



## A BETTER WORLD FOR CHILDREN

Ireland and UNICEF have a long track record of providing assistance to children and their families across the globe. Together we share a bold vision for a world where every child is healthy, protected, has access to quality education, and a fair chance to achieve their greatest potential.

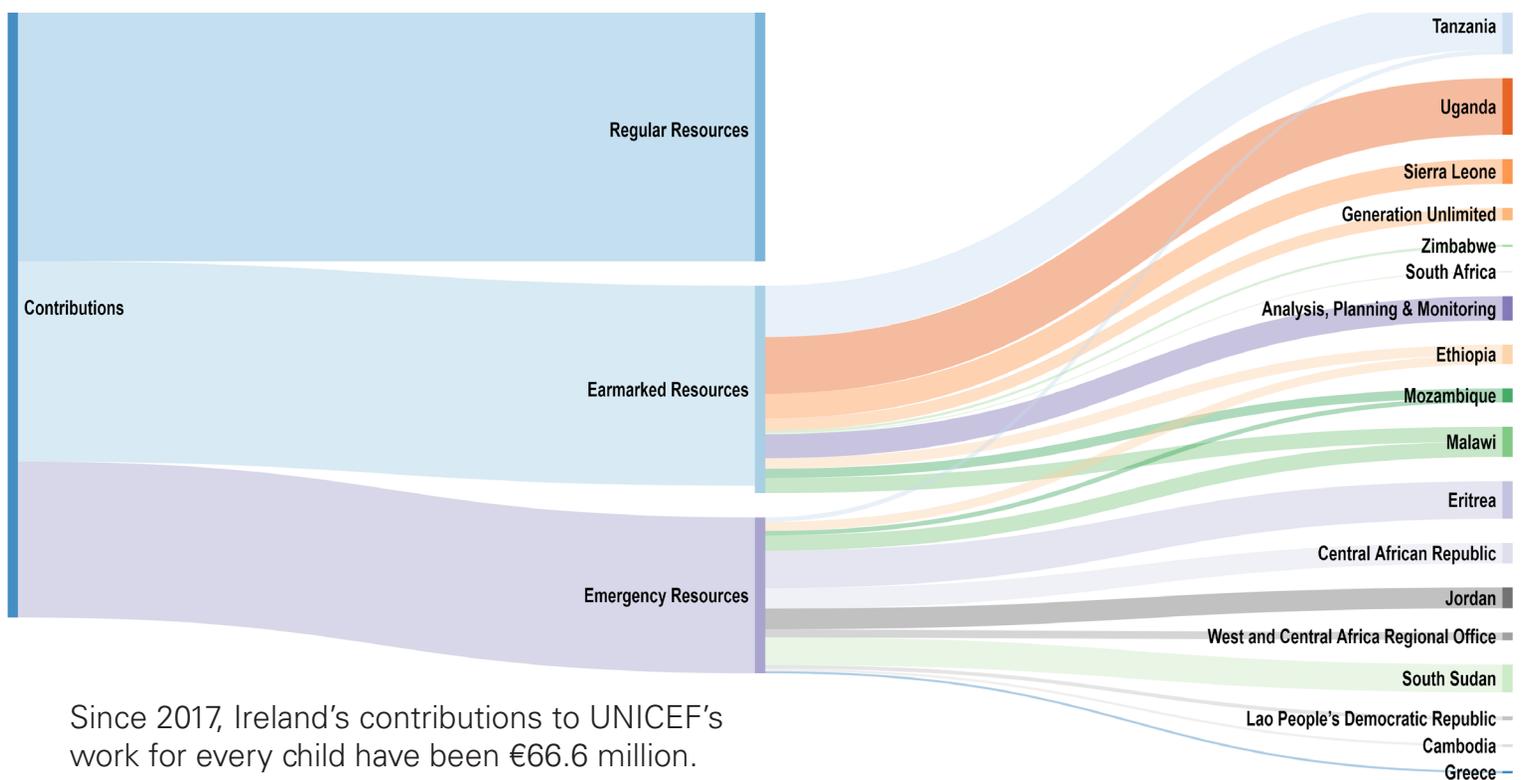
Firmly rooted in the Government of Ireland's [A Better World](#) development strategy, our partnership focuses on humanitarian action for vulnerable children, gender equality, climate action and education, reaching the furthest behind first. Our work is anchored in the Sustainable Development Goals- a promise to end poverty, reduce inequality and build more peaceful, prosperous societies by 2030, where no child is left behind.

