



EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENT OF
GOVERNMENT OF CHINA AND UNICEF COUNTRY PROGRAMME
(2021 – 2025)

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JUNE 2023



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Acronyms

CAITEC	Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CCO	China Country Office
CEP	Costed Evaluation Plan
CFC	Child Friendly Cities
CP	Country Programme
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
CPC	Communist Party of China
CPD	Country Programme Document
CPE	Country Programme Evaluation
CSI	Core Standard Indicators
EA	Evaluability Assessment
ECC	Early Childhood Care
EMG	Evaluation Management Group
ERG	Evaluation Reference Group
IR	Inception Report
MCA	Ministry of Civil Affairs
MTSR	Midterm Strategic Reflection
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NPA	National Programme of Action (NPA) for Women and Children (2021-2030)
NRRA	National Rural Revitalization Administration
PME	Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
PRC	Peoples' Republic of China
PSN	Programme Strategy Note
RAM	Results Assessment Module
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SSC	South – South Cooperation
SMQ	Strategic Monitoring Questions
ToC	Theory of Change
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Executive Summary

Background

The UNICEF China Country Programme (CP), covering the period 2021-2025, is already in the third year of implementation, with a Mid-term Strategic Reflection (MTSR) scheduled for mid-2023 and a Country Programme Evaluation (CPE) in 2024. This Evaluability Assessment (EA) aims to support the future CPE, through defining its design, scope, approach and methodology, as well as ensuring that the results-based management of the CP is robust.

UNICEF PRC Country Programme 2021-2025

The UNICEF China CP (2021-2025) is a partnership engagement between UNICEF and the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) defined in a Country Programme Document (CPD). Its orientation and strategies are deeply informed by the rapidly changing socio-economic context of the PRC. As the PRC moves toward high-income status, the underlying rationale, aims and strategies of UNICEF in the PRC have adapted accordingly, with an increased focus on leveraging partnerships with the government, media, private sector and Chinese private donors in order to enhance the wellbeing of children both in PRC and beyond.

In addition, the present CPD recognizes the importance of developing and pursuing strategies to maximize impact at a national scale, through more “upstream” work. The CPD highlights the “pilots to policy to results at scale” approach, whereby pilots are intended to provide evidence and insights into innovative solutions to development challenges and inform the Government's programmes and policies.

The CPD has six programme components: (a) child health and development; (b) quality and inclusive education; (c) child-centred social policy; (d) child protection; (e) partnerships and engagement; and (f) programme effectiveness.

EA Objectives and Scope

The EA has three key objectives:

- To determine whether the original purpose of the CPE still holds valid,¹ and advise on the specific scope and objectives of the upcoming CPE with a focus on the strategic positioning of UNICEF in China towards more upstream-oriented programming through advocacy and partnerships strategies, including through studying the partnerships, advocacy and South-South Cooperation work of the CCO;
- Based on the above, to assess (1) the logic and internal plus external alignment of the planned results, and (2) the adequacy of the mechanisms and systems in place to collect, analyse and use data to track performance, provide evidence for a CPE, and demonstrate the results; and

¹ According to UNICEF CCO's costed evaluation plan, the purpose of the CPE is to “examine the ways in which the combination of demonstrated high-impact pilots at the subnational level, complemented by key advocacy and partnership strategies, have been able to influence national scale-up and policy change. It will contribute to learning by UNICEF and external counterparts as to how and to what extent UNICEF strategies and interventions are (a) being adopted by the Government in national programmes and policies and (b) resulting in the perception of UNICEF as a thought leader and significant advocate for children in a fast-changing context.

- To sensitize key stakeholders, including UNICEF staff and its key counterparts, on the importance of the CPE and the use of the evaluation.

During the inception phase, in line with guidance from the CCO section chiefs, it was decided that particular attention be given to the following strategic areas: Pilots, Partnerships, and Advocacy. In addition, South-South Cooperation, which is part of the Partnerships, would be looked at more broadly throughout the EA. It was further decided in the inception phase that the EA would focus on the following sector priority areas, as designated by the programme section chiefs: Inclusive education; Child protection system approach; Social protection; Healthy food environment to prevent childhood overweight.

Methodology

The EA used mixed methods to generate data to answer the EA questions, including:

- A desk review of CP planning, monitoring and reporting documents,
- Virtual interviews with key internal and external stakeholders,
- Results framework workshops for all four programme sections, to better clarify each section's ToC and corresponding indicators.

The EA used as its framework of analysis the three categories of evaluability identified by Davies: evaluability in principle, evaluability in practice, and utility and practicality.

Key Findings and Conclusions: Evaluability in Principle

- Strong alignment was found between country priorities, identified priority deprivations and the programme strategies. However, UNICEF is constrained in its ability to identify and diagnose some aspects of the wellbeing of children in the PRC, and particularly of the most vulnerable and marginalized, due to lack of access to information, and/or disaggregated data on several key parameters. The UNICEF China Country Office (CCO) was found to be working with Chinese counterparts to advocate and build capacity for greater data availability on key areas of concern.
- The present documentation of the UNICEF CP was not found to provide a sufficient roadmap to understand and assess UNICEF's causal ToC and its results. In order to address this weakness and to prepare for both the MTSR and the CPE, the EA team held results framework workshops in order to compose an explicit results chain for each designated output of the four programme sections.
- The ToC for the Partnership and Engagement Sections (Advocacy and Communication, Private Sector Fundraising and Public Partnerships) was found to be sufficiently robust and explicit. However, the ToC does not explicitly connect between the quantitative targets for the Partnership and Engagement Sections and achievement of the more outward-focused outputs and outcomes of the programme sections.
- UNICEF's work in PRC is highly flexible and responsive to external factors. However, as programs have adapted their goals and strategies over the past two years, these changes have only been reflected in the workplans, which do not actually document what strategic changes are being made or anchor them within the programme TOC. As such, there is no formalized check to ensure that changes made to the programme remain true to the overall strategy of the CP.
- Attention to issues of vulnerability and equity is evident throughout programme documentation in the choice of priority sector areas, of target provinces for pilots, and in many of UNICEF's activities. In particular, the CP is devoted to addressing inequities caused by the urban-rural

divide. In addition, each programme section has identified and is working to address priority deprivations which, in general, disproportionately affect the most vulnerable and marginalized persons. In KIIs, respondents answered that they felt considerations of vulnerability and equity were adequately reflected in programme design where relevant, even where these factors were not explicitly referred to in Programme Strategy Notes (PSNs).

- On the output level, most indicators are properly pitched to measure the real-world changes directly resulting from UNICEF's activities, and key informants believe the targets to be, with some exceptions, realistic in the given time frame. There is not always a close correspondence between the areas in which UNICEF is investing the most resources (time or manpower) and the areas selected for output measurement. However, even where relevant output indicators have not been included in the RAM, for the most part, the EA review of project documentation for a range of UNICEF interventions found that outputs were adequately defined and were subject to monitoring within project documentation. Conversely, the CP's outcome indicators are not all appropriately pitched to measure the medium-term change that is logically expected to occur once the development intervention has achieved one or more outputs.
- The CCO is now stepping up the pace of implementation to overcome COVID-19 related delays during the first half of the programme period. For the most part, key informants were confident that they would be able to achieve the output goals set at the beginning of the programme, with some adjustments to targets likely to be addressed as part of the MTSR. With regard to achieving goals at the level of individual/institutional change or child wellbeing outcomes, because of the late start of many programme activities (due to COVID-19) in many of UNICEF's efforts that were initiated during the present CP (as opposed to those that have been carried over from the former CP) it will be premature to gauge the programmes' full outcomes by the time of the CPE.

Key Findings and Conclusions: Evaluability in Practice

- All programme sections regularly collect data for the Results Assessment Module (RAM), annual reports and the Core Standard Indicators (CSIs). In several cases where important data is not available, programme sections are working with line ministries to expand capacity and commitment to produce needed statistics. Additionally, the PME section works directly with the National Bureau of Statistics to ensure the availability and adequacy of official statistics on areas under UNICEF's mandate.
- There are several areas where UNICEF still does not gather data which would be important to monitor UNICEF's progress on a consistent basis.
 - In some newer areas of UNICEF activity, formal output and outcome targets have not yet been incorporated into UNICEF's reporting structure. The MTSR will provide an important opportunity to review indicators and ensure that the RAM indicators and targets adequately reflect programming shifts and attainments.
 - In the case of child protection, availability of output-level data is extremely limited due to cultural and political factors that make issues related to child protection highly sensitive. Similarly, in the case of environmental health, UNICEF is advocating for making more location-specific evidence available on environmental health risks.
 - For the partnership programme sections, there are insufficient mechanisms for gathering data on how achievement of their output and outcome goals impact the outward-facing goals. Similarly, for South South Cooperation, there are no targets

relating to how UNICEF support for South South Cooperation should affect the wellbeing of children worldwide. This presents a particular challenge for understanding relative effectiveness, and drivers of success and failure, of these priority strategic areas.

- With regard to gender-related data, the Strategic Monitoring Questions (SMQ)s and CSIs both mandate collection of disaggregated data, both on the outcome level, where measures of gender equality nationally are found, and at the output level, where the CCO is asked to report in a gender disaggregated manner on the number of beneficiaries reached by various UNICEF activities. However, much of this disaggregated data gathering is at the level of number of female/male programme beneficiaries, without goals being cited or measurements provided on how UNICEF’s activities support gender equality. In addition to the quantitative data being gathered, the narrative sections of the annual reports often report on gender-related achievements.
- The EA identified several potential challenges to CPE data collection:
 - Delayed or missing baseline studies due to COVID-19 restrictions;
 - Limited access to relevant officials;
 - Lack of understanding amongst counterparts of UNICEF’s results framework and the reasons for the evaluation, particularly at the provincial and county levels.
 - Difficulty in correctly identifying the key decision makers and opinion leaders on any given topic.
 - Lack of government approval to access some locations where UNICEF is active.
- All four programme sections reported that they have adequate financial resources for evidence generation.

Key Findings and Conclusions: Utility/Evaluation Readiness

- A CPE is included in the CCO’s Costed Evaluation Plan. In interviews with CCO key informants as well as in the results framework workshops with programme section teams, there was a high degree of interest in and importance accorded to the conduct of a CPE, in particular, to provide relevant insights into the success of programme strategies in achieving higher-level change. With regard to Chinese counterparts, it is difficult to gauge the level of interest on the basis of the limited data gathering that was possible to conduct as part of this EA.
- Given the changing context in the PRC, with the country soon likely to achieve high income status, as well as the small relative size of UNICEF’s efforts to the overall scale of the governmental budget, there is a strong imperative for the CPE to look at UNICEF’s pathways to scale, both within PRC and by supporting Chinese activity globally to promote the wellbeing of children.
- At present, the CCO’s M&E mechanisms do not adequately support learning and evaluation on the extent to which employment of various strategies has led to scalable change, nor determining the factors which drive success or failure of these three strategies. For this reason, given the importance of all three key strategies (Pilots, Partnership and Advocacy) as potential pathways to scale, the EA recommends that all three be closely looked at in the context of the CPE in order to determine the drivers of success and challenges in the use of each of these strategies.
- A review of the four priority sector areas proposed by the CCO (Inclusive education; Child protection system approach; Social protection; Healthy food environment to prevent childhood overweight) found that all four employ a combination of several of the key strategies in order to achieve scale, and thus were suitable to be used as “deep dive areas” for the CPE to examine in

order to better understand how a combination of strategies can be employed in order to achieve results. However, deep dives into only the designated priority focus areas will not be sufficient for answering fully assessing the relevance and effectiveness of the key strategies employed by the CCO, primarily due to the relative “newness” of each of these sector areas. Thus, should the CPE use these four priority sector areas, additional work will have to be done fully address all of the evaluation questions, including additional deep dives into more mature programme areas and into programme areas with a significant amount of South-South Cooperation.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on the evidence presented in the course of the EA. The first four recommendations address improvements to programme planning, monitoring and reporting that would aid the CPE team in assessing the efficacy of the UNICEF CCO’s work. The final recommendation pertains directly to the scope of the CPE.

1. In the context of the EA, results chain matrixes (Annex VII) were prepared for each of the programme sections. These results chains are meant to be living documents, putting UNICEF’s activities in the context of its ToC and enabling modification of both as the programme unfolds. They are also meant to serve as a basis for discussion as part of the MTSR with regard to where indicators and targets may need to be replaced and modified.
2. Programme planning should include greater attention to interim-level goals and measures.
3. Where relevant, targeted gender related results of programming should be made explicit in the result framework.
4. National evaluation capacity building is essential to cultivate an evaluation culture among UNICEF staff, its counterparts and implementing partners. It would be useful to provide key counterparts and implementing agencies with evaluation awareness and technical skills development opportunities, which will enable them to increasingly engage in evidence generating processes.
5. In the EA TOR, three key strategies and four sector focus areas were proposed for CPE. These three strategic areas cannot be meaningfully looked at solely through the lens of the designated priority focus areas. In addition to the priority focus areas, it is proposed that “deep dives” be undertaken to:
 - a. Better understand the drivers of success and challenges of UNICEF’s SSC efforts. The CPE should have a separate line of inquiry on areas where UNICEF has worked closely with China on SSC, such as health, nutrition, WASH, Climate Change and early childhood education, as well as emergency aid.
 - b. Derive lessons learned from successful UNICEF programmes that are at a later stage than those selected as priority focus areas. Specifically, it would be useful for the CPE to examine 1-2 longer-standing programmatic areas where UNICEF has successfully contributed to national-level impact in order to identify good practice on pathways to scale.

I. Introduction

i. Background

The partnership and cooperation between the People's Republic of China (PRC) and UNICEF was built over a period of four decades and is aligned to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The UNICEF China Country Programme (CP), covering the period 2021-2025, is already in the third year of implementation, with a Mid-term Strategic Reflection (MTSR) scheduled for mid-2023 and a Country Programme Evaluation (CPE) in 2024. To date, no CPE has been done of UNICEF's work in the PRC since last CP.² This Evaluability Assessment aims to support the future CPE, through defining its design, scope, approach and methodology, as well as ensuring that the results-based management of the CP is robust.

ii. Program Context

The People's Republic of China has experienced unparalleled success in economic growth and poverty reduction since initiating market reform in the late 1970s. Poverty and its transformation in China remains one of the most fascinating success stories in the Asian development landscape. Inequality in China is mainly reflected in a large rural-urban disparity, which represents the largest share of total inequality in the country. Unequal access to public services is a significant driver of this inequality.³ To address these challenges, inequality reduction has become a central overarching policy priority at national level.

Poverty disproportionately affects the children of China, with the poverty rate higher among rural children (2.2 per cent, or 4.5 million) than that of the total rural population, at 1.7 per cent (2018).⁴ According to the 2020 Census, 65.17 million children (21.9% of the child population nationwide) were found to be living in previously poverty-stricken areas (832 counties in total, including 'key poverty counties' and counties in 'poverty blocks'). Of these children, 57.8% lived in rural poor areas, facing multiple challenges to their survival and development. There were over 15 million children left behind in these previously poverty-stricken rural areas, accounting for 40.6% of rural children in those areas, which is higher than the proportion of children left behind among all children living in rural areas (37.9%). In addition to the rural-urban divide, another driver of deprivation in China is internal migration. In 2020, the number of migrant children was 71.09 million, and the number of children left behind was 66.93 million⁵. Adding these two groups together, the total number of children affected by migration was 138 million, accounting for 46.4% of the total child population in China. That is, nearly half of the children in China were directly affected by migration. Child deprivation is multi-dimensional. Children in less developed areas lagged behind other children in terms of health, education, living conditions and other dimensions, and adolescent marriages and pregnancies were more common.⁶

² This CPE is mandatory as 2018 UNICEF Evaluation Policy provides that a CPE should be conducted at least once every two programmes cycles.

³ World Bank Systematic Country Diagnostic, 2018.

⁴ National Bureau of Statistics, Poverty Monitoring Report of Rural China, 2019.

⁵ Children left behind refers to children who live in the location of their household registration, but do not live together with their both parents, as either one parent or both parents have migrated outside of hometown for more than six months.

⁶ National Bureau of Statistics of China, UNICEF China, UNFPA China (2023), 'What the 2020 Census Can Tell Us About Children in China: Facts and Figures'

In March 2021, the National People’s Congress approved the country’s 14th Five-Year Plan, which aims at achieving higher-quality development that is more efficient, equitable, sustainable and secure by 2025. In response to changing economic conditions, environmental risks and ongoing inequities emerging from rapid growth, the priorities of the 14th Five-Year Plan of China place greater emphasis on moving from “high-speed” to “high-quality” development. The Plan also emphasizes consolidating previous progress in poverty alleviation by advancing the Common Prosperity and Rural Revitalization Strategy. This Plan represents an opportunity to address the needs of China’s 298 million children, among which 139 million are girls.⁷ Additionally, the 14th Five-Year Plan sets targets for 100 model Child Friendly Cities (CFC) across China and for building enabling policies for affordable and quality early childhood care (ECC) services for all children under 3 years of age.

