

UNICEF
Office of Research – Innocenti

2018 RESULTS REPORT

The Office of Research – Innocenti is UNICEF’s dedicated research arm. Its prime objectives are to improve international understanding of issues relating to children’s rights and to help facilitate full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, across the world. The Office of Research aims to set out a comprehensive framework for research and knowledge within the organization, in support of UNICEF’s global programmes and policies, and works with partners to make policies for children evidence-based. Publications produced by the Office are contributions to a global debate on children and child rights issues, and include a wide range of opinions.

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2018 RESULTS REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR

As I write this message, I am struck by certain historical facts that come together to make this a truly special moment for children. 2018 marks the first year we are reporting on the progress of research under a new UNICEF global Strategic Plan (2018-2021). For the first time, it positions evidence and research as critical change strategies for achieving results for children. This is the beginning of a new era – brought about largely through the efforts of the UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti to weave research into the fabric of UNICEF’s global business model. This report therefore is an account of the first year of work to generate critical evidence to inform programmes, policies and advocacy for children and young people around the world.

Along with this new era for evidence in UNICEF, 2018 was the year we began to articulate and flesh out a fundamentally new element of our mandate: establishing our office as a centre at the forefront of thought leadership on global realities and opportunities for children. As we work towards that goal, the historical significance of the year ahead cannot be overlooked. In 2019, we plan to celebrate ‘triple anniversaries’: the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) – the world’s most ratified human rights treaty; the Office’s own 30th anniversary; and the 600th anniversary of the Ospedale degli Innocenti – the institution in Florence, in which the IRC is housed, with its rich heritage of humanism and caring for children. Thus, 2018 can be viewed as an historical milestone at which we take stock of the past and measure our progress into the future.

For the first time since 1989, our home in Florence was expanded thanks to generous support and strong partnerships with the Government of Italy, the Tuscan Regional Authorities and our host, the Istituto degli Innocenti (IDI). We moved into renovated and expanded premises within the historic Ospedale, which provides expanded facilities to carry out our mandate, to innovate, and to host events of global significance for children. In these stunning new facilities, on the threshold of

the triple anniversaries of progress for children, we feel renewed and recommitted to live up to our mandate, taking stock of all that has been achieved, continuing the drive to uncover knowledge and evidence for children, and establishing a leading centre for reflection on the future of childhood.

Children’s rights are timeless. But the realities, risks, challenges and opportunities that shape children’s experiences of their childhoods have rapidly evolved. Childhood in 2019 is very different from what it was 30 years ago when both the CRC and UNICEF Innocenti were born – and it will most likely be different again in another 30 years. Science, societies and systems are all evolving rapidly, often with significant impacts on children. These and other influences will also shape the way we conduct research, the questions we ask, and how we work within UNICEF and our partners.

It is imperative that we all come together to examine the forces that shape childhood, assess what might lie ahead in the next 30 years, and propose ambitious yet practical ways to work together to realize the rights of every child and young person. UNICEF Innocenti is justly proud of its history here in Florence. It is also proud of the research it does for the children of today. We at UNICEF believe that research and evidence can serve as a powerful driver of change in children’s lives, and we seek to demonstrate this every day through our work.

Research and evidence programmes at UNICEF Innocenti serve both internal and external roles. The internal role is concerned with ensuring a strong empirical foundation for our programming. This is critical so UNICEF can be confident it is ‘doing the right things, the right way, at the right time, and in the right place’. Our external role focuses on strengthening UNICEF’s ability to shape the global research agenda on issues concerning children and young people, and to promote the use of evidence by our partners, including governments and civil society organizations.

MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR

We perform these two roles by carrying out high-quality research, typically in combination in with government and other partners; by synthesising and translating research conducted by the broader research community; by facilitating the research capacity of other parts of UNICEF and partners; and by convening partners to deliberate, co-create and find solutions to issues affecting children. UNICEF Innocenti’s research portfolio over the last 30 years has, with the changing global realities and opportunities, covered a diverse range of issues facing children and young people.

Our past research included ground-breaking studies on the impact of structural adjustments and the economic transition of the former Soviet bloc. Our present research examines: the design of social protection programmes in Africa; the impact of digital technology on children; the measurement of child poverty; the impact of violence on children; the factors behind teacher absenteeism and impact on learning; the impact of migration on child well-being; the humanitarian-development nexus; and the foundations of adolescent development and well-being.

The Innocenti Report Card series continues to be viewed as one of the best-known regularly published analytical works on the well-being of children in high-income countries, having contributed to policy and programme reform across the OECD and EU regions. In late 2018, with the successful launch of Report Card 15 and the second UNICEF International Council Meeting, UNICEF Innocenti proved that with adequate investment, support and lead time – the organization has the acumen and ability to design and host major and meaningful international events to advance UNICEF’s priorities. Indeed, our aim

is to transform our home here in Florence into a fully-fledged convening centre where we will bring scholars, thinkers and practitioners together for action as we navigate the emerging issues of our time affecting children and young people.

UNICEF Innocenti does far more than conduct UNICEF’s leading empirical research programmes: we provide research governance, build research tools and guidelines and advance the highest ethical standards of research on children. We also communicate and disseminate our research findings for policy uptake, interacting with a rapidly expanding digital following in the research, policy and development communities.

Our forward-looking research aims to focus on issues that have an increasing bearing on the future of critical aspects of childhood and adolescence, such as mental health, displacement, transition to the world of work, urbanization, the care-worker economy and gender norms. To become catalysts of change, we will continue to take risks, and challenge ourselves and our partners to be driven by evidence, in all things.

We look forward to working with colleagues across UNICEF and with our broader partners in generating and using knowledge to achieve positive, lasting change for children.



Priscilla Idele
Acting Director

UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti

HARNESSING THE POWER OF EVIDENCE TO DRIVE CHANGE FOR CHILDREN

OVERVIEW

At the close of 2018, UNICEF's Office of Research – Innocenti can look back over a highly productive year. Significant gains were made in generating evidence to: improve the lives of the most disadvantaged children; build organizational capacity to conduct and use quality, ethical research on children; and set a foundation as an important convening centre for expert consultation on next-generation ideas on children. 2018 marked the first year of the new UNICEF Strategic Plan (2018-2021), to which UNICEF Innocenti contributes. The new strategic plan is the first to clearly delineate the role of research and evidence as one of the eight priority change strategies for children. UNICEF Innocenti took important steps to generate, synthesise and promote use of research on child rights and well-being so that programmes, policies and advocacy increasingly benefit from robust evidence sources.

The unique position of UNICEF Innocenti – embedded in UNICEF's global network of programming and policymaking for children – creates a clear path for immediate uptake of evidence generated 'on the ground' to inform the design and implementation of interventions for children. Reflections on the swiftly evolving research landscape in 2018 have clarified UNICEF Innocenti's forward-looking strategy with the aims of continuing some well-established research programmes, expanding on nascent, promising ones; and venturing into new, important emerging issues with the potential to impact on future child rights and well-being.

Mature research programmes in cash transfers and adolescent well-being achieved significant international influence and impact and will be continued and strengthened. Promising newer areas of research – digital connectivity, gender, migration and humanitarian-development nexus and mental health – are gathering significant momentum and will be further developed or expanded to answer critical questions on children's experiences as they use the Internet, grow and socialize, move within and across borders, or when faced with situations of conflict and fragility. Research challenges that are moving onto UNICEF Innocenti's agenda – urbanization, climate change, implementation research and child protection systems – are targeted as emerging priorities for the near future.

The global repositioning exercise of the Office of Research and the strategic review of the research function have both contributed to UNICEF's renewed commitment to accelerate efforts to establish UNICEF Innocenti as a global convening centre for thought leadership on the future of childhood and child rights. Taking advantage of the Office's physical move to significantly upgraded and expanded facilities in another wing of the Ospedale degli Innocenti – thanks to the generous contribution of the Istituto degli Innocenti (IDI) and the Regione Toscana – this important expanding convening mission will be guided by three clear aims: to influence the global dialogue of thought leaders on child rights and well-being; to create a physical and virtual

HARNESSING THE POWER OF EVIDENCE TO DRIVE CHANGE FOR CHILDREN

FIGURE 1: THREE OUTCOME AREAS OF UNICEF INNOCENTI'S PROGRAMME (2018–2021)



convening space to facilitate collective action for children; and to commission and publish agenda-setting 'think pieces' on issues affecting children, to be produced across UNICEF and its partners. Figure 1 summarizes the three outcome areas of UNICEF Innocenti's Programme (2018–2021).

As attention turns to the 2019 anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child – CRC@30 – also coinciding with the 30th anniversary of the Innocenti Research Centre and the 600th anniversary of the Ospedale – the Office of Research is ready to play a central role in positioning thought leadership at the forefront of UNICEF's global mission, with a series of special events in late 2019 that will reflect on its past, present and future.

