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

The text has not been edited to official publication standards and UNICEF accepts no responsibility for errors.

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florence@unicef.org

For partnership opportunities, please contact:  
Ewa Zgrzywa, Partnerships Specialist  
ezgrzywa@unicef.org

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UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti  
Via degli Alfani, 58  
50121 Florence, Italy  
Tel: (+39) 055 20 330  
Fax: (+39) 055 2033 220  
florence@unicef.org  
www.unicef-irc.org  
Twitter: @UNICEFInnocenti

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2019 was a year of celebration and achievement for the UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti. It marked the research centre’s 30th anniversary, which coincided with the 30th year of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the global charter of children’s rights. And it was the 600th anniversary of our home, the Istituto degli Innocenti, perhaps the world’s oldest continuously operating institution dedicated to childcare.

Here are some of our achievements of last year in our key strategic workstreams of research generation, research facilitation, and convening and communication. UNICEF Innocenti was founded to support the enactment of the Convention, to generate evidence on the immense benefits of realizing child rights, and to push the boundaries of research on children and young people. Throughout 2019, we celebrated several events with our Italian hosts – the Government of Italy, the Regione Toscana, the City of Florence and the Istituto degli Innocenti – to which we are all immensely grateful for their unstinting support over the past three decades.

Research generation is UNICEF Innocenti’s primary workstream. In 2019, we:

- identified gaps and solutions in family-friendly policies in the world’s richest countries
- published the most comprehensive survey of young people’s online activities and behaviours
- examined how migration affects not only children on the move but also their families and peers
- looked at how sport is supporting children’s physical and mental health
- investigated how teachers can be incentivized and supported in a wide range of country contexts
- stepped up our work on the critical issue of gender-based violence
- deepened our research into the efficacy of social protection systems
- identified gaps in humanitarian research on children and young people.

In research facilitation, we curated the best research emerging from the 150+ UNICEF country offices and held regional workshops to strengthen the use of evidence in field offices. We mapped evidence gaps for UNICEF programming, generated evidence syntheses, and issued comprehensive guidance and support on ethics in research.

2019 was a special year for convening and communication at UNICEF Innocenti. Among the many distinctive meetings held with internal and external colleagues was a major global meeting on the emerging challenges and complexities of...
addressing child sexual abuse and exploitation, organized jointly with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children. UNICEF Innocenti also hosted the third face-to-face meeting of the Multi-Donor Learning Partnership for Effective Development bringing together knowledge leaders from donor agencies, multilateral banks and foundations.

UNICEF Innocenti also introduced new convening formats, with the launch of the Leading Minds for Children and Young People conference series, and a unique film festival. Leading Minds 2019 brought together a diverse array of stakeholders – academics, practitioners, policymakers, civil society organizations, foundations, businesses, United Nations agencies and young people themselves – to discuss and chart pathways on next-generation issues for children and young people. The UNICEF Innocenti Film Festival curated around 30 films on child rights issues, both to commemorate the trio of anniversaries in 2019 and to introduce new audiences to the challenges children around the world face.

Our focus is not only to support and undertake high-quality research on child rights, but also to work with UNICEF regional and country offices and National Committees to turn evidence into action. We do so through direct support to field offices; development of knowledge exchange platforms; research guidance and governance; and curation of evidence-informed best practices in policies and programmes. More than 80 per cent of our activities are geared towards research generation, research facilitation, and convening and communication. Our excellent operational staff provide strong support to our research, capacity-building and convening teams to achieve the office’s mission and goals. And our consultants are a tremendous source of knowledge and support in our work.

UNICEF Innocenti was set up three decades ago as a collaborative effort between UNICEF and the Government of Italy. In 2019, this partnership was consolidated – at the Leading Minds 2019 conference – with both parties pledging to honour their commitment to its future. Investment by UNICEF has seen a marked expansion in staff positions funded by the organization’s core resources, and deeper integration of UNICEF Innocenti’s work into UNICEF programmes through the establishment of the Standing Committee on Research. We are about to revitalize the Global Research Advisory Board, a panel of eminent external academics, practitioners and policymakers that also includes young people, to help us define the office’s research strategy and priorities for the coming decade.

Challenging and exciting times lie ahead. The COVID-19 pandemic that is sweeping the world underscores the imperative of evidence-based solutions to support human resilience and progress. Our office has been affected but remains resilient and is exploring new ways of working remotely. We are also beginning to engage in new areas of research that relate to the impact on children of this crisis as well as other global phenomena affecting children, including mental health issues.

I took up my role as Director on 1 January 2020, and I am delighted to lead UNICEF Innocenti at this moment in its illustrious history and present its Annual Report 2019. I am immensely grateful to my immediate predecessor, Priscilla Idele, who ably managed the office as Director a.i., and whose leadership made last year’s achievements possible. I thank our donors for their generous support, not only in 2019 but also over the past three decades, and our partners within and external to UNICEF. 2020 is already shaping up to be another demanding and fulfilling year. I look forward to working with many of you in exploring evidence, developing solutions, and addressing challenges and opportunities for children and young people.

Gunilla Olsson
Director
UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti
Our work

WHAT WE DO

Research

Explore new findings and emerging solutions to inform policies, programmes and advocacy for children.

Capacity-building

Support and facilitate research by developing guidelines, establishing research standards and promoting best practices.

Convening & thought leadership

Advance global dialogue on solutions for children and young people. Convene leading experts, policymakers and practitioners to focus on next-generation ideas, challenges and opportunities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOW WE WORK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify</td>
<td>EMERGING CHALLENGES, BOTTLENECKS AND BARRIERS TO PROGRESS, MARGINALIZED GROUPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate</td>
<td>EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS/GAP MAPS, SURVEY FINDINGS, CAUSAL ANALYSIS, IMPACT EVALUATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translate</td>
<td>RESEARCH FINDINGS INTO PROGRAMMATIC ACTION WITHIN UNICEF AND ELSEWHERE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborate</td>
<td>WITH ACADEMIA, COUNTRY OFFICES, UNITED NATIONS, PRIVATE SECTOR, GOVERNMENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Train</td>
<td>OUR STAFF, NATIONAL AND REGIONAL OFFICIALS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publish</td>
<td>RESEARCH REPORTS, BRIEFINGS, GUIDELINES, PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES, MEDIA PIECES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convene</td>
<td>MEETINGS, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES, WITH DIVERSE PARTNERS, ONLINE AND IN PERSON</td>
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Snapshot

2019 IN REVIEW

30Years
UNICEF INNOCENTI

First
UNICEF INNOCENTI
FILM FESTIVAL

Inaugural
LEADING MINDS
CONFERENCE

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RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

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STRATEGIC EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS
CONVENED AT UNICEF INNOCENTI

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PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES
IN LEADING ACADEMIC JOURNALS

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RESEARCH REPORTS

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NEW MICROsites
SHOWCASING RESEARCH REPORTS

1
SPECIAL ISSUE IN THE
JOURNAL OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

©️UNICEF/UNICEF INNOCENTI FILM FESTIVAL/LORCA
### SOCIAL MEDIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>Statistics</th>
<th>Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facebook Followers</td>
<td>22,812</td>
<td>+96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook Likes</td>
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<td>+14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soundcloud Plays (Music and Podcast Streaming Platform)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instagram Followers</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>+88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YouTube Subscribers</td>
<td>4,320</td>
<td>+48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slideshare Views (Hosting Service for Content Such as Presentations, Infographics etc.)</td>
<td>13,545</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNICEF Innocenti conducts research around the world, working through UNICEF regional and country office programmes and National Committees as well as with governments, foundations, research institutions, think tanks, universities and individual experts. This map shows examples of our global research and convening footprint.

