UNICEF Annual Report 2016

Algeria

Executive Summary

Algeria adopted a new constitution in March 2016. This allowed the country to make important strides in the human rights agenda. Indeed, the Constitution integrates the notions of human rights and individual and collective liberties. It reaffirms the principle of equality in rights between men and women and calls for strengthening the political participation of women; it also calls for reducing inequities. The rights of children are protected by the family, society and the state, which also ensures the provision of care for abandoned children. Violence against children is punished by law.

The regional context remained somewhat difficult and was marked by instability in at least two neighbouring countries (Libya and Mali) and continuation of terrorist activity by groups such as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Mayhreb (AQMI) and the Islamist State (IS) and the potential spill over of threats to Algeria. The socio-political situation remained stable, with the ruling party maintaining a firm and able hand on the country’s affairs and the opposition enjoying the freedom of expressing open criticism.

Economically the situation was more difficult as the country continued to suffer a reduction of income generated by the oil sector due to the up to 65 per cent decrease of oil prices in two years. The reserves held by the country up to 2014 were eroded by two years of falling oil export incomes, with virtually no other sector able to compensate the loss. The State Budget for 2017 features important cuts in resources allocated to the social Ministries. Calls to rationalize public expenditures were often heard. The risks that this situation exacerbates social tensions are limited. The potential impact on children of the cuts is yet to be evaluated.

In June 2016, a former child magistrate was appointed as the Child Rights Delegate (Ombudsman for Children) to whom child rights violations, under the 2015 child protection law, will be reported. The visit in 2015 by the special rapporteur on the ‘right to education’ was followed in 2016 by the visit of the rapporteurs on the ‘right to health’. These visits are opportunities to highlight achievements and shortfalls in these sectors.

For UNICEF Algeria, 2016 was a transition year to a new country programme marking concerted efforts to design a more integrated programme with fewer but stronger results and a focus on equity and evidence-based programming and advocacy.

The progress made towards the adoption of a national ECD policy was noteworthy. An intersectoral process led by the Ministry of Education involving four other Ministries and technical support by UNICEF allowed for a review of services benefiting young children from neo-natal care to preschool education. Scenarios for evolution of these services were developed and their cost estimated. They will soon be discussed at an inter-ministerial meeting to adopt an optimal scenario for Algeria. This will significantly contribute to improving the level of coverage of all services for children particularly health and preschool.

Investment made in knowledge generation and evidence-based programming continued with, four studies: N-MODA with its equity focus on deprivations affecting vulnerable children; an analytical review of social budget allocated to child protection programmes; a
study on migrant children; and children with disabilities’ access to social services. The four studies brought a wealth of information to guide policy formulation in these fields.

Support to Sahrawi refugee children increased in 2016 both in education and in health. Twenty school facilities affected by floods were rehabilitated or rebuilt; students’ kits were provided to 32,500 children; and vaccines were purchased for 11 antigens to cover 22,000 children.

The end violence campaign was re-launched, supported by many governmental, non-governmental and private sector actors, and a helpline was established by the police department. UNICEF’s 70th anniversary was celebrated with a rich programme involving government partners, civil society organizations (CSOs), UN and diplomatic community, artists, Goodwill Ambassadors and children. The celebration received wide media coverage. It illustrated the strength and variety of partnerships UNICEF has developed in Algeria and that it continues to develop, particularly with national NGOs, including leading NGO coalitions actively advocating for child rights.

Shortfalls have been noted, including the late signature of the plans of action, often due to the restructuring undergone by two key Ministries along with the inevitable difficulties arising for any initiative of an intersectoral nature. Internally, UNICEF Algeria faced some difficulties in filling three vacant national officer positions. New solutions are being tested.

**Humanitarian Assistance**

To respond to the emergency situation created by the floods that hit the Sahrawi refugee camps in Tindouf in October 2015, UNICEF Algeria took the lead of the education sector group, which was co-led by UNHCR, to ensure proper coordination with the Sahrawi Education Authorities and other actors involved in education. UNICEF Algeria contributed to the emergency response through the rehabilitation and re-construction of 15 schools and kindergartens to ensure a safer and more secure learning environment. This benefited 7,056 children (55 per cent girls) representing 17.5 per cent of the total number of children enrolled in preschool, primary and lower secondary education in the five refugee camps. In implementing the rehabilitation and building activities, UNICEF Algeria, the Sahrawi Ministries of Education and of Construction and UNICEF implementing partner NGOs applied the ‘Building Back Better’ principle to ensure secure and sustainable facilities in schools and kindergartens.

The works implemented gave priority to three refugee camps: Dakhla, Smara and Laayoun. One new school and two new kindergartens were built and fully equipped and six schools and six kindergartens were rehabilitated. The new facilities built offer a safe, protective and attractive environment for children, with walls painted in light and joyful colours contrasting with those traditionally used in these facilities.

In August 2016, the camp of Laayoun and the region around it experienced another episode of heavy rains and strong storms that severely damaged the education infrastructure, putting more than 8,109 children and adolescents at risk of not being able to go back to school. UNICEF Algeria rapidly conducted work aimed at consolidating five damaged buildings and provided four school-tents to serve as temporary learning spaces. The intervention was completed two days before the date set for schools to re-open for the new school year.

In parallel, to ensure that each student had his/her own educational supplies and learning material, 32,500 student kits were procured and distributed, covering 70 per cent of the needs.
In late 2016, UNICEF supported a capacity development plan designed to benefit Sahrawi supervisors, teachers and school headmasters.

To strengthen the quality of its support to the Sahrawi Health Authorities, UNICEF Algeria deployed a health in emergencies specialist for a six-month period to provide daily guidance and advice to health officials and workers on health-related issues, particularly those in which UNICEF is involved, for instance vaccination and mother and child health.

In 2016, as part of the response to the flood related emergency, UNICEF conducted the rehabilitation of three health facilities in the camp of Dakhla damaged by the floods. This supported renewed access to primary health care for more than 10,000 children and women. UNICEF Algeria also provided technical support to Sahrawi health authorities for the adoption and application of a new calendar for vaccination in line with international standards and similar to the new calendar for vaccination applied in Algeria. A staff capacity building programme was implemented to ensure the training of 60 vaccination staff on the new vaccination calendar, on cold chain maintenance and on interpersonal communication skills. UNICEF Algeria also provided nine vaccines in line with the new vaccination calendar covering more than 22,000 under 5 children and strengthened the cold chain by installing shading over the cold room and providing cold chain trainings.

To improve family practices in maternal and child health, including vaccination, a communication for behaviour change campaign was implemented using the image-box designed for Algeria and adapted to the Sahrawi cultural context in terms of messages and illustrations.

UNICEF Algeria contracted the INGO ‘Disability International’ (DI) to carry out a survey covering 270 children with special needs, with the aim of analysing facilitators and bottlenecks for children's access to services. UNICEF and DI worked to promote inclusive education for children with specific needs through building capacity of 20 teachers working in 9 specialized centres.

Youth empowerment was also one of the priorities addressed in 2016 through supporting a group of 11 young people (7 female) ages 18 to 35 to initiate innovative income generating projects in refugee camps. UNICEF Algeria focused on coaching and capacity building of the youth involved by providing trainings in project management.

**Emerging Areas of Importance**

**Refugee and migrant children.** Together with UNHCR and WFP, UNICEF was involved in the response to the Sahrawi refugee crisis since 1986, when Algeria requested support of UN and humanitarian community.

In 2016, in education, UNICEF supported the reconstruction of one school and rehabilitation of 15 schools or kindergartens (KGs) damaged by the October 2015 floods which affected 57 educational facilities in the 5 refugee camps in the Southwestern province of Tindouf. In August 2016, new floods affected one camp and damaged 6 schools and 5 KGs, UNICEF rehabilitated them shortly before the new school year began. UNICEF also activated the sector coordination mechanism involving Sahrawi authorities, UNHCR and INGOs involved in education. UNICEF supported provision of vaccines to the Sahrawi immunization programme covering needs of 28,000 under 5 children. UNICEF also trained 66 health professionals on new vaccination calendar and on inter-personal communication skills.

As Algeria is both a transit and a destination country for migrants from sub-Saharan Africa, UNICEF Algeria agreed with the Ministry of Solidarity and French NGO "Medecins du Monde" to conduct a study on migrant children to assess their living conditions and access
to social services. The study showed how precarious the situation was, with 68 per cent of the population living as illegal migrants, 27 per cent living in houses not connected to the water network and more than 51 percent with no access to sanitation; 61 per cent of migrant children ages 6 years or more hade never been to school; 92 per cent of migrant children were fully vaccinated but the rate was only 40 per cent in the Eastern Province of Annaba. One-third of migrant children did not have a birth certificate and 18 per cent had been exposed to violence. The study results and recommendations will be the basis for enhanced advocacy and response.

**Greater focus on the second decade of life.** The Algeria Country Programme for 2016-2020 partially redirects priorities towards children during the second decade of life to ensure that their specific needs are addressed and their rights fulfilled. This was structured in three programme sub-components. The first addresses the issue of out of school children and adolescents who have dropped out (rates estimated at 3 and 5 per cent, respectively, in primary and lower secondary school). In absolute numbers, nearly 700,000 adolescents ages 10 to 18 were out of school. Consequently, dropout prevention and potential reintegration of dropout children was one of the key priorities of the cooperation with the MoE. The second focus was on life skills education for children, adolescents and youth through formal and non-formal education. The third aimed to ensure protection of children from violence and exploitation and to strengthen the juvenile justice system.

A new child protection law was issued in July 2015. UNICEF supported the Ministries of Solidarity and of Justice to operationalize the law by equipping professionals working with children in contact with the law with capacities and working tools. UNICEF Algeria took part in the global initiative – Adolescent Country Tracker (ACT) - to develop a set of adolescent-focused indicators for five different domains.