HARNESSING THE POWER OF EVIDENCE TO DRIVE CHANGE FOR CHILDREN

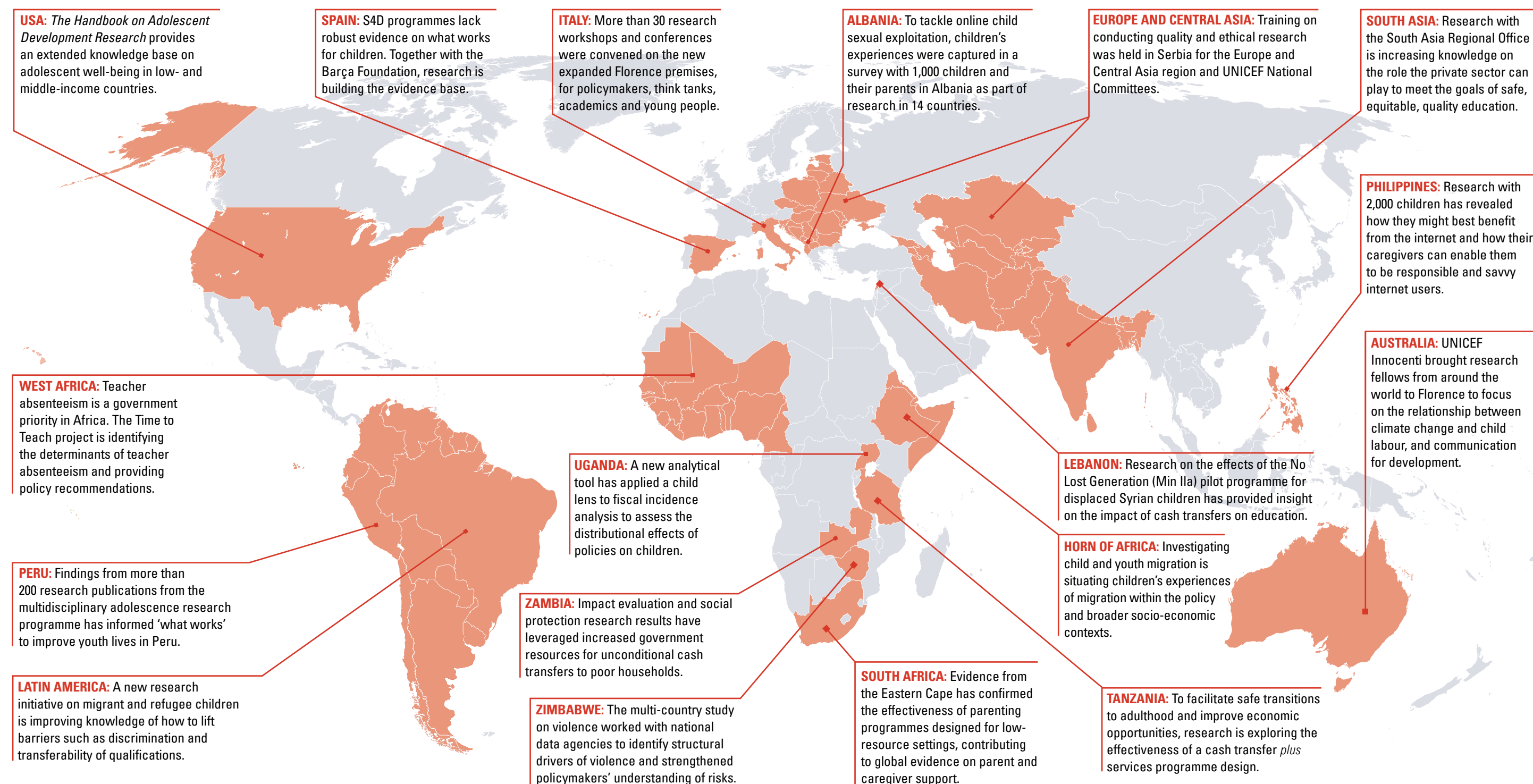
OUR REACH

UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti programmes spanned the globe in 2018. Our work covered high-, middle- and low-income countries, working through UNICEF programmes and National Committees, as well as with governments, research

HARNESSING THE POWER OF EVIDENCE TO DRIVE CHANGE FOR CHILDREN

institutions, policy think tanks, universities and individual consultants. This map is indicative of our global footprint for selected research activities.

FIGURE 2: GLOBAL REACH OF OUR RESEARCH – SOME EXAMPLES



OUTCOME AREA 1: GENERATING HIGH-QUALITY EVIDENCE

Through its research activities, UNICEF Innocenti produced rigorous, policy-relevant evidence that informs programme priorities and contributes to knowledge as a public good. Some new activities also took shape. Key research programme areas and results in 2018 are outlined below.

CHILD POVERTY, INEQUALITIES AND WELL-BEING

Analysis of child poverty and equity, including research on multidimensional poverty, continued to inform understanding of children's situations in various contexts. Children's access to goods and services that are fundamental for their full development and protection is essential for the fulfilment of their rights under the CRC.

MULTIDIMENSIONAL CHILD POVERTY

UNICEF's multiple overlapping deprivation analysis methodology (MODA), developed at UNICEF Innocenti in 2013, was showcased in the two winning entries to the *Best of UNICEF Research* competition: *Understanding multidimensional poverty in Egypt and Children in Indonesia: An analysis of poverty, mobility, and multidimensional poverty*. In partnership with Tulane University (USA), MODA is contributing to Commitment to Equity for Children (CEQ4C) – a fiscal incidence analysis model for multidimensional child poverty. A proof of concept for a new policy simulation framework that brings together fiscal incidence analysis, public finance for children and child poverty measurement was developed and published. Using government spending and revenue data from Uganda, CEQ4C addresses fundamental questions on the poverty and fiscal impacts on children of alternative budget allocations, fiscal reforms or targeting approaches. Building on this work, in-depth CEQ4C analyses are now underway in Belarus and Uzbekistan in partnership with UNICEF country teams, the World Bank and University of Tulane. The globally accessible online tool will help inform UNICEF's and partners' work, as other countries develop detailed CEQ4C analyses and work to mainstream this systematic and comparable policy analysis framework.

OUTCOME AREA 1: GENERATING HIGH-QUALITY EVIDENCE

INNOCENTI REPORT CARD: INEQUALITY IN CHILDREN'S EDUCATION IN RICH COUNTRIES

Inequalities in children's education from early childhood to secondary school – across 41 countries of the European Union and the OECD – were highlighted in the 15th edition of the Innocenti Report Card: *An Unfair Start: Inequality in Children's Education in Rich Countries*. The results show that, even in the most equitable countries, the lowest performing students are years behind their peers, with children from less well-off families the most likely to lag behind in reading proficiency.

“By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes”

Global Goals for Sustainable Development, 2015, Goal 4.1



OUTCOME AREA 1: GENERATING HIGH-QUALITY EVIDENCE

Yet the report found no trade-off between equality and average achievement. Both primary and secondary school students are more likely to achieve a good minimum standard of reading proficiency in countries with smaller gaps between the best and worst performing students. Wide international media coverage brought significant visibility to the report with coverage in the *Financial Times*, World Economic Forum (WEF), *The Times*, AFP, Xinhua and many others. The results were streamed live to policymakers, child rights activists and academics. The dynamic launch panel discussion, featuring global experts, policymakers, educators and students, was shared via HD webcast, marking an important milestone in capacity to link global audiences with UNICEF Innocenti research findings in real time. The next report, due in 2020, will assess differences in children's well-being across the rich world, in collaboration with the *Health Behaviour in School-age Children* (HBSC) network.



OUTCOME AREA 1: GENERATING HIGH-QUALITY EVIDENCE

SOCIAL PROTECTION AND CHILDREN

As key partners in the Transfer Project, UNICEF Innocenti continued to work with UNICEF country programmes and in-country academics to assess the impacts of government cash transfer programmes in Africa. The work is demonstrating that cash provided to poor, marginalized households has widespread benefits on child, adult, household and community-level outcomes, including education, safe transitions to adulthood, poverty, food security, food security, and resilience.

In 2018, UNICEF Innocenti launched the final report of a mixed-method, longitudinal study examining how a social protection programme in Tanzania improved the well-being of adolescents and youth. UNICEF Innocenti researchers worked closely with Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA) – a Tanzanian-based research institute, and with government and partners. The study found that the government's Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) Programme increased school attendance, and empowered young people across dimensions of decision-making, autonomy, social support, reproductive health knowledge, and their ability to seek help when experiencing violence. Despite these positive and potentially transformative impacts, the study found that cash transfers are important, but not sufficient to address all the barriers to safe, healthy, and productive transitions to adulthood. Thus, more integrated efforts are needed, and our researchers at UNICEF Innocenti are contributing to increasing efforts to implement integrated social protection programming, including adolescent-focused strategies that link cash transfer programmes to key services and sectors, known as 'cash plus.'