Note: The designations employed in this publication and the presentation of the material do not imply on the part of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) the expression of any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country or territory, or of its authorities or the delimitations of its frontiers.
ITALY

UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) co-hosted the inaugural Leading Minds for Children and Young People conference on youth mental health. UNICEF Innocenti organized the first UNICEF Innocenti Film Festival on child rights and celebrated World Children’s Day in Florence.

SPAIN

Supported by the Barça Foundation, UNICEF Innocenti conducted a global study on sport for development, demonstrating that participation in sport can improve children’s learning and skills.

GHANA

A study by UNICEF Innocenti found that combining cash transfers and health measures increased enrolment in Ghana’s national health insurance programme.

MAURITANIA

A research partnership with the Akelius Foundation is investigating how to build and scale digital learning for vulnerable children.

RWANDA AND UGANDA

Results of the UNICEF Innocenti Time to Teach project, a study on the causes of teacher absenteeism, were used for policy dialogue at the country level.

MALAWI

Research by UNICEF Innocenti on the impact of Malawi’s unconditional cash transfer programme underlined that cash grants can improve mental well-being of adolescents and help to break the vicious cycle of poverty and poor mental health.

NEW ZEALAND

Innocenti Report Card 14 was referenced in the first national Child and Wellbeing Strategy, which describes how the Government of New Zealand will achieve well-being for all children and young people.

LEBANON

UNICEF Innocenti research showed how cash transfers in humanitarian settings support reductions in child labour and improved outcomes in education, nutrition and well-being for refugee children.

JORDAN

UNICEF Innocenti research showed that cash-based programming helped refugee children to stay in school and enhanced their mental health and nutrition. UNICEF Jordan is using the findings to improve the support it provides to vulnerable children and their families.

HORN OF AFRICA

A UNICEF Innocenti research report on vulnerabilities faced by children on the move looked in depth at why and how children and young people in the Horn of Africa seek to migrate.
UNICEF Innocenti conducts cutting-edge research, relevant to policies and programmes, on key issues affecting children and young people. As a thought leader on children and their rights, we strive for our findings to reach diverse audiences, both offline and online. This section features the four research workstreams and related UNICEF Innocenti research reports that received the most attention in 2019 and stirred policy and programming action in various ways.
The benefits of family-friendly policies are multifaceted. Children get a better start in life. Parents are better able to balance work and home life. And such policies contribute to the creation of thriving economies and societies. UNICEF Innocenti’s report, *Are the World’s Richest Countries Family Friendly? Policy in the OECD, and EU* demonstrates vast differences among high- and middle-income countries in terms of solutions for families, and recommends improvements in policies for all countries, even those that are among the more family-friendly.
OVERVIEW
UNICEF Innocenti reviewed family-friendly policies in 41 countries that are either part of the European Union (EU), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) or both.1 The report assessed countries using four country-level indicators: duration of paid leave available to mothers; duration of paid leave reserved for fathers; share of children under 3 years of age in childcare centres; and share of children aged between 3 years and compulsory school age in childcare or preschool centres.

FINDINGS
According to the report, the top three countries with the most family-friendly policies were Sweden, Norway and Iceland, while Cyprus, Greece and Switzerland occupied the bottom three places. The analysis found vast differences in paid maternity leave. For example, Estonia provided 85 weeks of fully paid maternity leave, while Australia, Ireland, New Zealand and Switzerland all offered less than 10 weeks of maternity leave on full pay in 2016.

The imbalance continues in early childhood education, which fosters children’s socialization and skills development and provides children with many long-term benefits. Denmark ranked number one in this regard, with 70 per cent of children under 3 years of age enrolled in childcare centres, while Slovakia’s enrolment rate for the same cohort was only 1 per cent.

Some of the world’s richest countries offered sub-standard solutions to families. Switzerland made only eight weeks of paid leave available to mothers and had no paid leave reserved for fathers, while the United States was the only OECD country with no nationwide mandatory policy to give new parents paid time off.

IMPLICATIONS
The report recommends policy improvements that include providing statutory, nationwide paid parental leave; removing barriers to the use of childcare leave; providing affordable and accessible childcare centres; ensuring guaranteed breastfeeding breaks; and ensuring an uninterrupted transition between the end of parental leave and the start of early childhood education.

IMPACT
The 2019 report received widespread media coverage in Europe, North America and Asia. In Japan alone, it was quoted by almost 200 media outlets. In 2019, partly in response to the report, Japan raised government subsidies for companies where fathers take paternity leave, and the Japanese Minister of the Environment himself took paternity leave in an unprecedented move for a high-ranking government official of that country.
UNICEF Innocenti – with partners at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and UNICEF offices – supports governments in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East to design better social protection systems by undertaking long-term impact evaluations of social cash transfer and ‘cash plus’ programmes. Multi-country research and learning continues in collaboration with national counterparts and local research partners under the umbrella of the Transfer Project, which has emerged as a thought leader on cash transfers in Africa.

The 2019 working paper ‘Cash Transfers and Child Nutrition in Zambia’ evaluated the impact of Zambia’s Child Grant Programme on child nutrition for up to four years after the programme’s initiation. The evidence revealed that, while the Child Grant Programme has shown large positive effects on food security, including on food expenditure and frequency of meals, there was no effect on long-term chronic malnutrition – even after four years. In line with similar findings from other contexts, the research showed that, to be fully effective, cash transfers need to be accompanied by tailored complementary interventions.

Recognizing that cash transfers can fall short of achieving longer-term impacts related to nutrition, learning or health, UNICEF Innocenti also initiated or continued in 2019 research examining the impacts of cash plus initiatives in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania.

In response to its investigation into ‘what works’ and ‘why’ in terms of social protection in fragile and humanitarian contexts, UNICEF Innocenti published the “Min Ila” Cash Transfer Programme for Displaced Syrian Children in Lebanon (UNICEF and WFP) Impact Evaluation Endline Report. The joint report by UNICEF and the World Food Programme, produced in collaboration with the American Institutes for Research, evaluated the effects of the Min Ila programme and documented important positive gains among displaced Syrian children in Lebanon. Gains were reported in relation to food consumption, physical health, subjective well-being, school attendance and reductions in children’s engagement in work for the household.
Building on a successful 2018 workshop on social protection in contexts of fragility and forced displacement, UNICEF Innocenti partnered with the International Security and Development Center and the World Bank in 2019 on a special issue of *The Journal of Development Studies* (vol. 55, suppl. 1). The special issue featured seven studies by 20 researchers investigating social protection in humanitarian contexts in Ecuador, Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, the Niger and Yemen. The studies in the special issue confirmed that rigorous, quantitative research is both possible and necessary to build resilient and effective social protection systems in fragile contexts.