**Accelerate integrated early childhood development (ECD).** The objective of this component of work is the design and adoption of a new national ECD policy. This process, led by the MoE, was initiated in 2015. The first phase, which is now nearly finalized, consisted in developing a framework document which consolidated all social services for young children (0 to 6 years) including preschool education managed either by the MoE or by the Ministry of Religious Affairs; health care services for young children and their mothers, managed by the Ministry of Health; and child protection services, managed by the Ministry of Solidarity and including foster care, services for children with disabilities, and social protection services for single or vulnerable mothers. This framework document was produced by a technical task team representing all partner Ministries, with technical assistance from UNICEF. The documents take stocks of the situation of all ECD services and analyses coverage, effectiveness and efficiency. A simulation model was developed and eight different costed scenarios were proposed outlining various development patterns and policy options for scale up/generalization of these services by 2025. The scenarios under review by sectoral Ministries will be discussed at an inter-ministerial meeting in early 2017 to decide on an optimal scenario for Algeria and inform the National ECD Policy. Phase two will look at opportunities for ensuring integration and greater synergies between ECD services.

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACO</td>
<td>Algeria Country Office (UNICEF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>Adolescent Country Tracker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCG</td>
<td>Bilié de Calmette et Guérin vaccine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4D</td>
<td>Communication For Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CISP</td>
<td>Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNICEF Algeria further developed capacity for communication for development (C4D), with progress made against benchmarks as a proxy for quality of implementation. A C4D strategy exists with a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan but no budget. At national level, C4D coordination existed for maternal, newborn and child health.

The MNCH C4D strategy was informed by a knowledge, attitudes and practice (KAP) study on breastfeeding conducted in 2010. C4D capacity development and engagement platforms focused on midwives and female religious predators, including those working with refugees and with a focus on the most marginalized. Algeria’s experience was reported as best practice in a UNICEF report on 'Partnering with Religious Communities for Children'.

UNICEF Algeria supported increasing demand and deepening families' knowledge on good practices for quality maternal and perinatal health.

The capacity of 150 school inspectors was enhanced around a new competency based approach to teaching methodology. A tool box for teachers was produced. An analysis of resources allocated to child protection revealed a clear unbalance between resources allocated for investment and those for recurrent expenditures. This informed a policy dialogue on financing system strengthening. A guidebook provided to social workers will improve the quality of their support and guidance to children in contact with the law.

UNICEF supported implementation of a survey on social and institutional needs, barriers and facilitators of access to services of children with disabilities in Sahrawi camps. The study informed a capacity development programme for educators working in nine specialized centres.

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

To further strengthen the child protection system, an analysis of the budget allocated to child protection programmes of the Ministry of Solidarity was conducted and debated among practitioners and decision-makers. This Ministry is responsible for the largest share of child protection programmes. UNICEF proposed the conceptual framework, trained the researchers and provided guidance on producing child-focused and policy-oriented analysis. The country programme budget analysis proposed a 'new approach of child-friendly budgeting' aimed at contributing to policy dialogue around child-sensitive public finance. The ambition of the Ministry is to promote the use of a common budgetary framework for children as a follow-up to the relevant recommendation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
UNICEF allied with the national child rights network 'NADA', which gathered 150 NGOs around a policy advocacy forum towards the implementation of the new Child Protection Act through accelerating the publication of the operational guidelines. UNICEF also supported high visibility events organized by NGOs to promote the rights of children born out of wedlock and allocate more resources to this sector.

Under the social inclusion programme and as a first step to mainstream equity analysis at policy level, the National Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (N-MODA) of children and youth was conducted through a participatory process led by the National Economic and Social Council (CNES) involving its technical officials and the members of the ‘equity cell’. The analysis produced novel data on multidimensional deprivation and poverty of children. UNICEF, in partnership with the Economic Policy Research Institute, provided expertise to develop the methodological approach and to validate the key steps of the project, including the national report. In its advisory role to the Government, the CNES intends to propose policy options based on the N-MODA findings to achieve more equitable results for children and youth.

**External Communication and Public Advocacy**

UNICEF Algeria developed a communications and public advocacy strategy focusing on promotion of child rights, ECD, equity and poverty reduction and prevention of violence against children.

As result of UNICEF efforts to mobilize partners around the child online protection campaign, nine institutional partners, two national NGOs, eight media and the main mobile telephone provider were engaged. The campaign also engaged 150 youth. A large part of the population was sensitized thanks to the airing of TV and radio spots via four TV channels and the National radio. The child online protection TV spot was seen 144,000 times on social media. Campaign messages were sent by SMS to 15 million subscribers to Mobilis, the main mobile phone company.

UNICEF national Goodwill ambassadors played a key role in the implementation of the public advocacy strategy through their involvement in celebrations such as International Children’s Day, UNICEF@70, and the child online protection campaign, which was particularly appreciated by youth and children. Nearly 19,000 children and parents were informed on child right through flyers and copies of a child-friendly Convention on the Rights of the Child.

UNICEF participated in events, such as the celebration of the National Children’s Day where more than 450 children and parents received Information on child rights and on ways to prevent violence. UNICEF’s presence at the Algiers international book fair allowed for exchanges with hundreds of children on their rights.

UNICEF activities generated extensive media coverage on the rights of children (604 press articles including 43.55 per cent on UNICEF Algeria). The digital strategy and the continuous use of the Facebook page, which had 7,500 fans, resulted in a social media engagement score of 6.50, with a total of 265,951 people reached in 2016. The number of unique visitors to the website was 9,242, with more than 23,000 sessions and 23 per cent returning visitors.

**South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation**

Jointly with the Mexican embassy in Algeria, UNICEF Algeria facilitated exchanges in 2016 between the parties involved in the implementation of the triangular Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2015 between the CNES in Algeria, the Mexican Council for Social
Development Policies Evaluation (CONEVAL) and UNICEF around policy evaluation and multidimensional poverty. An experts’ mission from CONEVAL is planned to facilitate a workshop in Algeria on institutionalizing equity-focused evaluation practice and using multidimensional poverty analysis to inform policies. In consultation with partners, UNICEF developed the conceptual framework of the workshop and supported all preparatory work for this activity, which is planned for early 2017. UNICEF also supported the MODA analysis, which was among the contributions of the Algerian institutions to inform this workshop.

In 2016, as a new step in the dialogue and exchanges engaged since 2013 between experts from Algeria and Brazil, an Algerian delegation including officials from the Ministry of Finance, the CNES and UNICEF participated in the international seminar on social development organized by the Brazilian Government. The delegation met bilaterally with the Brazilian social protection experts from the Institute for Applied Economic Research, and the International Policy Centre under the leadership of the Agency for Brazilian Cooperation.

The Algerian embassy in Brazil and UNICEF Brazil also attended the meeting, which was an opportunity to discuss key challenges and perspectives in the social protection field in the two countries and to share initial thoughts about a possible bilateral cooperation in the area of social protection supported by UNICEF.

UNICEF Algeria also facilitated the participation of officials from the Ministries of Education and of Religious Affairs in a workshop jointly organized by UNICEF Cote d’Ivoire and the Ministry of Education to discuss the results of the young child competency assessment implemented in the context of the National ECD policy of the Cote d’Ivoire.

**Identification Promotion of Innovation**

Access to new information technology opened another window for innovation, enabling young people to convert ideas into concrete innovative projects that help them develop their potential, serve their communities and prepare for their future life as active and productive citizens.

In the framework of a partnership between UNICEF Algeria and the Higher Institute for Computer Sciences, an 'Innovation Lab' was set up. Several projects were initiated and developed by undergraduate students from the Institute, guided by their teachers. These included SoMap, a digital geographical mapping of social service facilities in different areas of the country; a web portal including interactive web-videos in the spirit of the Child online protection project intended to protect children from the dangers of the Internet, particularly cyber-criminality; a game-like mobile application intended for students to facilitate their understanding/learning of chemistry; and Hills UNS, a software which allows children with physical disabilities to switch on/off the light. These projects are being technically upgraded and will likely be picked up for wider use by national institutions in 2017. The two first projects are the most advanced and present the greatest potential. They both represent the digital continuation of other UNICEF initiatives with the Ministry of National Solidarity.

The perspectives of this partnership are quite promising and will lead to greater integration of this operational training model in the academic study path of students; more optimal use of the equipment through open use by students and teachers, and cooperation between the 'Innovation Lab' created in the framework of this partnership and the more professional research lab of the institute staffed by researchers and PhD students.

**Support to Integration and cross-sectoral linkages**

The initiative that best illustrates UNICEF Algeria’s commitment to inter-sectoral and integrated programming approaches was the ECD Project by which a multi-sectoral
partnership led by the MoE and involving the Ministries of National Solidarity, Health and Religious Affairs was initiated and supported by UNICEF. The partnership aimed to develop a National ECD policy for Algeria. The Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Vocational Training also were associated with the project for the aspects of ECD relevant to their work.

The project led to the development of a framework document consolidating all social services targeting children under 6 years, including prenatal, postnatal and health care services for children and pregnant women; preschool services organized in primary or in Koranic schools managed respectively by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Religious affairs; and child protection services managed by the Ministry of Solidarity including foster care, services for children with disabilities, social protection services for single or vulnerable mothers. A simulation model allowed the preparation of eight scenarios corresponding to various development patterns and policy options for scale up/generalization of these services by 2025. An inter-ministerial meeting will agree on a scenario considered optimal for Algeria and embodying the country’s aspirations for the rights and well-being of its younger generation.

Intersectoral cooperation was also at the heart of the life skills and citizenship education (LSCE) programmes, which will directly contribute the Ministries of Education, Youth and Sports and Vocational Training. A mapping of current LSCE practices in Algeria supported by UNICEF will lead to the joint elaboration of a common LSCE curriculum and of a set of training modules for the different profiles of trainers from the partner Ministries, who will then adapt them to their own education and training programmes with children and youth.

**Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation**

The adoption of a new Constitution in March 2016 allowed Algeria to make important strides in the national human rights agenda. The Constitution clearly integrates the notions of human rights and of strengthening individual and collective liberties. It also reaffirms the principle of equality in rights between men and women and calls for strengthening women’s political participation and their access to higher responsibilities in public administration and in the socioeconomic sphere. The constitution calls for the reduction of social inequities and for the protection of abandoned and of disabled children and of elderly people living in poverty.

In July 2015, Algeria promulgated a much-awaited new child protection law, which instituted the position of the Child Rights Delegate. In June 2016, a former child magistrate was appointed to that position. UNICEF was a strong advocate for this law and provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Solidarity to help operationalize the child protection law through capacity building of social educators working with children at-risk or in contact with the law. A manual is also being developed not only for social workers but also for police officers dealing with child offenders. Negotiations are underway with the Ministry of Justice to initiate a training programme for child magistrates.

UNICEF also actively supported government and NGO efforts to promote child and women’s rights, including through social communication and mobilization campaigns on ending violence against children and women, on child online protection and on the recent launch of a helpline regarding child kidnapping.

The new Algeria Country Programme for 2016-2020 is equity focused and gives priority to addressing the issue of out of school children and adolescents, promoting the inclusion of children with disabilities, designing a national early childhood development policy and strengthening equity focused social protection programmes. Studies on migrant children and on children with special needs were implemented in 2015/2016 in addition to a MODA study.

**Gender Equality**
The most significant progress in terms of gender equality in Algeria was the new Constitution adopted in 2016, which strongly reasserts the principle of equality between women and men and calls for strengthening women’s political participation. Over time, the country has made great strides in reducing gender inequality and in promoting women’s empowerment. One illustration is the fact that gender parity was fully reached in preschool and primary education; in secondary schools and universities, males are largely outnumbered by females. The dropout rate in primary school is twice as high for boys, and in lower secondary school, the repetition rate is 75 per cent higher for males than for females. Out of 100 students starting 1st grade lower secondary education, only 10 girls will not finish the cycle, while 30 boys will drop out. The gender gap in favour of females is becoming a matter of real concern in the country. Its profound causes and its implications for society over the long run will need to be analysed.

The issue of child marriage is much less relevant in Algeria, where only 3 per cent of girls ages 15 to 19 are married. The comparison between age groups shows a significant decrease in child marriage over time (17 per cent of women ages 45 to 49 were married before the age of 18, vs. 2.6 per cent of women ages 20 to 29). UNICEF addressed the issue through advocacy, particularly during visits to areas relatively more affected by the issue (South and Western and Central Highlands).

The UNICEF Sahrawi refugee programme does not include a component on SGBV as among these populations SGBV cases are very rare.

Gender equality is mainstreamed in the UNICEF Algeria Programme, where many programme components include explicit or implicit gender dimensions. This is particularly the case in the Child development and Education programme, through focus on perinatal care and maternal mortality, on developing a national ECD policy and on life skills education; and in the Social Inclusion programme, which aims to improve social protection for vulnerable populations including women living in poverty and their children.

Environmental Sustainability

UNICEF Algeria was actively engaged in promoting environmental sustainability. As part of its response to the extreme weather conditions that affected Sahrawi refugee children and their families living in camps in Tindouf in October 2015 and again August 2016, UNICEF Algeria and its NGO partners, CISP and Triangle, participated in the rehabilitation of social infrastructure, including 15 schools and kindergartens, a ‘build-back better’ approach aimed at making buildings more resistant to changing climate conditions. As chair the emergency education coordination inter-agency group in Tindouf, UNICEF Algeria spearheaded a contingency planning effort aimed at enhancing Saharawi refugees’ preparedness for such hazards.

In its efforts to progressively “green” its office in Algiers, UNICEF Algeria took a number of concrete measures intended to reduce its environmental footprint, as well as save costs and gain efficiency. The office switched from traditional light bulbs to LEDS, which should substantially reduce electrical consumption and CO2 emissions. To replace the use of disposable plastic bottles for drinking, the office procured water dispensers and a refillable filtration unit. The office is systematically recycling its obsolete IT devices through a specialized NGO. Reorganized management of office car transport resulted in a reduction of fuel consumption and a reduction of fuel cost by 19.3 per cent. The office also replaced a 2006 diesel four-wheel drive vehicle with a new and less polluting vehicle. These two measures have resulted in reductions in CO2 emissions.
Effective Leadership

In 2016, UNICEF Algeria took concrete measures to strengthen its governance with the objective to improve management effectiveness, team cohesion and staff accountability. To achieve better delivery of key office functions, membership of statutory committees was revised, the country management team (CMT) was expanded to become more inclusive, and office regular meetings were synchronized. This effort involved the systematic promotion of information sharing and learning through regular collective sessions. Telecom links were also used to more consistently engage team members operating in Tindouf.

Building on efforts conducted in 2015 to improve team and partners’ knowledge of systems to enhance delivering for results, CMT closely monitored partnership cooperation agreements, including planned financial and programme quality assurance activities. A monitoring system for delivery of humanitarian supplies was also enhanced.

UNICEF Algeria actively participated in the corporate effort streamlining management procedures and processes for enhanced effectiveness and efficiency, including through shifting finance and HR transactions to the Budapest-based Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC). The Operations Officer participated in a session on simplification of processes, and most envisaged measures were endorsed for implementation after review by the CMT.

To activate risk management, the UNICEF Algeria team formulated its management priorities for the year based upon an update of its self-assessment of risks. The exercise was repeated a second time later in the year, highlighting risks that will continue to call for action in the future, such as strengthening team practice and knowledge of results based management and securing sufficient funding. Dedicated sessions were organized with staff to promote knowledge and understanding of ethical behaviours. An ethics dialogue facilitator was trained who will push this practice further.

In 2016, the UNICEF Algeria team updated its plans for business continuity and emergency preparedness and response. The team also participated in a simulation exercise organized by the UN System in the country.

Financial Resources Management

Manager’s dashboard alerts, budget implementation status, and monitoring of Programme Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) and Direct Cash Transfers (DCTs) were standing CMT agenda items and were thoroughly reviewed to ensure ongoing monitoring of programme implementation and proper management of financial resources. CMT took steps to address detected weaknesses and dealt with them promptly.

UNICEF Algeria addressed and closed 89 per cent of audit recommendations within 9 months and 100 per cent within one year. Work processes were reviewed with staff and revised to streamline them further to ensure adherence to standards and improve efficiency and performance. Operations continued to aim for effectiveness and efficiency in providing support to programme delivery by ensuring that human, financial and physical resources were used to achieve programme objectives in the most appropriate, timely and cost effective manner.

As of mid-December, UNICEF Algeria used 100 per cent of its institutional budget and of allocated regular resources, and 100 per cent of other resources (OR) and other resources – emergency (ORE) within the planned period of validity of funds. DCTs were rigorously managed by sections, with close monitoring during programme and CMT meetings. No outstanding DCT of more than 6 months was registered throughout the year.
Bank account reconciliations were done within set deadlines, with no errors. In September GSSC assumed responsibility for this procedure. Since then, all documents sent to GSSC were complete and processed with neither errors nor returns.

From the transition to GSCC on 19 September to 30 November, UNICEF Algeria submitted 70 requests for payment. None were rejected, demonstrating full compliance with standard operating procedures.

Year-end closure activities were systematically completed within set timelines.

The US dollar bank account was closed in January 2016 as part of the Division of Financial and Administrative Management’s (DFAM) bank rationalization project. The account was re-opened in November because of constraints faced with exchange rate fluctuations and payment of daily subsistence allowances to staff and partners.

**Fundraising and Donor Relations**

In the first year of the new five year 2016-2020 programme cycle, UNICEF Algeria secured a total amount of US$ 1.4 million in ORR, which represents approximately 18 per cent of the total planned OR ceiling. Ninety-three per cent of this amount was from global thematic funds. These resources, in addition to the approximately US$ 1.2 million non-grant yearly allocation, represented a strong starting point from which to engage new partnerships with resource partners keen to collaborate on innovative approaches for results for children, working closely with Government and civil society actors.

Successful delivery of the Country Programme will require further diversification of funding sources supported by quality partnerships for results. Following efforts initiated in 2015, UNICEF Algeria continued engaging with potential donors through proactive communication and development of quality proposals. In the context of the high-middle income status of Algeria and its limited if not shirking ODA base and attractiveness to donors, UNICEF Algeria has not yet realized the potential of engaging more strongly with private sector.

Regarding the humanitarian programme for Sahrawi refugee children living in Tindouf, support from key donors, particularly Italian and US governments, continued providing UNICEF resources to provide essential support to Sahrawi children, mainly in health and education but also in child protection and youth empowerment.

In 2016, the humanitarian situation in refugee camps remained fragile, with recurring floods and extreme weather conditions, as well as a reduced volume of aid. Mindful of the risks for children, UNICEF Algeria enlisted in the inter-agency communication effort and in interagency appeal for 2016-2017. To date, UNICEF Algeria has secured a total of US$ 2.4 million out of a total US$4.8 million appeal, leaving a 50 per cent funding gap yet to be filled.

**Evaluation and Research**

Following the 2014-2015 audit recommendations, UNICEF Algeria established a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) position to fully take leadership of the M&E function, which previously was performed by the social policy specialist. UNICEF proactively approached academia and research hubs to identify a set of potential suitable candidates for this position as a prerequisite to the formal recruitment process. To date the recruitment process has not been successful. Among others, meetings were held with the general director of the high national school of statistic and applied economy (ENSSEA) and the director of the research centre for applied economy to development (CREAD) to share UNICEF concerns around the expertise needed in monitoring and evaluation and ask their assistance in finding the suitable candidates in their networks.
2016 was the first year of the new country programme 2016-2020 and it was crucial to establish a programme monitoring system able to contribute to ‘reporting on results for children’ for the whole cycle. A five-year integrated monitoring and evaluation plan (IMEP) was prepared as part of the new country programme document. The 2016 IMEP was developed using an assessment checklist, discussed and approved by the country management review.

