UNICEF Annual Report 2017

Algeria

**Executive summary**

There were several noteworthy developments for the situation of children in Algeria in 2017. The Algerian population reached 42.2 million. 29.3 per cent of which was under the age of 15 (up from 28.8 per cent in 2016). This increase in population growth intensified pressures on social services. Between 2014 and 2017, the school population increased by 700,000. Health infrastructure increased by 26 hospitals and 89 health clinics.

The decrease in oil prices that began in 2014 has resulted in a 50 per cent reduction in government foreign revenue and fiscal resources. Consequently, reserves have decreased by 45 per cent. Starting in 2016, government spending has been compressed, but social sectors have been relatively spared. To advocate and advise on enhanced allocation and management of resources by the Government of Algeria, UNICEF Algeria conducted an analysis on budget allocations for child protection programmes by the Ministry of National Solidarity.

Two human rights institutions created in 2015/2016 were operationalized in 2017: the National Human Rights Council created by the 2016 Constitutional reform, and the 'National Organ for the Protection and Promotion of Children’ (NOPPC) created by Child Protection Law (2015), which reports to the Prime Minister. On the other hand, the High Council for Youth created in the new Constitution had not yet been established.

Algeria continued to be a country of transit and of destination for migrants from sub-Saharan Africa. The number of Algerian youth candidates for emigration was on the rise. The office of International Organization for Migration (IOM) became operational and initiated cooperation with government partners.

The situation of Sahrawi refugee children living in Tindouf in southwestern Algeria continued to be a matter of concern due to the reduction in humanitarian funding available for this 42 year old crisis.

Progress was achieved in several areas in 2017. A national neonatal health strategy supported by UNICEF Algeria was finalized. Newborn children now benefit from improved health care services in hospitals and maternities targeted by the plan. Key immunization stakeholders were sensitized to child vaccination in the context of the measles and rubella campaign, including millions of parents and more than 700 health staff who coordinated the campaign at provincial levels.

Tens of thousands of children studying in multi-grade classes in rural underserved schools benefited from better quality education thanks to capacity building implemented with UNICEF support. Key communication campaigns were initiated, including the early childhood development (ECD) campaign and child online protection in the context of #Endviolence campaign. Events were organized jointly with the NOPPC to celebrate Algeria’s ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors supported these high visibility events. In the context of a South-South cooperation project between Algeria’s
National Economic and Social Council (CNES) and Mexico’s National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL), a workshop was organized on measurement of child poverty and evaluation of public policies. Algerian officials benefited from a better understanding of the ‘why and how’ of public policy evaluation.

Shortfalls in reaching results for children in 2017 included: progress made in 2016 on the elaboration of a national ECD policy stalled due to complexities of inter-ministerial cooperation compounded with cabinet reshuffle after legislative elections. No progress was made in developing operational models for decentralized school-based management. Limited progress was made in promoting youth participation/engagement. There was a delay in the establishment of the National Youth Council. The planned launch of the Life Skills and Citizenship Education (LSCE) initiative involving several ministries, including the Ministry of Youth and Sports, will help remedy this situation.

UNICEF established a partnership with the newly-established NOPPC. UNICEF also developed partnerships with European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and with the Dutch Government, supporting a WASH in Schools project in refugee camps and the LSCE initiative. UNICEF’s partnership with UN agencies on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), gender issues and efforts targeting youth gained momentum in 2017.

**Humanitarian assistance**

UNICEF, along with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP), contributed to the humanitarian response to the protracted Sahrawi refugee crisis. While complementing other agencies with provision of humanitarian supplies, UNICEF also provided technical assistance that contributed to strengthening local systems and resilience of communities. In 2017, UNICEF concentrated support to the health and education sectors. Lack of funding prevented the continuation of support to child protection (children with disabilities) and livelihood and youth empowerment.

UNICEF Algeria provided local health partners with enough vaccines to cover the yearly vaccination needs of 22,000 children (52 per cent female) in eight antigens (including BCG, DT, Tetrac Hib haemophilus B, OPV, IPV, MMR, Hepatitis B). The vaccines were locally procured from the Institut Pasteur Algérie (IPA) as pre-approved by UNICEF Supply Division. UNICEF also continued strengthening the cold chain in support of the Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI), providing refrigerators and cold boxes for seven health clinics.

UNICEF ensured availability of quality technical assistance to guide capacity building of midwives and nurses working in neonatal wards in district hospitals. This was made possible through a small-scale funding agreement (SSFA) negotiated with the French NGO Children Refugees of the World, which supports the Sahrawi Paramedical School. This initiative builds upon an earlier UNICEF-supported project implemented between 2012 and 2015 that was evaluated in 2016. The agreement includes many elements of the Management Response elaborated in the evaluation’s recommendations.

UNICEF continued to provide individual school supply kits to more than 39,700 students from preschool to lower secondary school. Local education partners put a high priority on this activity. In 2017 UNICEF also continued to rehabilitate schools affected by floods or windstorms in 2016 including four schools and one kindergarten serving more than 3,000 children (54 per cent girls). WASH facilities also were repaired in these schools. This activity goes beyond humanitarian response and helps develop school infrastructure in the camps.
In 2017 UNICEF added a new activity to its portfolio, rehabilitating or building new sanitary blocks in 10 intermediate schools, benefiting 9,400 adolescents (54 per cent girls). Beyond its health and hygiene aspect, this activity aimed to reduce school dropout and absenteeism, particularly for female adolescent students. It also benefited school teachers, over 70 per cent of whom are female.

As lead agency for the education sector, UNICEF Algeria implemented key activities for sector coordination and planning. An assessment was conducted of the state of all 69 school facilities in the five camps from kindergarten to lower secondary, which helped to identify all the schools’ repair/rehabilitation or rebuilding needs. The assessment was followed by the elaboration of a medium-term rehabilitation and construction strategy and plan, an important tool for all education partners who work in school construction. A contingency plan was elaborated for the education sector to improve its preparedness for potential emergencies. All three processes were highly participatory, involving UN agencies, NGOs and other local partners.

Two new activities were launched in the fourth quarter of 2017. The first phase of the capacity building programme for education personnel (mainly teachers, school headmasters, supervisor and trainers working in the local training institute) was initiated. A situation analysis was conducted of the local education system, including assessment of the curricula used and the capacity development needs for the four categories of education personnel mentioned above. This analysis will lead to the design of a capacity development programme and a plan of action to be implemented in 2018 and beyond. UNICEF also started the dialogue with partners about the adoption of the life skills and citizenship education (LSCE) approach.

**Equity in practice**

Algeria Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) (2012-2013) showed that children and women living in poorest households, rural areas and the South and the Highlands benefit less from social services despite the fact that those services are universal and free. For instance, infant mortality was 32 per 1,000 in the South and 14 per 1,000 in the North Centre; 31 per 1,000 in the poorest households and 18 per 1,000 in the richest households. UNICEF Algeria increased its advocacy efforts since 2013 to promote ‘equity-focus’ of public policies for children and youth in Algeria. The objective was to institutionalize equity measurement and monitoring to inform public policies and call for action. Three main strategies are used: (1) partnering with institutions that can influence policies and take ownership of the ‘equity agenda’; (2) producing and using knowledge on equity in different fora; (3) facilitating South-South learning and cooperation on “equity-focused policies and knowledge”.

**Partnership for equity**

Cross-sectoral institutions have been engaged into a dialogue on “equity re-focus” of public policies. In 2012-2013, a partnership with the State Secretariat in charge of Prospective and Statistics on child-sensitive social protection enabled producing comprehensive knowledge on social protection with a child lens and to evaluate coherence of social protection programmes especially those which directly or indirectly address child vulnerabilities. In 2014, a new partnership with the National Economic and Social Council (CNES) offered a space of exchange, knowledge and policy development around equity approaches. The following package of initiatives has been implemented with the CNES and reported by its president to the Head of State cabinet.

**South-south learning and cooperation**
Since 2013, thanks to a south-south learning and exchange initiatives jointly facilitated by UNICEF Algeria and UNICEF Brazil, Algerian officials were exposed to the experience of the Brazilian social protection system, especially in terms of its integration and its effectiveness in reducing poverty and inequality in Brazil. In 2016, the Ministry of Finance official leading the process of review of subsidies benefited from this exposure which helped him reflect on possible alternatives to the existing social protection schemes in Algeria to mitigate the impact of the removal of energy subsidies on the most vulnerable. In 2014, an international conference on “Institutional frameworks for social equity monitoring and improving the effectiveness of public policies in promoting equity” hosted by Algeria attended by government officials from all continents, experts and international organizations helped reaching a consensus on the importance of adopting policies and practices more sensitive to social equity for children.