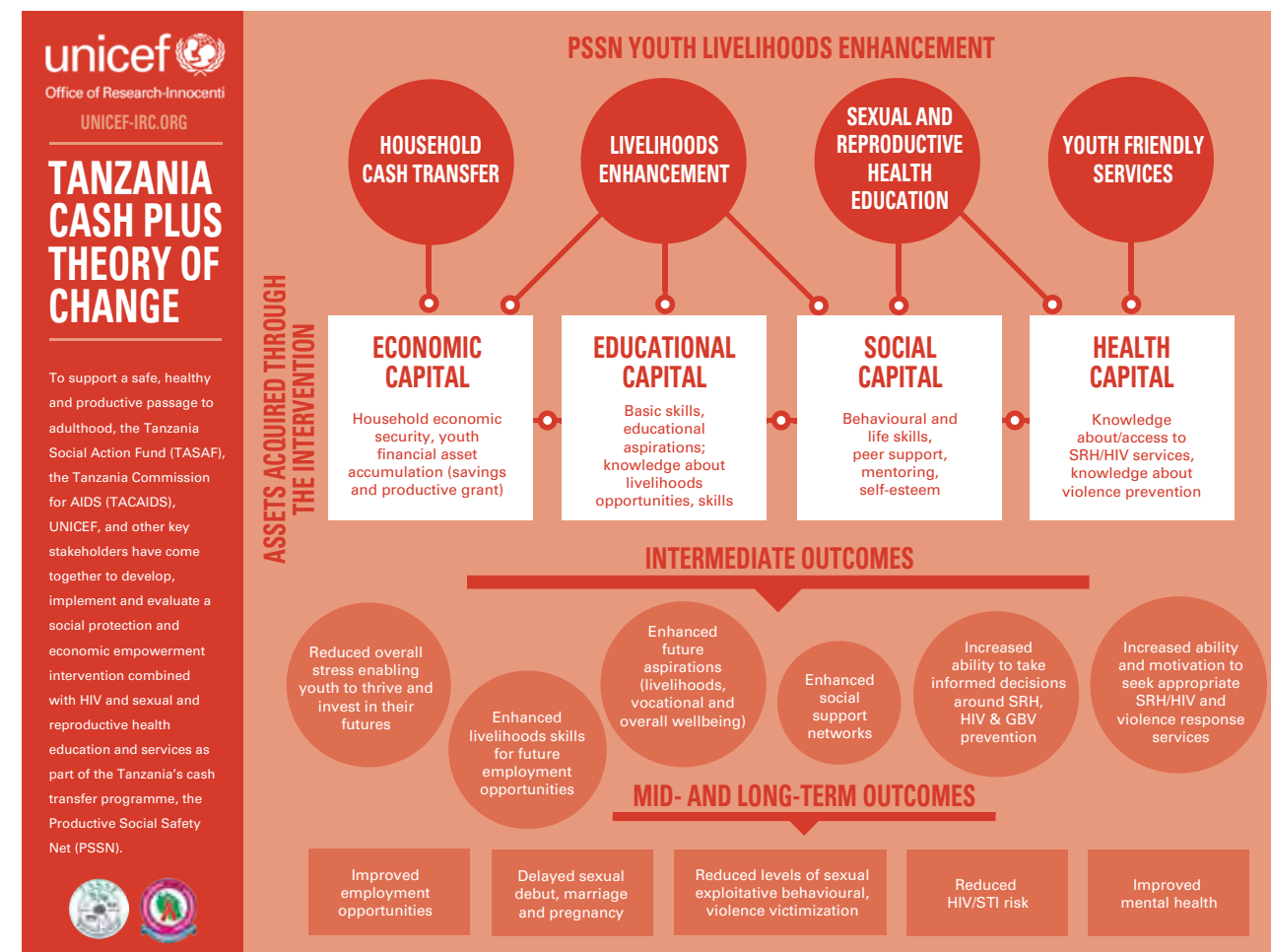


OUTCOME AREA 1: GENERATING HIGH-QUALITY EVIDENCE

Integrated programming is designed to overcome barriers to accessing services, as well as gender- and age-related vulnerabilities that may limit the transformational impacts of cash alone. In 2018, studies examining integrated cash programming in Tanzania, Ethiopia and Mozambique using longitudinal, mixed-method approaches were in various stages of implementation. Cutting-edge evidence on these topics is expected to be released between 2019 and 2021.

In Tanzania, the research is also examining the gendered impacts of adolescent-focused programming on HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health, linkages to health services and livelihood training/mentoring layered over the government's social protection programme. The theoretical framework in Figure 3 illustrates these components. A related video documentary, *The CASH Plus Model: Improving Adolescent Well-being with Evidence* provides a case study on the role of research in Tanzania's effort to prevent HIV/AIDS among adolescents, emphasizing the voices of these young people.

FIGURE 3: TANZANIA CASH PLUS THEORY OF CHANGE



OUTCOME AREA 1: GENERATING HIGH-QUALITY EVIDENCE

ADOLESCENCE AND YOUNG PEOPLE

There are 1.2 billion adolescents in the world today.⁷ Enrolment of adolescents in secondary schools is still low, and illiteracy rates approach 30 per cent in the least developed countries.⁸ Adolescents not in school are more vulnerable to trafficking, recruitment into armed conflict, and child labour. Many adolescent girls marry and begin childbearing at an early age, while some drop out of school.

The multidisciplinary, multisectoral and multiregional research generated from this programme has advanced knowledge on adolescent well-being across contexts to shape more effective policies and programmes. It demonstrates impact in several work streams, including violence prevention in Peru, and cash transfers to strengthen adolescent well-being outcomes. The programme's impacts and findings have been widely reported in previous Results Reports.

The programme has been instrumental in shifting UNICEF and global stakeholder attention toward adolescence, playing a key role in informing the UNICEF Strategic Plan (2018-2021) and contributed directly to *UNICEF Programme Guidance for the Second Decade* released in 2018. UNICEF's commitment to adolescence has been further amplified through the Generation Unlimited global partnership, launched at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2018. The goal of the partnership is for all young people to be in school, learning, in training or employment by 2030, having achieved literacy and numeracy, and acquired skills for employability, and knowledge on human rights, gender equality, non-violence and citizenship. UNICEF Innocenti research on adolescence has played an essential role in underpinning collective efforts to advance the new and dynamic business model being



⁷ UNICEF 2018, 'Adolescents Overview', June 2018, <https://data.unicef.org/topic/adolescents/overview/>, accessed 19 March 2019.

⁸ UNICEF 2018, 'Literacy', July 2018, <https://data.unicef.org/topic/education/literacy/>, accessed 19 March 2019.

OUTCOME AREA 1: GENERATING HIGH-QUALITY EVIDENCE

developed by Generation Unlimited: co-creating and scaling up solutions and promising ideas. In addition, future research on adolescence is under development to align to Generation Unlimited's objectives.

Key achievements in 2018 were focused on summative pieces such as the *Oxford Handbook of Adolescent Development Research* developed by UNICEF Innocenti in collaboration with the Society for Research in Child Development. Published in 2018, with contributions from more than 50 authors from different countries and disciplines, the volume tackles the challenges and the promise of adolescence by presenting recent research on social, emotional, behavioural, cognitive, and physical development. It adopts a positive framing, representing young people as an opportunity to accelerate a positive shift in discourses around young people. Key findings were disseminated in many strategic forums including: UNICEF Gender, Child Protection and Adolescence Network Meetings, Evidence Symposium on Adolescents and Youth in the Middle East and North Africa, expert consultation of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) on adolescent nutrition, global experts workshop on adolescents held at the Bellagio Centre, special session for the World Food Programme staff in Rome, and Government of Peru's Social Inclusion week. The quarterly Innocenti Research Digest on Adolescence was scaled up in 2018, reaching a broader audience through extending content sourcing searches and final product translation into French and Spanish. A new and popular interactive resource on the adolescent brain was launched with considerable communications uptake.



OUTCOME AREA 1: GENERATING HIGH-QUALITY EVIDENCE

CHILDREN'S EXPERIENCES ONLINE

More and more children around the world are gaining access to digital technology, and there is a significant gap in evidence of how this impacts on their lives and their rights. One in three Internet users is a child⁹, a proportion expected to increase over the next decade. A fast-growing area of debate and policy formulation, UNICEF Innocenti research on how children interact with the Internet is contributing to and influencing the global research agenda. Our research sets high standards for national and cross-national research conducted by UNICEF, governments, civil society organizations and academics. UNICEF Innocenti's Global Kids Online methodology was extended and used by the EU Kids Online network when researching children's use of digital technology in more than 20 European countries in 2018.

Evidence on children's experiences online, including exposure to harm and exploitation, continued to grow last year under the Global Kids Online project, led by UNICEF Innocenti in collaboration with the London School of Economics. In 2018, new research was conducted in Albania, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Montenegro, New Zealand and the Philippines. More than 15,000 children and 12,000 parents in 15 countries have been surveyed about Internet engagement, enabling UNICEF to amplify children's voices and experiences locally and globally.



⁹ Livingstone, Sonia; Byrne, Jasmina; Carr, John (2016). One in Three: Internet Governance and Children's Rights, Innocenti Discussion Papers no. 2016-01, UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti, Florence.

OUTCOME AREA 1: GENERATING HIGH-QUALITY EVIDENCE

Evidence from this work has also helped sharpen policy positions and perspectives on children in the digital age, within UNICEF and across national contexts.

Examples include:

- underpinning national reports produced for the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and the WeProtect Global Alliance
- developing digital skills and literacy programmes in Bulgaria in more than 100 schools
- planning new online safety interventions in Ghana to reach 80,000 children in 2019
- influencing discussion around the national Communications Law in Argentina
- developing an online safety app for children in Montenegro.

The academic impact of Global Kids Online also informed the latest EU Kids Online survey, implemented in 20 countries in Europe during 2018 by our partners in the EU Kids Online network.

On a global scale, UNICEF is a thought leader on children in the digital age. Global Kids Online data informed the impactful *UNICEF State of the World's Children: Children in a Digital World* report and the evidence continues to inform UNICEF's response to online violence, exploitation and abuse of children. As a background paper to the *State of the World's Children* report, UNICEF Innocenti published an evidence review on how the time children spend using digital technology impacts their well-being, social relationships and physical activity. This has been widely picked up by news media and has informed public debates.

In 2018, UNICEF Innocenti initiated a case study to track emerging impacts from the Global Kids Online initiative. The findings will be used to improve future uptake and evidence-based advocacy. In 2019, UNICEF Innocenti and the Global Kids Online network will release a report exploring the factors underlying children's digital skills development, synthesising evidence from 11 Global Kids Online country projects, and a short report on children's experiences of unwanted sexual solicitation online. A new multi-country study on violence against children in Africa and South-East Asia, will examine the prevalence of online violence, exploring how online and offline forms of violence intersect and if they share the same underlying drivers. Research ambitions also include developing a better understanding of the transformative potential role of digital technology in supporting positive mental health in children, which could have important implications for UNICEF.