# OUR STORY

Ireland has been a consistent contributor to UNICEF's core resources for decades. This support is allocated to children in the greatest need and is foundational to UNICEF global operations in 190 countries and territories.

With country and programme-specific earmarked support from Ireland, every year, UNICEF delivers lifesaving services to millions of children in East, West (including the Sahel Region) and southern Africa, Middle East and East Asia. Jointly we advocate for the protection and advancement of children's rights at the global stage.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNICEF IN 2017-2020

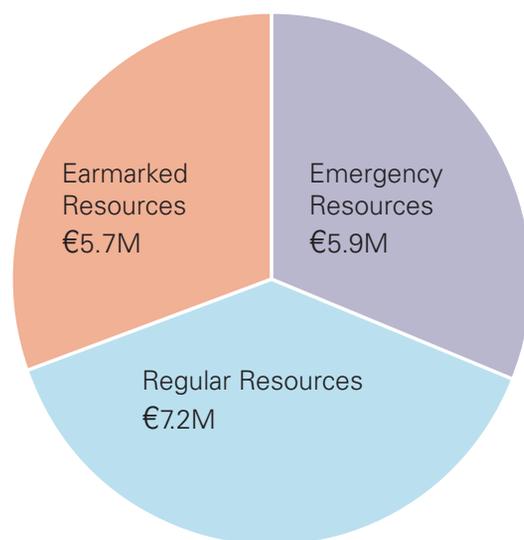


Since 2017, Ireland's contributions to UNICEF's work for every child have been €66.6 million.

These resources supported the UNICEF 2018 – 2021 strategic goals, by providing flexible, earmarked and emergency funding.

Combined with the contributions of other flexible resource partners, the €7.2 million regular resources support from Irish Aid in 2020, allowed UNICEF to continue to achieve sustainable programmatic and advocacy results for children through a wide range of programmes critical to addressing children's needs.

Irish Aid and UNICEF continued to transform our commitment, that every child has a fair chance to achieve their greatest potential, into concrete action, by advocating children's rights and delivering lifesaving services to millions of vulnerable children.



**Contributions in 2020**

# OUR RESULTS



## ADVOCACY

As an elected member of the United Nations Security Council and in the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, Ireland advocates for child rights during conflict and an end to grave violations being committed against children.



### EDUCATION

In 2020, with generous support from partners like Irish Aid, UNICEF provided educational materials to more than 43 million children and helped over 32.6 million children in humanitarian settings to remain protected and continue learning. Over 301 million children were reached with distance and home-based learning opportunities, while 3 million girls received access to programmes that helped them build personal empowerment, active citizenship and skills-development for employment in emergency contexts. Together with partners and local governments, UNICEF supported 400,000 schools across 89 countries to implement school safety protocols to protect against COVID-19.



### CHILD PROTECTION

In 2020, UNICEF, Irish Aid and partners continued to give children an equitable chance in life. Together we reached over 2.2 million children with disabilities across 144 countries through disability-inclusive development and humanitarian programmes. More than 130 million children benefited from cash transfer programmes supported by UNICEF in 93 countries.



## NUTRITION

UNICEF, Irish Aid and partners supported nutrition responses in 63 countries facing humanitarian crisis in 2020. A total of 244 million children under 5 were reached with services to prevent stunting and other forms of malnutrition in early childhood; 35 million adolescents were reached with services to prevent anaemia and other forms of malnutrition; and about 5 million children were reached with services for the early detection and treatment of severe acute malnutrition.



## HEALTH

With support from UNICEF, Irish Aid and partners, more than 30 million live births were delivered in health facilities. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in early 2020, UNICEF with support from Irish Aid and other partners has reached 92 million children and women with essential health care services.