Concrete and immediate recommendations were agreed by participants including “encouraging pro-equity mechanisms for monitoring public policies”. Brazil and Mexico were key participants at the conference as they were already engaged in a South-South dialogue with Algerian Government and UNICEF around equity and social protection. Following the event, CNES president, co-organizer with UNICEF, decided to establish the “Equity Cell”, a transitional and multi-sectoral platform aimed at monitoring and analysing equity related issues. In 2015, a South-South cooperation agreement was signed by the CNES in Algeria and the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL) in Mexico and UNICEF to strengthen the capacities of Algerian institutions in measuring multidimensional poverty and institutionalizing pro-equity evaluations. In 2017, at a South-South cooperation workshop hosted by CNES, CONEVAL experts in poverty and evaluation presented and discussed with the Equity Cell members their experiences and the methodologies they use.

In 2017, UNICEF Algeria strengthened the capacities of the CNES Equity Cell and provided expertise to help produce the first child multidimensional poverty analysis in the country. The analysis used a National Multiple Overlapping Deprivations Analysis (N-MODA) methodology adapted to the country needs and context. New features were introduced to the methodology, such as extending the analysis to include youth and developing a proxy to measure monetary poverty using the wealth index and the economic activity status of the head of household. The analysis was debated at the South-South Cooperation workshop with CONEVAL. In its new capacity of government adviser, CNES submitted the analysis to the Head of State cabinet with a set of concrete conclusions to strengthen public policy approaches.

**Strategic Plan 2018-2021**

The current Algeria Country Programme (CP) covers the five year period of 2016 through 2020. The midterm review – a key milestone of the CP cycle – is planned for mid-2018 and will provide an opportunity for UNICEF Algeria to review progress in the CP implementation and UNICEF’s contribution to achieving UNDAF results. It will also assess the degree to which the programme structure and results are well-aligned with the new UNICEF Strategic Plan, the gender action plan and the SDGs.

The midterm review process will include the design of a strategy note, as UNICEF Algeria was not required to design one prior to the start of the new CP. Sectoral strategy notes will be elaborated with a theory of change for each sector/outcome area. This exercise will allow UNICEF Algeria to re-align, if need be, the programme structure and results designed in accordance with the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan with the vision, approach and priorities of the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan. The current programme structure and results are well in line with the new Strategic Plan, and four of its five goal areas are quite well covered by the various
programme outputs and their respective components. Currently the one goal area insufficiently represented is goal area 4 (every child lives in a safe and clean environment).

The outcome areas of the present programme are: improved access and quality of early childhood care and education; improved systems for child protection; and enhanced knowledge of equity and improved children’s social inclusion. A high value is placed on equity. There is a focus on a more integrated programme structure and on some tangible results for children, including refugee children.

The first outcome covers goal areas 1 and 2 in an integrated manner, with a focus on neonatal mortality reduction, immunization, early childhood development (ECD), communication for development (C4D), out-of-school-children, LSCE, learning assessment and preschool education. The second outcome is in line with goal area 3, with a focus on improving quality social services, violence against children, justice for children and child online protection. Outcome 3 is coherent with goal area 5, with a focus on measurement of overlapping child deprivation and social policy advocacy and dialogue. Goal area 4 is to a large degree covered by output 3 of the ‘Programme effectiveness’ outcome of the Algeria CP, which refers to the humanitarian component and reads as follows: ‘multi-sectoral support to health, education, protection and youth promotion of Sahrawi refugee children in camps in Tindouf in southwestern Algeria’

Six of the 7 change strategies of the new Strategic Plan are fully used by UNICEF Algeria. Only the strategy pertaining to system strengthening and service delivery is partially used, mainly in the context of the humanitarian programme component.

Because the realignment exercise also will need to review the CP measurement indicators in light of those chosen at the three levels of the results structure of the new Strategic Plan, UNICEF Algeria conducted the Strategic Plan baseline data collection exercise in the spring of 2017. With round 6 of the Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS) planned in Algeria for 2018, UNICEF Algeria is confident that more reliable and timely data will become available to inform the indicators. Many of the key indicators of the Strategic Plan and 26 from the SDGs should be adequately informed by the MICS results in late 2018 or early 2019. The 2018 gender review will help mainstream gender in the various programme components.

Emerging areas of importance

Refugee and migrant children. Given its geostrategic position and the aggravation of political and economic crises in neighbouring countries, Algeria, long considered a country of origin and transit, also has become a country of destination for people on the move. Algeria hosts up to 170,000 Sahrawi refugees in five camps located in the Tindouf province (southwestern Algeria), some 45,000 refugees from Syria and the State of Palestine; and an unknown number of migrants originating from sub-Saharan countries (the Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, Mali, and Niger).

The study on migrant children conducted in Algiers, Oran, Annaba and Tamanrasset in 2015, in support of the Ministry of National Solidarity, Family and Women Condition (MNS) by UNICEF and Doctors of the World (MDM), highlighted the need for greater assistance to migrants to ensure their appropriate access to all services. At the request of the Ministry, the study recommendations were used to pave the way for the preparation of an action plan. The registration of children at birth, regardless of the status of their parents, was identified as a priority area, along with the need for further clarifying the regulations governing access of foreign children to Algerian schools and health facilities. More generally, the lack of data about
Legal and illegal migrants was noted as a key concern preventing governmental institutions to adequately plan for and to provide the required to health structures when needed and to facilitate access to education. The study also documented the added value of cooperation between non-governmental actors and public services, particularly to increase access to assistance.

**Greater focus on the second decade of life.** Each of the three outcome areas of the 2016-2020 country programme includes at least one component explicitly targeting children in their second decade of life. In 2017, priority was given to Initiating the LSCE component in partnership with the Ministry of Education (MoE), the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS) and the Ministry of Vocational Training (MVT). Once fully implemented, this initiative has the potential to reach millions of children and adolescent girls and boys.

A qualitative study was launched targeting out-of-school adolescents to better understand the reasons hundreds of thousands of children and adolescents drop out of school every year and what happens to them two or three years after they drop out. Do they pursue vocational training? Do they integrate apprenticeship or full time employment or are they still unemployed? The results of this study targeting eight pilot provinces will inform the development of a plan to prevent and respond to school dropout. Preparations also are underway to launch a national learning achievement study in 2019 focusing on two levels in primary education and two levels of intermediate education, in addition to 9th grade, which is the final year of basic education. This study on a representative sample of students and schools will provide key information on the quality of education in Algeria and where effectiveness gains can be made.

The Child Online Protection campaign was re-initiated in Algeria to raise awareness among parents, other caregivers and teachers on risks associated with children’s and adolescents’ access to the Internet and on how to ensure better protection for them. Several ministries and other national institutions partnered with UNICEF for this campaign, which was initially launched in 2015.

A mapping of services directed to adolescents and youth was underway, implemented by the MYS with technical assistance from UNICEF.

**Summary notes and acronyms**

- BCP – business continuity plan
- CCM – Comité de Coordination National sur le VIH/SIDA
- CISP – Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli
- C4D – communication for development
- CMT – country management team
- CP – Country Programme
- CPD – Country Programme Document
- CPMP – Country Programme Management Plan
- CNES – National Economic and Social Council
- CONEVAL – National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy
- CRC – Convention on the Rights of the Child
- DCT – direct cash transfers
- ECD – early childhood development
- ECHO – European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
- EPI – Expanded Programme of Immunization
- ERM – World Refugee Children (Enfants Refugiés du Monde)
Evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy

The analysis of the budget allocated to child protection commissioned by the Ministry of National Solidarity, Family and Women Condition (MNS) in 2016 was revised and finalized in 2017. Recommendations were agreed on in view of strengthening the capacities of the MNS to
develop a child-sensitive budget, including: design of a ‘satellite account for the child’ to facilitate assessment and analysis of budgets and expenditures allocated specifically to children; and the normalization of children-related costs based on their actual needs to set a benchmark and analyse gaps between the actual costs and expenditures and make necessary adjustments.

Algeria is committed to implementing the MICS6 fieldwork in 2018. The national MICS team participated in regional workshops on survey design and data processing. A memorandum of understanding was signed in December 2017 by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF Algeria, followed by workshops and meetings to finalize data needs assessment, indicators and questionnaires that will be covered by the MICS in Algeria.

**External communication and public advocacy**

In 2017, UNICEF communication and advocacy work supported the positioning in the public agenda of key topics such as child online protection, ECD, youth participation and the SDGs.

UNICEF Algeria’s approach to the media resulted in 487 print or online articles being published in 2017.

To celebrate the International Day of the Child (IDC) and the ‘Children take over’ theme, UNICEF Algeria mobilized institutional, civil society and media partners. Jointly with UNICEF, NOPPC organized a high visibility event on child rights and participation at which a video on child rights produced by two children was broadcast. In line with the IDC theme, Algerian radio gave children the opportunity to produce and broadcast programs on vulnerable children, including conducting interviews with public figures.

The visits of UNICEF’s representative to Sahrawi camps provided opportunities for advocacy and mobilization. A ‘back to school’ event was organized in which the UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and members of the collective ‘UNICEF Friends’ participated. These activities gave visibility to the plight of refugee children and to UNICEF’s response, in collaboration with UN agencies and donors.

