the analysis includes the need to improve outreach to vulnerable families, to improve the staffing structure, as well as cooperation with community level services. The findings were validated at a national conference in November 2018. A roadmap is being developed with a view to implementing the recommendations and thus strengthening service provision for the most vulnerable families and children.**

#### **1.3. An analysis of cross-sectoral responses and support to children with disabilities in Montenegro was commissioned in 2018 by UNICEF, at the request of the Council on Child Rights. The analysis showed that multi-sectoral cooperation and capacities to provide quality and diversified support to children with disabilities and their caregivers are still limited across relevant sectors (e.g., health, social welfare, justice and education). The lack of quality disaggregated and child-focused data remains a challenge for developing effective programmes and interventions for inclusion. The analysis provided recommendations for improving the policy and legal framework, definitions and terminology, data**

collection systems and cross-sectoral cooperation spanning early intervention, protection and rehabilitation of children with disabilities. It also called for improving the work of each sector, with the aim of strengthening the overall accountability framework. The analysis was presented at a national conference in December 2018, chaired by the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare (as Chair of the National Council on Child Rights) and UNICEF Country Office Representative. Follow up actions will be agreed upon in close consultations with the Council on Child Rights, which will monitor the implementation of the recommendations. With guidance from the Council on Child Rights, the recommendations will be translated into an action plan for removing barriers preventing inclusion of children with disabilities.

- 1.4. UNICEF also supported the Government in 2018 to strengthen capacities of health professionals in diagnosis and support of childhood autism. The first-ever training on administration of two internationally renowned diagnostic tools – ADIR (Autism Diagnostic Interview Revised) and ADOS (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule) took place in Montenegro in September 2018. In total 20 health professionals from the national Centre for Autism and Developmental Disabilities and from local primary health care centres across the country received certificates in ADOS and 19 in ADOS, which will enable them to design cost-effective interventions and support services for children with autism and their families. Five professionals opted to take additional post-course work to receive certificates allowing them to conduct research on the use of the tools and to train others in their clinical settings.

## **2. Programme Component: Quality Education and Adolescent Empowerment**

This programme component helps all boys and girls, particularly those affected by poverty, exclusion and adversity, to enjoy their right to quality and inclusive education, and to utilize opportunities through formal and non-formal education for acquiring the knowledge, skills and competences necessary to thrive as adults. With support from the Marimo Berk and David Drummond Fund through UNICEF USA, the quality of pedagogical services was enhanced and inclusive practices were strengthened in preschool education.

Following the positive response of preschool teachers, parents and children with and without disabilities who were involved in the pilot phase of the “Young Athletes” program in 10 preschool units, the program was expanded to include 21 kindergartens across Montenegro through cooperation between the Ministry of Education, Special Olympics and UNICEF. To ensure quality and sustainability of the program, a Training of Trainers was conducted and ten preschool teachers were certified as Young Athletes program trainers. In 2018, over 350 children with and without disabilities were directly included in the program. During the visit of the Regional Director for UNICEF Europe and Central Asia to Montenegro in May 2018, the Young Athletes program was presented as a good example for providing quality care and early intervention support to children with disabilities and their families. The UNICEF-Special Olympics Cooperation in Montenegro was highlighted as an example of good practice at the Special Olympics Europe Eurasia Leadership Conference 2018 “Inclusion in Motion” which took place in October 2018 in Budva, Montenegro.

## **3. Programme Component: Child Rights Monitoring (CRM) and Access to Justice**

This programme component contributes to strengthening systems to monitor progress and trends in how girls and boys progressively realize their rights in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other international child rights instruments such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The Marimo Berk and David Drummond Fund contributed to enhancing



knowledge and awareness of families, service providers and policy makers about the rights of children with disabilities in Montenegro, as well as international standards in this area.

- 3.1. The Association of Youth with Disabilities in Montenegro, which is leading a coalition of disability rights non-governmental organizations in Montenegro, developed a training programme for social and child protection professionals on disability rights. This responded to one of the recommendations made in 2017 by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to Montenegro. The training programme was accredited by the National Institute for Social and Child Protection and the first group of social and child protection professionals were trained in December 2018. In addition, the Association developed five guidance documents for children and people with disabilities to support them to access their entitlements in line with Montenegro's legislation (on child allowance, free dental care, sexual and reproductive rights, two guidelines on inclusive education). These were widely disseminated via social media and the organization's website.
- 3.2. A flagship evidence-gathering activity in 2018 was UNICEF's support to The National Statistical Office MONSTAT for carrying out the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) – the country's second-largest household survey. Survey data cover a sample of 7,000 households of the majority population and almost all Roma families living in settlements. For the first time, the MICS also collected information on children with disabilities. The results, which will be available by mid-2019, will yield internationally comparable data on children and women and inform future evidence-based policymaking on children and monitoring implementation of the national sustainable development strategy.