In September 2021, the State Council issued the new National Programme of Action for Women and Children (2021-2030) (NPA). This Plan identifies key priorities for the next ten years for children that include health, safety, education, welfare, families, environment, and legal protection. The NPA and the UNICEF CP (2021-2025) both cover key emerging and cross-cutting issues such as adolescent mental health, childhood obesity and online child protection.

iii. UNICEF PRC Country Programme 2021-2025

The UNICEF China CP (2021-2025) is a partnership engagement between UNICEF and the Government of the PRC defined in a Country Programme Document (CPD). It draws on the analytical findings of the common country analysis (CCA), Situation Analyses and the Atlas, to provide a deeper rationale for the formulation of the Programme Strategy Notes (PSN), that help define the roadmap going forward. Its orientation and strategies are deeply informed by the rapidly changing socio-economic context of the PRC. As the PRC moves toward high-income status, the underlying rationale, aims and strategies of UNICEF in the PRC have adapted accordingly, with an increased focus on leveraging partnerships with the government, media, private sector and Chinese private donors in order to enhance the wellbeing of children both in PRC and beyond.

In addition, the present CPD recognizes the importance of developing and pursuing strategies to maximize impact at a national scale, through more “upstream” work. The CPD highlights the “pilots to policy to results at scale” approach, whereby pilots are intended to provide evidence and insights into innovative solutions to development challenges and inform the Government’s programmes and policies. The CPD declares that UNICEF will “leverage its resources and network to provide more advice on government pilots, concentrate efforts in underserved counties, expand upstream support on policy development and share transparently the best practices in child development to China and from China to developing countries under the framework of South-South cooperation.”(p.4)

The overarching theory of change (ToC) for the CP, as delineated in the CPD is that:

if the quality, accessibility and inclusiveness of essential social services for children and their families are improved; **if** fewer children are exposed to risks posed by environmental health hazards, obesity and online activities; **if** fewer children are multidimensionally poor and at risk of or experiencing violence and exploitation; **if** more children, adolescents, parents and caregivers

⁷ UNICEF PRC End of Year Results Summary Narrative, 2021.

have enhanced knowledge and skills to practice caring and protective behaviours; **if** the Government has enhanced capacities to develop and implement child development policies; and **if** the Government, financial institutions, the private sector and the general public expand investment and action towards child development, **then by 2025**, the rights of more girls and boys, including the most disadvantaged, will be realized so that they survive, live in a safer and healthier environment and develop to their full potential. (p.6)

The current CP 2021–2025 priorities are based on an analysis of persistent disparities, outlined in the CCA, that are most relevant to the UNICEF mandate. This emphasis on equity is in line with the principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to Leave No One Behind and endeavor to reach the furthest behind first, which recognizes that the goals will not be “achieved” until they are achieved for all population groups.

The CPD has six programme components: (a) child health and development; (b) quality and inclusive education; (c) child-centred social policy; (d) child protection; (e) partnerships and engagement; and (f) programme effectiveness. While these programme areas have remained constant throughout the CP period, UNICEF’s activities, and, to some extent, the prioritized outputs, have been flexible and responsive to changing country circumstances and emerging opportunities for partnership and collaboration. The following is a brief description of the main aims of each program component.⁸

Child Health and Development

According to the PSN of the Health Section, UNICEF is prioritizing “unfinished business” around reducing preventable deaths, strengthening services for early childhood development, and addressing new or emerging public health threats that children face in China. This includes:

1. Improving poor and inequitable quality of care around the time of birth
2. Reducing child death, disability and injuries related to accidents
3. Promoting infant and young child nutrition
4. Expanding access to early childhood development (ECD) delay detection and ECD services
5. Preventing and reducing child and adolescent overweight
6. Improving adolescent health, and mental health in particular
7. Increasing sanitation access and improving environmental health, including air pollution.

Since the drafting of the PSN, while these priority areas remain, there have been several shifts in focus in UNICEF’s programming that are related to changing circumstances and arising opportunities in the PRC. For example, the introduction of a third child policy in China increased the number of older women in China giving birth, and thus highlighted the need for better maternal nutrition and ante-natal care for geriatric pregnancies; UNICEF’s accident prevention programme shifted to focus on road accidents rather than drowning due to greater opportunities for partnership in the area; for early childhood development, UNICEF was able to take advantage of a government decision to launch a national program for ECD to achieve impact at scale through providing advisory support and materials for the government programme.

⁸ Programme details were derived from documentation review, KIs and the results framework workshops.

Quality and Inclusive Education

UNICEF's Education programme in China is focused on inclusivity, ensuring that there is uniform quality of education for all Chinese children, including children with disabilities and out of school adolescents. The education section's three output goals are:

1. National and selected provincial governments and other partners have strengthened capacities to deliver quality Early Childhood Education services at scale for more girls and boys, especially those left behind.
2. National and selected provincial governments demonstrate strengthened policy, management and financial planning capacities to provide equitable quality learning and skills in the general and vocational education systems in a safe and supportive environment for children aged 6-17.
3. National, selected provincial governments and other partners demonstrate strengthened commitment to ensure that out-of-school adolescents, especially girls acquire foundational and life-skills/transferable skills through alternative/flexible learning programmes.

At present, work on the first output is focused on teacher training and developing play-based learning materials, as well as piloting inclusive education models. Work on the second output is focused on developing evidence-based models on teacher training and curriculum development, particularly in STEM, as well as providing the government with tools for conceptualizing and assessing quality and developing capacity of government for M&E, modelling and evidence generation. Work on the third output is still in the needs assessment phase in order to try to understand the drivers of low transfer rates from junior to senior secondary school so that appropriate solutions can be developed.

Child-Centred Social Policy

The programme is focused on increasing access to equitable and effective child-sensitive social protection and essential social services. in PRC. The programme outputs include:

1. Selected government authorities at national and subnational levels have enhanced knowledge and capacity to measure and use evidence on multi-dimensional deprivations of children to inform strategies, policies, and programs.
2. National Government and selected subnational governments have strengthened capacity to develop and implement a more child-sensitive, inclusive and integrated social protection system.
3. Government authorities at national and selected subnational levels have enhanced capacity to plan, budget for, and implement the roll-out of the Basic Public Services framework and other policies, programmes, and services essential for children effectively, efficiently, and with an equity lens.
4. The Government at national and selected subnational levels has enhanced capacity to use evidence about public finance to increase spending and quality outcomes for children.

In order to achieve these goals, UNICEF is presently doing a situation assessment of Social Assistance Reform in selected locations, as well as working with the government for developing both an understanding of multidimensional deprivations, as well as the capacity to generate relevant data and adopt evidence-based approaches.

Child Protection

The main objective of UNICEF China's child protection programming is to ensure that children, especially the most vulnerable, are better protected from violence. UNICEF's work in the field includes five output goals corresponding to the priority deprivations identified in the PSN:

1. Strengthened enabling environment for addressing violence against children created.
2. Models of integrated child protection services are developed in selected provinces to support children and their caregivers to prevent and respond to violence against children.
3. A strengthened institutionalised approach and resources in place to improve the professionalisation of child protection and aligned workforce to deliver quality services to children and their caregivers.
4. Children, parents and caregivers have increased awareness and apply positive social norms, to prevent violence against children.
5. Children's safety and well-being online is enhanced.

In order to achieve these goals, UNICEF's Child Protection section employs five primary strategies: advocacy⁹ for legal and policy reform, workforce strengthening and capacity development, piloting of the integrated child protection model in selected provinces, research and evidence generation, social and behaviour change communication and intersectoral collaboration and convening. These strategies, as well as the output goals, have remained constant since the PSN was drafted. However, the Child Protection section's work has been greatly informed by the 2021 passage of the Minors' Protection Law in China. This law, which benefitted from evidence and international examples of good practice that were shared with the government by UNICEF in the previous CP and the first year of this CP, was a significant step forward for the Child Protection agenda, enabling UNICEF to focus now on better implementation and addressing legislative loopholes and advocating for additional reforms in alignment with the law.

Partnerships and Engagement

This component is aimed at enhancing progress towards child-centred Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in China and beyond through strengthened partnerships, knowledge and best-practice exchanges, and increased public and private sector support and involvement. Responsibility for achieving this program component's aims is divided between three sections: Advocacy/Communication, Public Partnerships and Private Sector Fundraising (PSFR), all of whom contributed to the PSN for this component.

The Partnerships and Engagement PSN "presents the strategic approach that UNICEF will take in redefining its global engagement with China for the benefit of children across the world, while continuing to demonstrate results for children at scale in China to share these learnings and

⁹ This EA adopts UNICEF's definition of advocacy: The deliberate process to directly and indirectly influence decision makers, stakeholders, and relevant audiences to support and implement actions that contribute to the realization of rights including, although not limited to: (1) sophisticated influencing strategies to secure political commitment; (2) empowering and equipping young people with the information, skills and capacities to lead change; (3) strategic use of evidence, including new tools to make a compelling case for increased investment to pivot results; (4) audience insights, online and offline media, and community engagement; and (5) strategic partnerships with those who have influence over decision -makers, to transition gamechangers to scale.

experience globally.”¹⁰ The Partnerships and Engagement strategy has five main output goals, each of which is assigned to one of the three relevant sections:

1. Strengthened partnerships between the Government of China, other Chinese institutions and UNICEF enable the design, financing and delivery of development cooperation to support achievement towards child centred SDGs in other countries.
2. Selected Chinese multilateral development banks, financial institutions and corporations have strengthened knowledge of and increased access to tools and innovative financing modalities to increase investments and loans to improve child outcomes.
3. UNICEF in China has expanded innovative partnerships with the business sector to address business impact on children and mobilise and leverage resources towards the achievement of child rights and the SDGs.
4. An increasing number of key decision makers, influencers, opinion leaders and the general public are reached and engaged to promote the rights of all children in China and beyond.

Each of these partnership and engagement sections works cross-sectorially with the programme sections in order to both marshal resources to support the programme sections and, to harness China’s resources and experience for the benefit of children globally. The partnership and engagement strategy is a key component in the China Country Office’s (CCO) strategies for achieving impact at scale in the China context, where UNICEF’s own resources are small in comparison with the country size and government resources.

Programme Effectiveness

The programme effectiveness pillar ensures that delivery of programme results is enhanced through: planning, monitoring and reporting; research and evaluation and the publication of data to inform evidence-based decision making; mainstreaming gender equality and disability-inclusive programming across sectors. It also includes supply procurement, operational support and other key areas.

II. Evaluability Assessment Purpose and Methodology

The UNICEF CCO contracted an independent team composed of an international consultant and a national consultant to carry out the EA. The primary users of the assessment are conceived to be the CCO Senior Management Team and staff.

i. Purpose and Objectives

According to the Terms of Reference (TOR), the main purpose of the EA is “to determine whether the result chain (results for children) to be achieved through the implementation of the CP are relevant and logically consistent from the strategic design perspective, measurable and evaluable.” The TOR also mandates that the EA assess the extent to which there is internal and external agreement on the objectives and scope of the upcoming CPE, and whether the CCO has sufficient resources, systems and processes in place to effectively capture the required data and information to demonstrate achievement of planned results for children.

¹⁰ Programme Component Strategy Note: Partnerships and Engagement, 2021-2025: UNICEF.

The TOR for this EA defines three key objectives for this assignment:

- To determine whether the original purpose of the CPE still holds valid,¹¹ and advise on the specific scope and objectives of the upcoming CPE with a focus on the strategic positioning of UNICEF in China towards more upstream-oriented programming through advocacy and partnerships strategies, including through studying the partnerships, advocacy and South-South Cooperation work of the CCO;
- Based on the above, to assess (1) the logic and internal plus external alignment of the planned results, and (2) the adequacy of the mechanisms and systems in place to collect, analyse and use data to track performance, provide evidence for a CPE, and demonstrate the results; and
- To sensitize key stakeholders, including UNICEF staff and its key counterparts, on the importance of the CPE and the use of the evaluation.

The TOR also states that “attention will be given to issues of gender equality, disability, equity and social inclusion throughout the data collection, analysis and reporting.”

The EA objectives as stated above correspond directly to the three categories of evaluability identified by Davies:¹²

- Evaluability “in principle”: the coherence and design of the intervention including the underlying TOC and how it has been translated into the intervention results framework;
- Evaluability “in practice”: how the intervention theory has been operationally translated in practice given the availability of relevant data and the capacity of management systems to provide it;
- Utility and practicality: the likely usefulness of a future evaluation in relation to areas of inquiry and potential evaluation questions. The assessment will define the design, scope, approach and methodology of the evaluation.

Table 1 demonstrates how the EA objectives, as stated in the EA TOR and slightly adapted in the Inception Report, correspond with these three categories of evaluability. In addition, in line with the inception report of the EA, objectives pertaining to the issues of gender equality, disability, equity and social inclusion have been added to the framework.

¹¹ According to UNICEF CCO’s costed evaluation plan, the purpose of the CPE is to “examine the ways in which the combination of demonstrated high-impact pilots at the subnational level, complemented by key advocacy and partnership strategies, have been able to influence national scale-up and policy change. It will contribute to learning by UNICEF and external counterparts as to how and to what extent UNICEF strategies and interventions are (a) being adopted by the Government in national programmes and policies and (b) resulting in the perception of UNICEF as a thought leader and significant advocate for children in a fast-changing context.

¹² Davies, Rick. Planning Evaluability Assessments: A Synthesis of the Literature with Recommendations, DFID, 2013.

Table 1: EA Objectives by Category of Evaluability

Evaluability Category	EA Objectives
Evaluability in Principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To determine whether the result chain of CP is relevant and logically consistent from the strategic design perspective, including with regard to the internal plus external alignment of the planned results. • To assess the extent to which issues of gender equality, disability, equity and social inclusion have been adequately integrated into the CP’s strategic design and results framework.
Evaluability in Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assess the extent to which the CCO has sufficient resources, systems and processes in place to effectively capture the required data and information to demonstrate achievement of planned results. • To assess the adequacy of the mechanisms and systems in place to collect, analyse and use data to track performance, provide evidence for a CPE, and demonstrate the results. • To assess the adequacy of mechanisms and systems in place to capture data on gender equality, disability inclusion and social inclusion in the context of CP activities.
Usefulness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assess the extent to which there is internal and external agreement on the objectives and scope of the upcoming CPE. • To determine whether the original purpose of the CPE still holds valid. • To advise on the specific scope and objectives of the upcoming CPE with a focus on a) the strategic positioning of UNICEF in China towards more upstream-oriented programming through advocacy and partnerships strategies, and b) South-South cooperation work of the CCO.

ii. EA Scope

The primary purpose of the EA is to prepare for a CPE of the 2021-2025 PRC CP. During the inception phase, in line with guidance from the CCO section chiefs, it was decided that particular attention be given to the following strategic areas: Pilots, Partnerships, and Advocacy. In addition, South-South Cooperation, which is part of the Partnerships, would be looked at more broadly throughout the EA, due to its importance in the upcoming CPE.

It was further decided in the inception phase that the EA would focus on the following sector priority areas, as designated by the programme section chiefs: Inclusive education; Child protection system approach; Social protection; Healthy food environment to prevent childhood overweight. As part of the IR preparation process, the CCO prepared a matrix (included in Annex 1) with detailed guidance on the aspects of each of the strategic areas to be examined as part of the review of priority areas.

In the course of conducting the EA, it became clear that the designated sector priority areas differed from one another with regard to their overall importance to the programme strategy (from entire output areas to a pilot within a much broader output) and in their stage of development (from longstanding programmes to new programme areas). Additionally, a certain lack of clarity was identified in the documentation of the sectors’ overall programme logic, suggesting that a fuller review of the evaluability of the programmes in their entirety was warranted. As a result, after a discussion between the EA team

and the Evaluation Management Group, it was decided to look more broadly at the programme logic and relevant indicators across each of the programme sections, with an additional deep dive into the designated sector priority areas with the aim of providing guidance on the relevance and evaluability of the chosen priority sector areas for the CPE.

While the CPE is expected to gather data at both national and selected sub-national levels, the EA engaged only national level counterparts, while reviewing relevant documentation at both the national and, in the case of pilots, sub-national levels.

iii. Methodology and approach

a. Approach

In the Inception Report, the EA team proposed the following data collection and analysis methods:

- Desk Review of the planning, monitoring and reporting documents,
- Online survey to identify challenges to data gathering for the CP results,
- Virtual interviews with key internal and external stakeholders.

However, in the course of conducting the EA, it also became apparent that, given shortcomings in the documentation of the program sections' logic and results chain, a deeper dive was needed into questions of evaluability in principle than originally anticipated. As a result, in consultation with the Evaluation Management Group, it was decided to replace the online survey with results framework workshops for all four of the programme sections: Health, Education, Social Policy and Child Protection. Annex 2 has the full EA matrix, indicating which means will be used to address each of the above evaluation questions.

Desk Review

An extensive desk review was done including the CPD, Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP, CPD, PSNs, workplans, annual reports and Results Assessment Module (RAM) reports for all six outcomes¹³, as well as other relevant program documentation as provided by key informants. The full bibliography appears in Annex 3. These documents were analyzed for their descriptions of theories of change, as well as program activities and their corresponding indicators. The desk review was used to construct a preliminary results chain for UNICEF's activities in each section, which then served as the basis for further elaboration in the results framework workshop.