**Social protection in fragile settings**

In the spotlight:

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<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>LEBANON</td>
<td>‘Supporting the School Participation of Displaced Syrian Children’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRAQ</td>
<td>‘Estimating the Welfare Costs of Reforming the Iraq Public Distribution System’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MALI</td>
<td>‘School Feeding or General Food Distribution?’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIGER</td>
<td>‘Assets for Alimentation?’ ‘How to Target Households in Adaptive Social Protection Systems?’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEMEN</td>
<td>‘Comparing the Productive Effects of Cash &amp; Food Transfers in a Crisis Setting’</td>
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UNICEF Innocenti is partnering with the Barça Foundation and the Spanish National Committee for UNICEF to strengthen the evidence base in policy, practice and advocacy for child-focused sport for development (S4D). This two-stage research project aims to generate a better understanding of the evidence on S4D policy and programming to inspire learning across countries. The project also aspires to raise the status of S4D as a key intervention for children and young people, especially the most vulnerable, to achieve continuous personal and social development.
With teachers in some African countries spending less than half of their scheduled teaching time on task, teacher absenteeism is one of the major barriers to providing quality education to children in schools in Africa. The Time to Teach project, initiated in 2017, seeks to identify the factors at different levels of the education system that affect teachers' time on task. Spanning 20 African countries, the study aims to gather and strengthen evidence by exploring causes of teacher absenteeism and identify how national policies and practices could be improved to address this challenge.

To date, more than US$1.4 million has been raised for the Time to Teach study, from both UNICEF offices and development partners. Primary data collection has been completed in 20 countries and 10 draft country reports have been produced. The thousands of participants from the countries surveyed who have contributed to the evidence base include government officials, sub-national education officers, community representatives, head teachers, almost 2,000 teachers and more than 1,100 students.

Taking advantage of its strong partnerships with governments, development partners, and UNICEF regional and country offices, the Time to Teach study has raised awareness among stakeholders and has already supported policy change in participating countries across Africa. The project has benefited from the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Government of Italy, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland’s Department for International Development (DFID), the Mastercard Foundation, the Government of Norway and other contributors to UNICEF thematic funding for education.

OVERVIEW

Getting into the Game is the result of the first phase of a one-of-a-kind effort to create a body of global knowledge on child-focused S4D. The report, published in 2019, assesses evidence from more than 100 peer-reviewed articles from the past decade on child-focused S4D, maps current initiatives around the world and presents evidence on harnessing the power of sport to improve the lives of children and young people. These findings will be used to design and implement effective, child-focused S4D initiatives as part of education, social inclusion, child protection and empowerment programming.

FINDINGS

Evidence shows that well-designed S4D initiatives can improve the lives of children by promoting equitable outcomes in learning, skills development, social inclusion, safety and empowerment. This is especially evident in education, where S4D initiatives can increase student engagement, including for those most at risk of dropping out of school. To empower children, it is critical to provide the right balance of sport activities and activities for social development and ensure that sport is combined with inclusive and caring relationships.

There are indications that some sports may expose children to multiple forms of risk and violence. The role of coaches and trainers is critical in generating positive outcomes as they are the first in line to protect children from potential harm, but they require quality training and education to do so.

IMPLICATIONS

The second phase of the research will further explore and identify the contribution of sport in delivering outcomes, particularly access and learning outcomes and life skills outcomes. It will also establish key characteristics of successful or promising S4D initiatives and develop a coherent theory of change for child-focused S4D programmes.

IMPACT

The high-profile launch of the Getting into the Game report in March 2019 at Camp Nou in Barcelona resonated with leading S4D practitioners in UNICEF and beyond. The initiative has prompted UNICEF country offices and National Committees to actively use this research to improve and expand S4D programming as a key strategy for achieving those Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with child-specific targets. The research by the international Sport for Development for Children Working Group is working to develop a pioneering S4D programming framework to support organizations in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating S4D activities.

Addressing learning poverty:
Examining how teachers spend their time

With teachers in some African countries spending less than half of their scheduled teaching time on task, teacher absenteeism is one of the major barriers to providing quality education to children in schools in Africa. The Time to Teach project, initiated in 2017, seeks to identify the factors at different levels of the education system that affect teachers’ time on task. Spanning 20 African countries, the study aims to gather and strengthen evidence by exploring causes of teacher absenteeism and identify how national policies and practices could be improved to address this challenge.

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Restricting children from using the internet may prevent them from taking advantage of online opportunities for learning and skills development. *Growing Up in a Connected World*, a research report produced by UNICEF Innocenti and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), finds that the activities that children engage in online are crucial for building their digital skills.
OVERVIEW

Based on research by the Global Kids Online (GKO) network, the report compares data on internet use for nearly 15,000 children in 11 countries across Europe, Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America. It reveals that, as children increasingly access the internet on their own devices and in their homes, a balanced approach to online participation is needed to maximize benefits while keeping children safe.

FINDINGS

The report finds that children who participate in a wider range of online activities, including entertainment, have stronger digital skills in areas such as privacy and information-seeking. Children whose access to the internet is more limited or restricted tend to have weaker digital skills.

There are risks connected with internet use. More than half of the children and young people surveyed in South Africa said that they had been exposed to sexual content. Around one in five children and young people surveyed in both Italy and Uruguay revealed that they had been exposed to online content on self-harm. And 41 per cent of children surveyed in Albania said that they had been exposed to hate speech online.

Parents play a central role in supporting children to engage in diverse activities online and improve their digital skills. Their support can reduce children’s exposure to online risks and to potential harm. By providing the right mediation and encouragement, parents can empower children to become more resilient, build their digital skills and thrive online.

IMPLICATIONS

The report highlights the roles of and tasks for governments, schools, parents and children’s organizations in advancing children’s rights in the digital age. The research suggests that parents should engage positively with children’s internet use and discuss with children specific content and risks that they may encounter online. In schools, teachers need to be empowered and trained to guide children in how to search for information online and critically evaluate the truthfulness of what they find. UNICEF also urges technology companies to do more to monitor and remove harmful online content, and to provide parents and educators with tools to support children in making the most of their online opportunities.

IMPACT

Growing Up in a Connected World marks five years of evidence generation by the GKO network, which is jointly coordinated by UNICEF Innocenti and LSE. The GKO network is dedicated to collecting comparable data and generating robust evidence about children’s experiences in the digital space. It has developed a toolkit for generating internationally comparable data, which is gradually becoming a global standard. The GKO methodology has been implemented in almost 35 countries, including through partners in the EU Kids Online network, and is projected to reach 50 countries in 2020. UNICEF country offices are actively using the GKO methodology to inform policy and programming, most notably in the Eastern and Southern Africa region.
Together with UNICEF country offices in the region, UNICEF Innocenti has embarked on a series of studies on children’s pathways and experiences of migration in the Horn of Africa. This research aims to understand why children move and what risks and harms they face. The report *No Mother Wants Her Child to Migrate: Vulnerability of Children on the Move in the Horn of Africa*, which is part of a larger study, draws on interviews conducted in Somalia with children on the move and their families. It looks at whether existing child protection mechanisms are adequate to respond to the threats faced by children on the move.
OVERVIEW
Hundreds of thousands of children are on the move in Somalia. What begins as a quest for a better life often turns out to be a treacherous journey. Through deceitful ‘go now, pay later’ schemes, smugglers facilitate children’s migration within and across borders. Children migrate in unsafe conditions, often without basic provisions such as food and water. They travel long distances on foot or in overcrowded vehicles under the constant threat of arrest or abuse. Even when these dangerous journeys are successful, children may be held for ransom, beaten or abused in other ways by smugglers, along the way. At their destination, children are likely to face complicated immigration or asylum procedures and discrimination, and often end up living in poverty, facing violence and abuse.

