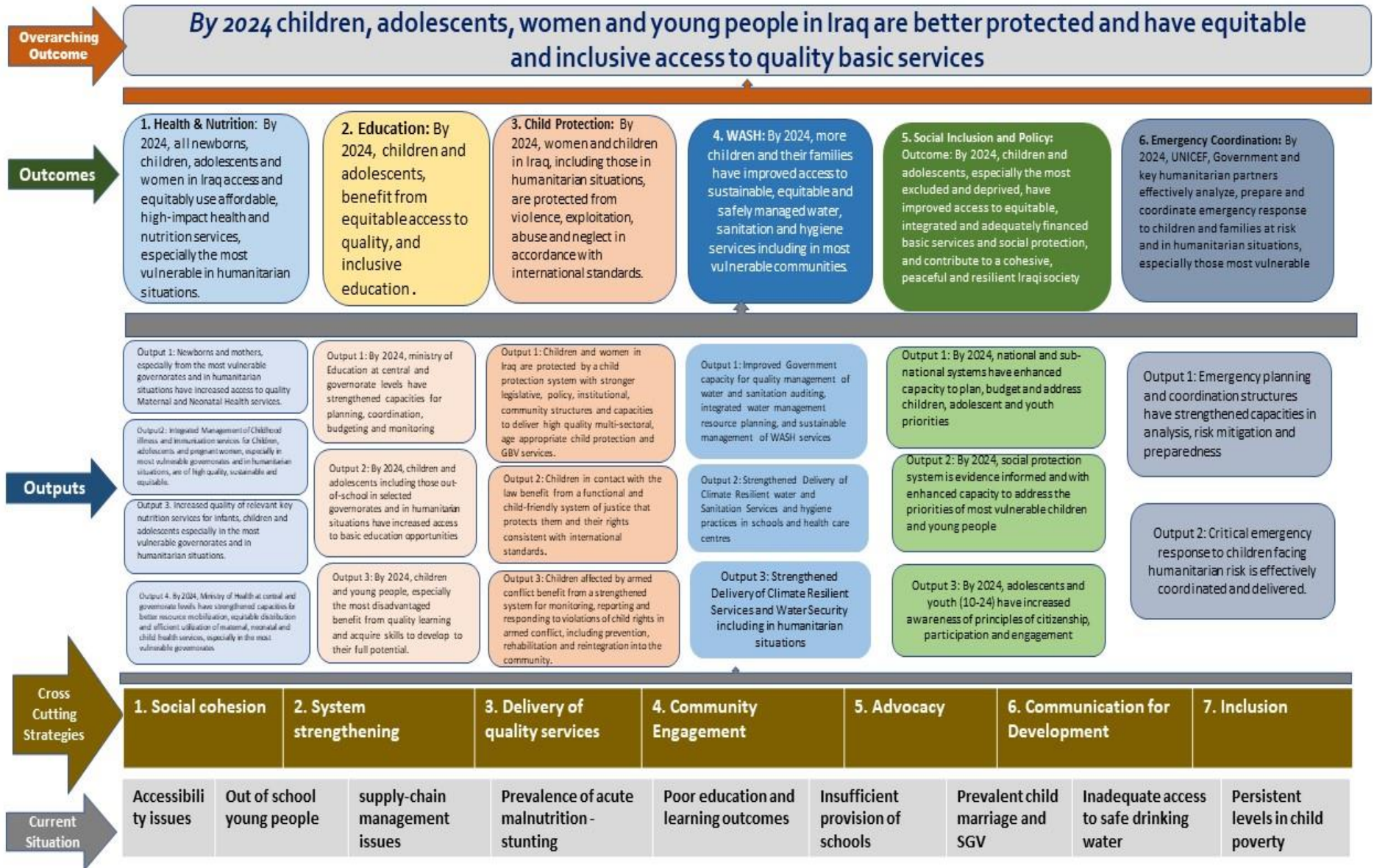


UNICEF-Iraq Programme of Cooperation
CPD 2020-2024

Overarching Programme Strategy Note

May 2019

Figure 1: Theory of Change



6.0 Overarching Theory of Change

The overall goal of UNICEF is that “**by 2024 children, adolescents, women and young people in Iraq are better protected and have equitable and inclusive access to quality basic services**”. The TOC describes how UNICEF will support Iraq to move from the current situation to the desired state, wherein more children, adolescents, women and young people in Iraq will have equitable and inclusive access to quality basic services to survive and thrive, to learn, protected from violence and neglect, access safely managed water, sanitation and hygiene services on a sustainable basis.

For the change to happen, there are major preconditions:

- **If** Government at national and sub-national levels have strengthened capacities to develop evidence-based, multi-sector, equity-focused policies, plans and budgets to improve basic services; and
- **If** the facilities and systems in targeted localities have strengthened capacities (equipment / commodities, training, supervision /monitoring) to deliver integrated high impact basic services; and
- **If** investment in social services is improved through public and private financing; and
- **If** the human capital development at all levels is improved and strengthened

Then Government capacity will be enhanced to effectively plan and deliver sustainable basic services of quality and at scale to children, adolescents, women and young people in Iraq

- **If** more children, adolescents, women and young people have improved access to social safety nets programme; and
- **If** there is an improved targeting mechanism focusing on the poor and vulnerable children; and
- **If** social protection monitoring and systems assessments are institutionalized

Then there will be an increased coverage of the social protection system, reduced inequality and more children, adolescents, women and young people in vulnerable communities will have equitable and inclusive access to improved service delivery and social safety nets programme