# EARMARKED SUPPORT IN ACTION

## Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic



Ireland has generously supported UNICEF's COVID-19 response efforts including in Cambodia, Ethiopia, Laos, Malawi and Tanzania. With help of partners like Ireland, UNICEF

- distributed critical water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services and supplies for 106 million people, including 58 million children;
- reached 3 billion people, including approximately 1.53 billion women and girls and 810 million children with risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) information and activities;
- provided personal protective equipment (PPE) for nearly 2.6 million health workers and facilitated training on infection prevention and control for 4 million health workers;
- supported training on delivering essential services for more than 30,000 social workers;

- implemented community-based mental health and psychosocial interventions in COVID-19 response plans, reaching 78 million children, adolescents, parents and caregivers in 117 countries;
- supported more than 301 million children, including approximately 147 million girls, with remote learning.<sup>1</sup>

## Improving literacy in Uganda



Achan Jennifer, a nine-year-old pupil in Primary Two, says she enjoys her classes because they use objects to count and add.  
© UNICEF Uganda/2019/Adriko

Since 2016, UNICEF Uganda and Irish Aid have partnered to improve the literacy and numeracy rates at Primary 3 and Primary 6 levels through a teacher training programme in schools in Karamoja, one of the most vulnerable and poorest sub-regions in the country.<sup>2</sup>

UNICEF is the lead organization supporting the Government on primary education in Uganda, development of school improvement plans and girl child initiatives. One of the key initiatives includes supporting the Ugandan Ministry of Education and Sports with training programmes on child-centred teaching methods benefitting pupils from classes one to three.

To promote the learning of these pupils, who are taught in both English and their mother tongue, teachers are encouraged to use cost effective and locally available learning aides including charts, cards, stone aggregates, bottle tops and letters cut out of rubber materials. To date, 1,415 teachers, deputy headteachers and headteachers from 310 primary schools in the nine districts of the Karamoja sub-region have been trained.

1. UNICEF 2020 Key Achievements.

2. Going Beyond Monetary Poverty: Uganda's Multidimensional Poverty Profile:  
<https://www.unicef.org/esa/media/6146/file/UNICEF-Uganda-Multi-dimensional-child-poverty-2020.pdf>

# Unleashing the potential of young people



“When I was growing up in the slums in Nairobi, living in informal settlements, I rarely ate three meals a day. I could not properly focus, which became such a disadvantage in school! I dreamt of a day when I could change this situation. Winning the Youth Challenge proved that my dreams were valid. It gave me a level of influence on issues affecting young people and an opportunity to find a livelihood pathway for myself and my peers!”

Calvin Shikuku, Kenya  
GREEN ENTREPRENEUR AND CO-FOUNDER  
OF GREEN PROJECT INITIATIVE

A trailblazing partner, Ireland became the first government to contribute to Generation Unlimited (GenU) in 2019 and has been a steadfast partner since then. With its 2020 contribution, the second GenU Youth Challenge was implemented in 36 countries, in partnership with UNDP, the World Organization of the Scout Movement and Plan International, along with 200 other partners. Over 15 million young people were mobilized, and 2,500 young people were selected to participate in workshops across the 36 countries. The five most promising solutions in each country - a total of 180 youth-led, community-based solutions from all 36 countries- received \$1000 seed investment and mentorship support to implement their solutions. Every country then submitted two solutions to the global judging process, which resulted in eight global winners<sup>3</sup>. The winning teams received \$15,000 and are benefiting from a structured mentoring and incubation program to scale up their solutions.

The valuable contribution from Ireland also unlocked other key opportunities for young people, including:

- Piloting and scale up of an Augmented and Virtual Reality (AVR) program in Vietnam to support digital learning for ethnic minority girls in remote areas, which has reached 2,555 young people so far, as well as 30 Social Innovation Clubs, which are currently equipping around 900 adolescents, including those out of school and in remote areas, with essential skills for the future.
- With ILO and the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, development and launch of YouthForesight<sup>4</sup>, a one-stop knowledge facility providing curated tools and resources for policymakers and practitioners, as well as community forums where partners can exchange ideas and co-create solutions.
- Partnership development with the private sector, in particular, a three-year global collaboration with PwC, which aims to upskill millions of young people around the world, including 300 million young people in India in the next 10 years.