FINDINGS
The research identified gaps in Somalia’s legal system that need to be addressed to protect all children in the country, including those on the move. Some of the cracks in the country’s legal and protection system and mechanisms include: no single definition of the age of majority; a failure to define and penalize human trafficking; no dedicated police force for children; and little room for children’s participation and voice in decision-making. In addition, the shortage of accredited social workers undermines service provision for child protection. The report also notes that child protection mechanisms in Somalia – and the gap-filling functions provided by civil society organizations – are constrained by a lack of funding.

IMPLICATIONS
While the Somali Government and international partners are addressing many protection concerns – including by combating smuggling and trafficking, setting up child protection desks and offering children on the move access to education – substantial challenges remain.

To promote more effective solutions, the report provides key recommendations to:

- reinforce legal and policy protections available to children
- ensure child protections in law are effectively enforced in practice
- ensure existing legal protections extend to children on the move
- improve the accessibility of services for children on the move
- improve overall access to services to ensure that needs can be met in country
- reduce the risks associated with unsafe migration.

IMPACT
Insights from this research have provoked discussions on children’s legal status, inspired the University of Hargeisa’s School of Social Work to set up its first research programme and enabled UNICEF Somalia to better support children on the move. The second phase of the research is under way, using mixed methods in three countries in the Horn of Africa to deepen the understanding of children’s movement on key migration routes.
Expanding research workstreams

The research teams at UNICEF Innocenti continuously explore new frontiers of evidence to influence the policies, programmes and advocacy of UNICEF and its partners. The office’s primary area of work is research within its three established areas of expertise: education; child rights and protection; and social policy and poverty reduction. Through remarkable research findings, the showcasing of best practices, and close collaboration with our offices, governments and research institutions, UNICEF Innocenti produces work that generates insights and improvements for policy and programming. This section highlights a few of the new and exciting areas of research in the pipeline for UNICEF Innocenti, both within its established research areas and within its two emerging research issues.
Closing knowledge gaps to reach gender equality

Gender-Responsive and Age-Sensitive Social Protection (GRASSP) is UNICEF Innocenti’s five-year research programme that looks at the intersections of gender and social protection through a life course lens. Started in 2019 and supported by DFID and other partners, GRASSP generates evidence on ‘what works’, ‘how’ and ‘why’ in social protection to support the development of better social protection systems. Its ultimate aim is to contribute to the achievement of gender equality throughout the life course. GRASSP offers a significant opportunity to build upon a growing body of evidence on the drivers of transformative change for women and girls, and ensure that gender-responsive approaches are well integrated with social protection and able to achieve sustainable poverty reduction and gender equality.

In May 2019, 35 thought leaders working on gender and social protection, including academics, practitioners and development partners, convened at UNICEF Innocenti to identify and address critical evidence and knowledge gaps at the intersection of the two fields. The experts’ workshop, part of the GRASSP inception phase, aimed to build and strengthen a community of researchers and practitioners that seeks to advance a gender-responsive social protection agenda. Through discussions about a series of targeted think pieces, the workshop helped to identify where the evidence base is robust and highlighted evidence gaps that call for additional investments.

The GRASSP Think Piece Series seeks to stimulate thinking and dialogue, and push the boundaries of how academics, practitioners, national governments and the international community can improve and strengthen social protection systems to achieve the SDGs. The series is available at: www.unicef-irc.org/article/1960-why-a-gender-responsive-and-age-sensitive-social-protection-grassp-think-piece-series.html.

In the GRASSP implementation phase, UNICEF Innocenti will build a robust evidence base by conducting cross-country mixed-methods research across three research areas. The first stream seeks to strengthen the conceptualization, analysis and measurement of gender equality in relation to social protection. The second stream will unpack pathways through which design and implementation features of social protection systems can improve gender equality. The final stream will investigate and understand the role of politics and political economy factors, in the design, implementation and sustainable financing of gender-responsive and age-sensitive social protection systems.
Setting the humanitarian research agenda

Humanitarian assistance has long been a strong focus of international efforts to support children and young people. And yet relatively little systematic research has been undertaken over the years on what are the key challenges and what works best for children in humanitarian settings.

In 2019, UNICEF Innocenti took on this endeavour. It began by employing a humanitarian research manager, who was entrusted with mapping the evidence on humanitarian research for children in terms of its topics and themes, findings, and quality. The mapping, which will be published in 2020, shows that despite an increase in global humanitarian research funding over the last decade, humanitarian research has a low impact. Often the research is not strategic, it fails to focus on the most pressing needs and issues, and it generates little evidence on what works. In addition, humanitarian organizations typically do not have significant research skills; coordinating research in humanitarian settings is challenging owing to factors such as access, safety and ethics; and research practitioners from the Global South remain in short supply.

Following extensive discussions with experts and practitioners, UNICEF Innocenti used the findings to set a humanitarian research agenda for children. This included a proposal to establish a Humanitarian Research Advisory Group, conduct a meta-analysis of ongoing research, and develop a joint workplan with UNICEF's Office of Emergency Programmes and others, on humanitarian research to be led, coordinated or facilitated by UNICEF Innocenti in 2020 and beyond.
Looking back at the Best of UNICEF Research

Best of UNICEF Research (BOUR) is an annual exercise that began seven years ago to celebrate and recognize the highest quality and most innovative research products from across UNICEF. It has grown into a yearly competition and matured to become part of the UNICEF research culture.

Best of UNICEF Research Retrospective: Documenting impact and lessons learned, published in 2019, looks back at BOUR finalists from previous years to gain insights into the continued uptake of the original research and pathways to longer-term impact. It also identifies broader cultural changes occurring at UNICEF as a result of the BOUR exercise. The report features six case studies that give a flavour of the range and depth of the research conducted at UNICEF and its emerging impacts.

The case studies explore diverse pathways to research impact. For example, the attention generated by UNICEF research on the needs of Palestinian children with disabilities inspired additional multisectoral investments to better support this vulnerable group. UNICEF research has informed recommendations to the UK Government on incorporating the Convention on the Rights of the Child into law. Findings have also helped to shape policies and their implementation, from Mongolia’s midwifery curriculum to global monitoring of the SDGs. The retrospective exercise also found that analysis by UNICEF had contributed to the establishment of new programmes such as the World Bank Famine Action Mechanism.

Throughout the retrospective process, UNICEF Innocenti collected insights into how to enhance the BOUR exercise. The recommendations included making the finalists and UNICEF research at large easier to discover; improving the understanding of how research is used and its results for children; involving national research partners in the feedback process to ensure ownership of the research success; and prioritizing research that is linked to policies, partners and global goals.

In 2019, UNICEF Innocenti began to explore two new research issues: mental health and climate change. Both have been declared by UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta H. Fore as evolving areas of importance for UNICEF. The mental health research began with the development of a major conference, described more fully in a later section, which brought together leading academics and many other stakeholders to examine the state of evidence on the topic, and to chart pathways for evidence generation and policy action. UNICEF Innocenti has subsequently commenced work on defining a research agenda for mental health, in conjunction with key knowledge brokers from the conference, and is working on mapping evidence gaps and an evidence synthesis, both of which will be released in 2020.