- **If** there is increased societal demand for education and early learning opportunities and;
- **If** there is increased supply for formal, non-formal and early learning services for children and young people; and
- **If** there is capacity to create conducive learning environments and improve the quality of learning; and,
- **If** adolescents and youth have increased life skills, critical thinking skills, creativity and active citizenship;

Then more children, adolescents and young people, including the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, access education; learn and acquire the necessary life skills to develop effectively and be productive citizens

- **If** Iraq’s legal, policy, institutional frameworks, practices, and services meet international standards regarding protecting children’s rights to be free from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect; and

- **If** greater numbers of children and families have equitable access to age-appropriate high-quality child protection prevention and response services; and
- **If** children, parents and communities in Iraq encourage, support, and practice behaviours and positive social norms that are not violent, exploitative, abusive or neglectful, including seeking assistance,

Then more children, adolescents and women in Iraq will live a life free from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect and are protected in accordance with international standards.

- **If** there is more investment to construct or re-build health facilities and equip them with state of the art technology and human resources, and
- **If** health facilities have strengthened capacities to provide comprehensive and standardized package of health and nutrition services for mothers, new-borns, young children, and
- **If** effective monitoring and supportive supervision systems are strengthened and
- **If** social and health insurance or safety net programs are designed to protect the health care cost of the poorest and vulnerable

Then new-born, children and their mothers will have better access to quality health services

- **If** parents, caregivers and children have the knowledge, skills and confidence to practice positive parenting, good health and nutrition behaviours, and
- **If** communities provide a supportive environment for positive parenting practices and for families to demand quality services specially for new-born infants and their mothers, and
- **If** Community leaders have a proper orientation and attitude to support the evidence based positive practices

Then there will be increased community awareness, appropriate behaviours will be adopted and parents and caregivers will better nurture their children and apply good health and nutrition practices and act to claim their right to quality services from health facilities.

- **If** the political will is mobilized to improve WASH sector investment levels, and
- **If** Iraq strengthens the WASH Sector Enabling Environment including all 5 building blocks, and
- **If** Iraq strengthens the WASH sector governance and the service delivery model with clearer accountabilities (i.e. policy maker, service provider and regulator)

Then the WASH service levels will improve both qualitatively and quantitatively, more children and their families will have access to safely managed WASH Services and more Iraqi people will use municipal services and pay their bills, hence, improving sustainability.

The overarching desired change will be achieved if the IF-THEN logic above is sufficiently and effectively realized.

Assumptions and Risks

Assumptions:

1. The political status will remain stable and that there is a commitment from the Government of Iraq at all levels to allocate budget for the provision basic services

2. Federal and regional government and governorate level authorities in relevant ministries and directorates will continue to show political and budgetary commitment to evidence generation aimed at developing and enacting strong legal, policy, and institutional frameworks, strengthening systems and services for improved outcomes for women and children.
3. Government and NGO workforces and duty bearers will remain willing to improve their knowledge and competencies in compliance with international standards and best practices to provide quality basic services especially to vulnerable children and women
4. Communities, leaders, and armed actors are all willing to engage to reduce stigma and sensitivities related to GBV, child justice and disability amongst other issues
5. Children, families, communities, religious, tribal and other key leaders are open to cooperation to encourage and support changes in attitudes, practices and structures that promote a health, cohesive and protective environment for children
6. There is clarity on policies and guidelines on decentralization and devolution including financial disbursement to governorates by central government authorities.
7. Donors will continue to invest in sustaining and expanding basic services

Risks:

1. Economic contraction lead to insufficient or inequitable allocation of budgetary resources by the government to support the implementation of the sectoral programmes
2. Continued or worsening conflict and political instability exacerbates ethno-sectarian divisions, impairs social trust and community cohesion, and motivates child rights violations.
3. National, regional and global politics and alliances deprioritize and divert resources needed to minimize and respond to violence, exploitation and abuse or to implement policies where established.
4. A declining base of donor resources and funding, which could hamper the implementation of strategic initiatives and constrain the ability of UNICEF to maintain programmes in place or to develop new ones
5. Natural disasters or rampant climate change

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Note for the Record

Subject: **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

As part of the development of the [REDACTED] and in accordance with recommended practice, the UNICEF Country Office [REDACTED] has undertaken an initial screening of all proposed activities within each draft programme component to assess their potential impact on the environment.

The Country Office applied the recommended assessment methodology as described in the PPP Manual, Chapter 6, Section 3 (the Manual's 2011 version), namely Checklist 1 "Initial Screening". The completed checklist attached to this note reflects that the Country Office considers that the programme components contemplated in the draft Country Programme Document, submitted to the UNICEF [REDACTED], should have no impact on the environment.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Attachment 1 – Checklist 1 "*Initial Screening*"

[REDACTED]

Checklist 1- Initial Screening

Does the proposed programme or project contain activities that fall under one or more of the following categories? If the answer is **NO**, and EIA is not required, and the process is complete

- Extraction of water (e.g., groundwater, surface water, and rain water) NO
- Disposal of solid or liquid wastes (e.g., human faeces, animal wastes, used supplies from a health centre or health campaign) NO
- Use of chemical (e.g., pesticides, insecticides, paint and water disinfectant) NO
- Use of energy (e.g., coal, gas, oil, wood and hydro, solar or wind power) NO
- Exploitation of natural resources (e.g., trees, plants, minerals, rocks, soil) NO
- Construction work above household level (e.g., hospital or school) NO
- Changing land use (deforestation, forestation, and developing industrial housing or recreational centres) NO
- Agricultural production (e.g., growing crops, fish farming) NO
- Industrial production (e.g., small scale town/village workshops) NO