3. Meet the winners of the second GenU Youth Challenge | Generation Unlimited:  
<https://www.generationunlimited.org/stories/meet-winners-second-genu-youth-challenge>

4. YouthForesight - Knowledge: <https://www.youthforesight.org/>

## Integrating nutrition into community health programmes in Sierra Leone



M'balu Turay (R) mentors another member of the Mothers' Support Group in Masiaka Town, Sierra Leone  
©UNICEF Sierra Leone/2019/Kidd

Good nutrition is the bedrock for future health and development, particularly in infancy.

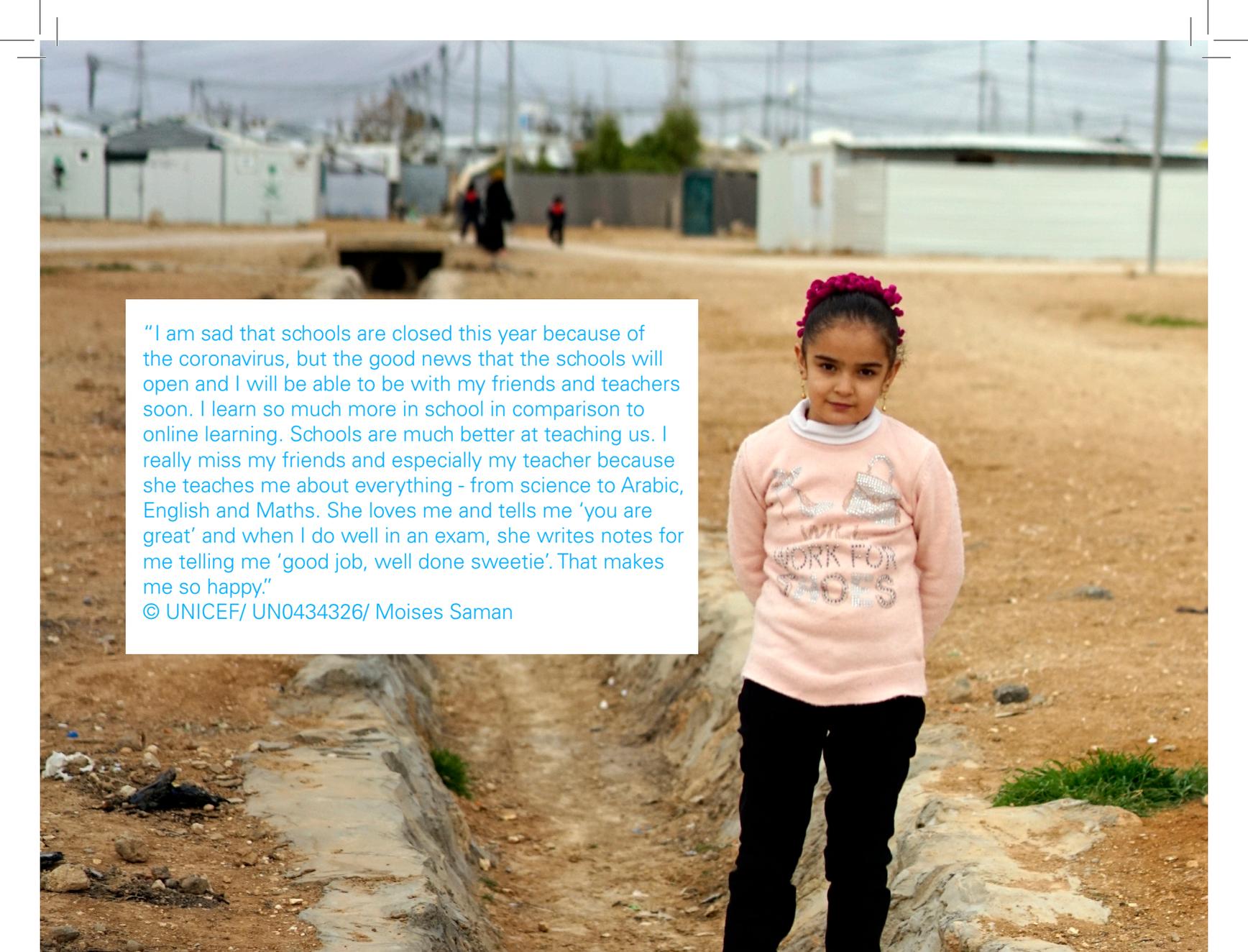
COVID-19-induced restrictions resulted in the loss of livelihoods, increased food insecurity, and limited delivery of and access to essential services in Sierra Leone. The generous contribution from Irish Aid supported the continued delivery of essential nutrition services, including deworming, nutrition screening and counselling, and the promotion of infant and young child nutrition and care practices benefiting over 706,592 children under five years of age.