An evaluation was undertaken on a health supported project towards Sahrawi children and women in the refugee camps of Tindouf, Algeria. The findings and the recommendations were discussed at the CMT and a management response plan was prepared and uploaded to the UNICEF online management response tracking system. One of the recommendations of the evaluation was fulfilled with the deployment of an emergency health specialist to support the UNICEF health programme in the refugee camps. The implementation of the other recommendations in 2017 is pending the mobilization of sufficient funding; proposals have been prepared and submitted to donors for that purpose.

**Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings**

Cost savings were looked at carefully and every possible effort was made to optimize relevant non-staff costs of administration and finance. For more than five years, UNICEF has remained the leading UN agency with long term agreements (LTAs). Out of a total of 19 existing LTAs shared by UN agencies in Algeria, 15 LTAs were initially established by and continued to be renewed by UNICEF. In 2016 UNICEF maintained the same price levels as last year with the service providers for security, cleaning, and internet connection. These price levels have been unchanged since 2011. Since 2010 UNICEF has shared its premises with UNAIDS (cost sharing rate for rent and related expenses is 16.9 per cent). Fuel consumption for vehicles in Algiers was 19.30 per cent lower than in 2015. This was mainly due to that vehicles’ movements were planned more systematically and ad-hoc requests for transportation were avoided to the extent possible.

UNICEF converted office light sources to LEDs that will result in substantial cuts in electricity consumption. By December 2017, the office will be able to evaluate the impact of this measure in terms of cost savings.

UNICEF organized many training workshops in a public centre managed by the Ministry of Youth and Sports instead of in hotels; this resulted in an average cost reduction of 50 per cent per activity.

**Supply Management**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sections</th>
<th>PO Goods</th>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Freight</td>
<td>Goods</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>26,864</td>
<td>177,442</td>
<td>205,506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>346,078</td>
<td>28,721</td>
<td>378,299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency response in Tindouf</td>
<td>81,816</td>
<td>446,311</td>
<td>528,127</td>
<td>906,426</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The overall supply component of the country programme represents less than 30 per cent of total expenditures.

The above table reflects the nature of the partnership between the Algerian Government and UNICEF Algeria which clearly privileges the provision of technical expertise and capacity building support as the country is fully capable of covering hardware supplies and infrastructure. For the programme part, 90 per cent of the supply component are dedicated to institutional contracts.

In 2016, the total volume of procurement for programme and operations reached US$1,111,932, which represented an 18 per cent increase over 2015, with the latter figure not taking into account the procurement made for the response to the floods emergency in Tindouf.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Construction project</th>
<th>Total amount in US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schools, KGs and health centres rehabilitation in refugee camps in Tindouf damaged by the October 2015 floods.</td>
<td>1,091,603</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNICEF supply division approved the local procurement of vaccines for Sahrawi refugees in Tindouf given that the Pasteur Institute in Algeria offered to provide only WHO pre-qualified vaccines that are registered by the National Regulatory Authority, and there were no concerns regarding quality assurance. Given the limited funding available, UNICEF Algeria could only cover six months of vaccine needs for refugee children. UNICEF ordered US$253,000 worth of vaccines (BCG, Tetra-Hib, Polio, Hepatitis, and Pentavalent). UNICEF Algeria did not have a controlled warehouse; supplies were handed over to implementing partners upon reception of goods.

**Security for Staff and Premises**

UNICEF Algeria’s is 100 per cent MOSS compliant. No additional security work was conducted in 2016. To ensure security of staff, the warden system by agency was established and UNICEF identified four wardens (one international staff and three national staff). A communication tree was elaborated and tested. In May 2016, an inter-agency emergency simulation was conducted to test the capacity of agencies to deal with large-scale emergencies requiring a coordinated plan and response from the UN System in the country. Participants were asked to discuss the security protocol, roles and responsibilities. The business continuity plan was successfully tested.

Regular maintenance of security equipment was ensured. UNICEF Algeria signed a comprehensive extended maintenance contract for its X-Ray machine, which includes full coverage of all parts, remote assistance and annual on-site preventive maintenance visits. UNICEF Algeria maintained a standing level of readiness for emergency. The emergency communication system, radio communication, security information and structure, warden...
system, security management team meetings and security clearance procedure and emergency power supply were all in place.

Human Resources

UNICEF Algeria has struggled with recruitment to technical posts at NOC level since 2012 and in 2016 faced the same difficulties with NOB posts. To overcome this hurdle, UNICEF opted for outreach/head hunting to identify candidates, thus facilitating recruitment processes for the positions of ECD officer NOB, M&E officer NOB and child protection specialist NOC. In the interim and to ensure business continuity from a Human Resources perspective, the following measures were adopted by the CMT. The C4D Officer (NOA) was appointed on a special post allowance (SPA) to carry out the functions of the NOB ECD Officer until the vacant position was filled.

Technical capacity was augmented by shorter-term focused expertise provided through a mix of international/national consultant and temporary appointments (TAs). Contact was established with a network of university professors in different disciplines who could recommend outstanding PhD students for internships or employment at UNICEF. Civil society organizations were approached to attract new talent. Lectures were presented at universities on topics related to child rights.

UNICEF Algeria continued to encourage ongoing feedback and coaching processes where supervisors and supervisees had an active role in sustaining successful and constructive discussions. This was strengthened by coaching and training sessions conducted by the deputy representative and operations manager. An induction training at UNICEF’s Middle East and North Africa Regional Office (MENARO) was provided to the newly recruited admin/supply assistant to capture the most important aspects in procurement.

Close follow-up by Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) resulted successful implementation of the office improvement plan and allowed achievement of all the objectives set. UNICEF Algeria held three JCC meetings in 2016.

Flexible work arrangements and working from home requests were favourably considered wherever possible to improve staff well-being, morale and commitment, and to enhance the quality of work as well as overall productivity. Thirty-nine per cent of staff used flexible hours in 2016.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

The ICT Officer also performed finance functions. The ICT function was governed by the CMT, which ensured adequate ICT capacity resources and support services to promote and provide ICT solutions to facilitate and improve programme delivery through secured, reliable, efficient and cost-effective systems and solutions. ICT issues were formally addressed and discussed in CMT.

Algeria is part of the Maghreb Lightweight and Agile IT initiative (LIGHT) project that focuses on maximizing efficiency and effectiveness by reducing field office running costs and increasing workforce flexibility and mobility. This IT architectural model will not only significantly downsize the ICT infrastructure but also ease access to UNICEF IT systems and applications for users in the office. UNICEF cloud-based tools helped the office move smoothly to this model, using all the office automation tools provided. Outlook 2013 has allowed UNICEF staff to be connected to their emails inside and outside the office using their standard laptops or their own devices (Tablets and Smartphones). The local shared drive was replaced by OneDrive, giving users access to documents regardless of where they were located and the ability to share documents within UNICEF or externally. Skype for Business
was extensively used for calls and meetings within UNICEF.

UNICEF Algiers also implemented its own SharePoint team site for collaborating and co-authoring shared documents. All these tools improved the efficiency and effectiveness and guaranteed business continuity in case of emergency.

The reduction of UNICEF Algeria’s ICT footprint freed up the ICT Officer’s time to work with programme colleagues on different projects, such as the RapidPro platform for Education, and Youth and Child Online Protection.

**Programme Components from RAM**

**ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS**

**OUTCOME 1** Improved care and learning opportunities promoting the survival, development and inclusion of children, especially those living in regions with high inequalities

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Under this inter-sectoral programme, the process advanced such that by end of the first quarter of 2017, it should lead to the adoption of a national Early Childhood Development (ECD) policy. The ECD policy was the object of a two-year advocacy effort by UNICEF highlighting the need for Algeria to develop a unified and non-segmented vision of the development of its younger generation. This highly inter-sectoral process involved six Ministries and was led by the Ministry of Education (MoE) and supported by UNICEF. An inter-Ministerial technical task team was established and worked to develop a framework document that includes the most comprehensive analytical review ever undertaken of social services targeting young children, examining their coverage, effectiveness and efficiency.

These social services are under the tutelary of Ministry of Health (MoH) for all health and nutrition care services for pregnant women and children under the age of six; MoE for pre-primary education services for 5 year-olds; Ministry of Religious Affairs for preschool education for 3 to 5 year-olds organized in Koranic schools; and the Ministry of National Solidarity (MNS) for protection services targeting vulnerable young children and their mothers.

UNICEF technical assistance guided the whole process and proposed the simulation model with which eight scenarios were developed corresponding to alternative scale-up or generalization patterns for these services by 2025, with costing done for each. These scenarios were examined in terms of feasibility and implications and resulting conclusions and recommendations will be discussed at an inter-Ministerial meeting planned for February 2017 led by the Prime Minister. This meeting will decide on the scenario considered optimal for Algeria combining ambition, feasibility and affordability. This scenario will constitute the backbone of the National ECD policy, strategy and operational plan, which UNICEF will help formulate and which will give a strong impetus to the development of and access to services by young children over the next decade.

Infant mortality was significantly reduced and stands at 21 per 1,000 live births, with 70 per cent occurring during the first month, and most during the first week. Although the country has designed a national perinatal plan, the MoH wanted to tackle neonatal mortality more vigorously and called upon UNICEF to provide technical assistance to support this effort. The first initiative agreed upon was the creation of provincial neonatal care task forces involving gynaecologists, midwives and paediatricians who will be the driving force for all neonatal mortality reduction efforts in the province and the referent of the national working
They will also be the sounding board for national initiatives in this field as they are implemented in the respective provinces. One of these initiatives will be to scale-up the recourse to the innovative 'Kangaroo baby' approach as the standard care practice for premature newborns. It is hoped that through better coordinated efforts between national, provincial and local levels, the trend of the neonatal mortality rate will be significantly curbed down.