Nascent research by UNICEF on climate and the environment focuses on the impact of air pollution on children. Concretely, the research seeks to complement the work of the Climate Team based at the UNICEF New York Headquarters by exploring causal analysis. Preliminary research centres on quantifying how air pollution may affect child outcomes such as mortality, morbidity, cognitive ability and mental health.
Enhancing research capacity and evidence use

Much of the research that informs UNICEF policies, programmes and advocacy does not happen at UNICEF Innocenti but is managed by the organization’s regional and country offices. To ensure that research is undertaken to a high standard, with the appropriate level of rigour, quality and ethics, UNICEF Innocenti works with regional and country offices to apply quality standards, synthesize evidence, share knowledge, and foster an evidence and learning culture.
STRENGTHENING EVIDENCE USE
To complement the Evidence Survey published in 2018, which assessed attitudes to and use of evidence at UNICEF, in 2019 UNICEF Innocenti delivered nine regionally contextualized webinars and online focus group discussions to share and validate the survey results. In addition, a collaborative regional evidence deep dive was started off with partners from the International Network for Advancing Science and Policy (INASP) and Politics & Ideas, and with the UNICEF Regional Offices for South Asia, and East Asia and Pacific. The exercise aims to support the regions in strengthening the use of evidence to inform policy and programming. Two deep-dive workshops have been held so far to engage UNICEF offices in developing a vision and actions to strengthen the evidence culture in their regions.

MAPPING EVIDENCE PARTNERS
A mapping of evidence entities based in UNICEF regions that generate or facilitate evidence generation, communication or use is also under way. UNICEF Innocenti has partnered with two think tanks, On Think Tanks and Southern Voice, to identify existing and potential evidence partners in all seven UNICEF regions. The mapping will support UNICEF offices to quickly identify quality local partners as well as potential centres of excellence that can support UNICEF in fostering an evidence culture. The result will be a verified network of recommended evidence partners, accessible to UNICEF staff through an interactive directory and a visual social network map.

EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS
UNICEF Innocenti believes passionately in the value of evidence synthesis for children and wants to position itself as a resource in this field. The office has been leading the introduction of evidence synthesis products and methods across UNICEF for the past four years. As of the end of 2019, UNICEF Innocenti has produced three evidence synthesis products, with seven more planned for the remainder of the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018–2021 period. In 2019, UNICEF Innocenti developed a series of seven methodological briefs on evidence synthesis, focusing on systematic reviews, rapid evidence assessments and evidence gap maps. The briefs introduce the concept of evidence synthesis and provide guidance on methods and approaches as well as insights into the future of evidence synthesis.
Convening expertise and exchanging knowledge

Becoming a thought leader on the most pressing issues affecting children and young people requires the continuous building of knowledge networks and the creation of opportunities for leading thinkers and practitioners to meet and share ideas. For over 30 years, both in Florence and away from its home, UNICEF Innocenti has engaged with numerous partners to investigate unresolved challenges, share evidence to support action, organize debates and build consensus, and initiate or learn from cutting-edge research programmes.

This section illustrates several examples of how UNICEF Innocenti brought together diverse knowledge and research networks and convened experts and other stakeholders in 2019. Convening and networking took place in diverse formats. Many were established formats for the office, notably workshops, seminars and expert consultations on key issues in each workstream. UNICEF Innocenti also began to explore new formats of engagement in 2019, with the launch of the Leading Minds for Children and Young People conference series and a unique child rights film festival. Highlights of these events are presented in this section.
ININAUGURAL 2019 CONFERENCE ON YOUNG PEOPLE’S MENTAL HEALTH

Leading Minds 2019 was an effort by UNICEF to take its convening power to the next level by instituting a regular global forum to bring together diverse stakeholders to discuss and chart pathways on next-generation issues for children and young people. It was a trailblazing effort on the part of the office. Not only did the conference achieve its convening aims, but it also tackled the escalating global crisis of youth mental health and was a unique event co-created and co-facilitated throughout by young people.

Based on ‘straw polls’ or exit interviews, Leading Minds 2019 successfully demonstrated UNICEF thought leadership on a global issue of emerging importance for children and young people. It was co-hosted with the Government of Italy and WHO. The pathways it charted are being followed by an advisory group, with a strong emphasis on defining an evidence agenda as a key pillar for enhancing future programming in this area.

Importantly, the conference also helped to inform the forthcoming edition of The State of the World’s Children. The 2020 edition of the flagship UNICEF publication will focus on mental health, with the report’s writers and researchers recording the wisdom, experiences and knowledge of conference participants.

Key messages from Leading Minds 2019:

1. PUT YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE OF ACTION

Young people took an active and leading role in the conference. Their motto was ‘nothing about us without us’, and they co-facilitated the meeting and breakout sessions. They are also taking a leading role in the conference follow-up actions.

2. CONVENE DIVERSE GROUPS FOR ACTION

The diversity of groups involved in Leading Minds 2019 – and the diversity of their experiences of mental health – was broadly seen as giving the conference an edge over others. Participants voiced support for involving even more organizations, including sports bodies, religious leaders and corporations, in the follow-up actions, which are being led by an advisory group of select participants from the conference. The advisory group is entrusted with taking forward the pathways recommended by the conference and turning these into concrete actions for children and young people.

3. BUILD A ROBUST EVIDENCE BASE

The evidence base – spanning data, research and evaluation – on the mental health of children and young people is slim and fragmented, especially for many low- and middle-income countries. This is holding back programming solutions. A key recommendation of Leading Minds 2019 is to formulate an agenda that blends investment in data collection, analysis and use with rigorous research and solid and rapid evaluation.

4. CHANGE THE NARRATIVE AROUND YOUNG PEOPLE’S MENTAL HEALTH

Leading Minds 2019 emphasized changing the narrative around mental health – from the negative account typically associated with the phenomenon to a more positive framing that accentuates the benefits of mental well-being and begins to destigmatize mental health disorders.
UNICEF Innocenti continues to explore innovative and powerful ways to highlight the challenges faced by children and young people, which led to the staging of the first UNICEF Innocenti Film Festival (UIFF) in October 2019. The idea of showcasing international films came about in recognition of the three major anniversaries in 2019: the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 30th anniversary of the establishment of UNICEF Innocenti in Florence and the 600th anniversary of the founding of the Spedale degli Innocenti.14

UIFF was a marriage of global cinema with UNICEF commentary on children’s issues. Out of the 1,200 submissions received, UNICEF Innocenti selected 32 high-quality films from 28 countries for live screening over three days in Florence. The programme represented the best of global cinema in terms of narratives of childhood from all over the world, enabling viewers to consider the dynamic forces shaping children’s lives and reflect on children’s diverse experiences. Several of the selected films had already achieved global recognition and/or had Italian or world premieres.

The inaugural event was covered by major Italian media channels including La Repubblica, La Nazione and Corriere della Sera. Sky Atlantic devoted a segment to the festival.

Many international film festivals feature films for or by young people, but very few of them focus entirely on narratives about childhood, as UIFF did. While a film festival may seem an unusual event for a research centre to organize, the carefully curated UIFF programme demonstrated how cinema can be a powerful tool for raising awareness of the many challenges that children face and for inspiring action to protect and promote child rights.
Convening in established research areas

A decade of evidence for action: Transfer Project workshop in the United Republic of Tanzania

In April 2019, UNICEF Innocenti was in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, for the seventh regional Transfer Project workshop on ‘Social Protection, Cash Transfers and Long-term Poverty Reduction’. More than 130 social protection experts including researchers, high-level national policymakers and development partners from 20 African countries gathered to exchange knowledge and celebrate a decade of building evidence for action on cash transfers in Africa. The workshop aimed to address emerging questions on the role and long-term contribution of cash transfers within national social protection systems and other sectoral policies for sustainable poverty reduction.

