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THE JIM IN THE DRC



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The world needs to get the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on track, including rebuilding systems in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Joint Investment Mechanism (JIM) is a new, results-driven funding model established by UNICEF and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate progress towards the SDGs. It kicked off in 2021, and the first phase is set up to run through 2025.

JIM funding is 100% flexible, so UNICEF country offices on the ground can determine where funds will have the greatest impact for children. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, or DRC, the JIM's flexible support will enable UNICEF to provide much needed services to infants, adolescents and mothers. Despite vast natural resources, the DRC is one of the world's poorest countries. **The scale and complexity of humanitarian needs and protection concerns in the DRC are staggering, with nearly 20 million people in need of assistance.** Investment in integrated services for young people can meet these enormous needs head on.

JOIN US AND MAKE A DEEP IMPACT

The JIM's impact is driven by four core approaches: Scale, Integrate, Adapt, and Innovate. Grounded in these four approaches, UNICEF's team in the DRC is poised to make deep impact thanks to the JIM. In the years ahead, 90% of births will be attended to by a skilled health attendant. Leveraging available innovations, the UNICEF team aspires to register the births of over 19,000 children. Join the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and UNICEF to fund the JIM, and your gift will have triple the impact. Together we can rebuild and achieve the SDGs.

THE JIM IN ACTION

- **SCALE:** With the JIM grant, UNICEF DRC believes it can accelerate progress on SDGs related to neonatal and under-5 mortality rates. The current neonatal mortality rate (27 deaths per thousand live births) is a far cry from the target of no more than 12 deaths per thousand live births. The JIM can help UNICEF reach that goal.
- **INTEGRATE:** UNICEF will leverage its Child Friendly Communities framework to deliver integrated services that best support child development. This approach coordinates health, WASH, protection, and nutrition services while encouraging greater accountability and ownership from local governments and communities.
- **ADAPT:** In the face of COVID-19, the UNICEF DRC team knew they needed to deepen their community involvement. Through ramped-up household visits and increased investments in areas like psychosocial support, the UNICEF team has been able to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic on children.
- **INNOVATE:** To ensure the integrated services approach for Child Friendly Communities succeeds, UNICEF is collaborating with national and local governments to increase the use of electronic registries. These tools can prove essential in tracking what services community members have received and where gaps exist.

If you can help ensure this vital project succeeds, please contact Kelly Procida at kprocida@unicefusa.org.

AT THE HEART OF A CHILD-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

In the urban-rural health area of N'sele, hundreds of community outreach workers have been mobilized to help improve the health of children and pregnant women.

By John Ngombua (translated from French by Holly-Anne Whyte)

Marie-Thérèse, a community outreach worker, has been visiting Micheline regularly for several months. "Thanks to Marie-Thérèse I know I'm four months pregnant and I'm going to antenatal consultations," says Micheline, who is on her third pregnancy.

Aged 20, Micheline has already been through a terrible ordeal. "I lost a child," she explains. Micheline was not monitored during her first pregnancy and gave birth to a premature baby who died soon after. A few months later, she became pregnant again and gave birth to a healthy baby girl thanks to Marie-Thérèse's advice.

Micheline and Marie-Thérèse live on the outskirts of the city of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. As part of the "Child Friendly Community" initiative set up by UNICEF, with the support of the JIM, 1,571 community outreach workers carry out home visits to 350 families identified in the area. "Our role is to count the number of children and to identify

those who are disabled or malnourished. We also encourage parents to register children aged 0 to 5 years at the registry office and provide guidance to pregnant women," says Marie-Thérèse.

Marie-Thérèse visits Micheline regularly to monitor her pregnancy and to make sure that her daughter Keren, aged 11 months, is in good health. "It was at Marie-Thérèse's insistence that my little girl had all her vaccinations," says Micheline, who also registered her daughter's birth with the civil registry office. To make registration easier, subsidiary registry offices have been built in the area.

Through the "Child Friendly Community" initiative, children also attend preschool consultations and receive essential medicines from health centers in the area. The community outreach workers are trained and equipped to provide life-saving support to children and pregnant women.