With UNICEF support; an IT and web-based electronic vaccination file was implemented which is a tool combining the recording and monitoring of the vaccination of individual children with the possibility to generate macro-level data to inform EPI planning and monitoring from estimating vaccine needs to calculating vaccination rates. UNICEF provided technical assistance, equipment for the pilot phase and training for relevant EPI personnel.

The Out-of-School Children Initiative, which, in addition to older children not in school, also looks at that proportion of children under 5 who are not benefitting from preschool education. The results of the out-of-school children study were presented and discussed at a restitution workshop chaired by the Education Minister. The workshop took stock of the major progress made by the country in education, including for preschool coverage, but stressed the social and political concern for those who do not complete compulsory education (many more boys than girls) and who find themselves lacking qualifications or life skills to facilitate their social integration.

UNICEF was a key actor in the debate on this issue and in the reflection and modelling of solutions for preventing dropout, improving the skills and employability of adolescents and young people and the life skills of all children, as well as improving the quality and performance of the educational system and developing opportunities for boosting access of young children to preschool and ECD services.

Unlike for health, where the Ministry works with three other agencies (WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS), in Education, UNICEF is the only UN partner supporting Algeria’s efforts. Some bilateral partners such as the French, Spanish, German and Japanese cooperation and the EU support education; however, they mostly work in higher education. One challenge that hindered greater progress was turnover of many key officials and counterparts. Inter-sectoral work was also challenging as the vertical/silo approach still prevailed. Educational reforms were highly visible and consequently exposed to criticism.

**OUTPUT 1** Children aged 0 to 5 years have better access to opportunities for care, survival, preschool learning and development.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In 2016, Algeria engaged a policy formulation process which should lead to the adoption by March 2017 of a national policy and strategy for early childhood development (ECD). This achievement promises to have a significant impact in terms of increased access of young children to quality social services and ensuring their rights to health, education and protection. This process, led by the Ministry of Education, was initiated in 2015. Its first phase, nearly finalized, consisted in developing a framework document which consolidates and analyses coverage, effectiveness and efficiency of all social services for young children (0 to 6 years), including preschool education for 3 to 5 year olds managed by the Ministry of Education and offered in preprimary classes or by the Ministry of Religious Affairs offered in Koranic schools. It also included mother and child health care services managed by the Ministry of Health, including prenatal care, delivery under medical supervision, post-natal and infant and child health care; and child protection services managed by the Ministry of Solidarity, including foster care, services for children with disabilities, social protection.
services for single or vulnerable mothers. This initiative was made possible by UNICEF advocacy and was supported by a high level ECD expert who guided the work of the multi-sectoral task team which elaborated the framework document.

A simulation model was developed and costed scenarios were proposed outlining various development patterns and policy options for scale up and generalization of these services by 2025. These scenarios, once reviewed by sectoral Ministries, will be discussed at an inter-Ministerial meeting chaired by the Prime Minister, who will decide on an optimal scenario for Algeria that will inform the National ECD Policy. This process required advocacy and coordination with six different Ministries.

Under the ECD umbrella, UNICEF supported sectoral interventions, the most important of which was the launching of an initiative to boost the implementation of the national perinatal health programme. This will improve operations and performance, which will lead to further reducing neonatal mortality, which accounts for 70 per cent of infant deaths. The initiative combines pragmatism and innovation: provincial neonatal task forces were set up to analyse and address bottlenecks in all maternity and neonatal wards in hospitals in line with relevant standards; on the other hand, the ‘kangaroo’ approach will be introduced as standard care practice for premature newborns. Collaboration with WHO on this undertaking is being discussed.

An innovative IT and web-based electronic vaccination file was developed which combines the recording and monitoring of the vaccination of individual children with the possibility to generate data to inform EPI planning and monitoring.

UNICEF also supported an initiative involving collaboration between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Religious Affairs aimed at mobilizing support to improve family health, nutrition and hygiene practices.

**OUTPUT 2** Vulnerable and excluded children aged 6 to 16 years have increased support in terms of access to education and to high quality learning and professional training opportunities; children are encouraged to continue with their schooling

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In the framework of the MENA Region OOSC initiative, the Algeria study's results were presented and discussed at a workshop supported by UNICEF in Adrar (Southern Highlands region). The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Education and was attended by 200 people, including MoE officials, parliamentarians, representatives of other Ministries and regional authorities, inspectors, headmasters, teachers, children and media. The regional OOSC initiative focused on children aged 5-14 years, but the study in Algeria covered the entire compulsory education age group (6-16). The workshop highlighted the country's achievements in education but also stressed the issue of out-of-school children and called for elaboration of a plan to prevent school dropout and for alternative schemes for continued training and social inclusion of drop-outs. With a net enrolment rate exceeding 98 per cent in primary education and nearly 95 per cent in lower secondary (MoE yearbook, 2016), Algeria stands out as one of the top performers in the region and a success story in terms of expanding access.

But there are still concerns about quality of education and of students' learning achievement and about school dropout. The MoE is committed to offer dropouts alternative learning opportunities and UNICEF Algeria plans to develop a pilot catch-up curriculum to ensure that over-age children can reintegrate the formal system and/or have access to vocational training opportunities offered by the Ministry of Vocational Training and Education.
The Ministry of Education efforts on the quality of education focus on implementing a national training strategy for the benefit of teachers, inspectors and school headmasters and on renewing educational curricula of the early grades of primary and lower secondary schools. In this context, starting 2014 and continuing into 2016, UNICEF provided technical and financial support to the MoE around a teacher-focused training programme on the basic competency approach to teaching and learning, which is considered to be an important lever for improving educational quality. In 2016, 150 school inspectors were trained on the ‘competency-based approach training package’ to upgrade and perfect their mastery of concepts and techniques of this approach. Additional resources were produced to guide supervisors and teachers in their work. They include a sample of lesson plans and exercises covering different grades and subjects and were built using the competency-based approach.

Following the regional consultation on life skills and citizenship education organized in Amman, the participating Ministries (Youth, Education, Vocational Training) committed to develop and implement a comprehensive life skills framework built around the 12 core skills identified as part of the regional Life Skills and Citizenship Education Initiative, to be later adapted to the needs of each Ministry. The first step will be to conduct a mapping and situation analysis of life skills education practices in Algeria. UNICEF Algeria is fully involved and supportive of this promising initiative.

One challenge that hindered greater progress was the turnover of many key officials and counterparts. Also, educational reforms are highly visible and consequently exposed to criticism.

OUTPUT 3 The Government has strengthened capacity to legislate, plan and budget, to improve the governance and quality of educational services on a national and local scale

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Algerian Government has invested in education in the past and continued to do so despite the increasing pressure on the budget due to the fall in oil prices. For example, lunch is provided daily to nearly four million children across the country and an equal number of children receive textbooks free of charge. The progress in educational access has been outstanding and the country proudly reported having reached MDG 2 pertaining to education, along with the educational targets of MDG 3 on gender equality, the enrolment rate of 98 per cent in primary school and nearly 95 per cent in lower secondary school, which equate to access of 8.5 million students enrolled in more than 25,800 schools (MoE yearbook, 2016).

The remaining challenges facing the educational system are the quality of learning achievements as evidenced by the poor ranking of Algeria in the 2015 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) study; and the persistence of school dropout, with more than 300,000 children and adolescents below 16 out of school. Despite the notable improvement of school-based management and performance, some issues persisted showing that there is still room for further improvement in terms of school governance and management. These issues included the continuation of violence in school, the insufficient integration of children with disabilities in ordinary schools, the still highly centralized nature of the system and limited culture of school based management, and the insufficient capacity of the system to collect reliable and timely data to guide decision-making.

The inclusion of an output dedicated specifically to the governance of the education system is a strong indication of the government’s desire to improve system’s governance and of UNICEF readiness to contribute to and support this effort. This will undoubtedly improve both the quality of education and the overall performance of the education system. The 2016-2017 rolling work plan for this project focuses on four elements: support to EMIS;
support to developing a system for assessing learners’ outcomes; a sensitization campaign on violence in school; and inclusive education. Progress has been limited, essentially because of the late signature of the work plan and of turnover of many counterparts, which resulted in long delays and limited capacity for follow up. The complex nature of some of these issues and possible insufficient buy-in also explain the limited progress. Initiatives were launched in the fourth quarter of 2016 pertaining to EMIS, inclusive education, evaluation of learning achievements and violence in school. Technical assistance was identified; this set the stage for an accelerated implementation of all these initiatives in early 2017. The Ministry of Education has been involved in the national violence against children campaign led by the Ministry of National Solidarity, including the child online protection component.

OUTCOME 2 Strengthened multisectoral prevention and management of cases of violence against girls and boys

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Efforts in 2016 focused on supporting the operationalization of the Child Protection (CP) Code adopted in 2015. One important provision of the code is the establishment of a new structure, namely the Child Protection and Promotion Delegate, reporting directly to the Prime Minister. A former renowned magistrate was appointed to this position in June 2016. Even though the executive decrees of the CP Code have not yet been published, the creation of this organ, the level at which it will operate and the role it will play bring a major change to the CP landscape. The other actors of the CP system who are still learning to work together will need to adapt to this new configuration. UNICEF was one of the strongest advocates for the adoption of the code and for the creation of the CP Delegate position and was called upon by the Ministry of National Solidarity to provide technical assistance to help design the protocols and working tools and reflect on capacity development programme for the various actors involved, namely, child magistrates, social workers, police officers and the gendarmerie.