Key Informant Interviews

Virtual interviews were held initially with key UNICEF team members, including the CCO Management Team, all programme chiefs and members of the ERG, and the Results Monitoring/Reporting Specialist of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (See Annex 4 for a full list of interviewees). In addition, the EA team was able to interview a staff member at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC). Annexes 5 and 6 provide the interview question guides for this EA.

Interviews with the Chinese governmental counterparts and partners were intended to serve four primary purposes: 1. To ascertain the environment for evaluation, including ascertaining demand, readiness to participate in evaluations; 2. To solicit governmental perspectives on the aims and priorities of both the UNICEF CP itself and the CPE; 3. To build engagement in and support for the CP's evaluation plan; and 4.

¹³ Child Health and Development, Social Policy, Child Protection, Education, Partnerships and Programme Effectiveness

To clarify possibilities for addressing data gaps, where relevant. Unfortunately, the EA was only able to achieve these goals to a very limited extent, due to lack of response. Of the three requests for interviews, we were only able to speak to one of the targeted counterparts. Another counterpart provided written responses to most questions, while the third counterpart declined our request.

Results Framework Workshops

Based on an initial review of programme documentation, it was decided to hold results framework workshops with the four programme sections to better clarify each section's ToC and corresponding indicators. For the Child Protection, Social Policy and Education sections, the Section Chiefs assembled key results managers from the respective section for the workshop. In the case of the Health Section, which presently does not have a Section Chief, the three team managers were convened by the EA team for the exercise. In the workshops, the EA team explained about the purposes and methodologies of both the upcoming CPE and the EA, as well as answering staff questions about either exercise. Following this introduction, the participants were asked to respond to each of the following questions with respect to the RAM output that they were responsible for:

1. What is the problem you are trying to address?
2. Your long-term goal will be achieved when?
3. What are the main barriers to change (eg. Lack of political will, lack of knowledge, lack of skills, lack of funds, unclear division of powers etc etc...)?
4. What needs to happen on an individual or organizational level to bring about change?
5. What does UNICEF need to do to bring about this change on an individual/organizational level?
6. How do you achieve scale?

The answers to these questions were then used by the EA team in order to better understand the programme logic and to map out an intended results chain for each output, connecting between UNICEF activities and strategies, interim outputs and targeted goals, as well as identifying where there were missing indicators or data to track progress.

The EA team developed results chain tables for each of the program sections (Annex 7) based on the workshop with each section and the document review, using a standard template (Table 2). For areas lack of clarity or indicators that did not seem to accurately reflect or measure the work being done by the programme sections, the EA team flagged them in the results chain for comment or as areas that should be addressed in the upcoming MTSR.

Although an office-wide survey was not conducted, as originally planned in the Inception Report, the four programme sections were asked to respond in writing to the following three questions:

1. Are there any indicators related to UNICEF's work that you are having difficulty gathering data for? Do you believe that your output and outcome goals are measurable, clear and realistic? These could be indicators that are part of the RAM or others which are part of your programme plans that you think are important to assessing the impact of your work.
2. Is there any way in which you gather data on the outputs and impact of your work which is disaggregated by gender, disabilities or other issues of social inclusion or equity? If yes, please provide details of what data is collected.
3. Do you have the necessary human and financial resources to monitor your programme results on an ongoing basis?

Table 2: Results Chain Template

Outcome			
	Output 1	Output 2	Output 3
Goal			
Indicators/Mean of Verification			
Intermediate change (what needs to happen to achieve outputs)			
Main UNICEF Activities			
Root problems/bottlenecks			

b. Limitations

The most significant limitation the EA team faced in pursuing its work was lack of access to Chinese officials, as mentioned above in the Section on Key Informant Interviews. This has constrained our ability to meaningfully assess the level of interest and willingness to participate in the upcoming CPE amongst government officials and other relevant counterparts. As a result, the EA team was not able to adequately determine whether there is a demand for evaluations and readiness to participate in evaluations amongst Chinese counterparts.

III. Key Findings

i. Evaluability in Principle: Logic and design of results framework and associated strategies

Based on the document review, KIIs and Results Framework Workshops, the EA team found that the CCO, in general, has a clear sense of what they are trying to achieve and why they believe that the strategies they are employing are appropriate to achieving designated outcomes, given the PRC context. However, as will be detailed below, the EA team found it difficult to understand the intended causal chain through a document review alone, and need to rely on intensive consultations with programme sections in order to better understand the programme logic.

Are the Country Programme's outcomes aligned to the country's priorities and based on a Situation Analysis of Children?

Both interviews and document review indicated a high degree of thought and effort in the planning phases of the CP to ensure that the work plan and associated outcomes align with the country priorities and UNICEF's own analysis of priority deprivations children face. The planning of the PSNs for the current CP included, for each of the sections, very broad-based and detailed discussions with a wide variety of stakeholders and key informants, such as UNICEF Regional Advisers, government counterparts and subject matter experts. In addition, each section did a one-day causality analysis and ToC workshop as well as, for some of the programme sections, workshops/meetings on cross-sectoral issues such as gender and children with disabilities, a peer review of the results framework, and desk reviews of documents.

For each programme section, these deliberations resulted in a PSN with a highly detailed ToC, focusing on what changes needed to happen in PRC systems and conditions in order to achieve outcomes. In addition, the PSNs included identification of programme priorities, presentation of the RAM Outcome and Output goals and their associated indicators, targets and means of verification and finally, a listing

of the various strategies to be employed to achieve these targets (advocacy, piloting etc...)¹⁴. The goals and strategies outlined in the PSNs are further elaborated in the CPAP and each section's workplans.

In all, the EA team found there to be strong alignment between country priorities, identified priority deprivations and the PSNs and CPAP. Having said that, it was acknowledged by some key informants that UNICEF is constrained in its ability to identify and diagnose some key aspects of the wellbeing of children in PRC, and particularly of the most vulnerable and marginalized, due to lack of access to information, and/or disaggregated data on several key parameters, such as attitudes towards corporal punishment of children and information on environmental health conditions in different regions. The UNICEF CCO was found to be working with Chinese counterparts to advocate and build capacity for greater data availability on key areas of concern.

Does the programme have clear strategic intent and an explicit TOC?

Notwithstanding the apparently strong alignment between UNICEF's analysis of priority deprivations and strategic plans, the causal chain of how UNICEF activities are intended to lead to interim changes on an organizational/institutional level, and, from there, to targeted outputs is not easily understood from programme documentation. It is found in partial form in a range of strategic and planning documents rather than explicitly contained in one document, tracing from root problems and bottlenecks to activities to desired interim level changes, outputs and impact. This makes it difficult for an evaluator to trace the intended programme logic in order to assess the relevance and efficacy of UNICEF's strategies. There are several aspects to this difficulty:

1. There is no explicit ToC diagram for the Country Programme, only a paragraph of text with limited articulation of risks and assumptions. The narrative logic from the inputs to outputs to outcomes is unclear, which makes it difficult to determine if the country context and the problems facing children are being sufficiently addressed. While cross-cutting themes such as gender-responsive programming and disability inclusion are referenced in the document, the CP is not very explicit with regard to the ways in which these two themes will be addressed across the programme sections.
2. The ToC diagrams included in the programme section PSNs are primarily descriptors of the change that needs to happen in China to enhance the wellbeing of children in the various program areas. However, these TOCs are much more broadly based than UNICEF's work and include many areas that are not being addressed in UNICEF's workplan. Moreover, in general, these theories of change do not convey how specific UNICEF's actions are supposed to contribute to the desired changes. While these broad-based TOCs were undoubtedly useful to programme sections in understanding the programming landscape and deciding programme priorities, because of the TOC's lack of detail on UNICEF's specific activities and their objectives, they cannot be considered a TOC of the sector programmes.
3. UNICEF's results framework, as represented in the RAM tends to largely jump from the output level, whose indicators are often only an enumeration of completed activities (number of research reports done, number of people reached in advocacy campaigns) to national-level outcomes that cannot be largely attributable in this CP period to UNICEF's work. These RAM indicators are supplemented by smaller results frameworks for many of

¹⁴ In the case of the Communications, Public Partnerships and PSFR sections, one combined Partnership PSN was drafted for all three of these sections.

UNICEF's various areas of activities, many of which have defined important interim-level changes necessary to achieve outcomes on the level of children's wellbeing. However, no overall results chain existed to trace between results in these lower-level frameworks to the broader programme goals for each outcome area.

4. The CPAP and the PSNs do provide some description of what UNICEF is doing in each area, but in insufficient detail to fully guide the CPE and without sufficiently describing the expected causal chains between UNICEF activities to specific output goals.
5. Both the CPAP and the PSNs are static documents which cannot easily be updated as the programmes are adapted by UNICEF to better respond to needs and opportunities as they arise. Only the work plans reflect the evolving goals and activities of UNICEF in PRC. While some of the major programmatic changes will doubtless be addressed in the upcoming MTSR exercise, for purposes of the EA, there was little formal documentation of the changes that had been made to programme strategy over the past two years.

For all of these reasons, the present documentation of the UNICEF CP was not found to provide a sufficient roadmap to understand and assess UNICEF's causal ToC and its results.

Unlike the TOCs included in the PSNs of the programme sections, the Partnerships and Engagement TOC, which guides the efforts of three of the CCO divisions (Private Fundraising & Partnerships, Public Partnerships, and Communication) is entirely focused on how the work of the three sections are intended to lead to targeted outcomes, which are expressed in terms of concrete UNICEF deliverables (number of partnerships developed, number of joint research products published etc). In this case, the TOC was found to be sufficiently explicit and thus there was no need for a results framework workshop, as was done in the programme sections. Having said that, the Partnership and Engagement TOC and their associated RAM indicators do not explicitly connect between the quantitative targets for the Partnership and Engagement Sections and achievement of the more outward-focused outputs and outcomes of the programme sections. For example, while the Communications section is responsible for the number of nationwide advocacy campaigns organized, there is no measure associated with how these campaigns affect behaviour that impacts the wellbeing of children. The only output indicator for the community/advocacy section which is related to theme-specific campaigns is "Number of nationwide digital campaigns organized (by thematic areas)." However, digital campaigns, represent only part of the Communication and Advocacy Section's efforts to shift public narrative and public support and it is a conversations starter. The CCO measures the reach of the communication assets and the attractiveness, appeal and the ease of understanding key messaging. What is lacking however is how robust the linkages between digital campaigns to the programmatic efforts such as increase in public or key stakeholders' will/support to the solutions offered by UNICEF programmes and policy recommendations, as well as the extent to which these campaigns to any the programme that aim to increase knowledge, attitude or behaviour such as school-based nutrition classes, or community based parenting programmes etc. Understanding the relevance and effectiveness of these strategies, as well be discussed below in the section on the CPE's utility, is likely to be an important task of the CPE.

Have risks and assumptions been adequately identified, and are plans to address important risks and assumptions in place? Is the design flexible and responsive to external factors?

In interviews with CCO staff over the course of the EA, the need for flexibility in the face of external factors was a recurrent theme. In nearly all of the sections, work plans have been modified over the past two years to reflect emerging opportunities or constraints. While flexibility and responsiveness are

important in all of UNICEF's endeavours, there are several reasons why they are particularly important in the context of PRC. First, the rapid economic growth and pace of poverty reduction in PRC have had significant implications for UNICEF's work in the country, as some former needs have been largely addressed and new needs and priorities have arisen. Second, because of the relative size of PRC in comparison to the resources that UNICEF has at its disposal in-country, UNICEF can only achieve impact by leveraging partnerships with governmental, private sector and academic institutions in country that have the capacity to scale UNICEF's initiatives. For this reason, the programme is by necessity as a matter of strategy, particularly responsive to the needs and preferences of its partner organizations, leveraging their resources and reach to amplify UNICEF's impact on issues of mutual concern. Both the KIIs and the results framework workshop indicated that UNICEF's work in PRC is both flexible and responsive to external factors.

However, this flexibility, while of paramount importance, has led to two main challenges with regard to evaluability. First of all, the the RAM and the CCO's strategic planning frameworks (CPD, CPAP, PSNs) are, by design, not correspondingly flexible. As programs have adapted their goals and strategies over the past two years, these changes have only been reflected in the workplans, which do not actually document what strategic changes are being made or anchor them within the programme TOC. Second, without an explicit, living ToC and results framework, there is no mechanism for ensuring that programmatic changes due to changed conditions or emerging opportunities either remain in line with the original goals of the TOC or justify changes to the TOC. As such, there is no formalized check to ensure that changes made to the programme remain true to the overall strategy of the CP.

To what extent are vulnerability and equity adequately addressed in programme design and TOC?

Issues of vulnerability and equity are evident throughout programme documentation in the choice of priority sector areas, of target provinces for pilots, and in many of UNICEF's activities. In particular, the Country Programme is devoted to addressing inequities caused by the urban-rural divide. In addition, each programme section has identified and is working to address priority deprivations which, in general, disproportionately affect the most vulnerable and marginalized persons.

In KIIs, respondents answered that they felt these considerations were adequately reflected in programme design where relevant, even where these factors were not explicitly referred to in PSNs. In addition, the programme sections reported that they have at least partial capacity to monitor these indicators.

With regard to gender imbalances, the overview PSN commits to the following action:

UNICEF will focus on improving the adolescent skills framework with a focus on girls, and tailor interventions to also address psycho-social health challenges, including mental health, for adolescent girls and boys taking into account gender differences. UNICEF will also support: multi-sectoral gender-based violence prevention and response interventions; gender norm changing strategies in textbooks, technical resources and communication assets; and advocate for family friendly and maternity policies.

These areas of action were partially based on a Gender Programmatic Review was done in 2019 to analyze the country gender equality context, challenges and opportunities most relevant to

UNICEF's country programme in China and to recommend measures for gender equality integration in the new China Country Programme 2021-2025.

To what extent are the planned results, indicators and activities measurable, clear and realistic?

UNICEF's Results Based Management Handbook has the following definitions for output and outcome level goals (p. 171):

Outputs: Shorter-term changes in skills or abilities and capacities of individuals or institutions, directly attributable to the activities of an organization, policy, programme or intervention.

Increase in capacity (the motivation, authority and resources of duty bearers and the understanding, resources of rights holders as well as a reduction in the risk involved in their claiming of their rights).

Outcomes: A medium-term change that is logically expected to occur once the development intervention has achieved one or more outputs. Corresponds to changes in individual or institutional performance, such as changes in access and quality of services for children, behaviour and practices, decision-making, policy-making and increased efficiency or effectiveness.

In practice, however, the list of standard outcome indicators provided in the RAM system tends to range between outcome indicators which reflect actual measures of children's wellbeing to more interim changes of individual and institutional performance which represent important preconditions to quantifiable change in statistics reflecting the wellbeing of children and mothers. Recognizing this range, for the purposes of this EA, outcome indicators were considered appropriate if they reflect changes in either individual/institutional performance or in statistics reflecting changes in the wellbeing of children, on condition that they represent changes that can reasonably be expected to occur once one or more of the planned outputs have been achieved and could be at least partially logically attributed to UNICEF's activities.

On the output level, most indicators are properly pitched to measure the real-world changes directly resulting from UNICEF's activities, and key informants believe the targets to be, with some exceptions, realistic in the given time frame. There is not always a close correspondence between the areas in which UNICEF is investing the most resources (time or manpower) and the areas selected for output measurement. However, even where relevant output indicators have not been included in the RAM, for the most part, the EA review of project documentation for a range of UNICEF interventions found that outputs were adequately defined and were subject to monitoring within project documentation. It is understood that the extent to which present RAM indicators are realistic and reflective of programme activities will be reviewed in the context of the MTSR, with changes being made as necessary in the results framework.

Indicators vary in the extent to which they measure national-level change in child wellbeing, changes in institutional performance or even just the direct result of UNICEF activities. RAM outcome indicators vary from national-level outcome statistics that are unlikely to be attributable to any significant extent UNICEF's input (for example, gross enrolment ratio in pre-primary education) to outcome indicators which are far much more closely associated with direct UNICEF activities but conversely are not really reflective of achievement of the defined outcome goal (for example, the two outcome indicators for child protection, where the goal is "By 2025, children in China are safe and better protected from all forms of violence", are: "Improved data on violence and exploitation in the country, including one off

surveys” and “Increased percentages of reported cases of violence against children receiving services provided by the integrated child protection system.”).

Other than the RAM, the programme sections also collect Core Standard Indicators (CSI) data, some of which relevant for gauging programme achievements, particularly on lower levels of analysis (use of services, etc). However, these indicators are primarily for organizational reporting, and are not specifically linked in strategic documents or workplans to UNICEF activities and do not provide information on how direct outputs such as programme participation have led to real-world results at the level of individual or institutional behaviour change.

Table 3 presents an analysis of the PRC CP’s RAM outcome indicators, including areas for improvement.