The digital strategy included UNICEF Algeria’s Facebook page, which had 11,400 fans (an increase of 35 per cent), and resulted in social media engagement scores of 4.76, with a total of 321,551 people reached in 2017 (an increase of 21 per cent). One-time visitors to the UNICEF Algeria website decreased to 3,716. This trend needs to be analysed. The use of infographics, pictures, videos and live pictures posts with Goodwill Ambassadors and UNICEF friends improved interactions with Facebook fans.

New social media opportunities explored included asking influential ‘UNICEF friends’ to share posts on child rights. Over the last three years, Algeria gained the largest number of new Twitter users in the Arab region (774,000). UNICEF Algeria will launch its Twitter page early January 2018 to reach this new and growing audience.

**South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation**

A South-South reflection workshop around multidimensional poverty measurement and equity-focused evaluations was organized in Algeria by CNES and UNICEF in partnership with Mexico’s CONEVAL. The workshop was designed to achieve a common understanding of the notions of equity, poverty and evaluation and to produce an operational action plan to strengthen national capacities in integrating these concepts and approaches into policies and
programmes. The workshop targeted the ‘equity cell’ members representing line ministries, National Office of Statistics, and researchers. Civil society and international partners also participated. The two countries have different experiences and approaches in terms of institutionalizing poverty measurement: CONEVAL conducts regular poverty analysis at state and municipality levels, and CNES conducted its first tentative analysis in the human development report of 2012-2013 and a more in-depth and structured analysis of children and youth deprivations with the N-MODA methodology in 2016. In Mexico, institutionalizing evaluation through CONEVAL is well advanced, while in Algeria, evaluation practices are still nascent and need strengthening.

Identification and promotion of innovation

In 2016, UNICEF Algeria began supporting the Ministry of Health for the design of a digital software, the Electronic Immunization File (DEVAC), aimed at strengthening the overall management and monitoring of the immunization programme, building on information populated at communal level. DEVAC links data available in the national Health Information System server to data related to births, deaths and vaccination. Individual child records are included in a global database for an enhanced management of children immunization. DEVAC is intended to reinforce vaccine purchase and stock management and follow-up of potential adverse post-vaccination events and to provide information to parents and duty-bearers with timely notification about immunization appointments.

The pilot phase of the project was completed in February of 2017 and equipment was purchased for 80 communes in 11 provinces. The second phase of the programme is underway to upgrade the software and expand coverage to other communes.

In partnership with the Higher Institute for Computer Sciences of Algiers’ University, UNICEF supported the institute’s ‘Innovation Lab’ and its students to develop digital innovations that can contribute to the realization of children’s rights. The first project consisted of development of a web application for social educators working with autistic children, proposing exercises promoting the acquisition of social skills. A second, ‘Smart aid’ application includes design of a small motorized vehicle intended to facilitate the locomotion of persons with mobility handicaps. A third initiative aims to develop a video game for children, ‘Smart in my city,’ promoting safety practices in an urban setting. A web application, ‘SoMap’ facilitated spatial identification of all centres managed by MNS it was being integrated in the MNS website. These innovative projects promoted opportunities for students to develop their skills and to serve their communities.

Support to integration and cross-sectoral linkages

The development of an integrated ECD policy was initiated in 2015 and is a highly intersectoral initiative involving several ministries. Led by the MoE, the process had progressed well in 2016 with development of a framework document consolidating and analysing all social services benefitting children under 6 years, along with planning scenarios for generalizing services by 2025.

In May 2017, training was carried out on budget simulations models for officials from ministries involved in ECD. The process of partners reviewing and endorsing scenarios and policy options has not yet been finalized, which poses challenges to the initiative. The coordination role assumed de facto by MEN was less effective and the intersectoral committee was much less active. A government decision is expected in the near future to unblock the process. Despite this setback, UNICEF Algeria continued advocating for the pursuit of an integrated approach,
while maintaining its support to sectoral projects such as vaccination, neonatal health, preschool education and protection of vulnerable children.

Intersectoral cooperation is key for the implementation of the LSCE initiative promoted by the UNICEF Regional Office (MENARO), together with many UN agencies, NGOs and research institutes. Government partners from all countries of the region contributed to designing the LSCE conceptual and programmatic framework. In Algeria, officials from the MOE, MYS and MVT participated in the regional consultation in 2015 and 2016 and in the LSCE official launch in 2017. A visit by the regional education advisor and specialist provided and opportunity for UNICEF Algeria to promote the engagement of government actors along with the UN youth group (UNESCO, UNFPA, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP). UNICEF Algeria began mapping current LSCE practices in Algeria by government and nongovernment partners. This will lead to a national consultation, planned for the spring of 2018, to validate the mapping and initiate scaled up programming for LSCE.

**Human rights-based approach to cooperation**

UNICEF Algeria supported the development of accountability mechanisms in Algeria, generating evidence and making recommendations leading to the definition of strategies for capacity building of civil servants working with children or for child rights promotion and sensitization of the population.

A ‘Study on Children in Migration’ was conducted to enhance knowledge and skills of MNS personnel and civil society in policy formulation or programming for this vulnerable population. An exploratory survey on needs, barriers and facilitators for access to services and social participation of children with disabilities in Saharawi camps was implemented with Handicap International. The survey documented disabilities and categorized them by type of disability as well as by age and sex of the population affected. It also documented factors hindering access to services. This research led to training for 70 social educators working with disabled children.

A study was conducted to analyse the budget allocated to child protection programmes by the MNS. It was the first-ever attempt to look at the budget of a ministry through the lens of childhood and assess how much funding goes to responding to the real needs of the child.

As part of its advocacy for promotion of human rights, UNICEF supported the celebration of events such as the anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its ratification by Algeria, the promulgation of the Child Protection Law and the establishment of the NOPPRC. UNICEF also supported the Government in raising awareness of parents, children and others in the community about violence against girls and boys and the dangers of the Internet. An event was organized to launch the State of the World’s Children report.

UNICEF stressed the important role that young people can play in promoting peace, sustainable development and human rights and the importance of their active and broad participation in decision-making through a program promoting citizenship education and life skills.

As part of promoting cultural diversity, UNICEF supported civil society advocacy activities in Amazigh language, translating communication tools in the three languages of the country.

**Gender equality**

The gender priority of ‘advancing girl’s secondary education’ was targeted through the humanitarian component of the Algeria Country Programme. In 2017, UNICEF began
addressing the poor and lacking hygienic conditions of sanitation facilities in the 11 intermediate schools in the five refugee camps, a key bottleneck for Sahrawi refugee girls’ access to and completion of lower secondary education. A WASH in schools project was initiated aimed at rehabilitating or building new sanitation facilities, with priority given to sanitary blocks for girls and for female teachers. This project targeted 10 intermediate schools and 5 primary schools.

UNICEF Algeria also supported the immunization of nearly 22,000 Sahrawi refugee girls and boys under 5 years of age; equipped health facilities and provided communication for development tools to predominantly female health personnel working with pregnant and child bearing age women; and ensured access to preschool, primary and lower secondary education for more than 95 per cent of the 40,000 children and adolescents aged 3 to 16 years (54 per cent female).

A capacity building programme for education personnel (1,700 teachers, 69 headmasters, 85 supervisors and 10 teachers’ trainers) was initiated in 2017 and benefited a large majority of female teachers, school headmistresses and supervisors. An LSCE programme was launched targeting in-school and out-of-school adolescents and youth through capacity building of teachers, social workers and youth educators (predominantly females).

Gender was also mainstreamed in the non-humanitarian components of the country programme. Perinatal care and maternal health programmes involved predominantly female health personnel, including gynaecologists, paediatricians and midwives. The LSCE will allow for gender stereotypes and gender-biased social norms to be addressed. The social Inclusion programme aimed to improve social protection for vulnerable populations, including women living in poverty and their children.

UNICEF Algeria actively participated to the UN gender group established in 2017. A gender review of the programme is planned for 2018.

Environmental sustainability

In 2017, UNICEF Algeria began an audit of its energy consumption. Undertaken by a specialized firm, this work should help identify concrete measures to reduce energy consumption and allow for cost savings and a reduction of the office carbon footprint. Audit findings will be shared with all staff to help raise staff awareness on the impact of their own energy consumption on carbon emission.

A staff association ad-hoc group worked to improve the office’s outdoor environment, including its garden and other spaces such as the entrance and the kitchen terrace. The initiative contributed to greening the office environment with the aim of reducing UNICEF Algeria’s carbon footprint. Plants and flowers were made available, providing staff, partners and visitors a more welcoming environment.

Effective leadership

In 2017, UNICEF Algeria continued to strengthen its governance system through synchronization of operations and programme meetings with country management team (CMT) meetings. This contributed to information sharing and to improving the level of participation and transparency in the decision-making process. It also allowed the team to have open discussion, and participate in the deliberations and decision on most matters affecting the office, including: solutions to constraints, HACT and partnership management, working with the UN System, addressing management response to evaluations, resource mobilization, distribution of roles
and responsibilities among staff in support of corporate processes, and corporate reforms such as the HR reform.