To guide the system-in-the-making in Algeria, in addition to providing technical assistance, UNICEF organized a study tour to France for a delegation including representatives from the MNS, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior to allow them to familiarize themselves with the French experience and understand its architecture and its functioning. One of the members of the delegation was appointed three months later to the CP Delegate position. The Ministry of Justice requested UNICEF support for the training of child magistrates and the Office of the CP Delegate also approached UNICEF for assistance. The scope and modalities for this assistance are yet to be discussed and clarified.

In 2016 UNICEF Algeria gathered knowledge and generated evidence on several questions. A budget analysis was conducted of the resources allocated to CP programmes managed by the MNS in terms of volume, distribution and relative effectiveness. The study showed that the resources allocated to covering recurring cost are largely higher than those allocated to investment and that in the unit cost per child, the share of the indirect expenditures is nearly of 90 per cent. The framework document developed through the ECD component of the UNICEF programme on ‘Child Development and Education’ also conducted an analysis of the coverage, effectiveness and efficiency of all social services targeting the young child. This complemented the budget analysis of CP programmes.

A study was conducted on the access to services and the living conditions of migrant children in Algeria. Algeria has become a destination country (it has been a transit country in the past). This study was entrusted to the French NGO ‘Medecins du Monde’. The study showed the precariousness of the situation, with 68 per cent of the population living as illegal migrants, 27 per cent living in houses not connected to the water network, and more than 51
percent with no access to sanitation. The study showed that 61 per cent of migrant children aged 6 years or more have never been to school; 92 per cent of migrant children are fully vaccinated, but the rate is only 40 per cent in the Eastern Province of Annaba. One-third of migrant children do not have a birth certificate and 18 per cent have been exposed to violence.

A study was conducted on access to services of Sahrawi refugee children with special needs, implemented by the French NGO Disability International. This study informed a capacity development programme for 20 educators working in the nine specialized centres in the five camps.

A mapping was done of all social services throughout the country, not only the public ones managed by the MNS, but also those run by NGOs. The evidence generated through these studies will be critical to informing programmatic priorities in 2017 and beyond in a context marked by shrinking public resources due to decrease in oil revenues and by heated debates on migration policies.

The end#violence campaign implemented in 2015 was relaunched for a full month in November 2016. The child online protection project progressed, as evidenced in the report of the regional study on this question.

OUTPUT 1 The government has strengthened commitment and capacity to legislate, plan and budget to extend prevention and response interventions in the area of child protection.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Major progress was achieved toward improving provision of services dedicated to child protection (CP). The institutional and legislative framework was strengthened in favour of child rights. Starting in 2013, the mobilization of government and civil society to counter violence against children allowed for breaking the taboo around many questions and gave CP a prominent standing among the country's priorities. Thanks to its advocacy with government and NGOs, UNICEF played a crucial role in pushing the child rights and protection agenda forward in Algeria. To analyse whether the CP system is adequately resourced, UNICEF supported the MNS in conducting an analysis of the budget allocated to CP programmes by MNS, which is the Ministry responsible for most of them. UNICEF proposed the conceptual framework, trained the researchers and provided guidance on producing child-focused and policy-oriented analysis. The results and recommendations of this analysis were debated among practitioners and decision-makers from the Ministry; they will guide policy adjustments beneficial to the system.

UNICEF also allied with ‘NADA’, a national child rights network that assembled 150 NGOs around a policy advocacy forum on the new child protection code. They addressed the role that NGOs could play to support its dispositions, including alternatives to child detention. In the framework of the celebrations of International Child Day, UNICEF also supported high visibility events organized by NGOs at provincial level to promote the rights of children born out of wedlock to advocate for further improving the legal framework regarding this category of children and encouraging non-institution-based placement modalities.

The priority given to CP by Algeria was illustrated by the adoption in July 2015 of the child protection code, which was a significant much awaited breakthrough. UNICEF advocacy contributed largely to that accomplishment. The code emphasizes the principle of the ‘best interest of the child’; confirms the rights of children with disabilities; proposes concrete measures and dispositions for the ‘child in danger’ and for ‘children in contact with the law’. Two key provisions of the code are the creation of the institution of the Child Protection and Promotion Delegate, which resembles that of CP Ombudsperson in many countries; and the
adoption of a disposition making it compulsory to report situations where a child is in danger, with a categorization given. The MNS is responsible for establishing an inter-sectoral committee with representatives from all relevant Ministries. UNICEF supported the MNS with technical assistance to help guide the work of the committee and develop capacities and working tools to help operationalize the CP Act.

UNICEF supported MNS to undertake a study on migrant children’s living conditions and access to services. The study was entrusted to ‘Medecins du Monde’. The study conclusions and recommendations will inform advocacy and programming by IOM and UNICEF in cooperation with sectoral ministries and NGOs.

Two constraints to note were the highly-politicized debate about migrants and the non-publication of operational decrees of the CP Code, which slowed down progress.

**OUTPUT 2** There are improved standards for the management and quality of prevention and child protection services at national and local levels.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The single most important element significantly contributing to improving the quality of CP services through defining norms and setting standards was the adoption of the CP Code in July 2015. Indeed, by including the disposition making it compulsory for all citizens to report situations where a child is in danger, the code unleashed a dynamic by which all government institutions directly or indirectly dealing with the issue of the ‘child in danger’ or ‘in contact with the law’ work together to design protocols and operational modalities for this ‘reporting’ provision. UNICEF, through its cooperation with the MNS leading this inter-sectoral collaborative effort, supported the process through the provision of high level technical expertise to help put the process on the right track, including through capacity development of social workers, magistrates and police officers and production of working tools.

The establishment of the new structure of the Child Protection Delegate reporting directly to the Prime Minister enriched the CP landscape with an actor granted wide and high level prerogatives. The system needs to take this into account not only in terms of procedures but also in terms of accountabilities and reporting lines. The code opted to give a prominent role to social protection of the child in contact with the law. The provincial Departments of Open Social Work are bound to upgrade the coverage and quality of their work in collaboration with police and child magistrates, reporting to their own Ministry and to the CP Delegate. This new setup is challenging yet quite promising for better-performing CP and J4C systems. UNICEF will technically support both.

The MNS and UNICEF also cooperated on a project aimed at improving the functioning of foster care institutions dealing with children born out of wedlock or deprived of family care and protection. In partnership with a Swiss NGO identified by UNICEF, the standards for foster care were reviewed in light of the ‘Quality4Children’ model and will be implemented on a pilot basis in three provinces prior to the scale-up to other provinces. The modalities of Islamic law child adoption practice and of family placement will also be reviewed and upgraded by the MNS with UNICEF technical assistance.

Three studies were conducted to produce better analytical evidence to guide policy formulation. A study was conducted on the access to services of migrant children in Algeria (a country which has become both a transit and destination country for migrants from sub-Saharan Africa). A study was conducted on access to services of children with disabilities in Sahrawi refugee camps, implemented by Disability International in partnership with UNICEF. A mapping of social services available throughout the country was also conducted. The evidence generated by these studies will guide UNICEF advocacy and programming in
OUTPUT 3 Families and adolescents (both boys and girls) in the most affected regions are better equipped to participate, to protect themselves and to reduce harmful behaviours.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
One of the key highlights of the 2016 constitution is the emphasis it places on youth as a vital force for the country and the necessity for the State to create the conditions for developing the capacity of youth and for positively mobilizing and canalizing its energy.

Algeria has developed a national policy for youth and is working at implementing it in a progressive and orderly way. Cooperation between UNICEF and the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS) focused on promoting young people’s ‘Right to participation’. The 2016/2017 rolling work plan has five components: completion and digitalization of the mapping of youth centres and other services; development of a life skills and citizenship education framework; development in four pilot provinces of new model of SMART youth centres that embodies youth aspirations in line with international norms; capacity development for professionals working with youth from public institutions and civil society; and designing a communication strategy to counter harmful behaviours among youth. A long restructuring process of the Ministry led to late signature of the work plan (signed in November) and resulted in limited progress in implementation, except for four activities.

The mapping of youth centres and youth-related services initiated in 2015 made some progress in 2016, at least for the part pertaining to youth structures. To accelerate the process, a meeting will be called in early January 2017 by the MYS with officials representing other Ministries. A MYS representative attended the regional consultation on life skills education organized in Amman in November 2016. This gave a renewed impetus to the design process of the national framework for life skills education.

UNICEF secured the engagement of the MYS in support of the Child-online protection campaign, starting with a highly participatory rally jointly organized by the MYS and UNICEF and attended by a large group of young people to discuss the dangers of cyber criminality and Internet addiction. This meeting was facilitated by UNICEF Algeria Goodwill Ambassadors, who are leading sports figures with strong influence on youth. A young people’s group is now developing a video on this question that will be disseminated through social media.

In the framework of a partnership between UNICEF and the Higher Institute for Computer Science, the first ‘Innovation Lab’ in Algeria was launched where more than 50 students coached by professors from the Institute developed a range of website projects and digital applications, including a digital mapping of social services, a guide for children on the CRC, and many others. This project is innovative and illustrates the potential for young people to be ‘agents of change’.

UNICEF, UNFPA and UNAIDS are looking at ways of working together more in youth programming. Constraints in this field relate to the difficulty of overcoming stereotypes and traditional ways of working with youth, together with the complexity of inter-ministerial cooperation.

OUTCOME 3 An improved policy environment and social protection for disadvantaged and vulnerable children and adolescents, underpinned by knowledge and data with focus on equality.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
Algeria is highly dependent on oil revenues, which represented more than 93 per cent of the country's total exports in 2016. The forecasted fiscal revenues from oil represent 39 per cent of total State revenues for 2017. This makes Algeria vulnerable to external shocks on the global oil market. Since the collapse of the oil price in June 2014, Algeria adopted cautious and progressive measures to stabilize public spending without impacting social outcomes.