UNICEF Innocenti looked at all the evidence ... on how children's use of digital technology affected their mental well-being, their social relationships and their physical activity, and found less cause for alarm than is often suggested. Most of the studies ... examined seem to show that the technology helps children stay in touch with their friends and make new ones. In the 1990s and early 2000s, when the internet was relatively new, such benefits seemed less clear because it seemed to isolate people, but now that almost everybody is online, it has become a busy and sociable place.

The Economist Special Report on How Children Interact with Digital Media, 3 January 2019

OUTCOME AREA 1: GENERATING HIGH-QUALITY EVIDENCE

CHILD RIGHTS AND PROTECTION

Children's rights and protection in a fast-changing world are a central focus of research at UNICEF Innocenti. Building on UNICEF Innocenti's rich history of work in this area, the programme continued to generate evidence and work closely with child protection and human rights practitioners, focusing on: children and their migration pathways; prevention of childhood violence, abuse and exploitation; and a final summative report on family and parenting support.

In 2018, research findings from the multi-country study on the drivers of violence affecting children helped identify the core structural drivers of violence against children in different settings in Italy, Peru, Vietnam and Zimbabwe. Using a participatory analytical process, the study helped uncover how structural factors interact and drive violence against children in their homes and communities. This research also tested a methodology that can be used in any country context to assess violence against children: using local research and knowledge and building collective ownership of an agenda to end violence. A related data animation to enhance a new conceptual understanding of violence reached an ever-growing audience with more than 11,000 views, across Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. It also continued to grow our YouTube following, with more than 160,000 views.

In addition, the final summative research report on the role of family policies, especially the role of parenting programmes for children and adolescents, captured the overall contribution of this research stream. The report summarized the development of the programme, increasing the availability of evidence on the role of family policies and parenting programmes for adolescents. It highlighted the effective programmes operating in low-income settings and provided insight into challenges for ensuring better scale up. In addition to the report, an extensive online family and parenting research toolkit was built to allow researchers to access all key survey guides, questionnaires, quantitative and qualitative data-gathering frames and special ethical research guidelines.

Research in 2019 will include significant primary research projects related to child and youth migration in the Horn of Africa, and strategies to end child labour in South Asia, with a specific focus on education as an entry point for change.



OUTCOME AREA 1: GENERATING HIGH-QUALITY EVIDENCE

These research projects will contribute substantially to situating children's experiences of migration and work within the policy and broader socio-economic contexts of two diverse regions. Furthermore, a focus on the prevention of interpersonal violence, starting in childhood, has gained traction across the world in the last decade. There have been substantial investments in improving the quality of evidence on prevalence and risk factors, but also on impact evaluations to better identify the strategies and interventions that can effectively change social norms and individual behaviours while addressing structural drivers of violence. UNICEF Innocenti is playing an increasing role in convening, identifying evidence gaps, and developing guidance to strengthen the quality of evidence to ensure its subsequent translation into programme guidance.



OUTCOME AREA 1: GENERATING HIGH-QUALITY EVIDENCE

CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

Children and young people are at the centre of migration. There are 31 million children and adolescents living outside their country of origin, and another 17 million internally displaced.¹⁰ While there is significantly more data now available on the lives of migrants, there is considerably less understanding of the movement of children and young people, including their experiences and vulnerabilities as they move on their migration pathways.

In 2018, research at UNICEF Innocenti generated knowledge on critical unanswered questions regarding children and migration. Such child-sensitive research initiatives are particularly relevant in light of the recently endorsed intergovernmental agreements on the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. They contribute to strengthening UNICEF programming, policy and advocacy in supporting the implementation of the global pacts. They also help to ensure children and young people's safety, protection and capabilities, as envisaged in the UNICEF Agenda for Action for Children on the Move and the Generation Unlimited partnership.

Highlights of our research in 2018 include focus on children moving within and across borders, with an ongoing focus on the Horn of Africa. Attention was drawn to the increasingly younger profiles of migrants and the specific vulnerabilities of children, both unaccompanied and those moving with families.



¹⁰ UNICEF 2016, 'Child Migration and Displacement', August 2016, <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-migration-and-displacement/>, accessed 16 December 2018.

OUTCOME AREA 1:
GENERATING HIGH-QUALITY EVIDENCE

A first-ever attempt to quantify the extent to which child-related concerns influence migration decisions drew attention to the increasingly youthful profile of migrants, and the specific vulnerabilities of children migrating. Starting points for further analysis include: paying greater attention to the children and young people in the household; individual decisions to migrate; and the role of children’s well-being in the country of origin as a major push factor.

Drawing on data from 150 Gallup World Poll countries, primary qualitative data collection was initiated in the Horn of Africa as part of a study of child-sensitive push and pull factors, protection risks, and services and support that children encounter while on the move. This research is informing programming on how to strengthen the child protection systems and mechanisms. It is shaping border action research initiatives in the region, as well as UNICEF and partners’ efforts to improve cross-border cooperation to better protect children and youth along migration pathways. This research is shaping a new multi-country initiative in collaboration with UNICEF offices across the Eastern and Southern Africa region, and the Middle East and North Africa region.

BOX 1: FINDINGS ON
MIGRATION FROM THE
GALLUP WORLD POLL

- Migration is a child and youth phenomenon globally.
- Both the intention and plans to migrate peak at a young age (at approximately ages 17 and 22 respectively).
- Perceived child well-being significantly affects both migration intent and plans.
- People living in households with children intend and plan to migrate at comparatively higher rates than those in households without children.
- A vast number of children may be affected by migration and being left behind, especially in LMICs.
- Young, male and single people, and those with secondary or higher education have the strongest intention and plans to migrate.
- Aspirations are among the most important drivers of young people’s migration.

OUTCOME AREA 1:
GENERATING HIGH-QUALITY EVIDENCE

GENDER AND SOCIAL NORMS

Building on past and current research on gender socialization and violence against children, the office is advancing the evidence base on how social and gender norms influence what children and adolescents can or cannot do, or aspire to do, based on their gender in different contexts.

Ongoing research is improving the understanding of how these norms shape children’s well-being – from driving violence against children, to leaving women and girls as primary providers of unpaid care and domestic work. A 2018 global evidence review on unpaid care and domestic work carried out by children in developing countries demonstrated that social and gender norms do play a role in the division of responsibilities within the household.

This and other research reveals that, across countries, women and girls are primarily responsible for unpaid care and domestic work – from caring for the young and old, to collecting water and fuel, to cooking and cleaning. Social norms intensify during adolescence, which affects the time spent by girls and boys on unpaid care and domestic work (Banati and Lansford, 2018). For instance, girls aged 5–9 spend around 30 per cent more time on household chores than boys, while their older peers aged 10–14 spend around 50 per cent more time than boys (ILO, 2017).

Our research is helping to change the discourse by promoting a life course and inter-generational approach to investigation of unpaid care and domestic work and social and gender norms. Future research will explore how social and gender norms around unpaid care and domestic work are reproduced – for instance in limiting girls’ opportunities, aspirations and mobility while shaping boys’ ‘toxic masculinity’, thus hampering the effective realization of gender equality.

Despite increasing evidence on the potential to leverage social protection programmes and systems to bring about transformative gender outcomes, many of them are not deliberately designed to do this. Consequently, there is a need to understand how social protection can be leveraged to achieve gendered results for adolescents.

In 2019, the office will build on existing research on adolescent well-being, cash transfers and gender, with the new project: Gender Responsive, Adolescent Sensitive Social Protection (GRASSP).

BOX 2: GRASSP RESEARCH GOALS

- Expand the evidence base on the gendered determinants of positive psychosocial well-being and resilience to stress.
- Improve measurement through development of tools on empowerment for girls and boys.
- Expand evidence on impacts and design/ implementation features of integrated social protection programmes and systems with a focus on adolescents and young people.
- Expand evidence on policies and interventions to address unpaid care and domestic work by adolescents and young people.

OUTCOME AREA 1: GENERATING HIGH-QUALITY EVIDENCE

The new multi-country research programme explores how social protection systems can better account for gender dynamics, norms and stereotypes in their design, implementation and governance to contribute to achieving gender equality during adolescence.

WHAT WORKS TO REDUCE CHILD LABOUR?

Millions of poor, rural households in sub-Saharan Africa are receiving regular cash transfers to improve their food security and smooth consumption during periods of economic duress. Understanding the effects of cash transfers on child labour is important in this setting. Many cash transfer recipient households are either subsistence farmers or microenterprise owners. As households are free to spend the cash transfers as they wish, they may decide to invest them in their farm or business. Because cash transfer programmes often target households with few adults who are fit to work, children may support the expansion of the household enterprise.

A multi-country UNICEF Innocenti research initiative funded by the US Department of Labor examines this issue. In 2018, two outputs under this research initiative were accepted for publication in well-established, peer-reviewed journals. The studies contribute to conversations on making implementation of cash transfers sensitive to potential increases in child work.



OUTCOME AREA 1: GENERATING HIGH-QUALITY EVIDENCE

The first study investigates the impacts of cash transfer programmes in Malawi and Zambia. In both countries, working with the Transfer Project, impacts on school participation and child labour were measured through randomized trials. Similar patterns were found in the two countries. Recipient households do indeed invest cash transfers, particularly in their agricultural enterprises. Adults spend more time working on the household farm. Children too, increase their work on the household farm, sometimes engaging in forms of work that are considered detrimental for children, including excessive working hours and exposure to hazards. However, many other aspects of child well-being improve because of these programmes. School participation goes up, food consumption increases, and access to basic items such as shoes and clothes improves.