The CMT met nine times in 2017 and systematically reviewed the management dashboard and the scorecards, with great attention given to financial delivery. This allowed for timely review and adaptation of the budget, and contributed to the optimal use of resources.

The seven priorities of the 2017 Annual Management Plan (AMP) were elaborated in a collaborative process that analysed risks and identified mitigation measures. The CMT reviewed the AMP once in 2017 and it will be reviewed again in early 2018.

In 2017, UNICEF Algeria continued to invest in improving teamwork and information sharing. Several all-staff sessions were convened to share outcomes from regional events (such as the regional management team). Information sharing sessions open to all were held to share learnings from workshops and training events. The new office improvement plan was collectively developed and concrete measures to improve staff morale, individual and team performance were identified.

In 2017, UNICEF Algeria updated and tested its business continuity plan and its emergency preparedness and response plan.

**Financial resources management**

During its monthly meetings, the country management team (CMT) systematically reviewed Manager’s dashboard alerts, budget implementation status, monitoring of programme cooperation agreements (PCAs) and direct cash transfers (DCTs) to ensure ongoing monitoring of programme implementation and proper management of financial resources. The CMT took steps to address detected weaknesses and dealt with them promptly, with verifications made during the following CMT meeting.

As of the end of December 2017, UNICEF Algeria had used 100 per cent of its institutional budget, 100 per cent of allocated Regular Resources, 95 per cent of Other Resources (OR) and 98 per cent Other Resources – Emergency (ORE) within the planned period of validity of funds. The HACT Quality Assurance activities consisting of more than 100 per cent of programmatic visits were mostly been implemented by staff members. All scheduled audits were conducted through the services of a third-party contractor who also conducted spot-checks and micro-assessments.

No outstanding direct cash transfers (DCTs) of more than 6 months were registered throughout the year. Two training sessions were organized for implementing partners on HACT and FACE.

As of the end of November 2017, UNICEF Algeria met the target of month-end bank balances not exceeding 50 per cent of total monthly replenishments for 9 of 11 months. Year-end closure activities were systematically completed within established timelines.

**Fundraising and donor relations**

As of the end of 2017, UNICEF Algeria secured a total of US$2.1 million, representing 26 per cent of the total planned Other Resources Regular (ORR) ceiling for the programme cycle. This left a funding gap of approximately US$6 million ORR until the end of the programme cycle. Thematic funds provided globally to UNICEF represented 81 per cent of the total ORR secured to date. UNICEF Algeria continued its efforts to secure partnerships with donors.
UNICEF Algeria responded to two funding opportunities related to citizenship and the prevention of violence. The first resulted in a two-year grant from the Government of the Netherlands. A second proposal, submitted in partnership with UN Women to the Government of Japan, was not funded.

In 2017 UNICEF Algeria mobilized US$1.2 million for the humanitarian programme for Sahrawi children living in refugee camps in Tindouf, representing 44 per cent of the total requested by UNICEF in the 2016-2017 joint appeal led by UNHCR. Of this amount, US$500,000 was raised from the Italian and US$100,000 was thematic emergency funds provided by UNICEF MENARO. The balance was obtained from ECHO to fund education interventions in a new partnership established with UNICEF’s proactive engagement that began in 2016 following the October 2015 floods.

To mobilize contributions in a depressed donor environment, UNICEF Algeria office joined with the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme in organizing four joint donor missions in refugee camps and two town meetings in Algiers. To date no new contributions have been secured to finance the US$2.9 million planned for 2018. A new ECHO funding proposal is being prepared for 2018. UNICEF Algeria will join a new joint 2018-2019 appeal to be launched by UNHCR in the first quarter of 2018.

**Evaluation and research**

In 2016, an evaluation had been undertaken of the UNICEF-supported health project for Sahrawi children and women in the five refugee camps in the Tindouf province that resulted in several programme recommendations.

In early 2017, UNICEF Algeria designed a management response to address those recommendations. The response was uploaded on the UNICEF online management response tracking system. In line with the evaluation’s recommendations, a small scale funding agreement (SSFA) with a French association, ‘World Refugee Children (ERM)’ will support strengthening of Sahrawi health facilities through repair of incubators and resuscitation tables in maternities in Sahrawi refugee camps; and training of trainers in the field of maternal and child health.

A formative evaluation was planned to document the process followed by several key government stakeholders, including MoE, MSN, MoH, MRA and Mol, to develop an integrated early childhood development policy. Unfortunately this process stalled in 2017 due to the complexities of inter-ministerial cooperation and the loss of leadership assumed so far – informally - by the MoE. The conduct of such an evaluation in 2017 was considered to be premature and no decision was made as to whether the evaluation would be delayed to 2018 or simply cancelled.

**Efficiency gains and cost savings**

UNICEF Algeria made every possible effort to optimize savings on non-staff costs of administration and finance.

UNICEF Algeria has shared its premises with UNAIDS since 2010 (cost sharing rate for rent and related expenses is 16.9 per cent). In 2017, UNAIDS contributed US$41,245.48.

In mid-2017, UNICEF Algeria signed a new deal with a mobile operator to adopt a post-paid
formula with free 4G internet connection and free voice calls within UN agencies’ fleet and within provider’s subscribers. The cost savings impact of this measure will be evaluated in 2018.

Planned for mid-December as this report is being written, an energy audit is to assess energy consumption practices and trends prepare an energy saving action plan, including the utilization of on-site renewable energy sources based on the Eco-Sustainability Strategy adopted by UNICEF. UNICEF Algeria reduced electricity consumption in 2017 by 19.25 per cent due to the migration to the LIGHT Office modality.

UNICEF Algeria continued to participate in the operations management team (OMT), working with other UN agencies to set up the Business Operations Strategy for Algeria, which will support the activation of shared working groups by the end of 2018.

UNICEF Algeria continued to benefit from special discounts under seven long term agreements (LTAs) signed in 2016 and an additional four LTAs negotiated in 2017. The use of LTAs saved 40 per cent of the operations section’s time.

**Supply management**

All amounts in US dollars.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sections</th>
<th>PO Goods</th>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>G-Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Freight</td>
<td>Goods</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>US$406.30</td>
<td>US$34,732.36</td>
<td>US$279,589.34</td>
<td>US$314,728.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Tindouf</td>
<td>US$6,000.03</td>
<td>US$27,438.18</td>
<td>US$461,534.12</td>
<td>US$494,972.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>US$5,453.59</td>
<td>US$455,252.89</td>
<td>82,506.57</td>
<td>US$543,213.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>US$11,859.92</td>
<td>US$823,630.03</td>
<td>US$517,423.43</td>
<td>US$1,352,913.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above table reflects the nature of the partnership between the Government and UNICEF Algeria, which gives priority to provision of technical expertise and capacity building over that of predominantly focusing on hardware supplies and infrastructure, which the country is capable of covering. A total of 40.21 per cent of the supply component was dedicated to institutional contracts, representing 52.40 per cent of the programme supply component.

In 2017, the total volume of procurement for programme and operations reached US$62,170 and US$455,252, respectively, for Sahrawi refugees in Tindouf, representing a 50 per cent decrease from the 2016 level.

UNICEF Supply Division approved local procurement of vaccines for Sahrawi refugees, given that the supplier (Pasteur Institute of Algeria) offered to provide only WHO pre-qualified vaccines registered by National Regulatory Authority, and there were no concerns regarding quality assurance. Given limited funding available, UNICEF Algeria opted to remove the expensive PCV vaccine from the list and purchased vaccines sufficient to cover yearly needs for refugee children for eight antigens. The value of the procurement was US$146,000. UNICEF Algeria was considering purchase of PCV through humanitarian mechanisms with
cheaper prices. UNICEF Algeria also purchased individual kits of school supplies for 40,000 Sahrawi children valued at US$200,000.

UNICEF Algeria did not have a controlled warehouse; therefore supplies were handed over to implementing partners upon receipt of goods.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total value of construction project (School rehabilitation) delivered via implementing partner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools KGs rehabilitation in refugee camps in Tindouf (damaged by the October 2015 &amp; August 2016 floods)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With funding from the Italian Government and from ECHO, UNICEF Algeria continued rehabilitating schools or kindergartens affected by the floods or windstorm in 2015 and 2016 and building sanitation facilities, mainly in 10 lower secondary schools. To implement these projects, UNICEF Algeria cooperated with two NGOs who in turn worked with local Sahrawi contractors selected through competitive and transparent bidding processes. The technical supervision of this work was done by engineers from the Ministry of Construction and from the NGOs, together with a UNICEF WASH consultant deployed in Tindouf.

**Security for staff and premises**

The UNICEF Regional Security Advisor (RSA) visited UNICEF Algeria in September and assessed the security infrastructure and process as being in extremely good shape. He noted that UNICEF Algeria met all minimum requirements (and beyond) and the security measures implemented were what other UN premises should aspire to. Recommendations to be implemented in 2018 include the retrofit of the Safe-Room. The RSA also facilitated a security-awareness briefing and Q&A for UNICEF Algeria staff.