The importance of considering political economy during evidence generation and throughout the evaluation process was made evident in a ‘talk show’ session. During this session, government representatives from Ethiopia, Kenya and Zambia shared their experiences on how evidence had helped to gain political support for, and create an enabling environment for, social protection programmes. Presenters also emphasized the importance of framing evaluation questions around the pathways (the ‘how’ and ‘why’) to understand how to achieve optimal results with cash transfer programmes in the long term.

A ‘Media Day’ workshop, the first to be organized as part of the Transfer Project workshop, brought together 16 editors and journalists from prominent media outlets across nine African countries for an opportunity to discuss the role and influence of the media in shaping policies. This was, in effect, a one-day crash course to strengthen the ability of media professionals to interpret evidence on social protection for a wider audience.

The Transfer Project, now in its second decade, will continue to produce evidence and address the main policy concerns linked to cash transfers and social protection across Africa. UNICEF Innocenti’s role in this evidence generation effort over the years has informed policies and programmes and continues to evolve as new social protection initiatives are piloted and implemented.

#SOCIALPROTECTION
Global consultation on the challenges and complexities of addressing child sexual abuse and exploitation

In September 2019, UNICEF Innocenti convened ‘Looking Back, Looking Forward: Consultation on the mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children’. This was a major global meeting on the emerging challenges and complexities of addressing child sexual abuse and exploitation. Organized jointly with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, the consultation brought together over 30 international experts in the field of child rights and protection.

The consultation focused on addressing the problem through evidence-informed strategies, and it enabled critical reflection on the context of and response to child sexual abuse and exploitation. Themes explored included awareness of and attitudes underpinning the sale and sexual exploitation of children; root causes of the sale and sexual exploitation of children; ways to strengthen child protection systems; related legal frameworks and institutional accountability; and effective prevention and response strategies.

The meeting was also an effort to frame the discussion around the changing contexts of today’s childhood, including the expansion of digital technologies, the role of sport, migration flows, natural and climate disasters, and conflicts.

This effort formed part of a series of consultations, including with Member States of the United Nations and other key stakeholders, to inform the Special Rapporteur’s final report to the United Nations Human Rights Council in March 2020.15

#ENDCHILDABUSE
Multi-stakeholder Forum on Data and Evidence to End Violence Against Children

In March 2019, UNICEF Innocenti joined forces with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children and UNICEF on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children to discuss strategies for strengthening the availability and use of evidence to guide efforts to end violence against children. The resulting two-day event led to the creation of the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Data and Evidence to End Violence Against Children.

This collaborative forum connected more than 40 stakeholders from the United Nations system, civil society and academia to progress technical discussions and consensus-building on how to address the data and evidence challenges related to violence against children. The discussions included debating key definitions, indicators and methodologies to improve evidence standards and practices. To address the knowledge gap in the field, UNICEF Innocenti presented details of its progress on an evidence gap map on violence against children developed with the Campbell Collaboration.

Key learnings from the kick-off meeting included the need to strengthen capacity to generate quality data, research and evidence on violence against children, and ideas on how best to use research and evidence on violence against children to influence policy and practice.

#ENDVIOLENCE

Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum 2019

With its more than 6,800 members, the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) is one of the largest global networks for advancing research on violence against women, violence against children and other forms of violence driven by gender inequality in low- and middle-income countries. SVRI brings together a diverse group of actors aiming to achieve a world free of violence through improved prevention programmes and practices informed by evidence.

In 2019, for the first time, UNICEF supported the SVRI Forum, which is the world’s key research conference on violence against women and violence against children. Held every two years, the forum’s reach has grown from 194 delegates in 2009 to more than 750 delegates in 2019.

UNICEF Innocenti had a strong presence at the SVRI Forum 2019, providing opening remarks, presenting preliminary findings of the evidence gap map on violence against children, chairing sessions and organizing side meetings to advance evidence-driven solutions to end violence.

#TIMEISNOW
Finance, administration, people
In 2019, UNICEF Innocenti focused on nurturing long-standing relationships with the Government of Italy and international partners. Five new funding agreements were signed. A total of US$5.8 million in additional grant funding was raised in 2019, bringing the total amount mobilized from resource partners in 2018–2019 to nearly US$22 million.

UNICEF Innocenti spent US$8.2 million to deliver results in 2019, with the most significant expenditures made from the Italian Government and UNICEF core funding, complemented by a variety of public and philanthropic sources.
UNICEF Innocenti Annual Report 2019

US$2,094,515
UNICEF CORE FUNDING
INSTITUTIONAL BUDGET AND REGULAR RESOURCES

US$301,446
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
CASH + CARE: A LIFE-CHANGING SOLUTION TO FACILITATE THE SAFE TRANSITION OF ADOLESCENTS TO ADULTHOOD

US$899,730
DFID (UNITED KINGDOM)
SOCIAL AND STRUCTURAL DETERMINANTS OF ADOLESCENT WELL-BEING IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES, AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE AND AGE-SENSITIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION (GRASSP) RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

US$637,077
SWEDEN (SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY, SIDA)
CAN NATIONAL SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS REDUCE CHILD LABOUR? EVIDENCE FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA

US$538,101
OAK FOUNDATION (WITH SUPPORT FROM THE SWISS NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR UNICEF)
THE TRANSFER PROJECT: RESEARCH, CROSS-COUNTRY LEARNING AND REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING AROUND SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMMES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: PHASE 2

US$201,594
DFID (UNITED KINGDOM) (VIA UNICEF PROGRAMME DIVISION)
ENDING VIOLENCE, ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

US$165,796
MASTERCARD FOUNDATION*
TIME TO TEACH: ADDRESSING TEACHER ABSENTEEISM IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS. RESEARCH ON SYSTEM DETERMINANTS OF AND POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO SUPPORT TEACHER ATTENDANCE

US$2,094,515
UNICEF CORE FUNDING
INSTITUTIONAL BUDGET AND REGULAR RESOURCES

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MASTERCARD FOUNDATION*
TIME TO TEACH: ADDRESSING TEACHER ABSENTEEISM IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS. RESEARCH ON SYSTEM DETERMINANTS OF AND POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO SUPPORT TEACHER ATTENDANCE

* with support from the Canadian National Committee for UNICEF
UNICEF Innocenti focuses on generating, using and sharing research as well as convening leading thinkers and practitioners to drive results for children. This commitment is also demonstrated by the way in which the office allocates its resources. In 2019, 80 per cent of UNICEF Innocenti expenditures focused on strategic research generation and convening, research facilitation, knowledge management and ethics, and communications.

UNICEF Innocenti 2019 expenditure by category

US$8.2 MILLION
People

HUMAN RESOURCES AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT
The team that makes up UNICEF Innocenti continues to evolve to support UNICEF programmes around the world with sound research and evidence. In 2019, the UNICEF Innocenti team comprised experienced professionals of 24 nationalities, of whom almost two thirds were women. The multidisciplinary team grew from 48 people (27 staff, 21 consultants) in December 2018 to 61 people (37 staff, 23 consultants and 1 intern) as at December 2019. The UNICEF Innocenti team in 2019 included international professional staff, support staff and in-house consultants, among them researchers; managers; knowledge management, communication, partnerships and planning specialists; and a junior professional officer. The office also hosted several skilled interns who embarked on their research journeys with UNICEF Innocenti.