The second study helps to contextualize these findings. As part of this study, selected adolescents from poor rural households were asked to take photographs of their daily productive activities. These photographs served as a starting point for focus group discussions. The interviews highlight the subtle and complex role of work in the lives of children. Children express a sense of pride when they contribute to their household income:

**I feel good because I started this work
some time back and that's how we
manage to have food in our households.**

15-year-old female, Malawi

Both parents and children mention that, while children working may be a way to develop important skills, it can also conflict with performance in school:

**We should work hard in school and
not engage in selling reed.
School is the future.**

16-year-old male, Malawi

Caregivers indicate that they aim for children to engage in economic activities that are appropriate for their age. When they have to send children to work instead of school, caregivers express feelings of guilt and regret. The study findings will be presented to policymakers in sub-Saharan Africa. In Malawi, they are feeding into policy conversations about graduation programmes that encourage household productive activity. UNICEF Innocenti is also building on this work to develop a broader portfolio on child labour.

OUTCOME AREA 1: GENERATING HIGH-QUALITY EVIDENCE

EDUCATION AND LEARNING RESEARCH

UNICEF Innocenti continued to be a primary resource for robust comparative evidence on education to support pragmatic, forward-looking solutions for systems, policies, and programmes. Working across UNICEF's education, child protection and social policy programme teams, and linking with UNICEF headquarters and regional offices, the World Bank, UNESCO, International Labour Organization (ILO) and multiple foundations, the UNICEF Innocenti research team supported more than 50 countries worldwide to conduct evidence reviews and field research through five regionally-defined multi-country studies.

The largest regional initiative focused on determinants of teacher absenteeism in 22 countries across Africa, in each case engaging education ministries, influencing national policy, and building national capacity in research through in-country training. Recent evidence shows that the rate of teachers' time-on-task is less than half of contracted teaching time in some settings of sub-Saharan Africa. Yet there remains only limited evidence on why teachers are missing classes,¹¹ and how national policies and practices influence absenteeism.¹² To date, evidence from 8 countries has been gathered, and more than 15 national research partners have been trained.



¹¹ Banerjee, A., and Duflo, E. (2006). Addressing Absence. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives: A Journal of the American Economic Association*, 20(1), 117-132.

¹² Bold, T., et.al (2017). What Do Teachers Know and Do? Does it Matter? Evidence from Primary Schools in Africa. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 7956.

OUTCOME AREA 1: GENERATING HIGH-QUALITY EVIDENCE

Education research at UNICEF Innocenti also includes global topical studies on life skills and sports for development. In 2018, UNICEF Innocenti partnered with the FC Barcelona Foundation and UNICEF's Spanish National Committee to build an evidence base in advocacy, practice and policy for Sport for Development (S4D). As part of this project, two bespoke surveys captured experiences from more than 200 S4D initiatives worldwide. Literature reviews assessed the role of sports programming in child development across four areas: education, social inclusion, child protection and personal empowerment. The report of this study, and phase two of the collaboration, will be launched in March 2019 at Camp Nou, Barcelona.

The education unit will continue to work on established regional and global projects, such as Time to Teach, private education, life skills measurement, and S4D. The unit will also undertake new projects including evaluations of digital learning platforms for refugee children, and a study looking at early childhood development policies in the preschool period.

CHILDREN IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

With UNICEF at the forefront of responses to around 300 humanitarian situations each year, UNICEF Innocenti seeks to build knowledge and evidence on how best to meet children's needs in emergencies. Work such as strengthening systems and localization of humanitarian and development programming and ensuring that action is risk informed with affected populations at the centre, requires evidence-based strategies for identifying and addressing the root causes and drivers of risk.

UNICEF Innocenti is expanding research efforts to fill acknowledged gaps in evidence and to help answer critical questions that today's protracted and acute crises pose for children. The research explores the consequences of childhood exposure to shocks and how best to respond in ways that strike the right balance between humanitarian and development action.

In 2018, UNICEF Innocenti supported the generation and dissemination of evidence on the role of social protection in humanitarian settings. A rigorous mixed-methods study of the No Lost Generation (Min Ila) programme implemented by UNICEF Lebanon was conducted. The study focused on examining the effects of cash transfers on school participation of displaced Syrian children in Lebanon. The study highlighted



OUTCOME AREA 1: GENERATING HIGH-QUALITY EVIDENCE

the potential of using cash transfers in displacement settings, but at the same time showed that their impacts are shaped by contextual factors.

A multi-stakeholder workshop in June 2018 on evidence on social protection in contexts of fragility and forced displacement presented the latest evidence on social protection in humanitarian emergencies, including comparisons of effectiveness of different delivery modalities, implications of programming targeting choices and impact of programmes targeted at refugees and host communities. The seven working papers prepared for the workshop can be accessed online.

Background research was also prepared for the Global Education Monitoring Report on education in multisectoral responses to displacement crises. It demonstrates how education can be integrated in multisectoral responses to crises and provides recommendations on coordination of emergency education. UNICEF Innocenti also supported research focusing on adolescent exposure to famine and other major humanitarian shocks. Most existing evidence focuses on younger children, with limited literature on the role of shocks during adolescence – a critical developmental period. Consultation with the Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS) was initiated on how best to capture key lessons from UNICEF's experience at the nexus of humanitarian and development action. It mapped the best entry points for a 'field-informed' research agenda, and models to promote a researchers and practitioners exchange.

Studies in 2019 will include: a Jordanian cash support programme that is being scaled down; and measuring the effectiveness of mass-media 'edutainment' show targeting positive parenting practices in Egypt. In 2019 a dedicated humanitarian research specialist will join the team at UNICEF Innocenti, giving us an opportunity to forge an integrated and cross-disciplinary research agenda on child rights and protection in humanitarian settings.

OUTCOME AREA 2: STRENGTHEN EVIDENCE GENERATION, UPTAKE AND USE

The Office of Research – Innocenti continued to work across UNICEF to: support research governance and coordination; research capacity and evidence culture; assure quality and ethical standards; undertake evidence synthesis and knowledge sharing; and work with partners to strengthen an evidence and learning culture around issues for children.

BUILDING RESEARCH CAPACITY AND EVIDENCE CULTURE

To start the year, a new online Impact Toolkit for researching children's Internet use was launched in early 2018, in collaboration with the London School of Economics as part of the Global Kids Online project. The Impact Toolkit helps researchers to plan and monitor effective knowledge exchange and impact. It includes: methodological and planning guidance; illustrative examples and case studies demonstrating good practice; and practical resources and templates that can be adjusted to specific research and impact.

A workshop on 'Engaging Hard to Reach Adolescents' was hosted in Florence in collaboration with the Oxford Children's Rights network, and Nando Sigona (University of Birmingham and Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford). The workshop will inform the production of a series of methodological briefs for UNICEF staff on engaging marginalized and 'hard-to-reach' adolescents with insights from participatory and ethnographic research. The brief series will be released in mid-2019.

A UNICEF Innocenti 'Introduction to Research Management and Methods' training was carried out for the Europe and Central Asia region in Belgrade, Serbia. The workshop brought together representatives from country offices across the region as well as the Belgrade regional office. For the first time, this training was also available to UNICEF National Committees. The course included modules on use of evidence, research governance, ethics, quality assurance, writing terms of reference, research methods, statistics, critical appraisal skills, research uptake and impact, evidence-informed policymaking and knowledge management.

UNICEF Innocenti also hosted training on 'Ethics in Evidence Generation' in collaboration with the Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, which was attended by many participants. This was targeted at programme partners involved in collecting data/ conducting research on refugee and migrant children. This event was part of a broader EU programme implemented in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Save the Children Sweden and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The programme aims to increase availability and accessibility of data and evidence for the realization of children's rights in the migrant and refugee crisis in Europe.

OUTCOME AREA 2: STRENGTHEN EVIDENCE GENERATION, UPTAKE AND USE

The first-ever organization-wide *Evidence Survey* was conducted to assess staff attitudes to, and use of, evidence among more than 2,000 staff from all levels and functions within UNICEF. Based on similar efforts undertaken by the World Bank and UK Department for International Development (DFID), the survey aims to identify staff values and attitudes associated with evidence at UNICEF across four areas: (i) Skills and Capabilities; (ii) Structures and Mechanisms; (iii) Tools and Systems; and (iv) Culture and Leadership. Initial analysis was completed by December 2018 and an interim report was circulated to all UNICEF staff. Work will continue in 2019 to share the disaggregated findings with regions and Headquarters and to further unpack the qualitative findings through webinars for all regions.

The USAID Learning Lab featured UNICEF Innocenti in its Leaders in Learning podcast series, alongside other international evidence and organizational learning champions from the global development sector. UNICEF Innocenti participated in a strategic retreat of 20 specialists convened by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation in Bellagio to identify how to strengthen the evidence-informed policymaking field. This work will continue in 2019.

UNICEF Innocenti participated in the Global Evidence and Implementation Summit in Melbourne, Australia to present the Mega Map on Child Welfare in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) (see Evidence synthesis and knowledge sharing on p34) and to convene a panel on 'Building Evidence Informed Decision-Making Across Multiple Sectors and Contexts.' Discussion at this event revolved around the crossover between implementation science and evidence synthesis.

UNICEF also became a founding member of a new Multi-Donor Partnership on Organizational Learning for Development (see Box 3 for further details).

BOX 3: NEW PARTNERSHIP ON ORGANIZATIONAL LEARNING FOR DEVELOPMENT

A multi-donor partnership on organizational learning was launched at USAID's 'Moving the Needle' event in 2018. The aim is to add value to the field of international development by:

- sharing how evidence is applied from ongoing operations to use knowledge
- improving capacity to catalyse local ownership of development agendas
- innovating in organizational learning to enhance collective impact
- building the business case for investment in organizational learning
- providing advice and evidence about what works in the international development sector, especially for emerging donors.