Table 3: RAM Outcome Indicators

	Goal	Indicators	Notes
Health	By 2025, more children, particularly neonates, adolescents and others vulnerable including those with disabilities, survive, thrive, and are better able to achieve their developmental potential.	1. Neonatal Mortality Rate 2. Child Overweight and Obesity Rates	1. Outcome Indicator 1 is an appropriate outcome measure for Output 1, which includes interventions geared at achieving national-level results. 2. Outcome Indicator 2 measures national output-level change for output 4. For the healthy food environment programme, UNICEF is also gathering baseline and outcome data at a city and school level. It is questionable whether UNICEF's many initiatives in this field will reach sufficient scale by the end of the CP period in order to result in national-level changes in obesity statistics that could be attributable to UNICEF's support. 3. The programme plans for Outputs 2 - road safety and 3 (ECD), 4 (healthy food environment) include measures of intermediate level change, reflected either in the output indicators, in research/evaluations included in the programme plans or in development of government capacity for monitoring service quality.
Education	By 2025, more children, especially the most disadvantaged, are adequately prepared to start school and are learning and acquiring skills in an inclusive, healthy and safe environment	1. Gross enrolment ratio in pre-primary education 2. Transition rate from junior secondary to senior secondary	The two targeted outcome indicators are not logically attributable to UNICEF activities. UNICEF is supporting improvement in the quality of pre-primary education, not increased enrollment, and is presently doing research in order to design an intervention to support skills building in out-of-school adolescents, not to increase transition rates. According to the Education Section, they were constrained in their choice of outcome indicators by the need to have "national data sources, representing a system level change, with the data being regularly generated by government". However, it would be preferable to designate outcome indicators, whether as part of the RAM or outside the RAM that will measure the actual intermediate/outcome level results of the Education such as skills levels of children entering primary education, enrollment of out-of school adolescents in alternative learning and skills frameworks. Output 2 includes development of information management and learning outcome assessment systems that can help track results of support for learning quality and disability inclusion.
Child Protection	By 2025, children in China are safe and better protected from all forms of violence	1. Improved data on violence and exploitation in the country 2. Increased percentages of reported cases of violence against children receiving services provided by the integrated child protection system	Both of the designated outcome indicators represent intermediate level changes rather than actual improvements in the wellbeing of children. However, given the lack of available data today on violence against children, both due to lack of reporting and insufficient data collection, these two indicators represent an important interim-level change which is also a precondition to being able to gather endline data on violence against and exploitation of children in the country. In addition to these two indicators Output 4 (Children, parents and caregivers have increased awareness and apply positive social norms, to prevent violence against children) at presently measures the number of parents, caregivers and children reached by UNICEF messaging. In addition, a study is planned try to gauge the effectiveness of UNICEF's work through measurement of changes in behaviour and attitudes for those reached by parenting programmes. Similarly, for Output 5 (Children's safety and well-being online), no measurement is being done of outcomes of UNICEF's interventions.

	Goal	Indicators	Notes
Health	By 2025, more children, particularly neonates, adolescents and others vulnerable including those with disabilities, survive, thrive, and are better able to achieve their developmental potential.	1. Neonatal Mortality Rate 2. Child Overweight and Obesity Rates	1. Outcome Indicator 1 is an appropriate outcome measure for Output 1, which includes interventions geared at achieving national-level results. 2. Outcome Indicator 2 measures national output-level change for output 4. For the healthy food environment programme, UNICEF is also gathering baseline and outcome data at a city and school level. It is questionable whether UNICEF's many initiatives in this field will reach sufficient scale by the end of the CP period in order to result in national-level changes in obesity statistics that could be attributable to UNICEF's support. 3. The programme plans for Outputs 2 - road safety and 3 (ECD), 4 (healthy food environment) include measures of intermediate level change, reflected either in the output indicators, in research/evaluations included in the programme plans or in development of government capacity for monitoring service quality.
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Social Policy	By 2025, children and their families have increased access to sufficient, equitable, adequate	Increased number of local governments (county level) that adopt implementa-	The social policy outcome is quite vague. It is not clear what success would look like. Is a budget for social assistance reform the same as an increased budget for social assistance or is it just a measure of a costed plan to do something to reform social assistance? To the extent that UNICEF's efforts by 2025 are likely to lead to an actual expansion of social assistance or services, it would be good to track outcomes such as: increased percentage of poor families with children

	essential social services and social protection.	tion plans and budgets for social assistance reform	<p>receiving social assistance, increased access to/utilization of public services, increased support given to families receiving cash transfers or something similar. The outcome listed here does not measure implementation of reforms nor the effect of implementation of reforms. Of course, if no reforms are likely to be into effect by 2025 than perhaps increased number of plans for reform may be the best possible indicator at this point.</p> <p>In general, the outputs for this outcome measure the direct results of UNICEF’s actions and not their intermediate term effects.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>Output 3 (Essential social services): Indicators measure production of costed models, not their adoption. It would be more useful to measure utilization of these models.</p> <p>Output 4: I would be better if indicators could measure analyses produced/utilized by government, with UNICEF’s help, not number of models produced by UNICEF</p> <p>UNICEF has contributed significantly to the policy making process, including evidence generation, awareness raising, policy recommendations and capacity building for policy makers as well as promoting cooperation among ministries. An interim measure of the extent to which these efforts have led to government action would be useful.</p>
Partner-ships	By 2025, progress towards the achievement of the SDGs for children in China and across the world is enhanced by strengthened partnerships with the public and private sector, media, academia, financial and technical institutions, knowledge and exchange between countries, and increased resource mobilisation and investment.	Increased multi-stakeholder public and private sector’s support for UNICEF’s work.	<p>This is a sufficient outcome for the partnership section, however, some of the output targets need to be adjusted to reflect likely programme achievements. For example, UNICEF has already surpassed its fundraising goals for this CP (Output 3) whereas UNICEF is unlikely to achieve its goals for Output 2 (Number of projects collaborated with MDBs, FIs, corporates, using innovative financing modalities and amount of financing mobilized).</p> <p>Moreover, there are insufficient linkages between partnership section output and outcome goals and the more child wellbeing-focused outcomes of the programme sections. For example, the Communication and Advocacy section is accountable for Number of nationwide digital campaigns organized, but not for their impact on attitudes and behaviour.</p>

In addition to the RAM indicators, and in line with the CPMP, which mandates that “UNICEF will ensure that for pilots undertaken, key preparatory steps are built in their design phase with regular monitoring mechanisms and clear parameters of success defined at the onset,” each of the programme sections has established detailed monitoring mechanisms for the larger pilots in their sections, including collection of baseline and endline data. The EA reviewed the monitoring and reporting mechanisms for the three pilots included in priority focus areas as designated by the Evaluation Reference Group.

- 1) For inclusive education, the pilot and its associated M&E framework were still under design. The EA team reviewed the draft framework, and provided the Education section with support

in elaborating the pilot TOC and identifying appropriate targets, indicators and means of verification, which was found to be quite robust.

- 2) The EA team did not review the Child Protection pilot framework, as this is under design, and a consultant has been engaged to help the programme team design the results framework.
- 3) For the healthy food environment, pilots are being done on both a school and a city level. At the city level, UNICEF completed a landscape analysis including developing 12 multi-sectoral actions in the city for creating healthy food environment. The CCO is trying to encourage their government counterparts to undertake such analysis more broadly. At the school level, pre- and post- questionnaires will be used to measure knowledge improvement, behavior change and school food environment. However, as the Chinese government has different nutrition programmes in the same schools as the UNICEF's pilots, there is a challenge of attribution on prevention of childhood overweight. In addition, while the CCO supports government partners in developing their own standards/benchmarks for the definition of unhealthy food and the healthy food environment, which will be a Nutrient Profile Model and a scorecard applied to city level, at present there are no consistent ways of gathering information on changes in the food environment until the standards take effect and monitoring tools are applied. As such, it is likely that the CPE will have only partial baseline information which can be used to track changes resulting from UNICEF programming and thus the CPE evaluators will need to employ evaluative techniques such as outcome harvesting and most significant change in order to develop an understanding of how programming led to individual and institutional level change.

Does the design of the Country Programme as a whole and the individual thematic programmes allow sufficient time to achieve the results articulated in the ToC?

COVID-related restrictions have had a significant impact on UNICEF's CP in PRC. With the lifting of most of these restrictions in 2023, the CCO is now very focused on stepping up the pace of implementation to overcome COVID-related delays during the first half of the programme period. For the most part, key informants were confident that they would be able to achieve the output goals set at the beginning of the programme, although some needed adjustments to targets were discussed and are likely to be addressed as part of the MTSR. With regard to achieving goals at the level of individual/institutional change or child wellbeing outcomes, because of the late start of many programme activities (due to COVID) in many of UNICEF's efforts that were initiated during the present CP (as opposed to those that have been carried over from the former CP) it will be premature to gauge the programme's full outcomes by the time of the CPE.

ii. **Evaluability in Practice: Mechanisms and systems to monitor results**

Does the programme have a monitoring system to gather and systematically analyse information for decision making with defined responsibilities, resources and periodicity? Are adequate mechanisms in place to gather data on gender equality, disability inclusion, social or equity amongst programme beneficiaries?

All programme sections regularly collect data for the RAM, annual reports and the CSIs. In several cases where important data is not available, programme sections are working with line ministries to expand capacity and commitment to produce needed statistics. Additionally, the PME section works directly with the National Bureau of Statistics to ensure the availability and adequacy of official statistics on areas under UNICEF's mandate. Finally, partly due to lessons learned from the previous CP and

evaluations, the CCO has been more diligent in this CP in precisely defining and collecting relevant baseline, monitoring and endline data in order to document the success and/or shortcomings of pilots.

There are several areas where UNICEF still does not gather data which would be important to monitor UNICEF's progress on a consistent basis.

- 1) While, as mentioned above, the CCO has correctly taken a flexible and responsive approach to programming, RAM indicators don't afford the same commensurate flexibility. Formal targets have not been adjusted, to reflect changes in expectations and plans, where relevant. For example, there are no RAM indicators that are relevant for medical insurance, as this is a newer area of endeavour, or for inclusive education. The MTSR will provide an important opportunity to review indicators and ensure that the RAM indicators and targets adequately reflect programming shifts and attainments.
- 2) In the case of child protection, availability of output-level data is extremely limited due to cultural and political factors that make issues related to child protection, i.e. violence, highly sensitive subjects. Similarly, in the case of environmental health, UNICEF is advocating to make more location-specific evidence available on environmental health risks.
- 3) As mentioned above, much of the data gathered by the UNICEF CCO is either pitched at the level of the direct UNICEF outputs (eg number of research studies issued) or national-level outcomes (gross enrollment in Early Childhood education). However, the interim changes on an individual and institutional levels needed to achieve scalable change are not always specifically identified nor monitored.
- 4) For the partnership programme sections (Advocacy and Communication, Private Sector Fundraising and Public Partnerships), there are insufficient mechanisms for gathering data on how achievement of their output and outcome goals impact the outward-facing goals. For example, while there is an output goal for "number of nationwide digital campaigns organized", or "number of business sectors engaged by UNICEF to integrate children's rights into policies and practices" only some measures have been set for effectiveness of these outputs in changing attitudes, behaviour or broader outcome goals of UNICEF's programme. While there is a measurement for number of policies influenced, it would be useful to also set goals with regard to other changes (behaviour, attitudes, etc) that are intended. Similarly, for South South Cooperation, there are no targets relating to how UNICEF support for South South Cooperation should affect the wellbeing of children worldwide. This presents a particular challenge for understanding relative effectiveness, and drivers of success and failure, of two of the priority strategic areas of the CPE: partnerships and advocacy.
- 5) With regard to gender-related data, the SMQs and CSIs both mandate collection of disaggregated data, both on the outcome level, where measures of gender equality nationally are found, and at the output level, where the CCO is asked to report in a gender disaggregated manner on the number of beneficiaries reached by various UNICEF activities. However, much of this disaggregated data gathering is at the level of number of female/male beneficiaries, without goals being cited or measurements provided on how UNICEF's activities support gender equality. In addition to the quantitative data being gathered, the narrative sections of the annual reports often report on gender-related achievements. Specifically, the child protection section reported that they monitor disaggregated data by gender, to some extent disability and for some particularly vulnerable categories such as orphans, children left behind and children in state care. Social policy reported that they do not collect disaggregated data because their indicators mostly target institutional change, and because the government does not gather relevant gender disaggregated data for their social protection support. The health section

reported that they are able to do disaggregation by gender, disabilities or equity such as by region, or urban and rural areas. The education section, for its part, reported that in all its projects they are collecting data disaggregated by gender and rural/ urban location annually and this data is reflected in their annual report. In addition, for the planned Inclusive Education intervention, they plan to incorporate children with disabilities, children with special needs and children with HIV/AIDs and children with particular ethnicity, etc. Moreover, the Education program is part of a large scale national assessment of STEM competencies that will not only provide sex disaggregated data but better and comprehensive information on the gender dimensions of STEM in China.

What challenges, if any, do stakeholders anticipate in gathering information? Are there relevant publicly available data sources that could be useful for the programme? To what extent do stakeholders think it will be feasible to gather information from beneficiaries, implementers and partners?

In a survey of programme sections done in the aftermath of the results framework workshop, respondents reported a few problems with their ongoing data gathering in response to the question: “Are there any indicators related to UNICEF's work that you are having difficulty gathering data for? Do you believe that your output and outcome goals are measurable, clear and realistic? These could be indicators that are part of the RAM or others which are part of your programme plans that you think are important to assessing the impact of your work.”

Having said that, the problem of delayed or missing baseline studies due to COVID restrictions was noted. In addition, a review of other evaluations and EAs done for UNICEF in PRC found several challenges that the CPE team may encounter in the context of the evaluation:

- 1) Limited access to relevant officials. For both the EA and other recent evaluations, there has been difficulties in securing interviews with officials. This has been true both at the national level and more locally. It may be possible to at least partially mitigate this challenge by offering an option of written questionnaires rather than face-to-face interviews.
- 2) Lack of understanding of UNICEF's results framework and the reasons for the evaluation, particularly at the provincial and county levels.
- 3) Difficulty in correctly identifying the key decision makers and opinion leaders on any given topic. This is a challenge both for the UNICEF CCO in its day to day business and for evaluators attempting to gauge the influence of UNICEF.
- 4) Lack of government approval to access some locations where UNICEF is active.

Are the CP and implementing partners adequately staffed to provide the necessary information for evidence generation on a periodic basis?

The survey of programme sections found all four sections reporting that they have adequate financial resources for evidence generation. However, the Social Policy section reported that they might need to strengthen that for the remaining period through taking on more experts, and Education said that they will hire specialized institution/organization to carry out baseline surveys and evaluation.

iii. Utility: Evaluation Readiness

One of the objectives of the EA as mandated in the TOR, is, “To sensitize key stakeholders, including UNICEF staff and its key counterparts, on the importance of the CPE and the use of the evaluation.” To both assess and support evaluation readiness, the EA team discussed and answered questions about the

CPE, as well as inquiries with regard to learning priorities of the CPE with all of the programme sections in the results framework workshops, and in KIIs.

Is there a demand for evaluations and readiness to participate in evaluations amongst UNICEF staff and counterparts? If not, why?

Conducting a CPE is included in the CCO's Costed Evaluation Plan (CEP). Specifically, the CEP includes a CPE on key strategies: from pilots to policy to results at scale, partnership modalities and advocacy. In addition to looking at these key strategies, due to the absence of a separate evaluation on SSC, the importance of looking at SSC within the analysis of partnership modalities was emphasized. A CPE has not been done in China over the last two programme cycles, and thus is mandated in accordance to UNICEF's evaluation policy which states that a CPE is needed at least once every two programme cycles. In interviews with CCO key informants as well as in the results framework workshops with programme section teams, there was a high degree of interest in and importance accorded to the conduct of a CPE. One comment made by several key informants related to lack of certainty with regard to the effectiveness of the various strategies employed by the sections in order to achieve scalable results. In many cases, it was felt that the data UNICEF staff were able to collect on program outputs and outcomes did not present a clear picture of the extent to which their efforts were successful in impacting outcomes. As a result, there was a high degree of interest in the potential of the CPE to provide relevant insights into the success of programme strategies. With regard to Chinese counterparts, it is difficult to gauge the level of interest on the basis of the limited data gathering that was possible to conduct as part of this EA.

What are the learning priorities for the CPE? What new cross-cutting strategies (including South-South cooperation, partnerships and advocacy) are most important to assess at this point and why?

Given the changing context in the PRC, with the country soon likely to achieve high income status, as well as the small relative size of UNICEF's efforts to the overall scale of the governmental budget, there is a strong imperative for the CPE to look at UNICEF's pathways to scale, both within PRC and by supporting Chinese activity globally to promote the wellbeing of children. Corresponding to this need, the ERG instructed the EA team to accord particular attention to three key strategies which underlie UNICEF's approach to scale: Pilots, Partnerships (including South South Cooperation), and Advocacy.

The CPMP (2021-2025), in its lessons learned section, provides guidance on key issues that need examination in the context of these cross-cutting strategies (p.2):

1. UNICEF China's pilots to policy to results at scale business model, continues to be appropriate for the underdeveloped parts of China. It should no longer be the primary way of doing business given China's changing context and likely graduation to high income status during the next country programme.
2. The strategies deployed in policy analysis and advocacy have focused heavily on evidence generation and facilitating learning through exposure of government officials to results from pilots and international experiences. A key lesson learnt has been the need to evaluate whether these strategies have sufficiently led to significant policy changes or not. Going forward, the office will adopt a more streamlined approach with deeper engagement in a reduced number of areas. Key to this will be moving away from many broad and sometimes

unclear research projects and adopting a more consolidated approach to all forms of research and evidence generation, including reconsidering the choice of research partners.