UNICEF believes in exchanging knowledge and skills within its wide network of offices across the world. One way for UNICEF Innocenti to do this is by promoting staff development through short-term assignments in Florence, at UNICEF headquarters offices and in programme countries. Some examples from 2019 include UNICEF Innocenti specialists supporting UNICEF Ethiopia, UNICEF Mozambique and the UNICEF New York Headquarters, and colleagues from New York and from UNICEF Somalia joining the office in Florence for several months.

While 2019 saw a significant increase in direct investment by UNICEF in UNICEF Innocenti’s human resources, many of our staff are part of the office thanks to the generous support of our donors.

FELLOWSHIPS
Over the years, UNICEF Innocenti’s Fellowship Programme has attracted several senior researchers from renowned academic institutions, mostly based in the developed world. To widen the net and improve this situation, the office started working on a streamlined Fellowship Programme in 2019. The aim is to attract research talent from developing countries and to build meaningful research partnerships between academic entities in the Global South and with the wider network of UNICEF offices and partners. A relaunch of the enhanced Fellowship Programme is expected in 2020.
Partnerships

UNICEF Innocenti would be unable to realize its core mandate of leading global research to deliver results for children without the support of its partners.

We extend special thanks to the Government of Italy for hosting and supporting UNICEF Innocenti’s vision with generous, stable and flexible funding, guidance and institutional backing for more than 30 years.

UNICEF Innocenti continued collaborating with the Regione Toscana, the City of Florence and the Istituto degli Innocenti, including on the first UNICEF Innocenti Film Festival, the inaugural Leading Minds 2019 conference and World Children’s Day 2019 celebrations in Florence.

We thank the resource partners listed below for their generous contributions in 2019 to new research programmes.

Top new contributions to UNICEF Innocenti research programmes in 2019

**Akelius Foundation**

**AKELIUS FOUNDATION (WITH SUPPORT FROM THE SWEDISH COMMITTEE FOR UNICEF)**

Partnership to generate evidence on the role of online learning tools in improving education outcomes of refugee children and facilitate their entry into the formal education system and society

2019–2020

**Barça Foundation**

**BARÇA FOUNDATION (WITH SUPPORT FROM THE SPANISH NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR UNICEF)**

Getting into the Game: Phase 2 of understanding the evidence for child-focused sport for development

2019–2021
UNICEF Innocenti also progressed existing, longer-term research initiatives with partners, including:

- a series of studies with the support of DFID on children’s pathways and experiences of migration in the Horn of Africa
- the GKO research jointly coordinated by UNICEF Innocenti and LSE
- large-scale research to support governments in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East to design better social protection, supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and Oak Foundation
- research on national social protection and its effects on child labour, with the support of the United States Department of Labor.

Important collaborations with various National Committees for UNICEF in 2019 included the:

- continued partnership between UNICEF Innocenti, the Barça Foundation and the Spanish National Committee for UNICEF on a two-stage research project on S4D, with the high-profile launch of the Getting into the Game report in March 2019 at Camp Nou in Barcelona
- continued support by the German National Committee for UNICEF of the GKO initiative and its growing programme of research into children’s online experiences
- implementation of the multi-country study on teacher absenteeism in Africa with the support of the Mastercard Foundation through the Canadian National Committee for UNICEF and the Learning for Well-being Foundation
- new research partnership with Akelius Foundation and the Swedish National Committee for UNICEF on how to build and scale digital learning for vulnerable children.

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**Learning for Well-being Foundation**

**LEARNING FOR WELL-BEING FOUNDATION**

(WITH SUPPORT FROM THE DUTCH NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR UNICEF)

Measuring What Matters? Research on core capacities

2019–2020

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**DFID (UNITED KINGDOM)**

Supporting the DFID Asia Regional Child Labour Programme: Evidence on educational strategies to address child labour in South Asia

2019–2023

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**THE FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

Disrupting Harm: Investigating violence against children online

2019–2021
With the help of its partners, UNICEF Innocenti convened many collaborative conferences, workshops and consultations in 2019, including the:

- Leading Minds 2019 conference, co-hosted by UNICEF, WHO and the Government of Italy
- Two-day event exploring the creation of the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Data and Evidence to End Violence Against Children, organized with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children
- First UNICEF Innocenti Film Festival, in Florence, supported by the Regione Toscana, City of Florence

...and Istituto degli Innocenti meeting of the Multi-Donor Partnership on Learning for Effective Development, to bring together knowledge leaders from donor agencies, multilateral banks and foundations.

Building a learning partnership

UNICEF is one of the founding members of the Multi-Donor Partnership on Learning for Effective Development. UNICEF Innocenti hosted the third face-to-face meeting of the partnership in Florence in October 2019. The partnership brings together knowledge leaders from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), DFID, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, Sida, Germany’s Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Wellcome Trust and UNICEF. The members exchange lessons to improve organizational learning, knowledge management and implementation effectiveness. Potential collaborative activities for the future include a multi-agency project to document experiences in organizational learning and building an evidence culture, and the development of webinars for evidence, knowledge management and learning specialists.
Appendices

Appendix 1: Research outputs and publications
Appendix 2: Partners of UNICEF Innocenti in 2019
Glossary
Appendix 1

Research outputs and publications

**INNOCENTI RESEARCH PAPERS**


**INNOCENTI RESEARCH BRIEFS**


**INNOCENTI RESEARCH REPORTS AND RESOURCES**

UNICEF DISCUSSION PAPERS


External publications

BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS


JOURNAL ARTICLES AND RESEARCH PAPERS


‘Perspectives of Adolescent and Young Adults on Poverty-related Stresses: A qualitative study in Ghana, Malawi and Tanzania’, Hall, B.J. et al. BMJ Open, vol. 9, no. 10, 2019 https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/9/10/e027047