## Summary

This grant contributed to the realization of the following results of the 2017-2021 Government Montenegro-UNICEF Country Programme:

	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Actual result
Outcome: Social and Child Protection				
1	Children 0-17 years old living in residential care	175 (2015)	135 (2021)	144 (2018)
2	Boys and girls utilizing standardized family and community services per 100,000 child population, with disaggregation by service type, age, sex and disability and ethnicity	310 (169 boys, 141 girls; 60 with disabilities) per 100,000 child population (2014)	449 (228 boys, 221 girls; 103 with disabilities) per 100,000 child population (2021)	460 (257 boys, 203 girls, 135 with disabilities) per 100,000 child population (2018)
Output: Enhanced multisectoral cooperation for effective support to vulnerable children and families and prevention of family breakdown				
1.1	Proportion of municipalities with health and education professionals with strengthened capacity in early detection of disability and intervention	30 % (2015)	100 % (2021)	83 % (2018)
1.2	Number of inclusive community-based support services (day care centres, small group homes, non-kin foster families) compliant with international standards	9 day care centres, 1 small group home, 28 non-kin foster families (2015)	15 day care centres, 3 small group homes, 70 non-kin foster families (2021)	14 day care centres, 1 small group home, 40 non-kin foster families (2018)
1.3	Analysis of the work of centres for social work conducted	No (2017)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2018)
Outcome: Quality Education and Adolescent Empowerment				
2	Output: Early childhood education system has the capacity to provide quality, inclusive and diversified services, including capacity for continuous promotion of importance of ECE for overall child development			

2.1	Number of kindergartens enabled to provide early detection and intervention services	9 (2016)	21 (2021)	21 (2018)
Outcome: Child Rights Monitoring and Access to Justice				
3	Output: Sectoral Information Systems on Child Rights			
3.1	MICS fieldwork conducted including module on child functioning	No (2017)	Yes (2018)	Yes (2018)

Table 1: Results Assessment Framework

## Case Study: Young Athletes Programme

Following the successful pilot phase in 2017, Young Athletes programme was expanded in 2018 from 11 to as many as 21 kindergartens in all three regions of the country. With a view to consolidating the program and ensuring its quality and sustainability, 10 preschool teachers were trained to become licenced Young Athletes program trainers. In 2018, 325 children participated in the program, out of which 139 were children with disabilities. This number makes 40% of all children with disabilities attending preschools in Montenegro.

Children's progress was regularly monitored by using a specifically designed check list. Upon completion of the programme, the progress in all observed development areas (static, motoric, locomotive) equalled almost 20% on average for children with disabilities, while for children without disabilities it was a bit lower, ranging from 11% to 21% in different areas. Parents reported significant benefits of the programme for the overall development and social inclusion of their children, while teachers rated it as effective for improving the quality of preschool services and as a useful early intervention tool.

During the visit to Montenegro of the Regional Director for UNICEF in Europe and Central Asia in May 2018, the Young Athletes program was presented as a good example for early intervention support to children with disabilities and enabling their social inclusion from earliest age. A web and video story on the visit can be found [here](#).



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Moreover, the partnership between UNICEF and Special Olympics in Montenegro was highlighted as a good practice example at the Special Olympics Europe Eurasia Leadership Conference "Inclusion in Motion" held in October 2018.

## Issue/Background:

The number of children with disabilities in preschools in Montenegro is very low. Reasons are many: low capacities of kindergartens to provide quality pedagogical care, insufficient physical infrastructure, lacking awareness of the importance of preschool education, etc.

Since 2014 UNICEF has been heavily involved in reforms of the preschool education sector. Significant policy and programmatic measures were undertaken leading to an increase in enrolment and improved access. UNICEF places a strong focus on issues of quality and provides support to all key actors to help ensure that children with disabilities are enrolled on time and learn and progress along with their peers.

#### **Rationale:**

Only about 50% of children in Montenegro attend preschool education, although early childhood is a critical developmental period when greatest progress can be achieved and foundations created for children to reach their full potential. The number of children with disabilities enrolled in kindergartens is extremely low and the possibility is thus lost for them to receive quality pedagogical support and care.