UNICEF Algeria, with the UNDSS team, conducted a simulation exercise in September that included a simulation of office intrusion, a suspect package addressed to the Representative and staff evacuation from premises. The exercise tested the security measures in place and the level of security awareness and preparedness of all staff and the security guards. UNICEF Algeria also successfully tested the business continuity plan and the communication tree, respectively, in April and June 2017.

In 2017, UNICEF Algeria participated in the UNDSS-led processes of updating the Security Plan and the Programme Criticality exercise for both Algiers and Tindouf.

The average level of participation of UNICEF Algeriastaff to the radio check was above 80 per cent.

UNICEF Algeria maintained a standing level of readiness for emergency. The Emergency Communication System, Radio Communication, Security Information and Structure, Warden System, SMT meetings and Security Clearance Procedure and Emergency Power supply were all in place.

**Human resources**
The 2017 PBR submission for UNICEF Algeria was prepared taking into consideration use of the different type of resources that tally with corporate standards.

UNICEF Algeria continued to encourage ongoing feedback and coaching processes where supervisors and supervisees cooperated in sustaining constructive discussions. This cooperation was further strengthened by training on Performance Management conducted by the UNICEF Regional Office (MENORO) Human Resource Chief and an international consultant from Maycoach.

UNICEF Algeria organized a brainstorming exercise, facilitated by an external expert, on the results of the GSS 2017. Findings were consolidated in an office-wide Office Improvement Plan (OIP) developed and endorsed by all staff. The OIP will be uploaded in the Improvement Plan website and will be regularly updated. UNICEF Algeriabenefited from the mission of a Regional Staff Counsellor and training of the two newly appointed PSVs.

The UNICEF Algeria Joint Consultative Committee met three times in 2017.

UNICEF Algeria filled three vacant programme officers (NO) positions and in November initiated the recruitment process for vacant positions in the Operations section.

The recruitment processes for child protection, ECD, M&E, finance officer and admin/supply assistant positions were completed and the incumbents assumed their functions. The recruitment process for the driver position (replacing a retired staff) was completed and the incumbent will start in January 2018. The recruitment process for the programme officer position in Tindouf progressed but was not finalized at year-end.

**Effective use of information and communication technology**

The information and communication technology (ICT) function was governed by the country management team (CMT), which ensured availability of 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 meetings.

In May 2016, UNICEF Algeria was selected by the ITSS Division to be part of Lightweight and Agile IT initiative (LIGHT). The project is one of several IT-enabled investment projects approved by the OED for this quadrennium. It focuses on maximizing efficiency and effectiveness by reducing field office running costs and increasing workforce flexibility and mobility.

Comprehensive plans were designed and measures were taken to prepare for implementation of the LIGHT project, which began in March 2017. The actual implementation of the LIGHT project took place smoothly and efficiently within identified timelines. UNICEF Algeria did not encounter any major issues with implementation. The migration to the LIGHT Office allowed for significant cost savings on maintenance of the data centre and in ICT staff time, which can instead be devoted to more productive areas such as ICT4P and knowledge management. UNICEF Algeria decommissioned all physical servers, virtual machines and iSCSI Central Storage, which represented a significant cost savings of approximately US$4,800 annually for ICT equipment and almost US$1,000 for electrical consumption (which also contributes to reducing environmental impact).
The migration to Windows 10 was finalized successfully in mid-December and a hardware replacement plan was prepared for the existing laptops and desktops non-compatible with Windows 10 security requirements. All laptops and desktops were compliant with UNICEF standards. A new Private Branch Exchange (PBX) was implemented and was fully operational.

The ICT Officer also performed Finance functions. This will change with the new staffing structure of the Operations section.

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
The promotion of quality care and services for newborns, children and adolescents remained at the heart of UNICEF’s interventions in 2017. The development of a national perinatal health strategy to reduce neonatal mortality was supported with high level technical expertise and wide consultation with hundreds of health professionals throughout the country. During the consultation process, regional neonatal task forces were established in each province as a key mechanism to better identify, analyse and address bottlenecks in neonatal wards and to ensure local ownership of the national strategy. The outcome document of the consultations was reshaped as a national strategy. Once endorsed by the Minister of Health, the strategy will allow for the development of targeted interventions to increase quality care in neonatal wards. During the next phase of work, priority will be given to capacity development of health professionals involved in perinatal care.

UNICEF Algeria’s immunization assistance was ongoing, building on an application developed to allow for the generation of web-based electronic vaccination files. Known as DEVAC (Dossier Electronique de Vaccination), this innovation permits the recording and monitoring of the vaccination of individual children. It was tested in 80 municipalities in 2017 and was being upgraded to facilitate its integration within the National Health Information System (NHIS). Thanks to this application, macro-level data will be generated to inform EPI planning and monitoring. UNICEF technical assistance supported the Ministry to upgrade the application and prepare for the progressive scale up of DEVAC nationwide.

UNICEF support to EPI also involved contributing to the communication/mobilization plan of the measles and rubella campaign that took place in late December 2017 (and was to continue into early January 2018) for 6 to 14-year-old girls and boys. The plan involved both sensitization of health professionals and mobilization of parents, especially mothers. Given the difficulties faced during the last two vaccination campaigns, UNICEF considered it necessary to support the 2017 campaign.

UNICEF facilitated the Government of Algeria’s participation in two international meetings on immunization. In October, UNICEF Supply Division hosted the global Vaccine Procurement Practitioners Exchange Forum (VPPEF) aimed at facilitating exchanges between countries on adapted procurement practices, planning and securing sustainable supply of new vaccines. In November, UNICEF participated in the Consultative Review on Immunization Financing in MENA Middle-income countries. UNICEF worked in the health sector in collaboration with sister
agencies (UNFPA, UNAIDS, WHO), under the H6 umbrella. UNICEF also was part of the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) group to reinforce the prevention and response to HIV/AIDS.

The formulation of an integrated early childhood development (ECD) policy, which progressed well in 2016, essentially stalled in 2017. UNICEF continued its advocacy and technical support for the process. In May 2017 a training session was organized on design and use of simulation models that was attended by officials from partner ministries involved in the ECD policy initiative. UNICEF also continued to cooperate with individual ministries to advance work on ECD-related areas such as those mentioned above in the field of health as well as on several for Education. Those included preparation of a skills’ assessment for pupils when entering first grade of primary cycle as a way to assess the effectiveness of different preschool education modalities and to guide work on early learning standards; and joint preparation with the National Institute of Research in Education (INRE) for experts’ roundtables or workshops on preschool education to be conducted in 2018.

UNICEF Algeria’s successful cooperation with the Ministry of Education in 2017 also included initiation of qualitative studies on the issue of out-of-school-children in the eight provinces most affected by the phenomenon to better analyse the reasons for dropout and alternative options for out-of-school adolescents (particularly boys) and inform the formulation of prevention and response policies and strategies. UNICEF also supported preparations for the implementation of a national learning achievement study to take place at the close of the 2017/18 school year, which will contribute to developing national capacity for learning assessment. UNICEF Algeria supported the development of methodologies and tools (written and audio-visual) for multi-grades classes, which are prevalent in small schools in rural, often underserved communities. The training of trainers on these methodologies and tools has prepared the scale up phase of this successful initiative that will boost the quality of education in these schools.

In December 2017, UNICEF Algeria launched phase one of the life skills and citizenship education (LSCE) initiative, consisting of mapping existing LSCE programmes and materials. Phase one work will conclude with a national-level multi-stakeholders’ consultation in mid-2018. UNICEF also mobilized UN agencies as part of the UN Youth group to support joint-implementation of this inter-agency initiative.

**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 2015/16, Algeria had engaged in the design of an integrated ECD policy to increase and progressively generalize access of children under 5 to quality social services. This initiative, led by Ministry of Education (MoE), involved ministries whose mandates cover young children, including the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of National Solidarity (MNS), and Ministry of Religious Affairs (MRA). During the first phase of work, a UNICEF expert working with an informal multi-sectoral task force conducted a situation analysis of coverage, effectiveness and efficiency of ECD related services. The analysis included preschool education for 3 to 6-year-olds; mother and child health care; and protection services for vulnerable young children and families. The second phase of work included design of eight costed scenarios to inform options for scale-up/generalisation of services by 2025 and to guide a government decision. MoE and MNS had selected their ‘preferred’ scenarios, MoH progressed but, weary of cost implications, did not finalize its review, and MRA insisted on revising figures used for analysis.
In early 2017, the coordination assumed de facto by MEN was challenged and the task force became somewhat disempowered, leaving this strategic planning process unfinished. To reactivate inter-ministerial dialogue, in May 2017 UNICEF organized a training workshop on budget simulations models for officials from the ministries involved in ECD.