Irish Aid also supported the development of the 'Sierra Leone National Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) Strategy and Plan' which will allow nutrition stakeholders to reach mothers, caregivers, and health workers with coherent messages on exclusive breastfeeding, adequate dietary intake and care practices. The strategy will offer practical solutions to the barriers hindering delivery of and access to nutrition services.

The contribution built the capacity of over 13,500 community health workers to adopt standard operating procedures and guidelines related to nutrition education, counselling and promotion in the context of COVID-19.

## Preschool education for refugee children in Jordan

Since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, Ireland has supported UNICEF's work to strengthen national systems and provide lifesaving services to refugee children. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent school closures have interrupted learning activities for many refugee children in 2020. To support children's continued learning, UNICEF with support from Irish Aid distributed learning kits to 20,280 children in refugee camps during school closures. Since March 2020, when the Government of Jordan announced school closures due to the pandemic, UNICEF has been supporting the Ministry of Education of Jordan to ensure learning continuity for children through online education. This support enabled over 3,300 children (45 per cent female) in 2020 to continue learning in the Drop-Out programme.



"I am sad that schools are closed this year because of the coronavirus, but the good news that the schools will open and I will be able to be with my friends and teachers soon. I learn so much more in school in comparison to online learning. Schools are much better at teaching us. I really miss my friends and especially my teacher because she teaches me about everything - from science to Arabic, English and Maths. She loves me and tells me 'you are great' and when I do well in an exam, she writes notes for me telling me 'good job, well done sweetie'. That makes me so happy."

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## Social protection in East and Southern Africa

In the fight against poverty, social protection systems have been shown to be very efficient in reducing the depth of monetary poverty including during humanitarian response. With support from Irish Aid, in Tanzania the Cash Plus initiative is empowering vulnerable adolescent boys and girls by training them on sexual reproductive health rights, HIV prevention, gender-based violence, business skills and basic financial literacy and responsibility. The initiative contributed to the increase in adolescent-friendly service provision at health facilities and has had positive impacts on SRH and HIV knowledge; gender-equitable attitudes; mental health and entrepreneurial attitudes. In addition, following the implementation of the Cash Plus initiative a reduction in sexual violence and physical violence perpetration and increased age at sexual debut were observed.

In Malawi, the overall goal of the Irish Aid-UNICEF collaboration has been to strengthen social protection by providing regular monthly cash transfers to households in two districts as well as tailored support to shock-affected households impacted by crises and disasters. The cash transfers target vulnerable groups, including women-headed households, child-headed households, the elderly, and persons with disabilities or chronic illnesses as well as those that cannot work anymore.

To date over 21,000 households and over 95,000 individuals have benefitted from regular cash transfers and emergency top-ups when affected by food insecurity or flooding and the COVID-19 pandemic.



Mary Malunga, one of the SCTP beneficiaries from Siliika, Balaka District smiles after receiving her COVID-19 VE top up amounting MK20,000 (\$25) for four months. She stated that the funds will help her purchase masks for her family and also support to buy sanitizers for her son who has been selected by the University of Malawi to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Laboratory technology. She was very grateful to the programme as the monthly transfers supported in paying school fees for her son. © UNICEF/ Malawi



In Mozambique, to overcome chronic under staffing within the social protection sector, since 2016, Irish Aid has funded 50 students to undertake the first accredited social action/ social work university degree course.

To date 40 students in the pioneering Licenciatura class graduated from the first accredited social action/social work university degree course at the Higher Institute of Health Science. The entry of these students into the workforce will contribute to overcoming the chronic under staffing of the social protection sector and ensure effective implementation of the activities outlined in the ambitious National Basic Social Security Strategies I and II (ENSSB I and II).