These findings correspond with the purpose of the CPE, as stated in the Costed Evaluation Strategy: Examine the ways in which the combination of demonstrated high-impact pilots at the subnational level, complemented by key advocacy and partnership strategies, have been able to influence national scale-up and policy change. It will contribute to learning by UNICEF and external counterparts as to how and to what extent UNICEF strategies and interventions are (a) being adopted by the Government in national programmes and policies and (b) resulting in the perception of UNICEF as a thought leader and significant advocate for children in a fast-changing context.”

At present, the CCO’s M&E mechanisms do not adequately support learning and evaluation on the extent to which employment of various strategies has led to scalable change, nor determining the factors which drive success or failure of these three strategies. For this reason, given the importance of all three key strategies as potential pathways to scale, the EA recommends that all three be closely looked at in the context of the CPE in order to determine the drivers of success and challenges in the use of each of these strategies. Table 4 presents proposed evaluation questions for each of the priority strategy areas, on the basis of KIIs as well as a review of relevant UNICEF and other guidance.

Table 4: Strategic Priority Area Evaluation Questions

Pilots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent have the pilots executed been relevant for achievement of outputs? • To what extent did pilot monitoring allow for in-pilot learning and adaptation to achieve the best results? • To what extent was data gathering (including baseline, monitoring and endline) sufficient to establish and communicate to decision-makers learning from pilots, including recommended models for improved governmental action? • To what extent have gender equality, disability, equity and social inclusion been adequately integrated into pilot design and execution? • For completed pilots, to what extent is there evidence that pilot models and learnings were adopted by government, leading to scalable change? What have been the primary drivers of success for scaling of pilot results and the main challenges to achieving governmental uptake and scale?
Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent is the use of partnerships strategically consistent with the overall ToC of the priority focus areas? • To what extent have partnerships successfully contributed to achievement of UNICEF outcome-level goals in priority focus areas? • To what extent have UNICEF’s private sector partnerships led to broader changes on individual and organizational levels likely to inform UNICEF outcome goals? • To what extent has UNICEF succeeded in influencing the behaviour of its individual donors in ways that contribute to UNICEF in China and beyond? • In areas where UNICEF has had successful South-South Cooperation, what have been the main challenges and drivers of success? • To what extent has the CCO been successful in engaging targeted MDBs/IFIs in South South Cooperation efforts and what are the main drivers of and barriers to partnership with these organizations.
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent is the selection of areas for implementation of an in-depth advocacy strategy consistent with the main advocacy needs for achievement of CP objectives?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent does UNICEF’s advocacy agenda take advantage of governmental focus areas, ongoing policy and legislative processes and other opportunities in China in order to maximize impact?¹⁵ • To what extent is UNICEF perceived by governmental counterparts to be a trusted thought-leader and convener in its areas of mandate?¹⁶ • To what extent do the advocacy strategies that have been developed as part of the CP present a coherent and evidence-based ToC, based on an adequate understanding of present conditions? • To what extent is UNICEF able to adequately and accurately define key influencers and drivers of change to be targeted by advocacy strategies? • To what extent are UNICEF’s choice of advocacy strategies and accompanying tactics fit-for-purpose and efficient? • To what extent are adequate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in place in order to judge the efficacy of advocacy and social behaviour change strategies in changing policies, attitudes and behavior? • To what extent has implementation of program advocacy and social behaviour change strategies led to changed policies, attitudes and behaviour?¹⁷ • What are the main challenges and drivers of success of the development and employment of advocacy strategies by the UNICEF CCO?
Coherence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent were the combination of strategies employed in order to achieve goals part of a coherent ToC for each of the programme sectors? • To what extent were there mechanisms in place to review and adapt the combination of strategies being employed goals as needed? • To what extent have strategies employed to achieve priority focus area goals been adapted and updated during the course of the country programme to respond to new information and new conditions? • To what extent has the combination of strategies employed to achieve programme section objectives been successful at achieving scalable change?

A review of the four proposed sector focus areas (Table 5 and Annex 1) found that all four employ a combination of several of the key strategies in order to achieve scale, and thus were suitable to be used as “deep dive areas” for the CPE to examine in order to better understand how a combination of strategies can be employed in order to achieve results.

Table 5: Priority Sector Areas

Sector Area	Scope of activity
Inclusive Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pilot is still in the planning stages, (baseline study this year) so there will not be much progress by the time of the CPE • No corresponding RAM indicators at output or outcome levels • Is likely to become an important area of endeavour in the future

¹⁵ This was one of the key recommendations of the 2016 study commissioned by UNICEF “Effectively Advocating for Children in China: A Strategy for Communications and Advocacy.”

¹⁶ This was one of the key recommendations of the 2016 study commissioned by UNICEF “Effectively Advocating for Children in China: A Strategy for Communications and Advocacy.”

¹⁷ The EA review found that baseline data was not always collected in order to accurately document changes in attitudes or behaviour as a result of UNICEF’s advocacy efforts, and, in some cases, due to cultural sensitivities, it may be difficult to do widespread data gathering in order to measure attitudes (for example, on the issue of violence against children). In such cases, methodologies such as bellweather methodology or champion tracking might be used. UNICEF’s “Monitoring and Evaluating Advocacy: An Advocacy Toolkit Companion” (2010) suggests several such methodologies.

Child protection system approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot already ongoing, have now hired a consultant to work on developing metrics. • Priority sector corresponds with one output area, with supporting activities in other output areas
Social Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situation assessment of Social Assistance Reform conducted in selected locations (3 counties), with associated advocacy and research. • A cash plus services project, including research, advocacy and technical assistance is about to be launched in three pilot areas • Priority sector corresponds with one output area
Healthy Food Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of one output area, with associated outcome indicator • Involves a wide range of activities • Includes an advocacy strategy and campaign, developed in cooperation with the Communications & Advocacy Section.

However, deep dives into only the designated priority focus areas will not, as demonstrated in Table 6 below, be sufficient for answering all of the questions on key strategies listed in Table 4. Thus, should the CPE use these four priority sector areas, additional work will have to be done fully address all of the evaluation questions as proposed above. Table 6 proposes sources of evidence for each of the key strategies to be evaluated in the context of the CPE.

Table 6: Key Strategies to be Evaluated/Sources of Evidence

Pilots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the sector priority areas involve pilots, although some pilots are presently only in their planning phases. • As most pilots will not be completed by next year, the CPE will not be able look at the success of pilots in achieving scaled change. • It would be useful to look at some more mature programs (launched in the last CP) that have successfully leveraged pilot results to achieve scalable change in order to determine what are the key success factors enabling scale.
Partnerships: Internal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All priority focus areas involve partnerships. • It would be useful to do a broader survey of UNICEF’s partners across the CP in order to answer evaluation questions on the relevance and efficacy of partnerships.
Partnerships & SSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None of the sector priority focus areas include South South Cooperation (SSC). To answer evaluation questions on SSC, it would be necessary for the CPE to open a separate line of inquiry on areas where UNICEF has worked closely with China on SSC. Given the relatively large amount of SSC, supported by the Child Health and Development section (health, nutrition, WASH and climate change), it would be useful to focus on these areas in evaluating South South Cooperation.
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only one of the priority focus areas includes in the current CP a public advocacy campaign in cooperation with the Advocacy and Communications Section. • It would be useful to do a broader inquiry into UNICEF’s advocacy efforts and their effects in order to answer the evaluation questions.
Coherence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of all priority sector areas would be useful to understand the strategic coherence of UNICEF’s activities in developing scale strategies. • In addition, as in the case of pilots, looking at more mature success cases on achievement of scale would be useful for answering the evaluation questions.

IV. Summary Conclusions and Recommendations

i. Conclusions

1. The EA team found there to be strong alignment between country priorities, identified priority deprivations and the PSNs and CPAP. However, it was acknowledged that UNICEF is somewhat constrained in its ability to identify and diagnose some key aspects of the wellbeing of children in PRC, and particularly of the most vulnerable and marginalized, due to lack of access to information, and/or disaggregated data on several key parameters.
2. Despite the apparently strong alignment between UNICEF's analysis of priority deprivations and strategic plans, the causal chain of how UNICEF activities are intended to lead to interim changes on an organizational/institutional level, to targeted outputs has been largely implicit, present in part in various planning documents but not aggregated into one overall results chain.
3. UNICEF's work in PRC is both flexible and responsive to external factors. However, the UNICEF's strategic planning and monitoring frameworks (CPD, CPAP, RAM, PSNs) are not correspondingly flexible and do not provide a mechanism for ensuring that programmatic changes due to changed conditions or emerging opportunities either remain in line with the original goals of the TOC or justify changes to the TOC.
4. The results framework does not set clear goals with regard to the gender-related objectives of the programme nor does it set targets for monitoring gender, inclusion or other equity-related aspects of programming. However, all sections report that they do gather disaggregated data for their project outputs and, for the most part, do not have significant difficulties obtaining that data. In the case of social protection, the section explained that government sources do not enable disaggregation of data. Having said that, gender-related data collected tends to be on the level of numeric outputs (number of programme participants etc) or national level statistics, without any indicators in between on how programmes are supposed to affect participants.
5. For the most part, the targeted RAM outputs and outcomes are clear, measurable and realistic. However, they are insufficient in order to understand the causal chain leading from UNICEF activities to scalable outcomes. Most of the output indicators measure the direct results of UNICEF activities (e.g. number of research studies published etc) whereas most of the outcome indicators are pitched to change in national-level statistics which are likely to be only minimally attributable, if at all, to UNICEF activities (e.g. transfer rates from junior to senior secondary school). As such, many of the indicators are of limited utility for the CPE, which is likely to focus on the interim-level effects of UNICEF activities, such as changed behaviours, increased quality of service etc.
6. For the most part, there is adequate time to achieve outputs, and where there is a need to adjust outputs, this will be discussed in the context of the MTSR. However, the impact of COVID is recognized, both in the delay/cancellation of baseline surveys for some activities and in the late launch of many program activities. This is likely in some cases to lead to inability to achieve programme outcomes in the designated time frame.
7. There is a high level of interest in the CPE among programme staff, with a strong focus on better understanding pathways to scalable impact. Doing so necessitates better understanding of the drivers of success for different strategic approaches, and the ways in which partnerships, advocacy and pilots contribute to improvement of the wellbeing of children in PRC and beyond.

ii. Recommendations

The first four recommendations address improvements to programme planning, monitoring and reporting that would aid the CPE team in assessing the efficacy of the UNICEF CCO's work. The final recommendation pertains directly to the scope of the CPE. The proposed TOR for the CPE provides further guidance on the scope, methodologies and evaluation questions for the CPE.

1. In the context of the EA, results chain diagrams were prepared for each of the programme sections detailing the causal path from problems to UNICEF activities, interim changes to outputs and outcomes for each UNICEF output. As part of the work with programme sections, areas where indicators are insufficient to trace programme results were identified and flagged. These results chains are meant to be living documents, putting UNICEF's activities in the context of its ToC and enabling modification of both as the programme unfolds. They are also meant to serve as a basis for discussion as part of the MTSR with regard to where indicators and targets may need to be replaced and modified.
2. Programme planning should include greater attention to interim-level goals and measures. While these do not necessarily need to be incorporated into the RAM, it is important that programme theories of change include a vision for how UNICEF activities are supposed to affect interim indicators such as changed behaviours, increased service quality etc, as well as indicating in what ways these interim changes should be measured.
3. Where relevant, targeted gender related results of programming should be made explicit in the result framework. Interventions designed to address gender disparities should set more explicit gender-disaggregated targets pertaining to the intended outcomes of activities on the girls that the programmes support.
4. National evaluation capacity building is essential to cultivate an evaluation culture among UNICEF staff, its counterparts and implementing partners. It would be useful to provide key counterparts and implementing agencies with evaluation awareness and technical skills development opportunities, which will enable them to increasingly engage in evidence generating processes. In this regard, the CCO should effectively stay linked to the UNICEF-wide national evaluation capacity development agenda, both benefiting from and contributing to various organizational initiatives.
5. In the EA TOR, three key strategies and four sector focus areas were proposed. Feedback from senior CCO leadership has indicated that the single most important strategic goal of the CPE should be determining pathways to scalable impact in PRC. In order to do so, it is important that all three priority strategic areas be looked at (Advocacy, Partnerships – including SSC -and Pilots, as well as Coherence in the combined use of these strategies). However, these three strategic areas cannot be meaningfully looked at solely through the lens of the designated priority focus areas. In addition to the priority focus areas, it is proposed that “deep dives” be undertaken to:
 - a. Better understand the drivers of success and challenges of UNICEF's SSC efforts. The CPE should have a separate line of inquiry on areas where UNICEF has worked closely with China on SSC, such as health, nutrition, WASH, Climate Change and early childhood education, as well as emergency aid.
 - b. Derive lessons learned from successful UNICEF programmes that are at a later stage than those selected as priority focus areas. Specifically, it would be useful for the CPE to examine 1-2 longer-standing programmatic areas where UNICEF has successfully

contributed to national-level impact in order to identify good practice on pathways to scale.

Annex I: Sector Priority Focus Areas

	Pilot	Partnership	Advocacy	Cross-cutting issues (gender, equity, disability, etc.)	Other considerations
Inclusive education	<p>The project aims at promoting inclusive education for children with disabilities and special education needs in China through developing curriculum resources on inclusive education for training of pre- and in-service teachers from preschools to secondary schools, exploring/testing different training models, establishing demonstration of improved Inclusive Education school model for policy recommendations and a potential nationwide scale-up.</p> <p>The project will be piloted in 80 schools and kindergartens in 23 districts of 7 provinces/ municipalities, namely Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Henan, Sichuan, Shandong, and Shaanxi.</p> <p>Approximately 43,000 teachers and school leaders will directly benefit from participating in the inclusive school pilot. In addition, another 4,000 trainee teachers in 8 teaching colleges and normal universities will also participate.</p>	<p>The project will be implemented jointly by UNICEF and the teachers' affairs department of the ministry of education, with support from local level education departments.</p> <p>The Research Centre for Inclusive Education at East China Normal University is the technical partner for project implementation.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research report on inclusive education in China and case studies on best practices of inclusive education will be produced and published 2. Advocacy events, including conferences/ seminars to be organized for sharing of project results and experience as well as policy recommendations <p>Knowledge products such as PSAs, HIS and case studies will be produced and share via social media channels to raise public awareness of the importance of inclusive education</p>	<p>Equity is at the center of the project. The project is designed to demonstrate a model for improving school inclusiveness that provide equal access to quality education for all children, particularly children with special needs (including children with disabilities). Gender lens will be applied in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project by collecting gender disaggregated data and integrating gender sensitive components in the development of teacher training resources and school pilot approaches</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Baseline study is planned for 2023. 2. To ensure the sustainability of the project, a team of experts and trainers at the national and local level is being established to facilitate training for teachers and schools leaders, and provide continuous technical support for schools and kindergartens in piloting the school improvement model 3. Teacher training resources produced by the project and best practices identified during project implementation will be digitalized and shared with wider audiences, through the Smart Education Cloud with support from MOE.

Child protection system approach	We are implementing a pilot model with MCA in 12 counties of 4 provinces to maximize coordination and effectiveness of preventive and response services for child protection from abuse, violence, neglect and family separation.	Public partnership is the driving force at national and local level Private partnership has contributed financially. We are exploring shared valued partnerships as well. South-South has not happened as of now.	Our approach is contributing to strengthening policies and practice at local level for coordinated and integrated preventive and response services in child protection. We are using research and evidence from implementation to inform policy development and show case implementation of laws. We are also using advocacy for public engagement with regard to violence prevention.	Equity approach is ensured by focusing on CLB and other vulnerable children. We are strengthening capacities on gender and disability (but still on-going)	
Social protection	No pilot. Situation assessment of Social Assistance Reform are being conducted in selected locations (3 counties).	Social Policy Programme facilitated the South-South knowledge exchange through a series of webinar with Thailand, Cambodia and India.	Advocacy on social assistance act and child sensitive social assistance system are ongoing since last CP.	Gender responsive, disability inclusive social protection system building is very much core of our programme.	