Immunization initiatives reinforced the reduction of preventable diseases. Technical assistance and equipment were provided by UNICEF for the development of the DEVAC software that generates web-based individual child electronic vaccination files. This application was being integrated into the National Health Information System. The pilot phase was being evaluated while the software was upgraded to prepare for the scale up of DEVAC nationwide by the MoH.

To strengthen the Government of Algeria’s immunization supply and delivery systems as well as its funding mechanism, UNICEF promoted the Government’s participation in the forum for vaccine procurement practitioners in Copenhagen in October and in a regional consultative review on financing in Jordan in November. Given the low immunization coverage against rubella and measles reached during the spring vaccination campaign, UNICEF agreed to support an additional campaign at the end of 2017, covering communication costs and MoH capacity building workshops for 500 health professionals.

UNICEF Algeria also supported implementation of the national perinatal health programme to reduce neonatal and maternal mortality. Provincial neonatal task forces were set up to identify, analyse and address bottlenecks in delivery rooms and neonatal wards. UNICEF’s experts contributed to the development of a Neonatal Mortality Reduction Strategy with a series of regional consultations early 2017. During a national consultation in July, professionals examined recommendations of the final draft strategy, which was awaiting MoH endorsement. A tool produced in collaboration with MoH and MRA in 2016 to equip female religious community workers with interpersonal communication skills to promote good family practices in health, nutrition and hygiene was adapted for use in Sahrawi refugee camps in 2017, and training for health workers will be carried out in the first quarter of 2018.

**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**

With the enrolment rates exceeding 98 per cent in primary and 95 per cent in lower secondary education, Algeria stood among the MENA region’s highest performers. However, concerns relating to quality of education and school dropout remained. The Ministry of Education (MoE) therefore focused on a pedagogical review, on reinforced governance and on reinforced capacity building of education staff. In this framework and as part of a follow-up to the out-of-school-children study (2014/2015), MoE decided to develop a plan to prevent and respond to school dropout, with UNICEF assistance. Qualitative studies were implemented to assess the situation of pupils at-risk of dropping out and of adolescents who had already dropped out in the last few years. The study was initiated late 2017 and will analyse children’s endeavours, including their access to vocational training and employment. The study will be carried out in eight provinces where dropout is highest and will have a gender dimension, recognizing that boys are largely more affected than girls from lower secondary onwards. The outcomes of the study will inform elaboration of a plan. The National Observatory for Education and Training (ONEF), tasked by MoE to implement the studies, agreed to work jointly with UNICEF on
violence in school prevention (reported on under output 003).

UNICEF Algeria’s technical expertise was deployed to ensure that children studying in MGC benefit from pedagogical approaches and tools better adapted to this specific modality, which mostly prevails in remote rural areas characterized by dispersed habitat and limited availability of teachers. This creates challenges for equitable access to school, particularly for girls in early grades. UNICEF engaged to help the MGC modality progress from ‘children accessing school’ to ‘children effectively benefiting of quality teaching and learning’. With the newly developed methodology and tools, teachers will be better equipped to teach simultaneously to pupils in different grades. This was previously considered an unsurmountable challenge. In 2017, a training toolkit for teachers was designed, supported by videos picturing sequences of best teaching practices along with testimonials from MGC teachers who had piloted the new methodologies. Thirty national trainers were trained on the new methods and tools and will disseminate 3,000 copies of the toolkit to MGC teachers and supervisors throughout the country.

The implementation of the regional initiative on life skills and citizenship education (LSCE) in Algeria provides an opportunity to address challenges in quality and relevance and to increase youth employability. In 2017 the regional LSCE was further discussed with counterparts from four ministries. The Government of Algeria, represented by a MoE official, took part in the LSCE initiative regional launch in Jordan in October. In early 2018, the LSCE will be initiated with a mapping of existing programmes and materials. The mapping will conclude with a national-level multi-stakeholders’ consultation in mid-2018.

UNICEF also focused on mobilizing UN agencies to participate in the UN Youth group and support joint implementation of this inter-agency initiative.

**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**

Despite the significant decrease in oil revenues and the resulting budgetary constraints, the Government of Algeria continued to invest heavily in education as a social service, provided free of charge and compulsory for children ages 6 to 16 years. This strong investment aimed to sustain the country’s achievements in generalizing access for all girls and boys, with virtually no gender disparities from preschool to the end of basic education. The investment also aimed to address remaining challenges, including quality and retention, along with violence in and around schools, insufficient inclusion of children with disabilities in schools, and highly-centralized systems that inhibit school-based management opportunities.

Investments also aimed to improve the Education Management Information System (EMIS), which still faced difficulties in generating qualitative, reliable and timely data necessary for well-informed decision-making and policy formulation processes. To assist the MoE in addressing these challenges in a structured manner, the 2016-2020 UNICEF Algeria country programme aims to provide support in four main areas: development of a strong Education Management Information System (EMIS); putting in place an institutionalized system to monitor pupils’ learning outcomes; the prevention of violence in school; and the promotion of inclusive education. Progress has been made on putting in place an institutionalized system to monitor pupils’ learning, with better definition of needs, objectives and expected results. UNICEF supported a project to assist the MoE with the set up a national mechanism that will allow
regular monitoring of learning outcomes and to conduct the first assessment during the school year 2018-2019. A consultancy firm was hired by UNICEF and training sessions for the MoE technical team under the department of evaluation were developed. The project was in place to be officially launched in January 2018.

Progress was slow in 2017 on the other three components of the programme. Needs had not yet been assessed for the EMIS necessary to reinforce the overall MoE governance, and the scope of the project still needed to be more clearly outlined and agreed upon by UNICEF and the MoE. For the violence in/around school project, a focal point was designated by the MoE in the fourth quarter of 2017 and an agreement was reached with UNICEF on initiating research to inform the updating and enriching of the existing draft national strategy. The MoE also engaged in a dialogue with UNICEF on how to address risks related to Internet use by children in a country ‘traumatised by the suicide of many children in relation with their use of a web-based application.’ UNICEF’s support for inclusive education was being reconsidered in order to build on the assistance made available by the French technical cooperation, which consisted of building the capacities of educational staff in the field of differentiated instruction. UNICEF will pursue advocacy efforts to promote an inclusive approach within classes and offer continued technical assistance to the Government of Algeria to do so.

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

**Analytical statement of progress**

To build on progress achieved by Algeria in the child rights legal arena over the past two years, UNICEF strengthened its long-standing cooperation with MNS and its nascent partnership with the newly established National Organ for the Promotion and Protection of Children (NOPPC). The aim was to further influence the operational aspects of implementing the Child Protection Law adopted in July 2015, particularly as it pertains to set-up of a referral mechanism of the ‘child in danger’, which involves both MNS and NOPPC, along with the police and gendarmerie. One provision of the Child Protection law was operationalized through the decree establishing the NOPPC; most other operational decrees were still in the making in 2017, including the explanation for ‘who does what and when’ in the referral mechanism and clarification of accountability lines of different stakeholders. To date partners have not taken up UNICEF’s offer of technical assistance on this decree.

Establishment of the NOPPC was in itself a major achievement for child rights protection and promotion. This was previously the ‘missing piece’ in the child rights apparatus in Algeria. The fact that the NOPPC reports directly to the Prime Minister places it high in the government hierarchy and gives it wide prerogatives that can be capitalized for children. The NOPPC was nearly fully operational in 2017 and had set up the inter-sectoral coordination committee, provided for by the law and formed by representatives of 14 ministries and key NGOs. While a formalized cooperation plan with UNICEF Algeria was being designed for 2018-2019, partners had already implemented a number of joint actions pertaining to organizing events such as the celebration of International Day of the Child and 25th anniversary of Algeria’s ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Both events were attended by several ministers, ambassadors, representatives of UN agencies and prominent Algerian public figures. Future cooperation will focus on strengthening the NOPPC capacities to optimally fulfil its mandate.

In the wake of the launch of the UNICEF ‘State of the World’s Children’ 2017 report on ‘Children in a Digital World’, UNICEF relaunched a wide communication campaign on child online...
protection in collaboration with MSN and private and public media. The campaign was part of UNICEF’s increased outreach to the public for the protection of children exposed to risks while using digital applications. The campaign timing incidentally corresponded to the tragic news of several adolescents who committed suicide in conjunction with their use of an online app.

The review of foster care standards initiated in 2013 continued in 2017. In March, a seminar was organized with professionals and MNS stakeholders. Several tools used by public centres accommodating children in need of alternative care were finalized. UNICEF recommended that these tools be complemented with the design of a manual for professionals from the social and judicial arenas. Such a manual would include materials and information necessary to identify adequate alternatives, from foster families to institutional care, as well as to document children and families’ assessments and follow-up.

UNICEF and MNS also discussed ways of strengthening the pre- and in-service training of the social workforce, starting with reviewing existing programmes. Dialogue was underway to define the scope of the review and the type of assistance required. Some elements of this activity will likely have relevance for the training of magistrates and police officers. UNICEF discussed with the National School for Magistrates (ENM) the training of public servants associated with the Ministry of Justice.