USAID and DFID are co-chairs, and founding members are: UNICEF, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and Germany's Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

OUTCOME AREA 2: STRENGTHEN EVIDENCE GENERATION, UPTAKE AND USE

The sixth edition of the annual Best of UNICEF Research report was released in November. This edition featured 12 examples of quality research pieces produced across UNICEF as assessed by Innocenti colleagues and a panel of external experts. Showcasing some of UNICEF's most innovative and rigorous research, the winners cover a range of topics, locations, cultures and levels of economic development. Acknowledging their strong conceptualization, sound methodology, originality and potential for impact, the panel selected the 3 winners and 12 finalists.



BOX 4: BEST OF UNICEF RESEARCH 2018 WINNERS

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting and Child Marriage Among the Rendille, Maasai, Pokot, Samburu and Somali Communities in Kenya – UNICEF Kenya, Kenya Ministry of Health, Kenya Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, United Nations Population Fund. The panel commended this piece for its grounded inquiry through its exploration of local perceptions.

Understanding Child Multidimensional Poverty in Egypt – Egypt Ministry of Social Solidarity, Egypt Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics and UNICEF Egypt. This innovative report provides evidence to inform integrated interventions to address child poverty.

Lives Interrupted: Adolescent Homicides in Fortaleza and in six municipalities in the state of Ceará – UNICEF Brazil, the State Legislative Assembly of Ceará and the Government of Ceará. The panel found this report to be a "brave and compelling study that offers an innovative and captivating way of conducting and presenting research."

OUTCOME AREA 2:
STRENGTHEN EVIDENCE GENERATION, UPTAKE AND USE

BOX 5: BEST OF UNICEF RESEARCH 2018 FINALISTS

- Indonesia:** Children in Indonesia: An analysis of poverty, mobility, and multidimensional deprivation
- Global (NYHQ):** Quality improvement initiatives for hospitalised small and sick newborns in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review
- Afghanistan:** Understanding threats to polio vaccine commitment among caregivers in high-priority areas of Afghanistan: a polling study
- Nigeria:** Effect of Female Teachers on Girls’ enrolment and retention in Northern Nigeria
- Mali:** Using serum antibody detection to assess impact of school water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) improvements on child infection diseases
- China:** What could cognitive capital mean for China’s children?
- Multi-country:** Making the connection – Intimate partner violence and violence against children in Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- Thailand:** A Review of Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Thailand
- Ethiopia:** Generation El Niño: Long-term Impacts on Children’s Well-being

RESEARCH GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION

In 2018, in collaboration with UNICEF’s Evaluation Office, work continued on the quality assurance of research records in the UNICEF Evaluation and Research Database and in the conceptual development of the new Evidence Integrated Systems Initiative, including revision of the existing UNICEF Taxonomy for Defining and Classifying Research, Evaluation and Studies. Almost 600 research entries were quality checked, reclassified according to taxonomic definitions and/or uploaded to facilitate easy retrieval and use and institutional learning. Initial consultations were also instigated to update the 2015 UNICEF Procedure for Quality Assurance in Research. This work will be completed in 2019.

OUTCOME AREA 2:
STRENGTHEN EVIDENCE GENERATION, UPTAKE AND USE

ASSURING ETHICAL STANDARDS IN EVIDENCE
GENERATION ON RESEARCH FOR CHILDREN

Ethical research involving children remained high on the Office of Research – Innocenti agenda with the dedicated web-based (ERIC) resource hosted by the Southern Cross University, Australia receiving a platform upgrade in 2018. UNICEF Innocenti and the Office of Innovation collaborated to produce two critically important papers on the ethical considerations of using social media and geospatial technologies in evidence generation for research on children.

A working paper and programme guidance for conducting ethical research involving children with disabilities is also underway in partnership with Coventry University and will be released in 2019, including in DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) talking book format. Planning was also completed for the establishment of a dedicated UNICEF Ethics Review Board (ERB) hosted at UNICEF Innocenti. The ERB will become fully operational in 2019. It will provide technical advice, receive proposals, convene internal and external reviews of UNICEF research proposals. The ERB will also conduct a formal review of ethical procedures in research involving children. This will be a major step in enhancing and safeguarding the rights of children in future evidence-generation activities within UNICEF and among its key partners. A Senior Specialist on Ethics in Evidence Generation will be recruited to support this function in 2019.



OUTCOME AREA 2: STRENGTHEN EVIDENCE GENERATION, UPTAKE AND USE

EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

UNICEF Innocenti collaborated with the International Rescue Committee and the Campbell Collaboration to co-host an Evidence for Children Roundtable of experts focusing on evidence for child welfare in LMICs. The roundtable stimulated ongoing discussion on filling evidence gaps and increasing awareness of evidence-informed approaches for developing policies for children. It also started discussion on the need to invest in ‘evidence architecture’ and highlighted the lack of evidence in humanitarian contexts. Participants included senior United Nations staff involved in research, programming and policy, non-governmental organizations, the academic community, development partners, child rights specialists, campaigners for ‘evidence literacy’ and representatives from evidence synthesis centres with an interest in child well-being, including from LMICs.



During the meeting, the joint UNICEF Innocenti and Campbell Collaboration Mega Map on Child Welfare Interventions in LMICs was launched. This tool, organized around the five Goal Areas of UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2018–2021, provides an intuitive, interactive and visual overview of the ‘state of evidence’ concerning the effectiveness of child welfare interventions in developing countries and maps 302 systematic reviews and 16 evidence and gap maps. Thanks to support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the gap map will also be a ‘living’ tool in open source format, updated annually over the lifetime of UNICEF's Strategic Plan to maximize ongoing relevance and utility to decision-making. We are exploring broader stakeholder interest in establishing an ongoing Community of Practice and Evidence Platform related to #EvidenceForChildren.

OUTCOME AREA 2: STRENGTHEN EVIDENCE GENERATION, UPTAKE AND USE

Following this event, key findings from the Mega Map on Child Welfare Interventions in LMICs have been summarized in five research briefs, available for download on our website. These research briefs – one for each Strategic Plan goal – summarize the state of knowledge and major evidence gaps as a quick overview for UNICEF (and external) programme staff and practitioners. More information can be found in the UNICEF Innocenti podcasts on this topic.

BOX 6: EVIDENCE AND GAP MAP RESEARCH BRIEFS

Goal One: Every child survives and thrives

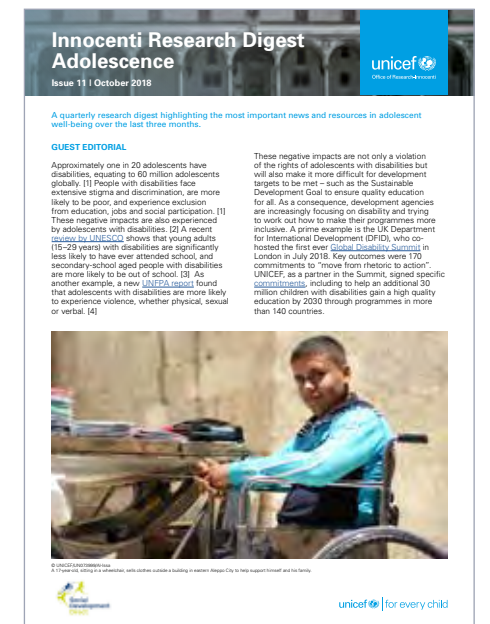
Goal Two: Every child learns

Goal Three: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

Goal Four: Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

Goal Five: Every child has an equitable chance in life

Disseminated to UNICEF's practice networks globally and to newsletter subscribers, the quarterly *Innocenti Research Digest on Adolescence* produced in collaboration with Social Development Direct and with support from DFID is now available in French, Spanish and English. This publication reviews the latest global evidence on adolescent well-being. Its aim is to meet growing field-level demand for timely updates on new evidence, by synthesising key findings of interest to development and policy communities. Key editorial themes featured in 2018 were ‘adolescent development’, ‘mental health interventions in emergencies’, ‘masculine norms’, ‘sexual and reproductive health’, ‘disability’ and ‘protection from violence’. Editorial collaboration featured experts from the International Centre for Evidence in Disability, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, key experts on adolescence from UNICEF and the Department of Reproductive Health and Research at the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children.



OUTCOME AREA 2: STRENGTHEN EVIDENCE GENERATION, UPTAKE AND USE

RESEARCH COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

The Office of Research developed significant new capacity in 2018 to disseminate research findings to diverse audiences. This was achieved largely through successful introduction of powerful new digital functionality, together with improved quality of content planning, development and monitoring. Quality research was made available to inform policies and practice with more than 150 new research products published and presented in high-impact forums.

For the first time, a major flagship publication launch – *Innocenti Report Card 15* – was streamed live from Florence via HD webcast. A dynamic research seminar and analytical panel discussion featuring global experts, policymakers, educators and students was shared in real time with the world. This marks an important milestone in capacity to link global audiences with UNICEF Innocenti research findings.

Also for the first time, the office deployed dedicated microsites featuring HTML report summaries, multimedia assets, translations, news media materials and background information for launch of the dedicated page on The Adolescent Brain: A Second Window of Opportunity and for *Report Card 15*, providing a rich new interactive functionality. The new capacity to publish HTML report summaries will significantly increase the online visibility of our outputs among key audiences.

Initial results indicate that these new measures delivered results. Between 30 October and 11 December, *Report Card 15* was downloaded 7,511 times and the signature *Report Card 15* video was viewed 11,068 times on social media platforms. The Adolescent Brain dedicated page (February 2018) received 13,900 page views and 7,250 report downloads and *Report Card 15* HTML report summary (November 2018) received 8,700 page views and 7,500 report downloads. The Office website (www.unicef-irc.org) achieved more than half a million unique page views and an additional half a million publication downloads overall in 2018.

