

Management Response to Evaluation of UNICEF social protection responses towards universal child benefits

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Item 8: Management response to the Evaluation
of UNICEF social protection responses towards
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Evaluation underscores relevance & effectiveness of UNICEF social protection work

‘UNICEF has achieved remarkable progress’ working effectively with governments and other partners to progressively expand child benefit programmes



Child benefits are critical to reducing child poverty and improving multiple child outcomes

Central to Strategic Plan Goal Area 5 and UNICEF contribution to SDG1, as well as leaving no one behind across Goal Areas

Overview of the Management Response



Agree with Four Overarching Recommendations to further strengthen:

- Evidence-based advocacy
- Support to national investment in social protection
- Expansion of UNICEF technical support to government capacity to implement child benefits and social protection delivery systems
- UNICEF's catalytic role in mobilizing partnerships to harmonize approaches among external partners in the sector



Overview of the Management Response



13 Management actions:

- 77% underway
- Majority to be completed by end 2025, 2 by end 2024



Key Actions

Recommendation 1:

Evidence & Advocacy

- Develop organization-wide advocacy strategy on child poverty and social protection
- Leverage multi-stakeholder partnerships on evidence and research-policy dialogue, focusing on South-South and North-South partnerships
- Develop multi-country evidence on adaptive social protection for children in fragile contexts



Key Actions

Recommendation 2:

Fiscal space for child benefits

- Include Social Protection in updated Public Finance for Children strategy
- Develop practical tools to support country offices to leverage emerging areas of financing for social protection, e.g. climate financing
- Strengthen UNICEF engagement in social protection financing and related fiscal space issues

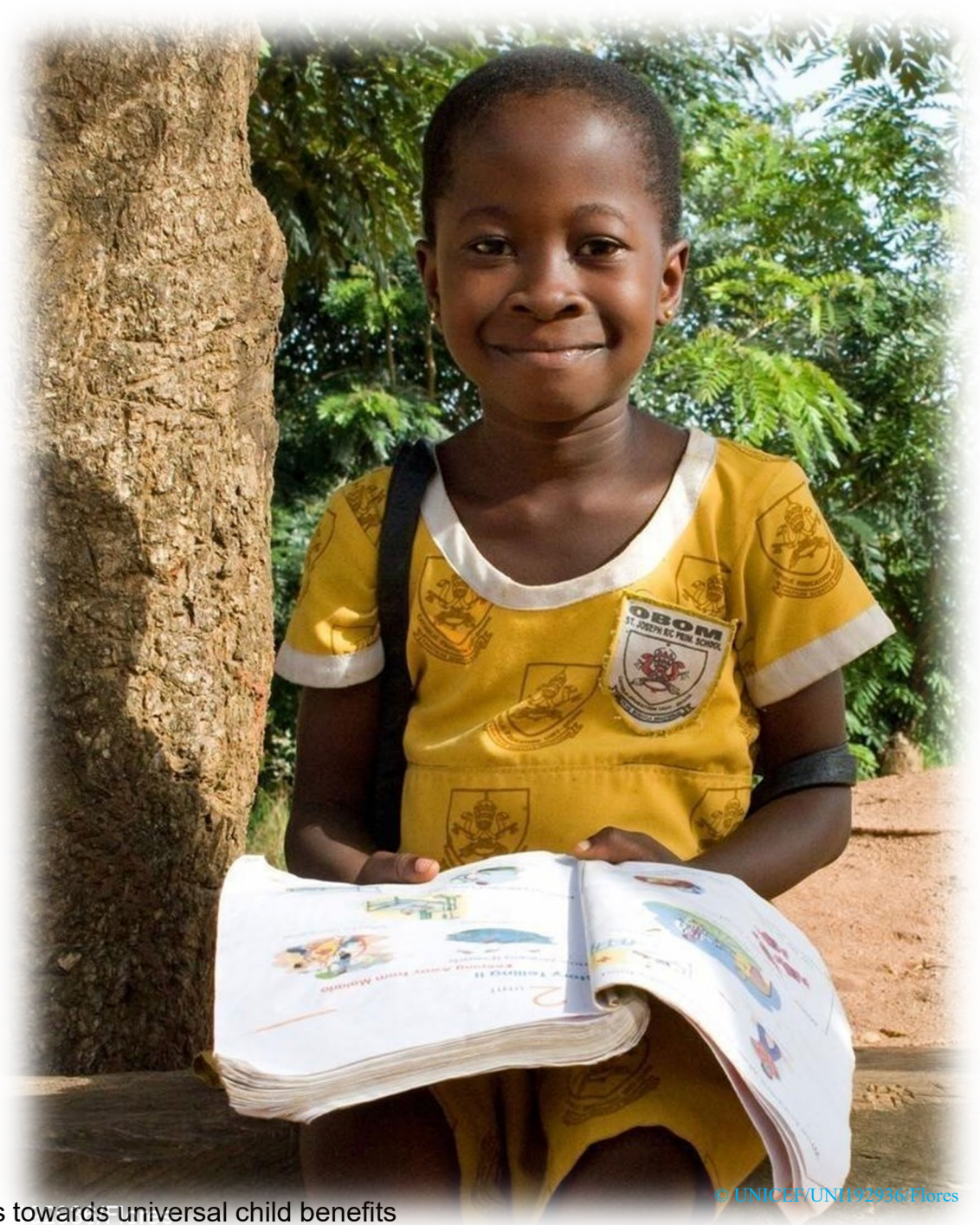


Key Actions

Recommendation 3:

Government Capacity-building

- Identify gaps where UNICEF can bring added value in capacity-building activities
- Support countries to strengthen subnational capacity, as appropriate
- Expand UNICEF technical capacity to support national social protection systems delivery and operations



Key Actions

Recommendation 4:

Partnerships

- Support the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transition, with partners
- Leverage existing communities of practice to strengthen collaboration
- Document good practice and enhance linkages between social protection and other programme areas, including nutrition and child protection
- Mobilize additional resources to support actions, in the context of thematic Goal Area 5 funding



Conclusions

01.

Reconfirms strategic relevance and achievements of Goal Area 5 to reduce child poverty through social protection and influencing public financing

02.

Management actions commit to further strengthening social protection advocacy, national financing, capacity-building and partnerships

03.

Resource mobilization required to further leverage UNICEF's effective support to expanding national cash benefit programmes for children and families

Thank you.