UNICEF has initiated, in cooperation with the Government of Montenegro and all other key actors, comprehensive reforms of the preschool education sector with the goals to increase the preschool coverage, to improve access and to enhance quality. With a view to achieving these goals, UNICEF has supported a set of policy and programme initiatives.

The main goal of the introduction of the Young Athletes programme in kindergartens was to enhance the quality of pedagogical care for children with disabilities as well as to help create conditions for their social inclusion. Quality of support to children with disabilities was improved through capacity building of kindergarten teachers and staff in implementing the programme. Furthermore, as the Young Athletes programme activities were conducted in mixed groups of children of children with and without disabilities it also contributed to social inclusion.

The Young Athletes programme is an internationally accredited programme conducted by the International Special Olympics organization worldwide. In Montenegro, it was conducted in the period 2017-2018. The programme aimed to include about 10% of children with intellectual disabilities enrolled in kindergartens.

#### **Strategy and Implementation:**

UNICEF ensured that the Young Athletes programme was well integrated within the broader reforms conducted in the field of preschool and inclusive education, i.e. that it is a quality response to the issues and needs of the system, kindergartens, children and families.

Based on an agreement with the Ministry of Education and Special Olympic, local preschools with a larger number of children with disabilities were selected to pilot the programme.

Capacity building seminars for kindergarten teachers were conducted by a regional expert and the necessary equipment provided to ensure smooth implementation. Quality assurance and monitoring visits were organized almost on a weekly basis by the Special Olympics team. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the programme was conducted using a specifically designed checklist and tested prior, mid and after the programme.

In 2018 special focus was placed on consolidation and expansion of the program to ensure its quality and sustainability. For this purpose, a training of trainers was conducted and ten preschool teachers from across Montenegro were licenced as Young Athletes trainers. During programme implementation, strong partnerships were created between all key actors and there was genuine dedication to the goals of the programme. In order to help ensure that the Young Athletes program is implemented in all kindergartens in Montenegro in the period to come, UNICEF CO in Montenegro aims to continue support to Special

Olympics organization in Montenegro, as well as help leverage additional resources for the implementation of Young Athletes Program.

#### **Resources Required/Allocated:**

Two Special Olympics staff were responsible for the management and overall coordination of the programme. On the part of UNICEF, an Education Officer and Education & Youth Consultant were directly involved in the planning, budgeting and close monitoring of the implementation to ensure timeliness and quality. UNICEF Programme Assistant conducted regular expenditure checks and ensured smooth flow of activities. UNICEF Deputy Representative provided support and oversight in the planning and budgeting phase, as well in the designing of the follow up initiative.

Total budget: \$46,207

#### **Progress and Results:**

The Young Athletes programme was piloted in 21 preschool units in eight municipalities in Montenegro. Upon completion of the programme all activities were carried out, and all output indicators were achieved as planned. With a view to measuring the effectiveness of the programme, monitoring & evaluation check lists were administered by preschool teachers prior, mid-term and upon completion of the programme. The results showed that all children achieved significant progress in all observed areas, equalling as much as 20% on average. Parents also reported on great benefits of the programme for the overall development and social inclusion of their children. Finally, teachers who conducted the programme rated it as effective for improving the quality of preschool services and as a useful early intervention tool.

#### **Lesson Learned:**

The integration of the Young Athletes programme was conducted as part of a comprehensive set of initiatives aimed at reforming the preschool education sector to enable access and provision of quality pedagogical services and care to children with and without disabilities, which contributed to its effectiveness.

A participatory approach which included all key actors at national and local levels was applied from the planning stage, through to implementation and monitoring and evaluation and that was a key factor in ensuring ownership by local stakeholders and enabling its sustainability.

The programme was implemented by preschool teachers and staff, with the support of Special Olympics experts, so that they could see first-hand how useful it was for them in their everyday work with children with disabilities. Also, it is in this way that they could see the benefits of the programme to the children with disabilities and it helped them develop a closer interaction with their parents and caregivers.

#### **Moving Forward:**

To ensure that all children in Montenegro can benefit from Young Athletes Program, as well as that it is implemented in quality manner, additional resources are needed. For this reason, UNICEF aims to continue to provide support to the Young Athletes program in 2019, and support Special Olympics to create a sustainability plan and leverage resources from the private sector.