<p>Healthy food environment to prevent childhood overweight</p>	<p>Piloting on creating healthy food environment in cities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Landscape analysis on childhood overweight among multi-sectors in Chengdu was conducted and 12 actions were identified and agreed to conduct in Chengdu on creating healthy food environment to prevent childhood overweight. 2. Reshaping retail food environment in Chengdu. Data on the current state of retail industry and food procurement were collected to inform interventions on food retail. 3. Piloting nutrition school program in selected cities. Interventions on knowledge improvement, behavior change and school food environment creation would be applied in schools. Pre- and post- surveys would be used to measure the improvement of knowledge behavior change and school food environment. 	<p>UNICEF China is playing a leading role in determining China's Nutrient Profile Model (NPM) in order to define high sugar, high salt and high fat food and regulate the unhealthy pre-package food marketing to children. UNICEF has formulated the national technical working team with China Nutrition Society, National Institute of Nutrition and Health (NINH), and Huaxi Medical University, and invited WHO, Resolve to Save Lives, the George Institute for Global Health as international supporting organizations. An international consultant was recruited to support the study, while an international advisory panel with 5 senior experts in this area and a national advisory panel includes senior government officials (DG or DDG) from different sectors have been formed to advise on critical steps of the NPM development. A comprehensive technical roadmap on NPM has been developed and agreed by international and national advisory panels.</p> <p>CCO is in preparing a proposal on developing scorecard to define the food</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conducted national "Know Your Food" (KYF) advocacy campaign in May 2022, with the objective of empowering children and young people to make informed, healthy choices about their diet through improved nutrition literacy. Digital assets developed for the campaign obtained more than 77 million impressions over one month. More than 5000 schools across the country offered nutrition sessions to 6 million parents and 13 million children/adolescents on healthy diets utilizing materials developed by UNICEF. 2. To strengthen evidence on policy advocacy, UNICEF has commissioned studies, 1). Analysis of the economic and health cost of childhood overweight and obesity in China. The results and recommendations on feasible interventions (available early 2023) will be used to promote cost-effective policies to prevent childhood overweight. 2). Exposure of children to digital marketing of unhealthy food. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Childhood overweight is significantly higher among children in urban areas, while this disparity is narrowing and has even converged in some affluent between urban and rural areas. Attention will also be paid to children in poverty areas. 2. The percentage of childhood overweight and obesity is higher in boys than in girls in both urban and rural areas. . 	
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	environment of cities in partnership with Chengdu Health Commission. The scorecard would be used to more cities once it is done.		
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Annex II: EA Matrix

Evaluation Question	Means of Verification		
	Document Review	Results Framework Workshop	Key Informant Interviews
Evaluability in Principle: Logic and Design of the Results Framework and Associated Strategies			
Are the Country Programme's outcomes aligned to the country's priorities and based on a Situation Analysis of Children? To what extent is there agreement and alignment between UNICEF Workplans and its counterparts and the CPD? Are the details of the Workplans and design of programmes sufficiently aligned to potentially contribute to achieving results for children?	X		X
Does the programme have clear strategic intent and an explicit ToC?	X	X	X
To what extent are the planned results, indicators and activities measurable, clear and realistic?	X	X	X
Does the design of the CP as a whole and the individual thematic programmes allow sufficient time to achieve the results articulated in the ToC?			X
Have risks and assumptions been adequately identified, and are plans to address important risks and assumptions in place? Is the design flexible and responsive to external factors?	X		X
To what extent are vulnerability and equity adequately addressed in programme design and TOC (including gender equity, disability inclusion and social inclusion)?	X		X
Evaluability in Practice: Mechanisms and Systems to Monitor Results			
Does the programme have a monitoring system to gather and systematically analyse information for decision making with defined responsibilities, resources and periodicity?	X	X	X
What challenges, if any, do stakeholders anticipate in gathering information? Are there relevant publicly available data sources that could be useful for the programme? To what extent do stakeholders think it will be feasible to gather information from beneficiaries, implementers and partners?		X	X
Do the section programmes and the CP include a clear plan and budget for evaluations? Is it clear who will manage the evaluations?			X
Are the CP and implementing partners adequately staffed to provide necessary information for evidence generation on a periodic basis?		X	X
Are adequate mechanisms in place to gather data on gender equality, disability inclusion, social inclusion or equity amongst programme beneficiaries?			
Utility: Evaluation Readiness			
Is there a demand for evaluations and readiness to participate in evaluations? If not, why? Do the section programmes and the CP include a clear plan and budget for evaluations? Do the planned evaluations respond to the needs of the programme?		X	X
What are the learning priorities for the CPE? What new cross-cutting strategies (including South-South cooperation, partnerships and advocacy) are most important to assess at this point in time and why?		X	X

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Annex IV: List of Interviewees

UNICEF	Name
Country Representative	Amakobe Sande
Former Country Representative	Cynthia McCaffrey
Former Deputy Representative of Programme	Douglas James Noble
Deputy Representative of Operations	Nenad Radonjic
Multi-Country Evaluation Specialist	Xin Xin Yang
Chief, Child Protection	Dora Giusti
Chief, Communication and Advocacy Section	Lely Djuhari
Chief, Education Section	Sanaullah Panezai
Former Chief, Child Health and Development Section	Anuradha Narayan
Chief, Partnerships and Innovation Section	Derval Usher
Chief, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Section	Patrick Shing
Chief, Public Partnerships Section	Sae-Ryo Kim
Chief, Social Policy Section	Misaki Akasaka Ueda
Nutrition Specialist	Suying Chang
M&E Specialist	Fang Yan
Regional Gender and Adolescent Advisor, UNICEF EAPRO	Shreyasi Jha
UN Resident Coordinator's Office	
Data Management and Results Monitoring/ Reporting Specialist	Qinfei Zhu
PRC Counterparts	
Associate Research Fellow, Institute of International Development cooperation, Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC)	Xiaoning Chen

Annex V: Questions for Key UNICEF CCO Informants

*The following question list is indicative only. Questions were adapted for each interview, depending on the specific position of the interviewee.

This interview is being done in the context of the PRC CP Evaluability Assessment. The main purpose of this EA is to determine whether the result chain to be achieved through the implementation of the Country Programme is relevant and logically consistent from the strategic design perspective, measurable and evaluable. Your inputs will help us to better understand the theory of change (TOC) underlying your work and to identify pathways to adequately assessing the results of UNICEF's efforts. The interview should take approximately one hour to complete. Your responses will be confidential and will not be shared internally or externally. You will not be cited in any way in the final report without prior consent. The interview may be recorded only to assist in notetaking, but recordings are destroyed after this evaluation is finished. Thank you for your time.

Evaluability in Principle: Logic and design of the Results Framework and Associated Strategies

1. Please describe the ToC for your programme focus area. What do you see as the main goals of the programme focus area and the pathways to achieving those goals?
2. Do you believe that the TOC for your programme as formulated at the outset of the CP is still valid or is there a need to adjust the TOC to better reflect adjustments on the basis of programme focus area learning, contextual changes etc.
3. To what extent do the present indicators represent a necessary and sufficient set of performance markers for measuring the status of results at different levels?
4. Please describe how advocacy is used in your programme focus area in order to achieve programme goals. In what ways is the success of the advocacy strategy presently monitored? What are the main questions that you believe the CPE should address with regard to the efficacy of advocacy strategies in the CP? Do the advocacy strategies state: advocacy impact, outcomes, advocacy target(s) and stakeholders, barriers and opportunities analysis, specific advocacy ToC, and advocacy results framework? Were they developed collaboratively including colleagues from programme, advocacy and communications? Do they set out clear roles, responsibilities and accountabilities, and ongoing coordination and monitoring mechanisms?
5. Please describe how partnership building is used in your programme focus area in order to achieve programme goals. In what ways is the success of the partnership strategy presently monitored? What are the main questions that you believe the CPE should address with regard to the efficacy of partnership strategies in the CP?
6. Please describe the extent to which your program employs or supports South South Cooperation (SSC) through engaging your partners. In what ways is the success of the SSC presently monitored? What are the main questions that you believe the CP should address with regard to the efficacy of SSC strategies in the CP?
7. Please discuss the strategy of piloting in the context of your sector priority area. What do you hope to achieve by this/these pilots? How do you measure its/their success? What indicators help you understand the pilot's impact?
8. Do the design of the CP as a whole and the individual thematic programmes allow sufficient time to achieve the results articulated in the ToC in your programme area?
9. What are the main risks and assumptions that could impact programme focus area performance? Are plans in place to address important these risks and assumptions?

10. Other than in this focus area, do you have any notable concerns about the logic and design of areas of the results framework and associated strategies, including as a result of COVID 19-related disruptions?

Evaluability in Practice: Mechanisms and systems to monitor results

11. What workflows are in place to ensure relevant aggregated information and monitoring data from programme teams are shared with the Planning Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) Section and senior management?

12. What challenges, if any, do you anticipate in gathering evaluative information on your programme, including from beneficiaries, implementers and partners?

13. Are the CP and implementing partners adequately staffed to provide necessary information for the evidence generation gaps on a periodic basis?

Utility: Evaluation Readiness

14. Does your programme have a clear plan and budget for evaluations? Are the planned evaluations aligned to the outcomes and respond to the needs of the programme?

15. What are your learning priorities for the CPE? What elements of your work do you believe are most important to assess in the context of the CPE in order to provide you with useful lessons learned and recommendations?

Annex VI: Questions for Chinese Counterparts

Thank you for your time. I am the independent consultant working with UNICEF to assess the evaluability of UNICEF China country program (2021-2025). As I am sure you know, UNICEF will be launching a Country Programme evaluation in 2024. The purpose of this evaluation will be to assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of UNICEF's contribution to the wellbeing of children in China and to determine how UNICEF in China can best continue to enhance the wellbeing of children both in China and globally. Particularly, the upcoming CPE has a focus on a) the strategic positioning of UNICEF in China towards more upstream-oriented programming, including through advocacy and partnerships strategies, and b) the South-South cooperation work of the CCO.

The purpose of this evaluability assessment is to prepare for the Country Programme Evaluation, including by gaining your perspectives on the most important questions that should be asked in the evaluation about UNICEF's work and partnerships in China. It is important for us to stress that the evaluability assessment team has no role in evaluating UNICEF's work other than by defining the questions that will be asked by the evaluator in the Country Programme Evaluation.

This interview is fully confidential. I/we am/are independent consultant(s). The notes from this interview will not be passed on to UNICEF and we will not quote you in the EA without prior permission. Before we begin, do you have any questions about the Evaluability Assessment or the Country Programme Evaluation that you would like to ask?

1. Please describe your cooperation with UNICEF.
2. How was the programme of cooperation with UNICEF designed?
3. What are the main goals you hope to achieve through this cooperation?
4. Please share with us any questions that you think are important for the evaluators to ask as part of the CPE. These questions could include ones related to a) the effectiveness of certain UNICEF programs, b) the nature of the partnerships in China c) any concerns that you have about UNICEF's work or any other questions that you have.

Annex VII: Results Chain Matrixes

<p>Goal (from PSN)</p>	<p>Outcome: By 2025, more children, particularly neonates, adolescents and others vulnerable including those with disabilities, survive, thrive, and are better able to achieve their developmental potential.ⁱ Indicators: 1. Neonatal Mortality Rate Target 3.4% 2. Child Overweight and Obesity Rates Target : The average annual growth of overweight and obesity rate for 0-18 years old children and adolescents from 2020 to 2030 should decrease by 70% from the baseline. MOV: Official Statistics</p>					
	<p>1.1 The health care system is better able to accelerate the delivery of services to reduce preventable deaths, particularly in UNICEF-supported areas.</p>	<p>1.2 Health policy makers and planners have enhanced capacity to plan, generate and use evidence to improve accountability and equitable service delivery reaching the most vulnerable children, particularly in UNICEF-supported areas.</p>	<p>1.3 The health system, particularly in UNICEF-supported areas, has strengthened capacities to deliver quality early childhood nutrition, and development services and address developmental delays and disabilities.</p>	<p>1.4 China has strengthened evidence and enabling environment to promote nutritious, affordable and sustainable diets and healthy lifestyles that protect children against triple burden of malnutrition</p>	<p>1.5 National and selected sub-national governments and private sector have strengthened capacities and partnerships to deliver and promote climate-resilient sanitation and environment programmes for children in their homes, in schools and in public spaces.</p>	<p>1.6 Government health agencies and their partners in the private sector and academia have institutionalized bilateral and multilateral south-south and triangular cooperation programmes to promote clean environment and child health</p>
<p>Indicators (from PSN and workplan)</p>	<p>1. Level of utilization of UNICEF-supported evidence in national scaling up of EENC package Target: Partially Utilized 2. Number of provinces scaling up comprehensive maternal nutrition service package through UNICEF support Target: 10 MOV: Annual Reviews, Project Records 3. WP: Proportion of Newborns Received Immediate Skin-to-Skin contact after birth Target: 40% in 2022 4. WP: Number of Health Providers in Midwifery Facilities coached on EEC services Target: 12, 180 in 2022</p>	<p>1. Number of provinces that have developed implementation plans for child injury prevention Target: 6 MOV: Annual Reviews, Project Records. 2 WP: Number of counties in Western areas that have implemented prioritized Child Injury Prevention intervention (6 in 2022)</p>	<p>1. Level of utilisation of UNICEF-supported evidence in the implementation of adolescent health service package Target: “Fully Utilized”. MOV: Annual Reviews, Project Records 2. Costed National Strategy and guidelines of adolescent participation in improving mental health developed and adopted in selected areas Target: 11 Provinces adopting strategy MOV: Official documents, annual reviews 3. WP: Number of primary health care facilities equipped with adolescent mental health service package (Baseline: 0, 2022 Target 175)</p>	<p>1. Percentage of health facilities with staff having skills to provide targeted counselling and support for children at risk and with delays or disabilities in selected areas Target: 50% (from 10%) MOV: Annual reviews, project records 2. Percentage of health facilities with staff having skills to provide counselling on complementary feeding in selected areas. Target: 75% (from 15%) MOV: Annual reviews, project records 3. WP. Cumulative number of community health facilities being able to provide ECD counselling and support services (2022 Target 80000) 4. WP. Cumulative number of community health providers equipped with skills on ECD counselling and support, disaggregated by gender (2022 Target 160000)</p>	<p>1. Number of public and private business sectors adopting UNICEF family friendly workplace standards on child caring practices Target: 5 (from 0) MOV: Annual reviews, project records 2. Costed Implementation Strategy and Guidelines for Childhood Obesity Prevention developed and adopted Target: 10 provinces (from 0) MOV: Official documents, annual reviews 3. Level of utilization of UNICEF-supported evidence to strengthen national legislation on healthy diet Target: partially utilized MOV: Official documents, annual reviews 4. Number of public and private business sectors adopting UNICEF family friendly workplace (FFW) standards on child caring practices (Baseline 0, 2021 Target 1, 2022 Target 3) 5. WP. Number of districts adopted UNICEF-support</p>	<p>1. Appropriate and innovative WASH technologies/products identified and adopted in select areas through private sector engagement 2. Level of utilization of UNICEF-supported evidence in sanitation, climate change and environmental health policies and programmes (Level 1-3) 3. The existence of new evidence and costed models to mitigate air pollution in schools, health facilities and households (Y/N) 1. Level of institutionalization of bilateral and multilateral South-South and triangular cooperation programmes in government agencies, private sector companies and civil society organizations through UNICEF support Target: fully utilized MOV: Annual reviews, project records 2. Number of innovative practices/technologies/products from China introduced via South-South and triangular cooperation programmes through UNICEF support Target: 9 (3 for MCH, 2 for nutrition and 4 for WASH (across sanitation, environmental health) MOV: Annual reviews, project records 3. Number of CoEs for South-South Cooperation established with quality of care meet international</p>

			4. Peer support recruiting system and training system established (Baseline: No; 2022: Yes) 5. Training guidelines and curriculums developed to facilitate training of peer supporters (Baseline: No; 2022: Yes)		district-wide school nutrition model (Baseline: 0; 2022 target 3) 6. WP Number of cities adopted urban-based nutrition model (Baseline: 0; 2022 target 3) 6.		standards (Baseline: 0; 2022: 3)
Intermediate change (what needs to happen to achieve outputs) (From results framework workshop)	1.National EENC and maternal nutrition standards in place; 2. Strengthened capacity of service delivery across health system 3.Strengthened Policy makers capacity in planning and implementation across different level of health commission; 4.Strengthened awareness and knowledge among pregnant women and caregivers 5.M&E System operational, providing data for policy makers	1. Advocate for improvement in legislation and implementation; 2. Workable cooperation mechanical and clear responsibility between health, education and public security; 3. Awareness raising for children, parents, caregivers; 4. Strengthened environmental assessments and modification	1.Public advocacy for adolescent mental health and stigma reduction; 2.Standardized service package on adolescent mental health; 3.Established school based mental health service network; (develop relevant training resources package, test mental health services package and service modalities in 20 selected schools, and then roll out the package in selected provinces through public platforms) 3.Workable cooperation mechanical and clear responsibility between health, education, and Youth league; 4.Strengthened policy makers' awareness and capacity in planning and implementation; enhance wider adolescent participation and empower adolescents to provide support to their peers	1. Policy makers buy in across health, finance and rural revitalization at different levels; national standards in place; strengthened capacity of IYCF and ECD service delivery across health system; 2. Strengthened Policy makers capacity in planning and implementation across different level of health commission; 3. Strengthened awareness, knowledge and practices among children and caregivers 4. Develop the standards, criteria, monitoring and performance evaluation tools for CoEs on ECD, and set up CoEs applying the developed resource package and conducting capacity building, technical support as well as quality monitoring to strengthen and scale up CoEs existing capacity	1. Strengthened policies makers awareness on policy planning and policy development evidence-based research. 2. Policymakers, implementers at a city and school level are informed on policies and legislations on creating healthy food environments and committed to a healthy food agenda and take action accordingly. 3. Strengthened knowledge, attitude and practice on healthy eating among children and caregivers. 4. A monitoring system to assess food environments at city level established and used.	1. Local capacities built on sanitation 2. Financing sources/business model developed for scaling up sanitation tech. 3.Trust and cooperation must be strengthened between UNICEF and government counterparts as well as data owners to ensure that CEHI portal is launched and populated by relevant data	1. Best practices around MNCH of China to be documented 2. Standardized training courses connecting the demands of recipient countries with China's comparative advantage in MNCH 3. Capacity building of Chinese Partner with relevant knowledge, skills and tools to effectively deliver MNCH SSC programme 4. Documentation the YYB (a fortified complementary food supplement) program of China.
Main Activities	1. Roll out EENC to all provinces of China, and	1.Road Safety Curriculum and learning modules	1.Adolescent Mental Health and Development	1. A national wide scaling up programme on ECD in	1. Evidence generation 2. Policy advocacy	1. Pilot to test technologies, develop capacity building models,	1. Strengthen Chinese partner agency's capacity to document China's valuable