Video continued to prove a successful medium for disseminating research. A new documentary, *The CASH Plus Model: Improving Adolescent Well-being with Evidence*

BOX 7: GROWING ONLINE ENGAGEMENT AND UPTAKE OF UNICEF INNOCENTI RESEARCH IN 2018

- Record visits to www.unicef-irc.org with millions of page views and 100,000s downloads
- 10% year-on-year increase in Facebook followers
- 21% year-on-year growth in Twitter followers
- 13% year-on-year increase in podcast plays
- YouTube followers increased to over 160,000
- New dedicated microsite function: HTML report summaries, multimedia assets, news media materials
- Increased translation of key findings into relevant languages
- New real-time live streaming of launches and events
- Piloting the use of Plum Analytics software to monitor research impact

OUTCOME AREA 2: STRENGTHEN EVIDENCE GENERATION, UPTAKE AND USE

provides a case study on the role of research in Tanzania's effort to prevent HIV among adolescents, emphasizing the voices of young people themselves. *The Drivers of Violence Affecting Children* (11,000 views) employs creative data animation to enhance a new conceptual understanding of violence. Video content was embedded directly in social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and continued to grow our YouTube following, with 166,100+ video views on YouTube alone, and adding nearly 1,000 new YouTube subscribers.

UNICEF Innocenti continued to publish in UNICEF Connect's *Evidence for Action* blog, adding on average two posts per month. The most popular UNICEF Innocenti posts looked at gender socialization, migration and adolescent research. Social media engagement continued to grow, importantly, with a higher number of followers invested in research for children. The number of Facebook followers increased by 10 per cent while the Twitter following grew by 21 per cent. Podcast plays increased by 13 per cent.

In addition to an increase in Working Papers, Research Briefs and Discussion Papers, 2018 saw a pronounced expansion of the UNICEF Innocenti Research Report series, including substantive new works on asylum-seeking children in Nordic countries, impact evaluation of the Tanzania CASH PLUS project, family policy and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and inventory of laws and policies on adolescents in South Asia. A new 'fast-track' UNICEF Innocenti Working Paper publishing policy was implemented to enhance community review of research and feedback on cutting edge and early stage work in real time.



OUTCOME AREA 3: CONVENE AND CATALYSE RESEARCH ON CHILDREN

NEW EXPANDED PREMISES

As part of the tripartite agreement between UNICEF, the Regione Toscana (Tuscan Regional Authorities) and the Istituto degli Innocenti (IDI), the renovation of the new premises for UNICEF's Office of Research was completed in 2018, and staff moved into the new facility in April. The office remains within the historic Renaissance premises of the IDI complex, with a history of care and support for children stretching back to the fifteenth century. The expansion and modernization were fully funded by the generous financial support from the Regione Toscana and IDI. In the first year of occupation, significant international events were convened and greatly benefited from the new facility. This sets the stage for creation of a platform to advance key ideas for children and their rights into the future.



MAJOR CONVENING AND HOSTING EVENTS IN 2018

Conferences and workshops:

- Protected on Paper? An Analysis of Nordic Country Responses to Asylum-Seeking Children, a high-level political advocacy meeting discussing Nordic Country achievements and constraints in policy on asylum-seeking children, Oslo, Norway, March 2018.
- Research Management and Methods Training workshop for the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (ECARO), a comprehensive training course for regional staff on all aspects of managing research programmes for children, Belgrade, Serbia, May 2018.

OUTCOME AREA 3: CONVENE AND CATALYSE RESEARCH ON CHILDREN

- UNICEF Ethics in Evidence Generation Training, Florence, May 2018.
- Evidence on Social Protection in Contexts of Fragility and Forced Displacement, a workshop on the latest rigorous quantitative evidence on the effects of social protection programmes in humanitarian settings, Florence, June 2018.
- Evidence for Children Roundtable, a global meeting to launch the Child Well-Being Evidence Gap Map and to discuss efforts to close evidence gaps for progress toward the SDGs, New York City, June 2018.
- The Migration-Deportation-Return Nexus workshop to stimulate policy dialogue on the circumstances surrounding migrant youth, both in Afghanistan and the Edo state in Nigeria, Chatham House, London, June 2018.
- UNICEF Global Data, Research, Evaluation and Analytics Meeting (DREAM), provided an opportunity to look at UNICEF focal points for evidence generation, communication and use, to discuss emerging trends, and to exchange lessons, New Delhi, India, June, 2018.
- Launch of Innocenti *Report Card 15* 'An Unfair Start,' on inequality of educational opportunity in rich countries, Florence, October 2018.

Hosting:

- Public Finance for Children global training workshop, September – October 2018.
- Food Systems for Children meeting, November 2018.
- UNICEF International Council Meeting, attended by Executive Director Fore, November 2018.



OUTCOME AREA 3:
CONVENE AND CATALYSE RESEARCH ON CHILDREN

FORWARD CHANGE STRATEGY FOR CONVENING

UNICEF Innocenti has reached a pivotal point in its history – marking 30 years since its inception and 30 years since signing of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. At the same time, Florence is celebrating the 600th anniversary of the Ospedale degli Innocenti, where UNICEF Innocenti is located.

With expanded new premises in an attractive location, and a renewed directive to combine its foundation of research and evidence on children’s issues with thought leadership, UNICEF Innoenti is poised to become a fully-fledged convening centre. In 2019, it will launch the first phase of an annual conference of leading minds bringing together duty bearers, children as rights holders, visionaries, and changemakers, to grapple with the most pressing issues facing childhood.

The broad aims of the new initiative on building UNICEF Innocenti’s thought leadership role include:

- **Influencing** leading social change-makers and inspiring thought leaders to address next-generation issues for children around UNICEF’s priorities and evidence in a systematic, consistent and compelling manner.
- **Convening** with the aim of **achieving collective action around** a problem, building meaningful partnerships with the private sector, donors and philanthropists to set strategic funding priorities, based on sound analysis of evidence.
- **Commissioning and publishing** a range of **agenda-setting pieces** that draw on and complement research produced by UNICEF as a whole – on mass urbanization and migration, climate change, children’s rights in the digital era, and other pertinent topics such as mental health, child- and youth-friendly cities, and pollution.

2018 FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND PEOPLE

FINANCIAL RESOURCING AND MANAGEMENT

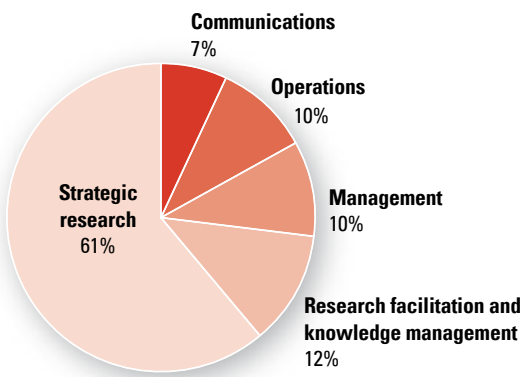
With generous support from a range of donors and partners, UNICEF Innocenti continued to grow in support of its core mission in leading global research on children.

A comprehensive resource mobilization and partnerships strategy was developed in 2018, which seeks to increase flexible, predictable multi-year funding and build up sustainable, long-term partnerships. A total of US\$16 million in new research grants was mobilized in 2018, including core support from the Government of Italy.

In 2018, the total budget expenditure was US\$8.2 million. The Government of Italy continued to provide stable and flexible resources. UNICEF’s core funding, generously contributed by a variety of both public and private sources, was the second largest source of funds. Thanks to its invaluable flexible nature, it was used mainly for management and operational costs.⁷ Additional project funding came from the United Kingdom (DFID), Oak Foundation, Sweden (Sida), FC Barcelona Foundation through the Spanish National Committee, the United States Department of Labor, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. UNICEF Innocenti also benefited from support from the Child Protection Thematic Fund, flexibly supported by public and private partners, including the Governments of Sweden, Norway and Spain and a number of UNICEF’s National Committees.⁸

Around 80 per cent of expenditure was on strategic research, knowledge management and communication activities (see Table 1). The estimated budget for UNICEF Innocenti in 2019 is US\$9.8 million.

FIGURE 5: UNICEF INNOCENTI 2018 EXPENDITURE BY COST CATEGORY – US\$8.2 MILLION



⁷ Please refer to UNICEF’s Report on Regular Resources 2017 available at https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Report_on_Regular_Resources_2017.pdf for a list of contributors to UNICEF’s Core Funding. The UNICEF’s Report on Regular Resources 2018 will be available by June 2019.

⁸ Please refer to UNICEF’s Annual Results Report (ARR) 2017 - Child Protection available at https://www.unicef.org/publicpartnerships/files/Child_Protection_2017_Annual_Results_Report.pdf for a list of contributors to UNICEF’s Thematic Fund Child Protection for 2017. The UNICEF’s ARR 2018 will be available by June 2019.