Knowledge management and evidence generation were given increased priority in 2017. The study on services delivered to children by MNS conducted in 2013/14 was officially presented and discussed with social work professionals and with members of the initial inter-ministerial Steering Committee that supervised the study. The study recommendations pointed out the need to develop a system to ensure enhanced cross-sectoral collaboration at provincial level and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of professionals and services dealing with children.

The study on access to services and social participation of children with disabilities in Saharawi camps carried out in partnership with Disability International was disseminated early 2017. Recommendations included strengthening the existing system for diagnosing disabilities; developing the capacity of professionals; establishing additional specialized day-care centres; and further enhancing parents’ sensitization.

Research conducted on the budget allocated to child protection programmes managed by MNS recommended strengthening the Ministry’s capacity to analyse and to develop a child-sensitive budget. The research suggested doing so by designing a ‘Satellite account for the child’ to facilitate assessing budgets and expenditures allocated to children; developing a funding plan for NGOs to prevent decisions based on ad-hoc requests and increase control over resources allocated to NGO partners; normalizing costs for expenditures related to specific groups of children; and strengthening the MNS information system to allow for real-time analysis of the ‘child budget’.

In mid-2017, in response to a request from the MNS, the recommendations of the research conducted in partnership with Médecins du Monde (MDM) in 2015 on migrant children’s access to services were expanded in scope and shared more widely, in an effort to contribute to the development of an action plan responding to the concerns highlighted in the study.

**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
UNICEF Algeria closely interacted with state partners to build on the progress achieved over the last two years in the legal arena pertaining to child protection. Contacts were nurtured with the newly established National Organ for the Promotion and Protection of Children (NOPPC), which reports directly to the Prime Minister. The NOPPC was nearly fully operational and a Standing Coordination Committee was formed per the provisions of the December 2016 decree by which the NOPPC functioning is regulated. The committee is composed of representatives of 14 ministries and of key NGOs such as the Algerian Red Crescent, the Algerian Muslim Scouts, and the NADA network, consisting of 150 NGOs active in the field of child protection and childhood related activities. The establishment of the Standing Coordination Committee will enhance the overall child protection system.

UNICEF’s partnership with NOPPC gave priority to the promotion of child rights along with capacity development of NOPPC personnel. In November, UNICEF also supported NOPPC’s celebration of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with the participation of high-level Algerian officials, United Nations representatives and foreign ambassadors.

In 2017 an analysis was completed on the resources allocated to child protection programmes managed by MNS. Four key recommendations emerged aimed at strengthening capacities of MNS in analysing and developing a child-sensitive budget. These included: designing a ‘Satellite account for the child’ to facilitate assessment of budgets and expenditures allocated to children; developing a funding plan for NGOs to prevent decisions based on ad-hoc requests and increase control over resources allocated to NGOs; normalizing costs for expenditures related to specific groups of children; and strengthening the information system of the MNS to allow analysis of the ‘child budget’ on a real-time basis. Follow-up was being discussed with government partners.

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 Child Protection Law adopted in 2015 provided for the establishment of a compulsory reporting requirement for cases of children ‘at-risk’ and a systematized referral and response mechanism. For several years, UNICEF provided high level technical expertise for the establishment of an institutionalized mechanism and protocols to deal with clearly categorized situations of concern.

During a seminar in March facilitated by UNICEF Algeria partner International Social Services (SSI), UNICEF recommended complementing the review of foster care standards project with the development of a manual for professionals. The manual would provide standard tools to assist with the identification of alternatives, from foster families to institutional care, the documentation of children and families’ assessments and the follow-up carried out for each child.

A project was being designed with MNS to reinforce training of professionals involved in social work. The first phase consisted of an initial assessment of trainings delivered by the threenational training centres. Contacts were maintained with the National School for Magistrates to strengthen the training of public servants associated with the Ministry of Justice. A formal partnership may be pursued in 2018.
Dissemination of the study on access to services for migrant children carried out in partnership with Médecins du Monde (MDM) in 2015 was not yet approved by MNS. In early 2017, MNS requested that the recommendations be expanded toward developing an action plan to respond to the concerns highlighted in the study. UNICEF continued to advocate for increased access to health and education services for that population and will further explore enlarged technical assistance to respond to protection concerns.

The mapping of social services for children conducted in 2013 in support of MNS was debated again in October 2017 by MNS and members of the initial inter-ministerial Steering Committee. The successive reviews of the report by various stakeholders explains the delays faced for its finalization. Still of relevance the need for increased cross-sectoral collaboration mechanism at provincial level and for further clarification of roles and responsibilities of professionals and services dealing with children. With UNICEF support, a web-based application for geolocation of MNS services was developed by students of the Innovation Laboratory of the High School of Computer Science. It will be hosted on the MNS website.

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 behaviors.

Analytical statement of progress
In 2017, implementation of activities to increase participation and protection of youth faced several challenges due to restructuring of Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS). The increased access of girls and boys to youth-friendly structures through design of ‘model’ youth centres was awaiting the outcome of the national contest launched by the MoYS. Planned capacity building of youth animators in promoting innovative and creative methodologies to attract adolescents and develop their full potential was awaiting MoYS endorsement.

The mapping of youth centres and services initiated with the MoYS in 2015 to better inform youth of the opportunities and social services available for them resumed mid-2017 with organization of an intersectoral meeting to secure the commitment of ministerial counterparts to share the data needed for the mapping.

To equip adolescents and youth with competencies essential for their personal and professional lives, and in line with national policies for promoting youth, UNICEF and MoYS implemented the regional initiative on Life skills and Citizenship Education (LSCE). Jointly with other ministries, including the MoE and MNS, and in partnership with UN youth coordination group member agencies, a mapping of LSCE policies and programs in Algeria began in December 2017. The mapping is expected to inform actors about opportunities and gaps in this field both in formal and non-formal education and lead to a national consultation to build consensus on objectives, strategic approaches and interventions to further develop LSCE. It also is expected to address gender stereotypes and social norms.

The ‘Innovation Lab’ partnership between UNICEF and the Higher Institute for Computer Science was further pursed and nurtured to allow students, as ‘agents of change’, to develop several website projects and digital applications. One application allowed for the geolocation of centres run by MSN and will be integrated in the MSN website. Students also were developing applications to assist professionals working with autistic children; promote appropriate risk-free behaviours of children in an urban environment; or facilitate functioning of people living with a physical handicap within their homes.
UNICEF, with UN sister agencies, continued to advocate for youth engagement through participation in various public events, including the opening of summer camps and the celebration by CSOs of International Youth Day on 12 August.

UNICEF expanded collaborations with CSOs and NGOs throughout the country. Technical assistance will be provided to build their capacities in advocacy, communication, fund-raising; CSO outreach capacities will also be promoted to increase protection of vulnerable children and youth and disseminate best practices for the prevention and response to violence.

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
The Algerian Government action plan, approved in September 2017 by the Parliament, clarifies the official strategic intent of the Government toward social transfers and public finance management for the coming years. It confirms that the Government will pursue its social transfers policy, including direct and indirect subsidies, by optimizing solidarity-oriented public spending to target the population most in need and details the roadmap for public finance recovery in the wake of the oil prices ‘crisis’ and its negative effects on the economy. One of the objectives outlined in the roadmap is to ‘ensure equitable allocation of social transfers to the population’ and one of the measures is to implement a reform of the public subsidies’ policy (Algerian Government Action Plan, September 2017). Since 2013, UNICEF Algeria, jointly with Algerian Government institutions, undertook studies, evaluations and South-South cooperation on coherence and effectiveness of social protection. UNICEF Algeria’s ongoing technical support in the area of ‘social inclusion of children’ is built upon past achievements and remains fully inline with the Government’s decision to reform subsidies policy and increase public spending effectiveness and efficiency for the benefit of the most vulnerable.

This policy orientation prioritizing the most vulnerable population was supported by the creation of a dedicated institutional mechanism. The presidential decree published in early 2017 regarding the reorganization of the National Economic and Social Council (CNES) enshrined in the constitution reflects the CNES commitment, and through it, that of the Government, to promote equity-focused public policies. The CNES created six new permanent commissions working on different social and economic issues. Among them, a dedicated permanent commission on ‘Equity, social promotion, human capital, culture, education, vocational training and tertiary education’ focused on policies that, in their design and implementation, take into account social and economic disparities. UNICEF Algeria’s partnership with CNES since 2014, which included equity-focused knowledge and evidence generation, capacity building and South-South cooperation initiatives on equity, contributed to this transition from "equality-focused" to ‘equity-focused’ policies.

A new vision for the ‘social inclusion’ programme of UNICEF Algeria with the Algerian Government was being developed to increase the focus on ‘translating knowledge into action’. The vision includes technical support to Algerian institutions in developing social innovation and policy options to better reach deprived and poor children through adequate social protection schemes with operational mechanisms to monitor their implementation and effectiveness. A new initiative launched in late 2017 will bear fruit in 2018.
OUTPUT 1 Strengthened national capacity and skills for the creation of knowledge regarding social equality and multidimensional poverty for children.