<p>(from results framework workshop)</p>	<p>tilte it as the Safe Neonatal Project 2.Pilot the Strengthening Maternal Nutrition in Health System Project (MN Project) in 60 institutes ten provinces (autonomous regions, municipal cities) across China 2.Develop the national service standard and guidelines around EENC and maternal nutrition 3.Capacity building at the subnational level for delivery and oversight through establishment of Centres of Excellence, pre-service and continuing/in service education using digital and on-line systems 4.Support the building the capacities of national and local policymakers to develop and operationalize standards, guidelines around EENC and maternal nutrition 5.Investments in M&E system strengthening, documentation and knowledge management 6.Strength knowledge and skills among pregnant women and caregivers, through development of communication materials</p>	<p>piloted in 3 provinces, including identification of schools/communities and hotspots for road environment assessments, supported by awareness raising for parents, caregivers and public. development of a global toolkit and adaptation in China, 2. Advocacy for road safety legislation 3. Contribute to enforcement of regulations including mandatory speed limit (below 30km/h) for roads around kindergartens, schools, play areas and other facilities for children, through supporting the development of national and provincial action plans for child injury prevention including road safety, national wide campaign</p>	<p>Programme (to deliver the mental health service package through schools, adolescents, and the primary health care system in 10 provinces) in partnership with the National Health Commission and the Communist Youth League of China. 2. Technical support for upgrading the mental health services package for adolescents by specifying appropriate interventions, their frequency, and delivery modality after consulting with national and international experts 3.Adolescent mental health campaign raising awareness of adolescent mental health and reducing stigma 4. Multisectoral mental health service mechanism involving school, health, and Youth league and adolescents 5.Establish qualified personnel and appropriate adolescent mental health service packages and tools to promote mental well-being of adolescents 6.National Strategy and Guidelines of adolescent participation in improving mental health developed and</p>	<p>partnership of 4 key Ministries in China 2. Advocate for integration of IYCF ECD services into the National Primary Health Care Programme, and thereby securing sustainable financing mechanism for IYCF ECD services through earmarked transfer 3. Develop the national service standard and guidelines around IYCF and ECD 4. Capacity building at the subnational level for delivery and oversight through establishment of Centres of Excellence, pre-service and continuing/in service education using digital and on-line systems, including strengthening early detection of developmental delays, and support to families including timely referral. 5. Capacity building of IYCF counseling skills among primary health workers across 31 provinces of China through TOT training. 6. Support the building the capacities of national and local policymakers to plan and implement IYCF ECD programme 7. Strength knowledge, skills and practice among caregivers Enhance parents and caregivers' knowledge and skills around nurturing care 8. Strength M&E system and evidence generation. 9. Completed documentation of IYCF program in China</p>	<p>3. Communications campaigns (know your food campaign) 4. Strengthening implementation at city and school level and engaging retailers and restaurants 5. Create a scorecard monitoring system to assess the government implementation plan on childhood overweight and obesity prevention and control.</p>	<p>and determine financing models through financing gaps analysis, 2. Close cooperation with government counterparts on all levels as well as data owners to secure cooperation and willingness to make the project sustainable after UNICEF hands it over 3. Technical assistance, funding and advocacy to establish CEHI.</p>	<p>and replicable experiences and approaches in the areas of maternal health and nutrition 2. Document the best practices and translate into training courses in a demand driven and systematic manner 3.strengthen the reach and impact of the Maternal Child Health Training Hub for sharing knowledge and experiences that are mutually beneficial, and for cross learning, training and join implementation across countries. 4. China's successful experiences on prevention and control of anemia and stunting among infant and young children in poverty areas using YYB (a fortified complementary food supplement) shared to more countries;</p>
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			adopted in selected areas in China 7.Enhance wider adolescent participation and empower adolescents to provide support to their peers, by introducing a peer support programme				
Root problems/ Bottlenecks (from results framework workshop)	Root Problems: 1. Early essential newborn care (EENC) hasn't been adopted in China with low coverage and inequitable quality 2. Weak maternal nutrition counselling and target support in the antenatal care Bottlenecks: 1. Lack of national service standards on EENC and maternal nutrition service 2. Lack of knowledge and skills among health providers 3.. Lack of knowledge and skills among pregnant women and caregivers 4. Lack of strong M&E system to track EENC and Maternal nutrition	Road safety injuries second leading cause of child injury and death. Because: 1.Weak multi-sectoral mechanisms 2. Lack of policy maker attention 3.Insufficient implementation and enforcement of legislation 4.Lack of service systems incl. evidence based service pkg, feasible service delivery modalities. 5. Low awareness of patents and children	Adolescents overlooked in China's health policy, incl. mental health 1.Weak multi-sectoral mechanisms 2. Lack of policy maker attention 3. Insufficient implementation of legislation and enforcement 4.Lack of service systems incl. evidence based service pkg, feasible service delivery modalities. 5. Low awareness of patents and children 6. Stigma.	1. Lack of a national IYCF and ECD programme and a policy on IYCF and ECD programmes and services. 2. No dedicated budgets or resources for health systems needed for an IYCF and ECD programme, including training workforce for quality nurturing care service, and identifying / assessing needs of children at risks on ECD	1. Tradeoff between commercial interests and healthy food environment 2. Government doesn't know/prioritize that restrictions are need to contribute to a healthy food environment. 3. Where there are correct policies, implementation is weak because there isn't clear instruction on how to implement. Needs better policy guidance for the local level. 4. Schools and cities need support for implementation of health food environment 5. Lack of national evidence to support advocacy for healthy food environment 6. Lack of awareness at a consumer/caregiver level about proper nutrition	Root Problems: 1. Insufficient access to climate resilient public sanitation facilities/technologies in cold and aired parts of western China 2.Insufficient Capacity in Environmental Health Surveillance for Children. Bottlenecks: 1.Lack of easily scalable solutions when it comes to sanitation and possible lack of sufficient political will	China has been increasing its commitment to support developing countries in recent years to contribute to the 2030 SDG agenda. 1. Limited capacity in best practices documentation 2. Many trainings delivered to other countries around health lack needs assessment and systematic design and evaluation 3. Limited experience on online/distance learning design and implementation

Notes: All outputs: Targets expressed in terms of "fully utilized" and "partially utilized" are vague and open to interpretation.

Output 1: Baseline survey on maternal nutrition services will be used to refine the draft counselling tool and national guideline for maternal nutrition services in clinic settings. The baseline survey includes health facility assessment and survey of pregnant women, as well as knowledge, attitudes and practices of nutrition among pregnant women. These surveys can be used to perform endline surveys in treatment areas on quality of clinic services and on knowledge, attitudes and practices of nutrition among pregnant women.

Output 2: For road safety, outcome level data is being collected in the treatment areas. A situation analysis and baseline survey for this project will be done/has been done.

For adolescent mental health, it would be useful to have goals defined beyond the output level as there are no related outcome level goals.

Output 3: While indicators are all at lower-level outputs (training received, not improved quality of service) the output activities include evidence generation (M&E and documentation) including:
a. conducting health system status and readiness analysis on ECD in selected provinces and monitoring with defined core ECD indicators to track progress and document experiences. In addition, health section completed an ECD evaluation.

Output 4: Output level baseline and endline data in treatment areas is being gathered in the context of a pilot.

Output 6: There are no outcome level indicators for this output. Output target "Level of institutionalization of bilateral and multilateral South-South and triangular cooperation programmes in government agencies, private sector companies and civil society organizations through UNICEF support" is unclear. It is unclear what the indicator is measuring or what would be considered success.

Goal (from PSN)	Outcome: By 2025, more children, especially the most disadvantaged, are adequately prepared to start school and are learning and acquiring skills in an inclusive, healthy and safe environment Indicators: 1. Gross enrolment ratio in pre-primary education (Target: 90%) 2. Transition rate from junior secondary to senior secondary education (Target: 98%) Means of Verification: Official statistics		
	1. National and selected provincial governments and other partners have strengthened capacities to deliver quality Early Childhood Education services at scale for more girls and boys, especially those left behind	2. National and selected provincial governments demonstrate strengthened policy, management and financial planning capacities to provide equitable quality learning and skills in the general and vocational education systems in a safe and supportive environment for children aged 6-17	3. National, selected provincial governments and other partners demonstrate strengthened commitment to ensure that out-of-school adolescents, especially girls acquire foundational and life-skills/transferable skills through alternative/flexible learning programmes.
Indicators (from PSN and Workplans)	1. Capacity building system in place to support quality ECE service delivery (capacities fully strengthened on kindergarten quality assessment, teacher training system, system of supervision and support) 2. Number of targeted provinces with capacity development plan for ECD workforce (7) 3. The existence of a national ECD workforce policy (Y) MOV: Official documents, annual review 4.(WP)Number of CBFS Centers are equipped with facilities to support families in project areas (Baseline:400 2022 Target 800) 5.(WP)Number of Service Providers in CBFS Centre are equipped with knowledge and skills to provide services to families with children aged 0-6 in project areas (baseline 170, 2022 target 220).	1.The existence of age-appropriate skills framework for the general education and complementary resources for implementation (Y) MOV: Official documents, annual review 2. Existence of age-appropriate life skills/transferable skills framework (Y) 3.Existence of expanded learning outcome assessment system with integration of skills. 4. The existence of an EMIS that is inclusive of children with disabilities (Score 3.5 - Score 3: Established, there are some data on children with disabilities in the school system, but it classifies children based on a “medical” conception of disability. Reports are produced on enrolment of children with disabilities; Score 4: Championing, the routine EMIS contains data on children with disabilities, using ICF based definitions of disability. Reports are produced on enrolment of children with disabilities.) MOV: Official documents, annual review, EMIS	1.The existence of tested models to promote learning and employability with foundational and transferrable skills for out-of-school adolescents (Y) MOV: Annual Review, Project Documents 2. The existence of national policy for alternative learning and skills pathways for out-of-school adolescents (Y) MOV: Annual review, official documents
Intermediate change (what needs to happen to achieve outputs) (From results framework workshop)	Improved teacher training nationally (general practice/inclusive education), improved policy on mainstreaming, improved policy on teacher-child ratio, improved governmental guidance on inclusive environments. Improved standards. Greater parental support for inclusivity. Greater supervision and inspection systems. To scale: National-level guidelines, partnering with academic institutions in teacher training, pilot will provide model for inclusive education to be implemented nationally – gathering evidence on interventions and assumptions to make an evidence-based model.	1. More teacher development institutes which are better able to support rural teachers. 2. Systems for out-of school educational support for children.	Presently unknown
Main Activities (from results framework workshop)	Working with different departments related to ECE, teacher affairs, supervision department (advocacy, TA & policy support). Partnering with technical institutes to provide guidance, introducing international experience on inclusive education, building in-country technical expertise, developing pre-service and in-service teacher training course, including practical experience in kindergartens. Pilot on inclusive education.	Developing evidence-based models on teacher training, curriculum development. Providing the government with tools for conceptualizing and assessing quality and developing capacity of government for M&E, modelling and evidence generation. Technical assistance and sharing of international expertise to influence policy and guidance.	SP doing study on data on public financing which will give overall overview on what money is going to out of school adolescents, situation analysis of adolescents in china, including school situation

Root problems/ Bottlenecks (from results framework workshop)	<p>Root problem: Lack of equitable access to quality preschool education Bottlenecks: Teacher quality (lack of quality teacher training, lack of guidelines on standards for teacher training), lack of standards for inclusive education, lack of system for mainstreaming special needs children into early childhood education. Lack of model for implementation of inclusive education guidance. Lack of political will/fund for better teacher-child ratio (policy standard), funding for facilities for special needs children. Lack of pre-service training for special ed. Teachers. Lack of parental support for inclusivity</p>	<p>Root problem: 1)Lack of inclusiveness (special needs), 2) safety and health: unsafe physical environment (violence against children, school bullying), education systems don't support mental and physical health 3) effective teaching and learning in rural areas. 4) lack of education for social and emotional skills for younger kids and life skills for adolescents</p>	<p>Root problem: Out-of school adolescents don't have alternative learning frameworks. Too many Adolescents are not transitioning to senior secondary school Bottlenecks:Lack of quantitative data and qualitative understanding (why?) of situation of out of work adolescents. Geographic spread? Gender?, unclear what ministry should be dealing with this issue</p>
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Outcomes – Outcome goals don't correspond with UNICEF's output goals and are unlikely to be attributable to UNICEF's activities. It would be better to have outcome indicators that are more logically connected to the output goals, which are more focused on quality, inclusiveness and range of available options for adolescents. For example, rather than enrollment ratios, some measure of quality of education, adequate skills levels achieved or in engagement of out-of-school adolescents in alternative learning programme.

Outcomes 1&2 – quality assessment built into programme design. For inclusivity, lack of parental support was listed as a root problem but it is unclear from the Work Plan whether something is being done to address this problem.

Outcome 3 – A formative evaluation is planned for UNICEF-Supported skills programming in 2023.

<p>Goal (from PSN)</p>	<p>Outcome: By 2025, children in China are safe and better protected from all forms of violence 1. Improved data on violence and exploitation in the country (including one off surveys). Target: Yes MOV: Official statistics, national survey 2. Increased percentages of reported cases of violence against children receiving services provided by the integrated child protection system Target: 100% MOV: Annual reviews</p>				
	<p>1. The child protection legal, institutional and administrative framework is strengthened to prevent and respond to violence against children</p>	<p>2. Models of integrated child protection services are developed in selected provinces to support children and their caregivers to prevent and respond to violence against children.</p>	<p>3. A strengthened institutionalized approach and resources in place to improve the professionalization of child protection and aligned workforce to deliver quality services to children and their caregivers.</p>	<p>4. Children, parents and caregivers have increased awareness and apply positive social norms, to prevent violence against children.</p>	<p>5. Children's safety and well-being online is enhanced.</p>
<p>Indicators (from PSN)</p>	<p>1. Number of child protection laws, policies and standards reformed Target: 3 (from 0) MOV: Official documents, annual reviews 2. The integration of child protection elements into the laws on family education, early childhood education and social assistance Target: Yes MOV: Official documents, annual reviews 3. UNICEF supported model of integrated child protection system reflected in policy Target: Yes MOV: Official documents, annual reviews</p>	<p>1. The existence of a costed model of integrated child protection system Target: Yes MOV: Annual review, project records 2. Number of targeted provinces with functioning integrated child protection model Target: 5 (from 0) MOV: Annual review, project records 3. Number of functioning CPIMS in target provinces Target: 5 CPIMS as a minimum supports and tracks case management and incident monitoring MOV: Annual review, project records</p>	<p>1. Availability of package of guidance and tools for the CP workforce to deliver quality services in line with international standards adopted Target: Yes MOV: Annual review, project records 2. Capacity building and quality assurance system in place to support CP workforce to deliver community-based and statutory services Target: Yes MOV: Annual review, project records</p>	<p>1. Number of children reached with information on preventing violence against children Target: 5 million (from 0) MOV: Monitoring and analysis provided by online media platforms, official/project records 2. Number of mothers, fathers and caregivers reached through parenting programmes Target: 25,000 (from 0) MOV: Monitoring data (baseline, midline, endline survey), project records</p>	<p>1. The existence of a regulatory framework to ensure children's online safety. Target: Yes MOV: Annual review, official/project records 2. Number of new child online protection industry standards and protocols adopted by ICT sector and aligned with international standards and best practices Target: 4 (from 0) MOV: Annual review, official/project records 3. Number of child-friendly digital literacy materials and child online safety/well-being tools in line with international standards and good practice introduced to children, caregivers, and educators Target: 6 (from 0) MOV: Annual review, official/project records</p>
<p>Intermediate change (what needs to happen to achieve outputs) (From results framework workshop)</p>	<p>1. Amendment of existing laws/passing new laws, policies, standards 2. Enhanced understanding of law and responsibilities amongst government officials.</p>	<p>1. Clear role and responsibilities of statutory bodies on child protection 2. Government (MCA) playing proactive role to converge sufficient services to prevent and respond to children at risks of abuse and neglect 3. Evidence generated is used for strategic discussions on shaping policies and expansion of ICPM</p>	<p>1. A system in place to build the capacity of SSWF 2. Improved government understanding of the roles of SSWF esp in sections with allies workers 3. Enhanced investment in SSWF esp in less develop areas</p>	<p>1. Enhanced awareness about negative impact of violence. 2. Improved knowledge about alternative to violence. 3. Adaptations of positive parenting behaviors. 4. Qualified service providers to support positive parenting. 5. Government support services to parents.</p>	<p>1. Increase in digital literacy covering key child safety and security issues. 2. Specific policies to regulate the Internet Industry's operation and service provision.</p>

