

**Statement of ChildFund Alliance**

**UNICEF Executive Board Second Regular Session (2-5 September 2025)**

Agenda Item 2: General Statements, 2 September 2025 (10:00 am - 1:00 pm)

Mr. President, Madam Executive Director, distinguished Members of the Board –

I speak to you today on behalf of ChildFund Alliance, a global network of 11 child-focused development and humanitarian organizations. Together, we reach 36 million children and their family members in 66 countries, working to end violence and exploitation against children, provide expertise in emergency and disaster settings, and meaningfully engage children, their families and communities to create lasting change.

In this extraordinarily difficult time, I wish to express our appreciation for the unwavering dedication and commitment of UNICEF staff for its mission of ensuring the protection and rights of every child. Against this challenging backdrop, we commend the approach and priorities set forth in UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2026-2029. The sharpened focus on Key Impacts, emphasis on scale, and differentiation of programmatic strategies that factors in national and subnational considerations, provides an actionable, results-oriented and more localized framework for UNICEF to deliver for children and advance the 2030 Agenda.

ChildFund Alliance recently adopted its own new Strategic Plan ("Championing Child Rights in a Changing World") which defines three key priorities for the period 2026-2030. With UNICEF, we share the mission to protect and advance hard-won children's rights. We also face similar challenges in making good on this promise. Thus, we reiterate our firm commitment to our longstanding partnership with the agency by offering our support and complementary expertise in executing UNICEF's Strategic Plan, particularly in the following areas:

1. First, ChildFund Alliance's foremost Strategic Priority remains "Ending All Forms of Violence Against Children" (EVAC). UNICEF can count on our decades-long experience in this area to drive its own Strategic Plan's "Impact Result 4: 350 million children protected from violence". In addition to our own expertise, ChildFund Alliance is a member of Joining Forces, a coalition of the six largest child-focused agencies that also includes Plan International, Save the Children International, SOS Children's Villages International, Terre des Hommes International Federation, and World Vision International. In June, Joining Forces published an "EVAC Gap Analysis" to identify the consequences of ongoing underinvestment in children. Our collective recommendations and the

underlying data are at UNICEF's disposal to complement its own expertise and make measurable progress towards ending violence against children. EVAC is not only our moral obligation. It also has a bottom-line impact. According to a recent study by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Children, "national-level estimates of the overall direct and indirect costs of violence are as high as 11 per cent of the national gross domestic product (GDP)".<sup>1</sup>

2. Second, ChildFund Alliance prioritizes "Humanitarian Action and Child Protection in Emergencies." We thus strongly support UNICEF's sixth strategic pillar<sup>2</sup> on bridging short-term emergency responses with long-term development goals, to be achieved via a strengthened HDP Nexus. As ChildFund Alliance further refines our coordinated operating models for preparedness, response and recovery over the coming years, UNICEF can count on our partnership in devising and implementing the most effective, lasting solutions for child protection in crisis settings.
3. And third, UNICEF's Strategic Plan includes "Impact Result 5: 500 million children better protected from disasters, climate and environmental risks". Because the climate crisis is a child rights crisis, the protection of children and their rights in a changing climate constitutes ChildFund Alliance's third Strategic Priority. As a formidable "threat multiplier" to children's wellbeing, it is a cross-cutting issue that compounds other threats to children. ChildFund Alliance looks forward to partnering with UNICEF to "strengthen protocols for climate risk analysis, early warning, disaster preparedness and anticipatory action" to protect children.

Count on us. I thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> [Investment case | Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children](#)

<sup>2</sup> Strategy 6: Coordinate and harmonize among humanitarian action, development and peace, UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2029, p. 16