## Financial Analysis

**Table 1: 2018 Planned budget by Thematic Sector**

### Montenegro

#### Planned and Fund for the Country Programme 2018 (in US Dollar)

Intermediate results	Funding Type <sup>[1]</sup>	Planned Budget <sup>[2]</sup>
22-01 Equitable access to quality education	RR	84,567
	ORR	233,918
22-02 Learning outcomes	RR	60,405
	ORR	164,638
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	RR	57,195
	ORR	166,988
23-03 Access to justice	RR	49,437
	ORR	113,974
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>931,122</b>

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

<sup>[2]</sup> Planned budget for ORR does not include estimated recovery cost.

**Table 2: Country-level Thematic contributions to thematic pool received in 2017 and 2018**

### Thematic Pool 5: Child Protection

#### Thematic Contributions Received for Thematic Pool 5 by UNICEF Montenegro in 2017 and 2018

(in US Dollars)

Donors	Grant Number	Contribution Amount	Programmable Amount
United States Fund for UNICEF	SC149906	403,750	384,523.81
<b>Total</b>		<b>403,750</b>	<b>384,523.81</b>

**Table 3: Expenditures in the Thematic Sector**

### Thematic Sector 5: Child Protection

## Montenegro

### 2018 Expenditures by Key-Results Areas (in US Dollars)

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount			
	Other Resources - Emergency	Other Resources - Regular	Regular Resources	All Programme Accounts
22-01 Equitable access to quality education	-	330,853	66,876	397,730
22-02 Learning outcomes	-	84,472	49,475	133,947
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	-	322,907	232,152	555,059
23-02 Harmful practices (FGM/C and child marriage)	-	4,396	115	4,510
23-03 Access to justice	-	21,786	231,554	253,339
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>764,414</b>	<b>580,172</b>	<b>1,344,585</b>

*\*All expense amounts are provisional and subject to change.*

**Table 4: Thematic expenses by Results Area**

Fund Category	All Programme Accounts
Year	2018
Business Area	Republic of Montenegro - 8950
Prorated Goal Area	(Multiple Items)
Donor Class Level2	Thematic
Row Labels	Expense
Other Resources - Regular	484,542
22-01 Equitable access to quality education	317,788
22-02 Learning outcomes	71,428
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	95,325
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>484,542</b>

*\*All expense amounts are provisional and subject to change.*

**Table 5: Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes**

Fund Category	All Programme Accounts
Year	2018

Business Area	Republic of Montenegro - 8950
Prorated Goal Area	(Multiple Items)
Fund Sub-Category	(Multiple Items)
Row Labels	Expense
22-01-06 System strengthening - inclusive education for children with disabilities	290,698
22-01-14 Education Management Information System (EMIS) (excluding learning assessment systems)	28,175
22-02-14 System strengthening - early learning / pre-primary policy, leadership, and budget	101,945
23-01-02 Services to prevent or respond to violence, exploitation and abuse	209,013
23-01-05 Social welfare workforce systems strengthening (accreditation, staffing and supervision)	118,706
23-01-19 Violence, exploitation, and abuse - surveys (e.g. KAP, VACS), data analysis/research/evaluation evidence generation, synthesis, and use	24,699
23-02-04 Child marriage - surveys (e.g. KAP, VACS), data analysis/research/evaluation evidence generation, synthesis, and use	1,478
23-02-10 FGM/C - surveys (e.g. KAP, VACS), data analysis/research/evaluation evidence generation, synthesis, and use	1,369
23-03-03 Access to child-friendly police and justice sector services	81,321
23-03-06 Justice, birth registration/CRVS, and alternative care - surveys (e.g. KAP, VACS), data analysis/research/evaluation evidence generation, synthesis, and use	14,106
23-03-99 Technical assistance - Access to justice	35,974
26-01-01 Country programme process (including UNDAF planning and CCA)	64,482
26-02-02 MICS - General	144,104
26-02-04 Stimulating demand for and capacity to use data	17,506
26-05-03 Country Programme evaluations (including UNDAF evaluations)	13,848
26-06-04 Leading advocate	119,098
26-06-05 Leading voice	29,378
26-06-10 CRC, CEDAW or CRPD - follow up on concluding observations	48,263
27-01-06 HQ and RO technical support to multiple Goal Areas	375

28-07-04 Management and Operations support at CO	48
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,344,585</b>