			4. Strengthened a mechanism to maintain the workforce		
Main Activities (from results framework workshop)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocacy with government officials on legal reform and data generation 2. Sharing of best practice on laws 3. Research on gaps in legislation and its implementation 4. Awareness raising and capacity building on legislation 5. Advocacy on VAC data 6. Study generating proxy data on prevalence and drivers of VAC, including COP 7. Community based ECD programme. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capacity building of workforce 2. Showcases of a county level of integrated child protection service delivery model (county-township-village) with strengthening capacity of social workers and child directors 3. Sharing of evidence of good practices in the ICPM counties 4. Technical assistance on policies and implementation of effective services. 5. Advocacy for policy shaping 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop an effective system for capacity building at scale, including training, supervision, certification etc 2. Capacity building for SSWF 3. Advocacy with different government departments on SSWF, financing 4. Awareness raising on SSWF with the general public 5. Develop and roll out national training modules or curriculum 6. Competency framework and standards of different SSWF 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public advocacy/campaign (government inclusion of parenting support as key violence prevention service package.) 2. Capacity building on positive parenting for both service providers 3. Positive parenting messages production 4. Piloting/testing of positive parenting programmes. 5. Study on effectiveness of behavioral change of parenting programmes 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness raising among parents, children, government officials and internet companies. 2. Evidence generation. 3. High level advocacy (for policy making and regulations in industry). 4. Promote the integration of online safety curriculums into online courses for children.
Root problems/ Bottlenecks (from results framework workshop)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of knowledge among responsible government officials. 2. Lack of political will in some of the ministries. 3. Lack of knowledge of best practice. 4. Cultural barriers around preventing violence against children. 5. Government ministries don't have proper authorities and division of responsibilities. 6. Lack of implementation of laws 7. Insufficient governmental structures to deliver services 8. Lack of accountability mechanisms in law. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of knowledge 2. Lack of skills 3. Lack of funds 4. Unclear division role 5. Weak family support system 6. State care only covering abandoned children 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Insufficient number of social service workers 2. Uneven distribution of workforce between rural/urban, poor/rich, in/outside Civil Affairs 3. Lack of capacity to deal with child protection 4. Limited capacities, skills and knowledge 5. Lack of awareness and willingness in other sectors (education, health etc) to strengthen and work with SSWF 6. Lack of a mechanism to maintain current SSWF and lack of career path for para professional 7. Lack of funding in SSWF 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wide spread of violent discipline by parenting, caregivers and teachers. 2. Social norms and traditional practice. 3. Lack of alternatives to violence. 4. Lack of awareness about negative impact of violence. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of awareness of online risks among officials, teachers, and parents, and of age-appropriate module to support children's growing capacity and agency. 2. Lack of a ministry equipped with appropriate knowledge to create enabling policies and standards. 3. Loopholes in the legal and policy framework to regulate emerging issues on technology facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse. 4. Lack of digital literacy for children and their parents to cope with online risks. 5. ICT companies limited understanding of the issue and their accountabilities. 6. Limited data and awareness of CSEA.

Notes: Outcomes: Outcome indicators, while indicative of important effort to improve access to outcome-level data are not in themselves outcome-level data. It would be useful to designate outcome indicators more related to behaviour change on the part of parents, caregivers or social workers and to fund a study to see the extent to which your efforts led to change behaviours

Output 2: Evidence gathering on effectiveness of integrated child protection model built into programme design. Output 3: Monitoring of quality of services built into programme design. Output 4: Indicators and good tools lacking for gauging changed attitudes and behaviour of children and parents, such as % increase of parents feeling confident to adopt positive parenting. Outcome indicator 2: "Increased percentages of reported cases of violence against children receiving services provided by the integrated child protection system" may be a possible proxy indicator for changing attitudes, to the extent which low reporting now is driven in large part by attitudes and awareness factors. Output 5: No outcome-level indicators for this output.

Goal (from PSN)	Outcome: By 2025, children and their families have increased access to sufficient, equitable, adequate essential social services and social protection. Target: Increased number of local governments (county level) that adopt implementation plans and budgets for social assistance reform (1000). MOV: Official Statistics			
	Output 1: Selected government authorities at national and subnational levels have enhanced knowledge and capacity to measure and use evidence on multi-dimensional deprivations of children to inform strategies, policies, and programs.	Output 2: National Government and selected subnational governments have strengthened capacity to develop and implement a more child-sensitive, inclusive and integrated social protection system.	Output 3: The Government authorities at national and selected subnational levels have enhanced capacity to plan, budget for, and implement the roll-out of the Basic Public Services framework and other policies, programmes, and services essential for children effectively, efficiently, and with an equity lens.	Output 4: The Government at national and selected subnational levels has enhanced capacity to use evidence about public finance to increase spending and quality outcomes for children.
Indicators (from PSN)	1. Number of multidimensional child poverty analyses produced and published by national partners through UNICEF support periodically to inform national poverty planning by the Government (2) MOV: Reports generated by national partners Proceedings of the Advisory Committee on Child poverty 2. Level of use by national and subnational authorities of new child poverty analyses in the development of/strengthening existing policies and programmes to reduce child poverty (National target: Discussions or activities to introduce, improve or scale up policies and programmes to reduce child poverty are ongoing but have not yet seen actual changes in the policies or programmes; Subnational target: National and/or subnational strategies, policies and programmes have been introduced, improved or scaled-up to reduce child poverty as a result of child poverty analysis and advocacy.) MOV: Government documents; UNICEF internal assessment reports	1. Existence of legislation at national and subnational levels which institutionalizes cash transfer programmes and/or family benefits for children and families with children (There is at least one national/subnational legislation that explicitly articulates approaches to transfer programme and family benefits) MOV: Government Documents 2. Percentage of selected locations (county-level) with established coordination mechanisms among social protection programmes which are functioning with clear mandates, responsibilities and operating modalities (100%) MOV: Government documents from MCA based on institutional criteria for coordination established; UNICEF assessment report.	1. Number of costed models of service delivery for selected essential social services for children (BPS minimum 2, non-BPS, minimum two) 2. Number of provinces that have officials receive comprehensive training package for improving efficiency and effectiveness of the BPS delivery. (31) MOV: Government Documents, UNICEF assessment reports	1. Number of sustainable financing models for child-related policies/services proposed for scale-up and adoption by the governments (3.) 2. Availability of new evidence on budgets and their linkages to child outcomes to improve budget allocations/expenditure for children (Y) MOV: Government documents, UNICEF assessment reports.
Intermediate change (what needs to happen to achieve outputs) (From results)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National support on routine measurement and monitoring of multidimensional child deprivations Effective mechanism established to coordinate various ministries to resolve multidimensional child deprivations, and highlight child poverty and deprivations in national budgets, policies and laws 	On social assistance system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government changes ways that they outreach and register beneficiaries for social assistance programs to make it more cost-efficient. Government has a better institutional setup for coordination of services. increased supply of social workers by providing better incentives (for example 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing policy documents, institutional set-up and implementation arrangement of CFC that have been specified at national level should be fully executed, acted upon and followed up, instead of only being guiding documents. Prioritize interdisciplinary and frontier policy study and research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close the data and evidence gap Integrate child lens into the fiscal policies on emerging social services Monitor and analyse the public investment performance efficiency to further inform the policy and budgeting

<p>framework workshop)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access to quality public services, particularly for vulnerable children Promoting decent work and inclusive growth agenda Establishing and expanding social protection systems and programmes, alongside family-friendly policies critical for children, women, and all parents, especially in the early years of childhood Enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of public spending to address child poverty and deprivations, while encouraging private sector to contribute. 	<p>adequate remuneration) and better training and capacities</p> <p>Long-term goal: Social assistance system can provide vulnerable children and their families with adequate (as opposed to minimum) support, including cash assistance and social services.</p> <p>Medical Insurance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A family-based insurance scheme exists allowing working adults to enroll non-working family members (including children) in the employment-based medical insurance scheme to increase children's participation. The hukou restrictions on insurance participation are gradually relaxed to meet the needs of migrant populations in their current place of residence. The coverage of insurance benefits, reimbursement rates and annual are improved and the deductibles for children are lowered to reduce the economic burden of diseases to families. Expanded supply and coverage of children's medicines. <p>Long-term goal: The government-run medical insurance scheme will be more child-sensitive with more equitable and increased outpatient coverage for children.</p>	<p>to generate contextual evidence for strengthening CFC system building and CFC programming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systematic awareness raising and capacity building at multiple levels to enhance understandings on child rights, children and cities Leverage child-friendly spatial planning and design as the entry point to mainstream child rights-based approach and child lens into other policymaking and programme. Child participation should adhere to both universal principles and recommendations, as well as full consideration and contextualization of national and local governance structures 	<p>adjustments at national and subnational levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of public spending Explore innovative financing tools
<p>Main Activities (from results framework workshop)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rephrasing and embedding multi-dimensional deprivations for children (no longer poverty) in the new policy discourse of rural revitalization and common prosperity. Supporting governments to monitor and understand multidimensional child deprivations through evidence-based research. Engaging in policy dialogue to prioritize children's needs in national policies and tailor targeted measures for the most vulnerable children to meet their developmental needs. The goal is that the disposable income of families will be increased, and at the same time, children's multidimensional needs including health, education, water and sanitation, and protection will be met in an integrated way. Building partnerships with planning and financing, and other line ministries, think tanks and 	<p>On social assistance system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide technical assistance to social assistance legislation – share international experience and best practice with decision makers. Pilot an integrated social assistance model by strengthening the linkage and coordination between cash assistance and social services in selected counties (possibly three), including training of social workers. Support improvement of child-sensitiveness of MIS to better monitor low-income households. Support enhancement of social assistance effectiveness in China in collaboration with government counterparts, including conducting research on performance appraisal and financing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand partnership with wider stakeholders at international, national and sub-national levels including different ministries, research and technical agencies, local governments, private sector, CSO, etc. Notably, new partnership is explored to pay more attention to child rights and spatial governance and planning. Partnering with different ministries, local governments and technical players on evidence generation, policy study and documentation of good practice to support policymaking, technical guides development and monitoring on CFC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross-sectoral collaboration for knowledge exchange focus on using evidence from China in the field of overall social sector reforms and the use of innovative finance for funding critical sectors such as ECD care for 0-3 in China. Cooperate with the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and other line ministries in different sectors to generate research, investment cases and other forms of evidence on equity and efficiency of spending, as well as PFM performance issues which prove critical to optimize investments for social services

	<p>renowned international and domestic experts, with the goal of reaching consensus on strategies and approaches to monitor and address multidimensional deprivations for children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge and experience sharing between countries. 	<p>On medical insurance system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage and build partnership with National Healthcare Security Administration, the national level agency responsible for policymaking of basic medical insurance system. • Collaborate with well-known research institutions, think tanks, experts, and opinion leaders in the area of health insurance to conduct in-depth policy research on relevant topics to build the evidence base. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop CFC capacity building package and provide training for local governments • Develop CFC communication products and child participation campaigns for improving awareness raising and public engagement • Display convening power to improve communication and cohesion of different sectors and stakeholders • Build the network and platform for knowledge sharing and international exchange on CFC • Ensure the clear definition of the service contents and delivery standards of the BPS list • Develop a solid and equitable institutional, legal, and Public Financial Management framework for their financing and governance • Develop a robust monitoring and evaluation framework with built-in policy feedback loops • Support the Government to learn and apply good models, beyond the BPS list, for addressing multiple deprivations and boosting human capital development in China 	<p>that benefit children and their families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Policy section will help further strengthen internal capacities in public financial management in the sectors of health, education and child protection. • Partnering with the government sectors, think tanks (e.g. China Academy of Fiscal Sciences, China Academy of Social Sciences, CIEFR) and IFIs (e.g. World Bank, Asia Development Bank). Coordination with the World Bank will be particularly important, given its engagement with the Government on “Achieving More Effective and Sustainable Subnational Fiscal Management and Infrastructure Financing”.
<p>Root problems/ Bottlenecks (from results framework workshop)</p>	<p>Root Problem: Children still experiencing deprivations in multiple dimensions, such as health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation, housing, information, social protection, and more.</p> <p>Bottlenecks: Limited awareness of both government and the general public regarding the multidimensional nature of poverty and that child poverty is different from household poverty</p> <p>Limited information and data to demonstrate the severeness and trend of multidimensional deprivations of children in China</p>	<p>Root Problems:</p> <p>On social assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs of vulnerable children and families aren’t adequately addressed by social assistance programmes – coverage is very low because the social assistance system is not child-sensitive. Limited and declining coverage insufficient benefits level, geographic inequity in coverage and lack of multidimensionality in identifying risk and vulnerability. <p>On medical insurance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current design and implementation of the basic medical insurance system in China has resulted in high out-of- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of evidence-based understanding of the needs and characteristics of children, particularly children living in different contexts such as urban, semi-urban and peri-urban areas. • The effectiveness of cross-ministry collaboration, coordination and division of labor needs to be further improved. • Lack of inter-agency, cross-sectoral, multi-participatory and interdisciplinary approach in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financing and governance gaps are rooted in the complexities and shortcomings of China’s highly decentralized Public Financial Management and Governance system, such as the excessive centralization of revenue and decentralization of expenditure responsibilities. • Inter-governmental fiscal transfer mechanism has yet achieved the necessary distribution from wealthier to

	<p>Lacking effective coordination mechanisms to resolve multidimensional child deprivations Insufficient efficiency and effectiveness of spending</p>	<p>pocket (OOP) medical expenditure and substantial financial burden for families with children, especially to the most vulnerable ones. Bottlenecks: On social assistance system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited valuation of service-based support, it's not prioritized, only want to provide minimum/subsistence level of support – meaning not enough funding Lack of efficiency and effectiveness in spending –the design of social assistance program is not efficient because too much money was spent proportionally on identification of beneficiaries. Lack of coordination and insufficient linkages between ministries and departments involved in providing social services (children-centered support) Insufficient capacities of social workers and low valuation of social work. <p>On medical insurance system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of funding: the residents-based basic medical insurance scheme which children can participate in adopts voluntary, hukou-based enrolment and fixed contribution regardless of the income of enrollees and is heavily subsidized by fiscal funding, which leads to an unbalanced risk structure and insufficient pooling funds. The coverage benefit is much less generous by design and OOP expenditure is higher than the employment-based medical insurance scheme. Poor portability of the insurance scheme: the implementation of the basic medical insurance system is decentralized and generally managed by prefecture-level governments, with lack of portability across locations. For medical treatments received in a location outside one's hukou, outpatient care usually cannot be reimbursed, the deductible for inpatient care is often higher and the reimbursement rate is lower, resulting in higher OOP expenses for families with migrant children. Limited provision of pediatric services and drugs at primary health institutions lead to 	<p>addressing children's challenges and needs in urban context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited understanding of child participation particularly relating it to existing governance mechanism. Lack of pragmatic experience in connecting spatial planning and design with child rights-based approach. The provision of most of the 81 services in the National Basic Public Services (BPS) List is highly decentralized. While local governments are largely responsible for service delivery, they do not receive sufficient funds through intergovernmental fiscal transfers There is no detailed service-by-service national-level statistics: inadequate and fragmented information management and caseload estimation systems, and lack of an adequate monitoring and evaluation framework and policy feedback loops from local governments to the central policy-making level. Unequal access between the urban and rural areas and across regions persist. Unequal access for vulnerable children, including children affected by migration and children with disabilities: children with disability in China have a lower rate of access to BPS across the board due to inappropriate design of facilities, inadequate skills of service providers, and low awareness of rights for the beneficiaries. Supply and affordability continue to be challenges for the delivery of other services which are essential for children but are not yet part of the BPS list, such as ECC service for children aged 0-3 years. 	<p>poor regions to address the inequity issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public finance management reform is a long-term process. New changes have improved the situation while challenge remains. Lack of access to data and evidence, especially disaggregated data, to demonstrate the budgeting impact on children and vulnerable groups and to formulate evidence-based recommendations. Lacking effective coordination mechanisms among ministries/sectors.
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		<p>higher utilization of health services in tertiary hospitals. Since the insurance scheme sets lower rates for secondary and tertiary hospitals and for outpatient care, it is incongruent with health needs of children who tend to use outpatient and emergency care more frequently.</p>		
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Notes:

Outcomes should ideally reflect actual changes to the wellbeing of children, such as increased percentage of poor families with children receiving social assistance, increased access to/utilization of public services, increased support given to families receiving cash transfers or something similar. The outcome listed here does not measure implementation of reforms nor the effect of implementation of reforms. It would be useful to have more measures to track the extent to which “greater capacity” is utilized in a way that leads to more extensive service provision, policy implementation etc.

Output 3: Indicators measure production of costed models, not their adoption. It would be more useful to measure utilization of these models.

Output 4: I would be better if indicators could measure analyses produced/utilized by government, with UNICEF’s help, not number of models produced by UNICEF.

ⁱⁱ These tables were compiled using data primarily gathered from the Health team of the China Country Office in a virtual results chain workshop held on 21 March 2023 as well as from the RAM, Health PSN, annual work plans for health, annual reports.