Appendix 2

Partners of UNICEF Innocenti in 2019

Abdou Moumouni University, Niger
Aboul Laff Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), United States
ABH Partners, Ethiopia
Action Research for Co-Development (ARCO), Italy
Acute Incite, United States
Africa Centre for Systematic Reviews & Knowledge Translation, Uganda
African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Kenya
Akelius Foundation
Alliance for Human Development, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute, Canada
American Institutes for Research (AIR), United States
American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon
Amnesty International UK, United Kingdom
Axétudes, Morocco
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, United States
Bocconi University, Italy
Bureau d’Études, de Recherches et d’Ingénierie sociale (Bureau d’Études, de Recherches et d’Ingénierie sociale (BERIS-Consulting), Togo)
Campbell Collaboration
Center for Global Development, United States
Centre for Global Health Inequalities Research (CHAIN), Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Norway
Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention (CJCP), South Africa
Centre for Social Research (CSR), University of Malawi, Malawi
Centro Regional de Estudos para o Desenvolvimento da Sociedade da Informação (Cetic.br), Brazil
Children's Institute, University of Cape Town, South Africa
Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE), United Kingdom
Cinema La Compagnia, Italy
CoFinCo/DCDM, Comoros
Columbia University, United States
DAB Development Research and Training (DAB DRT), Ethiopia
De Facto Consultancy, Montenegro
Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Germany
Drexel University, United States
Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), United Republic of Tanzania
ECO-Qualité, Mauritania
ECPAT International, Thailand
EDI Global, United Republic of Tanzania
Educational Research Network for West and Central Africa (ERNWACA), Gambia
Elsevier, Netherlands
Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre (EPPI-Centre), United Kingdom
FC Barcelona and the Barça Foundation, Spain
Federal Ministry of Education, Nigeria
Fetzer Institute, United States
Fondation Botnar, Switzerland
Fondazione Sistema Toscana, Lanterne Magiche, Italy
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Frontieri Consult, Ethiopia
Genuine Services, Mozambique
Girls Not Brides UK, United Kingdom
Global Evidence Synthesis Initiative (GESI), Lebanon
Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, United Kingdom
Global Partnership for Education, United States
Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children
Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC), United Kingdom
Indigo Côte d'Ivoire, Côte d'Ivoire
Infotrak Research and Consulting, Kenya
Institut Supérieur des Sciences de la Population (ISSP), Burkina Faso
Institute of Development Studies (IDS), United Kingdom
Inter-American Development Bank
International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), United States
International Labour Organization (ILO)
International Network for Advancing Science and Policy (INASP), United Kingdom
International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG), Brazil
International Security and Development Center (ISDC), Germany
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
Istituto degli Innocenti, Italy
Johns Hopkins University, United States
Knowledgeable, United Kingdom
Laboratoire de Recherche sur les Conduites Humaines et Pratiques Cliniques, Institut de Recherche en Sciences Humaines (IRSH), Gabon
The Lancet Commission on Global Mental Health and Sustainable Development
The Lancet Psychiatry
Learning for Well-being Foundation, Netherlands
Learning Pool, United Kingdom
London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom
Makerere University, Uganda
Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom
Mastercard Foundation, Canada
Matter of Focus, United Kingdom
Mindset, Jordan
Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Gambia
Ministry of Education, Afghanistan
Ministry of Education, Bangladesh
Ministry of Education, Ghana
Ministry of Education, Guinea
Ministry of Education, Liberia
Ministry of Education, Rwanda
Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Puntland, Somalia
Ministry of Education and Sports, Uganda
Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Kenya
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Nepal
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, United Republic of Tanzania
Ministry of Education, Youth, Culture and Sports, Guinea-Bissau
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy
Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, Malawi
Ministry of General Education and Instruction, South Sudan
Ministry of Healthcare, Kazakhstan
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ethiopia
Ministry of National Education, Gabon
Ministry of National Education, Mauritania
Ministry of National Education and Professional Training, Comoros
Ministry of National Education and Technical and Vocational Education, Madagascar
Ministry of National Education, Technical Education and Vocational Training, Côte d’Ivoire
Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research, Morocco
Ministry of Primary Education, Literacy, Promotion of National Languages and Civic Education, Niger
Mundi Consulting, Guinea-Bissau
New York University, United States
Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH), Norway
Oak Foundation, Switzerland
On Think Tanks, Peru
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Overseas Development Institute (ODI), United Kingdom
Oxfam México, Mexico
Oxford Children’s Rights Network, United Kingdom
Oxford Internet Institute (OII), United Kingdom
Oxford Policy Management, United Kingdom
Peace and Development Research Center (PDRC), Puntland, Somalia
Politics & Ideas (P&I)
Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) Programme, United Kingdom
Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA), United Republic of Tanzania
Scriptoria, United Kingdom
Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI), South Africa
Social Development Direct, United Kingdom
Social Economic Studies, Surveys, Monitoring and Evaluation Consult (SESMEC Ltd), Rwanda
Société Africaine d’Études & d’Ingénierie Financière (SAEIF – Bureau d’Études), Guinea
Southern Cross University, Australia
Southern Voice, Ecuador
Stanford University, United States

State University of New York, Buffalo, United States
Subah-Belleh Associates (SBA), Liberia
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Sweden
Talking Evidence, United Kingdom
Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS), United Republic of Tanzania
Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), United Republic of Tanzania
Together for Girls, United States
Toscana Film Commission, Italy
Tufts University, United States

UCL (University College London), United Kingdom
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children
United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children
United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United States
United States Department of Labor, United States
University of Bologna, Italy
University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom
University of Florence (Unifi), Italy
University of Ghana, Ghana
University of Ibadan (UI), Nigeria
University of Juba, South Sudan
University of Macau, Macao, China
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, United States
University of Oxford, United Kingdom
University of Southampton, United Kingdom
University of Zambia (UNZA), Zambia
University of Zurich (UZH), Switzerland
Viable Knowledge Masters (VKM), Nigeria
Wageningen University & Research (WUR), Netherlands
Wellesley Trust, United Kingdom
Western Sydney University, Australia
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, United States
World Bank
World Health Organization (WHO)
Glossary

1 The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development** (OECD) is an intergovernmental economic organization with 36 Member countries, which was founded in 1961 to stimulate progress and economic growth.

2 The **Transfer Project** is a multi-country social protection research initiative established in 2018. It is a collaborative effort by UNICEF Innocenti, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, UNICEF regional and country offices, national governments and local research partners.

3 **Zambia’s Child Grant Programme** is one of the flagship social protection programmes of the Government of Zambia. Implemented by the Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health since 2010, the programme currently reaches ultra-poor households with children under 5 years of age.

4 **Cash plus** programmes provide cash payments in combination with complementary support, such as education or health services, as part of social protection efforts for the most impoverished households.

5 **Fragile settings** are contexts in which there is an accumulation and combination of risks as a result of context-specific underlying causes, combined with insufficient coping capacity of the state, system and/or communities to manage, absorb or mitigate those risks.

6 **Sport for development** (S4D) refers to the use of sport, or any form of physical activity, to provide children and adults with opportunities to achieve their full potential through initiatives that promote personal and social development.

7 The **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

8 **Time on task** in education refers to the amount of time that the teacher spends productively engaged in teaching.

9 **Global Kids Online** (GKO) is an international research network that aims to generate and sustain a rigorous, cross-national evidence base around children’s use of the internet. The GKO network
was developed by UNICEF Innocenti, the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and the EU Kids Online network.

10 **EU Kids Online** is an international academic research network that seeks to enhance knowledge of the opportunities and risks faced by European children online. It uses a research methodology comparable to that of the GKO network.

11 **Gender-responsive social protection** is a type of social protection in which changing gender norms, roles and access to resources are key components of outcomes. Age-sensitive means understanding how different risks and vulnerabilities play out across an individual’s life based on her/his age.

12 **Life course lens** acknowledges that the age and stage in a person’s life has implications for the risks and vulnerabilities that girls and boys, and women and men face (which social protection can help to address).

13 **Evidence gap maps** are visual tools for presenting the state of evidence relevant to a thematic area or sector. Evidence gap maps summarize and present evidence from studies and reviews, including systematic or literature reviews. A gap map makes the evidence and evidence gaps accessible by presenting them in a visual, user-friendly format.

14 The **Istituto degli Innocenti** was founded at the beginning of the fifteenth century in Florence, Italy. It was the first secular institution in Europe set up to accommodate orphans and abandoned infants. Today, it is a public organization devoted to children’s care and education.

15 The **Human Rights Council** is an intergovernmental body within the United Nations system made up of 47 States responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights around the globe.

16 The **Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children** is a unique public – private collaboration that includes United Nations agencies, governments, industry, regional bodies, civil society, young people, advocates and champions, all focused on one thing: making the world safe for children.