Analytical statement of progress
New analytical evidence was generated on multidimensional poverty of children and youth thanks to implementation of National Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (N-MODA) of children and youth aged 0 to 24 years conducted by the ‘Equity Cell’ and the National Economic and Social Council (CNES), with support from UNICEF. Results of this analysis indicated that 18 per cent of children and youth are multidimensionally poor (deprived of three dimensions or more). Deprivation was higher for children living in the poorest households (35 per cent) and for those who lived in rural areas (24 per cent). Results also indicated that multidimensional poverty decreased with age. Young children aged 0-4 years old were more affected by multidimensional poverty (27 per cent) than older children and youth aged 16-24 years (9 per cent). The full N-MODA report was drafted but not yet released. A summary report was produced and disseminated at different fora, including at a regional South-South conference on child poverty co-organized by UNICEF MENARO and UNICEF Morocco.

Evidence on children and youth deprivation was presented by the CNES, in its advisory role to the Government, to the Presidency cabinet. It was also at the centre of discussions and debates at a South-South cooperation workshop organized in Algiers in a partnership between the CNES, the Mexican Council for the Evaluation of Social Development (CONEVAL), and UNICEF. Participants included Algerian institutions and experts, including an advisor to the Head of State, as well as international partners and civil society. The ‘Equity Cell’ and national institutions were familiarised with the experience of Mexico in institutionalizing multidimensional poverty analysis and evaluation and operational recommendations were proposed to help Algeria reach the same level of institutionalization in the medium- to long-term.

As a follow-up to the workshop, CNES and UNICEF agreed to take steps to capitalize the N-MODA findings through the design of policy options to address children and youth deprivations and strengthen the evaluation capacities of the country’s institutions.

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
For the second time since implementing the Structural Adjustment Programme in the 1990s, the Algerian Government decided to review its subsidy policy by progressively removing energy subsidies. The Government committed not to reduce resources allocated to social transfers. The budget allocated to social transfers as a share of public budget slightly increased from 23.1 per cent in 2016 to 23.7 per cent in 2017; however, in percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), it decreased from 10.5 per cent in 2016 to 8.4 per cent in 2017 (according to the Ministry of Finance, 2017). The budgets devoted to public investment and recurrent public expenditures are being decreased with the aim of reducing the budget deficit from 11.6 per cent of GDP in 2016 to 1.9 per cent in 2019.

The N-MODA findings revealed that 2.5 per cent of children and youth aged 0-24 years were deprived both socially and from an income perspective, which means that they had access neither to adequate social services nor to social protection and cash transfers. N-MODA also showed that 4.3 per cent of children and youth were income deprived without being socially deprived, which raised the issue of access to cash transfers or social assistance in general.
Those two categories of children and youth were therefore more exposed to an increased risk of social exclusion as they were not well targeted by existing social protection schemes.

Based on evidence generated by N-MODA, UNICEF Algeria raised the issue of potential risks for children in this general climate of budgetary constraints. A dialogue was initiated with national institutions, both those directly working on the review of subsidies or those which are strongly affected by budgetary cuts.

One of the main constraints identified was the lack of capacity to track and assess children’s access to the numerous existing social protection schemes. To help address this constraint, UNICEF Algeria provided technical assistance and expertise and proposed concrete steps to the Ministry of National Solidarity, Family and Women (MNS) to strengthen information management capacities of professionals who deliver social protection programmes at local level. A feasibility study was engaged on the ‘set-up of a digital information system for tracking and monitoring social protection for children and families at local level’ in a Wilaya of the Central Highlands. This province was selected because it has some of the highest multidimensional poverty (23 per cent) and income poverty (15 per cent) levels. The feasibility study and the digital information system project involve the collaboration of ‘proximity and solidarity cells’ which manage social assistance programmes at provincial and communal (municipalities) levels. They work directly with poor and vulnerable families and population groups and have extensive experience in collecting and analysing social and poverty data.

Results around child-sensitive social protection were constrained by delays in signing the joint workplan between the MNS and UNICEF Algeria and in identification of quality technical expertise to support this initiative.

**OUTCOME 4 Special Purpose Outcome**

**Analytical statement of progress**

Staff safety and security of premises remained a priority for UNICEF Algeria in 2017. All necessary security measures were implemented to allow the office to be MOSS compliant. The United Nations Security Management Team (SMT) in Algeria met periodically to discuss the security updates in the country and in bordering countries to make the necessary decisions for staff safety.

**OUTPUT 1 Premises and Security**

**Analytical statement of progress**

The UNICEF Algeria office is 100 per cent MOSS compliant. The retrofit of the Safe Room is scheduled for 2018. Along with the UNDSS team, UNICEF Algeria conducted a simulation exercise in September 2017 that included a simulation of office intrusion, suspect package and parcel addressed to the Representative and staff evacuation from premises. The exercise tested the security measures in place and the level of security awareness and preparedness of the staff and the security guard. UNICEF Algeria contributed to the UNDSS-led processes of updating the Security Plan and the Programme Criticality exercise for both Algiers and Tindouf. The warden system implemented in 2017 was successfully tested on a regular basis.
OUTCOME 5 Management Outcome

Analytical statement of progress

This outcome focuses on the effective and efficient processing and implementation of activities that enable a smooth operational of the country office. Key activities as described for each output below.
The funds allocated to the country office under this Outcome are for the non-staff cost category, while the staff costs are maintained at headquarters level.

OUTPUT 1 Programme Effectiveness Outcome

Analytical statement of progress

All management systems were operating effectively and efficiently.

The LIGHT Office project was implemented smoothly and efficiently within the established timelines. (The LIGHT project focuses on maximizing efficiency and effectiveness by reducing field office running costs and increasing workforce flexibility and mobility.)

UNICEF Algeria achieved a 100 per cent level of emergency preparedness status in the EWEA site. The Business Continuity Plan was updated in April and July 2017 to maintain operational response capacity during potential crisis situations.

A HACT assurance plan was developed and implemented and was closely monitored at Country Management Team level, with inputs provided by the Operations Manager and the HACT Focal Point. Programme visits and spot checks were conducted regularly as per the HACT assurance plan. Five programmatic visits and 1 spot check were conducted in 2017.

Audits were planned and conducted in 2017 for two Implementing Partners receiving more than US$500,000/cycle.

Trainings were provided for four implementing partners in May and for three implementing partners in December on HACT procedures and FACE Form.

An exercise was conducted in February 2017 to update the Risk Assessment document (Risk Library) in accordance with the new AMP instructions. Most risk and mitigation measures were integrated in the 2017 AMP document, corresponding to the respective programme and management priorities.

OUTPUT 2 Financial Resources and Stewardship

Analytical statement of progress

To ensure ongoing monitoring of programme implementation and proper management of financial resources, during its monthly meetings, the country management team systematically reviewed Managers’ dashboard alerts, budget implementation status, monitoring of Programme Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) and Direct Cash Transfers (DCTs). The Country Management Team took steps to address detected weaknesses and dealt with them promptly, with
verifications made during the following CMT meeting.

Physical inventory was conducted twice in 2017 and findings were reconciled against VISION data. All assets marked for PSB were processed in December 2017.

The HACT Quality Assurance activities were fully implemented with staff completing 100 per cent of programmatic visits and spot checks. The services of an audit company services were used for audits and for micro-assessments. No outstanding DCT of more than 6 months were registered throughout the year.

As of November, the target of month end bank balances not exceeding 50 per cent of total monthly replenishments was met in 9 of 11 months. Year-end closure activities were systematically completed within established timelines.

OUTPUT 3 Human Resources Management

Analytical statement of progress
No LDC meeting was held in 2017. A new chair was nominated in November. A training plan including individual and group training was developed, monitored quarterly and shared with the Regional Office. As of 30 November, 100 per cent of mandatory group trainings were completed. An ethic dialogue facilitator was designated.

Nearly all staff completed PER within the established deadlines.

The recruitment processes for child protection, ECD, M&E, finance officer and admin/supply assistant positions were completed and the incumbents assumed their functions. The recruitment process for the driver position (replacing a retired staff) was completed and the incumbent will start in January 2018. The recruitment process for the programme officer position in Tindouf progressed but was not finalized at year-end.

The OIP was developed in a participatory process that included three sessions with the staff to analyse the results of the Global Staff Survey. The OIP was reviewed and endorsed by the JCC and uploaded in the Improvement Plan website. It will be regularly updated to include the OIP progress status. A one-day brainstorming exercise facilitated by an external expert was organized around the result of the GSS 2017.

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 Center (GSC) and Payroll units. A training session also was dedicated to presenting the Achieve and Talent Management systems before their launch. UNICEF Algeria benefitted from a joint mission of the regional staff counsellor and of the regional security advisor, as well as the training of two newly appointed PSVs.

A Performance Management training conducted by the MENARO HR Chief and an international consultant from Maycoach was beneficial to individual staff members and to the team at large.

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**Lessons learned**

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