2018 FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND PEOPLE

TABLE 1: TOP 10 FUNDING SOURCES IN 2018 BY EXPENDITURE			
No.	Funding source	Project description	US\$
1	Government of Italy	Regular contribution	2,447,541
2	Various donors to UNICEF's Regular Resources ⁷	Institutional budget and regular resources*	1,704,297
3	United Kingdom (DFID)	Adolescent well-being research programme	1,383,872
4	Oak Foundation (Swiss National Committee)	Transfer Project – Cash + Care: A life-changing solution to facilitate the safe transition of adolescents to adulthood	847,170
5	Sweden (Sida)	Transfer Project	360,291
6	FC Barcelona Foundation (Spanish National Committee)	Building an evidence base for Sport for Development	230,994
7	USA Department of Labor	Can National Social Protection Systems Reduce Child Labour? project	201,348
8	Various donors to UNICEF's Thematic Fund – Child Protection ⁸	Child protection	152,508
9	United Kingdom (DFID) (via UNICEF Programme Division)	Ending Violence, Abuse & Exploitation of Children	150,756
10	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Strategic Grant)	Social protection and Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Ghana	124,651

*Used primarily for management and operational costs

PARTNERSHIPS

As UNICEF’s global research centre, a remarkable strength of UNICEF Innocenti is its ability to structure a very wide range of partnerships, alliances and networks across a vast array of international external partners, including with UN agencies, governments, universities, research and policy institutes, donors, foundations and civil society organizations. Many new or expanded research projects were established in emerging areas where UNICEF’s technical capacity at the country or regional level is limited. Work is ongoing to engage research think tanks and groups across the Global South (See Annex II for full list of partnerships).

The **Government of Italy** must be recognized first and foremost for continuously supporting the vision of UNICEF Innocenti with generous funding, guidance and institutional backing. The **Regione Toscana** and **Istituto degli Innocenti** delivered the highly significant gift of greatly expanded and modernized office space which will, among many other things, make possible the ambition to create a pre-eminent thought leadership centre for child rights in one of the world’s oldest and most inspiring institutions for children.

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In addition to the recurring financial grant from the **Italian Government**, major new bilateral funding inaugurated in 2018 included the Gender Responsive Adolescent Sensitive Social Protection (GRASSP) grant with **DFID**, and the Transfer Project with **Sida**.

Important new research projects were launched or came to fruition in 2018, with various **National Committees for UNICEF**:

- A major examination of five Nordic countries’ legal and policy frameworks on asylum-seeking children was undertaken with the five **Nordic Countries and UNICEF National Committees**.
- Together with the **Spanish National Committee**, UNICEF Innocenti partnered with the **FC Barcelona Foundation** on building an evidence base in advocacy, practice and policy for Sport for Development (S4D).
- The **Canadian National Committee** and UNICEF Innocenti joined forces with the **Mastercard Foundation** to conduct a multi-country study on teacher absenteeism in Africa.
- The **German National Committee** supported the Global Kids Online initiative and the growing digital research programme.
- The **Netherlands National Committee** supported UNICEF Innocenti in securing a partnership with the **Learning for Well-being Foundation** focusing on addressing the gap in knowledge and research on the development, use and complementarities in core capacities.
- **Numerous National Committees** continued to engage with UNICEF Innocenti on the Report Card and the resulting advocacy efforts in their countries.

In poverty, equity and well-being research, collaboration with **Tulane University** continued to set the groundwork for the ‘Commitment to Equity for Children’, a hybrid of multidimensional child poverty and fiscal incidence analysis. In partnership with the **Transfer Project**, impact evaluations of national unconditional cash transfer programmes reached 12 sub-Saharan countries.

Collaboration with the **London School of Economics and Political Science** on the **Global Kids Online** research partnership expanded to incorporate additional countries in data-gathering efforts. The partnership also played a significant role in a broader collaboration on violence affecting children with the **Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children** and the **WePROTECT Global Alliance** contributing to the global ‘Solutions Summit’ on research to end violence against children in Stockholm.

In the area of education, our collaboration with **DFID**, the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**, the **Mastercard Foundation** and the **World Bank** contributed to significant momentum in the multi-country ‘**Time2Teach**’ research project on teacher absenteeism in sub-Saharan Africa. The UNICEF Innocenti team also sat in advisory positions on over half a dozen international research projects in both high-, and low-and-

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middle-income countries, (including in humanitarian settings), and contributed analysis to **UNESCO's** global monitoring report on education and migration. The education section also published a review of **Family Policies and the SDGs** – launched at the United Nations in May. Partly as a result, staff received international recognition for lifetime contributions to research.

In 2018, significant partnerships were initiated or expanded in efforts to strengthen evidence generation and use capacity across the international development sector as a whole. Some notable instances are:

- Synthesis evidence on key topics related to adolescence in collaboration with the **International Rescue Committee** and **Campbell Collaboration** to co-host an Evidence for Children Roundtable in New York.
- Workshop on 'Engaging Hard to Reach Adolescents' was hosted in Florence in collaboration with the **Oxford Children's Rights network**.
- Workshop on 'Ethics in Evidence Generation' on children in migration with an EU programme implemented in cooperation with **IOM, Save the Children Sweden** and **UNHCR**.
- Role in the Global Evidence and Implementation Summit in collaboration with the **Centre for Evidence and Implementation** and **Campbell Collaboration**.
- Conference on evidence informed policymaking organized by the **William and Flora Hewlett Foundation**.
- Improvement of the Ethical Research Involving Children (ERIC) online toolkit with **Southern Cross University** and ethical research involving children with disabilities in partnership with **Coventry University**.
- New partnership on Organizational Learning for International Development agencies on evidence generation with **USAID, DFID, UNICEF, World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Sida** and **GIZ**.
- Editorial collaboration with the **International Centre for Evidence in Disability, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine**, key experts on adolescence from UNICEF and the **Department of Reproductive Health and Research at WHO** and the **Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children**.

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HUMAN RESOURCING: FOSTERING A RICH LEARNING AND RESEARCH-CONDUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT

STAFF AND RESEARCH CONSULTANTS

Excellence in research requires talented, experienced and skilled professionals. The Office brings together multidisciplinary researchers, managers, knowledge management, communication and uptake specialists. In 2018, five international professional staff joined the office, while three key senior research staff, including the Director, left the organization. The total number of research staff, support staff and in-house consultants was 52 in 2018, of whom 80 per cent are women, representing 19 different nationalities. Almost 70 per cent of the staff costs are covered by grants from the donors indicated in the previous section of this report.



FELLOWSHIPS AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

UNICEF Innocenti runs a fellowship programme aiming to attract talent from academic institutions around the world. Fellowships allow researchers to collaborate with our office and the wider network of UNICEF offices and partners, to conduct research on issues relevant to children. UNICEF Innocenti hosted three senior research fellows in 2018 from the Institute for International Economic Policy at the George Washington University collaborating on issues of poverty and nutrition; the International Development and Trade Research Group, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, to explore the health consequences and psychological impacts of child labour and the relationship between climate change and child labour, and from the University of New South Wales, Australia on communication for development and strengthening child protection systems and mechanisms for children on the move.

The UNICEF Innocenti team runs a series of research seminars, with 30 hosted in 2018 by UNICEF Innocenti researchers, fellows and external partners who present their research ideas and findings to exchange knowledge and practical advice on doing research in international development. In 2018, our internship programme hosted eight interns, supporting different areas of work from knowledge management activities, to assisting and learning about primary research. The office has a vibrant and inclusive staff association that continued to promote workplace well-being, linkages to UNICEF career development, staff support, and internal planning processes during a phase of growth.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I: LIST OF RESEARCH OUTPUTS AND PUBLICATIONS

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ANNEX II: LIST OF PARTNERSHIPS

- African Economic Research Consortium, Kenya
- African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), Kenya
- American Institutes for Research, United States of America
- American Jewish World Service, United States of America
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- Centre of Excellence for Development Impact and Learning (CEDIL), United Kingdom
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- Economic Development Initiatives, Tanzania
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- End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT) International, Thailand
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- French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD)
- Gallup, United States of America
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- Generation Unlimited
- Girls Not Brides, United Kingdom
- Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children
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- International Federation for Family Development, Spain
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- Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), Ethiopia

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- Multi-Donor Partnership on Learning for Development Impact
- National Chung Hsing University, Taipei
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- Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) Programme, United Kingdom
- Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA), Tanzania
- Save the Children International
- Scriptoria, United Kingdom
- Social Development Direct, United Kingdom
- Southern Cross University, Australia
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- Tanzania Commission for AIDS, Republic of Tanzania
- Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), Republic of Tanzania
- The Open University, United Kingdom
- The Transfer Project, United States of America
- Together for Girls, United States of America
- Tufts University, United States of America
- Tulane University, United States of America
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
- United Nations University (UNU), Japan
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- Women's University in Africa, Zimbabwe
- World Bank
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- YouthPower Learning, United States of America

PICTURE CREDITS

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UNICEF Innocenti’s Acting Director Priscilla Idele and report authors Kat Chzhen, Anna Gromada and Gwyther Rees present the key findings of Report Card 15 at the live launch in Florence on 30 October 2018.

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Hundreds of farmers converge at Mbare market Harare, Zimbabwe, as they spread out their produce.

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UNICEF Executive Director Fore and UNICEF supporters BTS, a global pop group, take a selfie before the launch of Generation Unlimited at Youth 2030, a High-Level event at the UN General Assembly on 24 September 2018.

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Boys of different ages play online video games inside a darkened back room of an Internet café on the outskirts of Metropolitan Manila, Philippines.

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Sinovuyo adolescents actively engaged in a group exercise as part of the Sinovuyo Teen Parenting Programme, South Africa.

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A woman and her child who have been forced to move because of drought walk towards a mobile medical unit in their settlement near the town of Ainabo, Somalia.

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A young girl child sells snacks in the town of Kadugli, South Kordofan State, Sudan.

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A teacher uses a computer tablet as a reference as he teaches children about the human digestive system at a school in Baigai, northern Cameroon.

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UNICEF Executive Director Fore addresses UNICEF Innocenti staff in one of the meeting rooms on UNICEF Innocenti’s new premises, in November 2018.

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Participants at the UNICEF International Council Meeting, attended by UNICEF Executive Director Fore, hosted by UNICEF-Innocenti in Florence, in November 2018.

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The UNICEF Innocenti team welcome UNICEF Executive Director Fore to their new premises in Florence, in November 2018.

for every child, answers

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