*\*All expense amounts are provisional and subject to change.*

**Table 6: Planned budget for 2019**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Funding Type</b>	<b>Planned Budget<sup>[i]</sup></b>	<b>Funded Budget<sup>[ii]</sup></b>	<b>Shortfall</b>
1.1 Enhanced multisectoral cooperation	RR	95,112	69,087	26,025
	ORR	247,918	187,011	60,907
1.2 Cost effective social protection for children	RR	43,278	100,350	(57,072)
	ORR	55,558	85,962	(30,404)
1.3 Capacities of social welfare and child protection system	RR	57,195	28,678	28,517
	ORR	151,738	19,000	132,738
1.4 Awareness of violence against children	RR	57,195	32,025	25,170
	ORR	151,738	75,049	76,689
2.1 Quality and innovative services in education	RR	84,567	25,096	59,471
	ORR	214,878	249,085	(34,207)
2.2 Early childhood education	RR	60,405	26,637	33,768
	ORR	151,039	111,631	39,408
2.3 Youth innovation lab	RR	71,648	20,064	51,584
	ORR	182,958	279,894	(96,936)
2.4 Youth policy making and services	RR	25,000	35,445	(10,445)
	ORR	55,278	120,386	(65,108)
3.1 Monitoring and reporting on child rights	RR	29,847	118,840	(88,993)
	ORR	29,168	-	29,168
3.2 Sectoral information systems on child rights	RR	27,999	106,653	(78,654)
	ORR	33,438	20,106	13,332
3.3 Awareness of children as rights holders	RR	23,317	86,746	(63,429)
	ORR	47,438	34,090	13,348
3.4 Child-friendly and gender responsive justice	RR	49,437	22,000	27,437
	ORR	103,438	162,623	(59,185)
<b>Sub-total Regular Resources</b>		<b>625,000</b>	<b>671,621</b>	<b>(46,621)</b>



<b>Sub-total Other Resources - Regular</b>		<b>1,424,587</b>	<b>1,344,837</b>	<b>79,750</b>
<b>Total for 2019</b>		<b>2,049,587</b>	<b>2,016,458</b>	<b>33,129</b>

[i] Planned amounts as per CPD

[ii] Funded budget/allocations taken form the report on  
[https://insight.unicef.org/apps01/OfficeDash/Pages/OfficeDash\\_Outcome\\_Summary\\_Year.aspx](https://insight.unicef.org/apps01/OfficeDash/Pages/OfficeDash_Outcome_Summary_Year.aspx)

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## **Future Work Plan**

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Important progress has been made in realizing the rights of children with disabilities. However, early intervention, assessments, referrals, local services, quality education need to be further strengthened to enable children with disabilities to realize their full potential and ensure their inclusion in society. The plan for 2019 and 2020 is to build on achievements and lessons learnt from previous years and to ensure integrated, holistic support for all children, including children with disabilities.

The completion of the 2017–2018 work plan presented an important opportunity to take stock of the first two years of CP implementation and reflect on areas for adjustment and acceleration. In late 2018 UNICEF consulted a wide-range of government and institutional partners on key results achieved during 2017 and 2018 and key priorities for cooperation during the next biennial work plan. A key lesson learned from implementation of the 2017–2018 work plan was to sharpen the CP focus and cross sectoral approach. The assumption is that by concentrating commitment and resources on cross-cutting priority areas, UNICEF and partners will be able to accelerate and scale-up programming to achieve results for children, especially the most vulnerable.

### **Cross-sectoral strategy for enhanced coordination & programming at scale**

One of the four cross cutting priorities that UNICEF Montenegro agreed with the Government to be addressed in the new 2019-2020 work plan is Early Childhood Development. Inclusive early childhood development will be a major component, which will complement the Government's plans to reform the disability assessment system to make it more human rights based. In addition, disability rights will be mainstreamed in other cross-cutting priority areas (Adolescent and Young People's Skills and Empowerment, Safe and Inclusive Communities, Child Poverty Reduction) and programme components, described below.

#### **Programme Component: Social and Child Protection**

Since the lack of alternative family-based services has led to a persistent overrepresentation of children with disabilities in institutional care, this will be in the focus of future cooperation between the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and UNICEF in the years to come. The findings of the analysis and roadmap for expanding community-based services will inform future planning of programmes and budgets in this area, as well as the recent analysis of system response and support to children with disabilities in Montenegro and of the work of centres for social work.

UNICEF will support the Ministry of Health of Montenegro to lead the process of development of the national cross-sectoral strategy on early childhood development. A strong focus of the Strategy will be support to children with disabilities through early detection and intervention. To achieve this health sector professionals will be supported in developmental screening and monitoring and provision of early intervention services in cooperation with relevant sectors. UNICEF will continue to support the Ministry of Health in strengthening patronage nurse home visiting services through capacity building, development of checklist and screening tools. Continued advocacy will be required to expand services to high risk families including families with children with developmental delays and disabilities.