From 2014 to 2016, public spending indicators were almost not impacted by the effects of the crisis. Except for the progressive removal of subsidies in energy products, social spending remained stable. In light of the finance law of 2017, public spending is expected to decrease. Operating public spending for the social sectors of education, health and solidarity (social affairs) will decrease by 4 per cent. The equipment budget in education and vocational training, socio-cultural infrastructure, and housing will decrease by almost 40 per cent (Algeria Finance laws, 2016-2017).

Despite the current constrained context, Algeria achieved a high level of coverage of social services throughout the country thanks to large investments in social sectors sustained over decades. (This is, for example, illustrated by a 98 per cent enrolment rate in primary education and by a rate of 97 per cent of assisted deliveries). The most up-to-date poverty rate calculated on the basis of the national poverty line is estimated by the National Office of Statistics (NSO) at 5.5 per cent in 2011. The NSO states that inequalities in revenue decreased by almost 10 points over a decade (2000-2011).

Bottlenecks in terms of policy environment, geographical access in some areas and social norms could prevent the large social investment from translating into equitable access to social services for all. For instance, in policy development, social needs, including those of children, are predominantly addressed through a sectoral (silo) approach. This model doesn’t leave room for more integrated and synergetic approaches to analysing inequalities and developing equitable policies for children. The silo sectoral approach, in fact, becomes a barrier to a more effective targeting of children suffering from multiple deprivations and who therefore need coordinated and coherent intervention of multiple social sectors.

The creation and operationalization of the Equity Cell (EC), under the leadership of the National Economic and Social Council (CNES), is an attempt to address this challenge and to improve the policy environment for children. This measure is anchored to a pro-equity Constitution revised in 2016, explicitly highlighting ‘the promotion of social justice’ and the ‘reduction of regional development disparities’ as priorities for the State institutions. The equity cell (EC) is a multi-sectoral group composed of technical staff from the CNES, from social Ministries and from the Ministry of Finance, as well as from the National Office of Statistics and the National Research Centre on Applied Economy to Development. The EC is likely to be enlarged to include civil society and think tank members. The role of the EC is to produce knowledge and evidence on equity and propose to the Government strategic and practical options to promote and mainstream equity in public policies and programmes, including those related to children and youth. The CNES, constitutionalized in 2016, is the Government adviser on social and economic development. It is also accountable for the evaluation of public policies. It therefore constitutes the best institutional umbrella for such an equity body.

The creation of the EC is the result of sustained UNICEF advocacy efforts over several years around the importance of institutionalizing equity for children at policy level. Although its launch was announced by the President of the CNES late 2014, with a first meeting held late 2015, the EC became truly operational in 2016 thanks to technical assistance provided by UNICEF to develop the capacities of the members through the implementation of the National Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (N-MODA) programme starting in late
2015, with the results produced by the end of 2016. The plan is to expand the scope of work of the EC to other approaches and projects related to equity and poverty starting in 2017.

The EC is the strategic partner to stimulate the debate on equity-focused policies for children. An agreement was concluded between CNES and UNICEF to use the EC as the main channel and mechanism for the implementation of social inclusion related initiatives, including South-South cooperation with Mexico’s National Council for the Evaluation of Public Social Development Policies (CONEVAL) on evaluation and multidimensional child poverty. The objective is to empower the EC with analytical and strategic tools and methodologies to promote an institutionalized equity approach.

The EC is functioning at technical level, but has not yet been formalized through a decree or a legal text that would ensure its recognition at higher decision-making level and its sustainability. The potential turnover in the EC members can also hinder efforts made to develop their capacities in a consistent and sustainable way. However, capacity development of the EC members is a positive strategy for its own sake and to promote equity institutionalization among the governmental bodies to which the members belong. As such, when the decree of the EC is drafted and submitted to the appropriate authorities, the buy-in of the members and their readiness to offer expertise and advice to the Government on critical equity issues would have already been ensured.

OUTPUT 1 Strengthened national capacity and skills for the creation of knowledge regarding social equality and multidimensional poverty for children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In Algeria, the expenditures’ survey is implemented every ten years. In the context of rapid economic and social changes, this does not allow for a regular and close monitoring of poverty. The access to poverty data is also a challenge and limits the capacity of policy makers and practitioners to develop policies based on the actual situation of poverty and inequality. This is even more challenging for child monetary poverty, which is not yet measured by the National Statistics Office (NSO) as part of its poverty indicators portfolio. While the NSO has experience in measuring general monetary poverty thanks to long standing cooperation with the World Bank, it has less experience in the measurement of child-focused poverty data. The multidimensionality of child poverty was not even considered in the poverty alleviation policy.

To contribute to addressing this gap, the capacities of the members of the Equity Cell (EC) were strengthened through a participatory approach to analyse social equity for children and youth based on the National Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (N-MODA) framework and methodology. The N-MODA process and methodology was adopted at technical level by the EC and adjusted to fit the contextual priorities of social development in Algeria. The N-MODA was applied to children and extended to youth ages 15-24. A trend analysis of social equity based on the N-MODA framework was produced using data from the 3rd and the 4th rounds of the Multiple Indicators Cluster Surveys (MICS 2006, 2012-2013). The members of the EC, led by experts from the National Economic and Social Council (CNES), conducted the analysis and are drafting the national report.

UNICEF provided expertise for training the team, and for conceptualization and critical review of the methodology, the results and the upcoming report. For UNICEF, the EC served as a forum to raise critical issues affecting children and youth, especially those pertaining to the effectiveness and efficiency of social policies and social protection in tackling inequalities.
The South-South cooperation initiative between CNES in Algeria, CONEVAL in Mexico and UNICEF was another opportunity for the EC members to learn from the Mexican experience in institutionalizing multidimensional poverty and equity-focused evaluations. A national reflection workshop is being organized to this effect facilitated by CONEVAL experts and targeting the institutions represented in the cell. The workshop was delayed to early 2017, which prevented greater progress being made in 2016 in institutionalizing social equity. However, the preparatory work already conducted by the EC is also part of the process of cooperation with CONEVAL.

An agreement was reached between the National school of Statistic and Applied Economy and UNICEF in order to propose research topics for PhD students and other researchers in the area of social economy and human development. This includes research topics on social equity for children. A cooperation framework is being developed to enable engaging academia in research around children and social inclusion.

**OUTPUT 2** Strengthened national capacity for the adoption of child social protection measures which are efficient, effective, inclusive and gender sensitive.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Algeria allocated 23 per cent of the State budget to social transfers in 2016. More than half of social transfers directly contribute to supporting families and children. In 2016, the Ministry of Finance initiated a reflection on a progressive reduction of price subsidies and their substitution by a cash transfer scheme targeting the poorest and most vulnerable families. In 2016, price subsidies represented approximately 16 per cent of the social transfers’ budget (Ministry of Finance, Algeria, 2016).

To contribute to this reform process, key partners involved in the social protection review were engaged in a constructive and evidence-based dialogue on child-sensitive social protection, with the objective of ensuring that the current reform be truly ‘child-focused’.

UNICEF engaged in promising policy dialogue at different levels of the Ministry of Finance. This dialogue was initiated with the Minister of Finance around child-sensitive social protection and the potential impact of the reform on children’s well-being. The chair of the social protection reform committee from the Ministry of Finance was exposed to the Brazilian experience on social protection and cash transfer programme and was keen to have a more in-depth knowledge around the unified cash transfer scheme. As members of the EC, technical staff from the Ministry of Finance took part in the equity analysis project. A senior official from the National Economic and Social Council (CNES), head of the EC, was also exposed to the Brazilian experience on social protection. As such, a three-party alliance is being built step by step between the Ministry of Finance, the CNES and UNICEF towards a coherent approach to equity analysis and social protection reform.

A strategic dialogue is underway with decision-makers and professionals in the Wilayas (provinces) of Djelfa and Msila located in the Central Highlands, around the use of new technologies to monitor the situation of poor families and the implementation of cash transfer programmes at local level. Knowledge about local capacities in the field of social protection was improved and the implementation of a capacity development programme of social protection professionals was recommended. The Wali (Provincial Governor) of Msila agreed to engage the provincial administration in this programme and requested technical support from UNICEF.

UNICEF played a key convening role of social protection partners, and took the lead in conceptualizing and producing strategic and analytical papers to support such dialogue and in presenting showcases and good practices in social protection to engage and sensitize
partners. UNICEF supported and accompanied the study tour of senior officials to Brazil and facilitated bilateral discussions with the Brazilian experts on social protection. The main constraint faced in social protection interventions related to the time spent in the negotiation process with partners. This was even more difficult when partners were new and varied. However, this diversification of partners is key to guaranteeing success and relevance of these endeavours in the challenging social protection programme.

OUTCOME 4 Special Purpose Outcome

OUTPUT 1 Premises and Security

Analytical Statement of Progress: UNICEF Algeria’s office is 100 per cent MOSS compliant. To enhance staff security, a warden system was developed and shared with UNDSS. One international and three national staff were nominated to assist with the security of international and national staff, respectively. A warden training was conducted by UNDSS to explain responsibilities linked to this role. The training was attended by all UNICEF wardens. No additional investment to reinforce security measures was needed in 2016.

OUTCOME 5 Management Outcome

OUTPUT 1 Programme Effectiveness Outcome

Analytical Statement of Progress: All management systems were operating effectively and efficiently. Office ICT systems functioned smoothly and backup systems and processes were in place and functioning as designed. Algeria is part of the Maghreb Lightweight and Agile IT initiative (LIGHT) project that focuses on maximizing efficiency and effectiveness by reducing field office running costs and increasing workforce flexibility and mobility. This IT architectural model will not only significantly downsize the ICT infrastructure but also ease access to UNICEF IT systems and applications for users.