#### **Programme Component: Quality Education and Adolescent Empowerment**

UNICEF provided technical support to the Ministry of Education to develop a new strategic framework for continuing reforms in the area of inclusive education and develop a costed action plan. The new Strategy for Inclusive Education (2019 – 2025) sets out three main goals related to improving the quality of inclusive

education, ensuring continuity of support to children with disabilities at all educational levels, and enhancing cross sector cooperation. In 2019, UNICEF will help develop the capacities of the Ministry of Education and other central educational institutions, as well as schools and teachers to provide quality pedagogical services to children with disabilities and ensure that they learn and progress along with their peers.

UNICEF aims to continue support to the Young Athletes program in 2019 to help ensure its sustainable expansion to other preschool institutions in Montenegro. Support will also be provided to Special Olympics Montenegro to establish cooperation with the private sector and leverage additional resources needed for the expansion of the Young Athletes program.

In addition to this, UNICEF hopes to partner with the Council of Europe Bank for Development to improve the quality of preschool education. Two major areas of support envisage are early childhood development and inclusive education.

**Programme Component: Child Rights Monitoring (CRM) and Access to Justice**

UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare to develop a new National strategy on the realization of children's rights with a strong focus on the rights of children with disabilities. Data from the 2018 MICS will be released in June 2019 providing nationally representative data on children with disabilities providing a strengthened evidence base for the planning of future programmes and interventions.

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### **Expression of Thanks**

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UNICEF Country Office in Montenegro would like to express its sincere gratitude to Ms. Berk and Mr. Drummond, and UNICEF USA for supporting UNICEF Montenegro's work aimed at improving the status and rights of children with disabilities in Montenegro. The flexibility of thematic funding has enabled achieving a number of milestones in the realization of children's rights in Montenegro, as outlined in this report.

## Annex 1: Human Interest Story

### Milorad believes in his son's progress

When you become a parent, in addition to the unique feeling of love and happiness, there are many fears which arise. One questions their ability to respond to the challenges that parenthood brings, occasionally dealing with the biggest question – is everything all right with my child? Milorad Brnović, the father of a five-year-old Luka, a boy with developmental disabilities, faced these fears himself.



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“Just before Luka’s second birthday, my wife noticed certain changes in his behaviour. Although we have three older children, we had not noticed that anything was different with him. After the first examination performed by a psychologist, a number of tests ensued. At that time, I still thought that everything would slot into place and that everything was fine,” Milorad says. He remembers that for a long time he refused to believe his wife’s impression that Luka had not been developing normally for his age. He thought that their son was merely spoilt.

At the proposal of Luka’s paediatrician, Milorad and his wife contacted the newly opened Centre for Autism, Developmental Disorders and Child Psychiatry in Podgorica. Luka started attending daily two-hour treatments at the centre. Three months of intensive work with Luka’s by professionals from the centre led to some visible results. “After the treatment, we were informed that Luka was reacting and cooperating in a much better manner. They said that he had changed and that everything was better. They suggested that we should get him involved in sports, so Luka is now attending judo lessons. He is very happy there, and although he is not able to follow all the rules of training, he is trying his best,” Milorad says.

Milorad highlights the valuable advice they got from the staff at the centre on how to work and practice with Luka at home. “Luka is everyone’s favourite at the centre, they say that he is very cooperative, and I am satisfied with their approach, because the people who work there are very dedicated and enthusiastic,” Milorad said of his impressions of the staff at the centre, who in the meantime have successfully completed a training programme for the early detection of disorders in child development.

Milorad proudly says that Luka’s charm and joyful nature are winning the hearts of his teachers and friends in the kindergarten. Even though he knows that the real challenge of enrolling in elementary school is getting near, Milorad strongly believes in his son Luka. However, it is not easy to maintain optimism, according to Milorad. He therefore believes that the parents of children with disabilities need stronger support.

Milorad concludes that the most important thing for both parents and children is to wake up and accept their child just the way he or she is. Their child may be different, but at the same time, he or she is unique, beautiful and yours.

The above story can be found at: <https://www.unicef.org/montenegro/en/stories/milorad-believes-his-sons-progress>.

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## Annex 2: Donor Feedback Form

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UNICEF is working to improve the quality of our reports and would highly appreciate your feedback. Kindly fill out the following [online donor feedback form](#).