UNICEF Algeria achieved 100 per cent level of emergency preparedness status in the early warning/early action site. The business continuity plan was updated in May and November 2016 to maintain operational response capacity during crisis situations. A HACT assurance plan was developed and implemented. The plan was closely monitored at CMT level to address at an early stage any constraints or bottlenecks. The only required micro-assessment was conducted and the implementing partner (IP) was rated as low risk. Programme visits were conducted regularly as required. A spot check was performed for the Implementing Partner CISP and outcomes were addressed immediately. (For example, CISP opened a dedicated bank account for UNICEF transfer as recommended to allow proper monitoring of funds since they receive funds from many other donors). Audits were planned for two implementing partners receiving more than US$500,000 per cycle. One is underway as of December 2016 and the other is planned for March 2017. All audit recommendations were closed within a year and the Office of Internal Audit thanked UNICEF Algeria for its timely submissions and actions taken to address recommendations. The Risk and Control Self-Assessment (RCSA) was collectively reviewed in October 2016 during a brainstorming exercise and an action plan clearly identifying the staff accountable for completing the action was developed. Follow up meetings to monitor progress will be held in the first quarter of 2017.
OUTPUT 2 Financial Resources and Stewardship

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Algeria did not register any conflict for regular work and mitigation measures were in place during Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). When conflicts were unavoidable, the OIC was performed by a peer in another MENA country office. UNICEF Algeria did not face any backlog or problems with transactions sent to GSSC. Since the transition to GSSC, no request was rejected for lack of or poor supporting documents. UNICEF Algeria met the requirements as set in the SOP. Physical inventory was conducted twice in 2016 and findings were reconciled against VISION data. All assets marked for PSB were processed in February and April 2016.

OUTPUT 3 Human Resources Management

Analytical Statement of Progress:
No learning and development committee meeting was held this year. Nevertheless, a training plan including individual and group training was developed. It was monitored quarterly and shared with the UNICEF Regional Office. As of 30 November, 100 per cent of mandatory group trainings were completed.

All staff completed PAS (Personnel Appraisal System) within the given deadline. A technical constraint did not allow UNICEF Algeria to reach the 100 per cent completion rate in the ACHIEVE system.
To overcome the difficulty of finding suitable candidates for technical positions, UNICEF Algeria took time to source the right people and to do outreach and headhunting for the positions of ECD Officer NOB, M&E Officer NOB and Child Protection Specialist NOC. This was done by establishing contact with a network of university professors in different disciplines who could recommend some of their outstanding PhD students or second year Master’s degree students for internships or employment at UNICEF and by approaching civil society organizations to attract new talent.

The recruitment process for the Deputy Representative position was completed and the incumbent assumed his position in August. The process was also completed for another IP position and the incumbent is awaiting a visa to join the duty station. The office-wide rolling Office Improvement Plan (OIP) developed and endorsed by all staff during a brainstorming exercise around the GSSC was closely monitored at JCC level and all objectives identified were achieved or are on-going by nature.

A presentation was made to all staff to introduce My HR, an intranet page that offers an easier way to find valuable Human Resources tools and services, and MyCase, the new online tool that staff will use to submit HR Administration and Payroll requests to the DHR Global Service Centre (GSC) and Payroll units. A session was also dedicated to presenting the Achieve and Talent Management systems before their launch dates.

OUTCOME 6 Programme Effectiveness Outcome

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The reporting here has been done at output level and not at outcome level. Refer to the narrative part of the 2016 annual report, which provides a wealth of complementary information on the activities implemented and results achieved.
**OUTPUT 1  Programme Coordination**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The programme coordination function is of crucial importance because of the role it plays in ensuring quality, effectiveness, efficiency and synergy/integration of programme interventions to contribute to the achievement of programme results as agreed with the government and specified in the CPAP. Programme coordination ensures proper programme planning and management of financial resources and is a key factor in the governance system of the country office (membership of the CMT and of the Programme coordination group, chairing the Partnership Review Committee, HACT focal point and chairing the knowledge generation and staff capacity development and training committee). Programme coordination also exercises oversight over programme monitoring and evaluation.

Programme coordination is entrusted to the Deputy Representative but this responsibility is shared by the programme coordination group, to which all programme staff belong. Programme coordination meetings are open to the participation of the Representative and of the Operations Chief along with other Operations section staff where relevant.

The objective of the Programme coordination group is to hold 10 meetings per year. This was not possible in 2016 as the Deputy Representative function was assumed by two different incumbents for two and four months, respectively, a colleague deployed on stretch assignment for four months and the Social Policy Specialist as OIC for six weeks. A total of six meetings were held over the year, three of which took place during the last quarter. As of Mid-December, utilization rate of RR was 100 per cent and it also reached 100 per cent for ORE and 100 per cent for ORR.

**OUTPUT 2  External Relations**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF Algeria developed a communications and public advocacy strategy focusing on key priority topics, including promotion of child rights, ECD, equity and poverty reduction and prevention of violence against children. Key performance indicators were defined for this strategy, which emphasized greater use of media and social media.

As a result of UNICEF efforts to mobilize partners around the child online protection campaign, nine institutional partners, two national NGOs, eight media and the main mobile telephone provider were engaged. The campaign also engaged 150 youth. A large portion of the population was sensitized thanks to the airing of TV and radio spots via four TV channels and the National radio. The child online protection TV spot was seen 144,000 times on social media. Campaign messages were sent by SMS to 15 million subscribers to Mobilis, the main mobile phone company, which also printed them on phone recharging cards.

UNICEF national goodwill ambassadors (renowned sports figures) played a key role in the implementation of the public advocacy strategy through their involvement in celebrations such as International Children’s Day, UNICEF@70, and the child online protection campaign, which was particularly appreciated by youth and children.

UNICEF engaged intensively with NGOs both for sustained cooperation and punctual events. These included the celebration of national children’s day, where more than 450 children and parents received information on child rights and violence prevention. For the celebrations of International Child Day, UNICEF supported high-visibility events organized by NGOs at provincial level to promote the rights of children born out-of-wedlock. UNICEF allied with a national child rights network ‘NADA’ grouping 150 NGOs around a policy advocacy forum on operationalizing the new child protection code. Two NGOs presented
works of arts during the UNICEF anniversary celebration.

In addition to NGOs, media and the private sector, UNICEF cooperated with universities and research centres to ensure that child rights, poverty and equity issues were integrated in research programmes or as themes for PhD students’ theses and to inform about the work of UNICEF in Algeria and the world.

The 70th anniversary celebration was a highlight of the year with a high visibility event attended by many friends of the organization, including counterparts from Ministries or public institutions, ambassadors or their representatives, UN heads of agencies, and NGOs. Young artists offered UNICEF a song and a video clip that aired numerous times on Radio and TV and they created an arts collective, ‘Friends of UNICEF’. In addition to UNICEF goodwill ambassadors, retired senior staff from UNICEF and counterparts also played an active mobilizing role.

UNICEF actively engaged with diplomatic missions for information-sharing, advocacy and fundraising, particularly for the Sahrawi programme in Tindouf.

The digital strategy and the use of the Facebook page, which had 7,500 fans, resulted in a social media engagement scores of 6.50, with a total of 265,951 people reached in 2016. The number of unique visitors to the website was 9,242, with more than 23,000 sessions and 23 per cent returning visitors.

**OUTPUT 3** Cross sectorial for multiple outcomes (health, Education, Child Protection) in the refugees’ camps Tindouf

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In 2016, UNICEF cooperated with Health authorities to ensure vaccination of 28,000 under-5 children with nine vaccines and capacity development for more than 60 health staff on implementing the new vaccination calendar, cold chain maintenance and on interpersonal communication skills. UNICEF also focused on supervision of vaccine management and administration in health facilities at district and camp level. In addition to the provision of vaccines and to training health personnel, UNICEF also provided critical cold chain equipment for health facilities and coordinated with the NGO Triangle Generation Humanitaire (TGH) in the rehabilitation of three health centres damaged by the October 2015 floods. This restored access to health services for more than 10,000 children and women.

UNICEF, in coordination with Education and Construction Authorities and with assistance from implementing partners, supported the rehabilitation of 15 Schools and KGs and re-construction of one school. This made it possible for more than 7,000 Children (55 per cent girls) to resume lessons in secure, safe and attractive schools and KGs. UNICEF Algeria ensured that works were sustainable and resistant to other potential disasters in line with the ‘Build back better’ principle. Despite the constraints of a limited number of construction companies, the summer heat and the remoteness of the Dakhla camp, the works were conducted, supervised and completed by implementing partners before the start of the new school year.

In August 2016, the camp of Laayoun experienced another episode of heavy rains and strong storms that severely damaged education infrastructure, putting more than 8,109 children and adolescents at risk of not being able to resume school. UNICEF rapidly conducted work aimed at consolidating five damaged buildings and provided four school-tents to serve as temporary learning spaces. The intervention was completed two days
before schools re-opened. UNICEF also provided learning supplies and materials for 32,500 children to facilitate their learning and to reduce the cost of education for their parents.

In 2016, UNICEF assumed the leadership of the education sector and of the coordination group in which Sahrawi authorities, UNHCR, WFP and partner NGOs participated. UNHCR paid teachers incentives, WFP provided milk to school children and CISP organized PSS services for children. ECHO and a Spanish and a Swiss NGO also supported construction of new schools.

UNICEF Algeria, with the INGO ‘Disability International” (DI), carried out a survey covering 270 children with special needs with the aim of analysing facilitating factors and bottlenecks for disabled children’s access to services. UNICEF and DI also worked to promote inclusive education for children with specific needs through building capacity of 20 teachers working in 9 specialized centres, not only through training but also through daily formative supervision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Centre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evaluation and research</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation du projet sur la santé des mères et des nouveau-nés dans les camps de réfugiés sahraouis de Tindouf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Other publication</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chevalet de Sensibilisation: Protéger la Santé de la Mère et de l'Enfant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Lessons learned</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Document Type/Category</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>