Executive Summary

In 2014, UNICEF Algeria’s past efforts towards qualitative evidence and knowledge production around key child rights issues yielded significant results in terms of immediate and anticipated policy shifts in favour of children.

This was most visible in the area of early childhood, where a range of evidence production supported by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) over the past years led in 2013 to the initiation of a multi-sectoral expert group involving seven different Ministry partners and civil society groups working under the Education Minister’s leadership towards what will be Algeria’s first national early childhood development (ECD) strategy. Highlighting the criticality of pre-schooling in future educational results for children, some of the reflections facilitated by this work led the Algerian Education Minister – in close collaboration with the Minister for Religious Affairs – to announce her intent to generalise preschool access to all Algerian children as early as possible, and possibly as early as 2016. Though much remains to be done to make this a reality, this is a major policy shift that should do much to provide each young Algerian child with equal opportunities in terms of their future learning achievements in school, and should positively affect the issue of multiple school year repetitions currently endured by too many children, including at the primary level.

Another critical policy shift was the commitment by the Algerian Social and Economic National Council (Conseil National Economique et Social/CNES) to support the creation of a Social Equity Observatory (SEO), with an anticipated focus on the production of a multi-dimensional mapping of children’s deprivations to highlight the most vulnerable population groups and geographical areas of concentration of such vulnerabilities. Such commitment will be strongly buoyed by nascent UNICEF-supported South-South cooperation with Mexico, which will leverage the expertise and impressive achievements of their own evaluation-mandated institution (National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy [CONEVAL]) specifically on social policy impact evaluations. Again, whilst such a shift will yield visible results in the mid to long term, it should also prove a crucial milestone in helping place data and child-focused evidence at the core of the decision-making agenda for future national development plans.

The year 2014 also witnessed a significant change in the scale of UNICEF’s outreach in terms of child rights advocacy. The #Endviolence campaign proved an immensely powerful advocacy vehicle, gathering together a wide range of institutional and civil society partners, and leading to formal outreach by the Government of Algeria towards the UN Human Rights Council to table this very issue as a core issue for all children of the world, with an urgency for all states to strengthen their prevention and protection systems. The 25th anniversary of the CRC (CRC@25) equally provided an important opportunity to review key victories for child rights in the country, as well as what remains to be done in a number of areas. The partnership with the widest-read francophone newspaper in the country (El Watan) to have their weekend edition solely focusing on the CRC@25 brought significant attention to child rights in Algeria.
Against such a positive backdrop, a few areas proved more challenging in achieving results as planned in 2014, as was well documented in the mid-term review of UNICEF 2012-2015, which was initiated at the end of 2013 and concluded in mid-2014.

The first revolved around youth-focused results, which were largely constrained by several shifts in the government cabinet structure and leadership between the end of 2013 and mid-2014. Other types of challenges revolved around constraints on data transparency. This was notably the case around the inception of an evaluation of the effectiveness of current non-contributive social transfer schemes, in cooperation with the Oxford Policy Management Group supported by a national research centre (Centre de Recherche en Economie Appliquée au Développement; [CREAD]). Although the initial evaluation phase produced extremely powerful results and demonstrated the clear opportunities available towards increased effectiveness of such transfers, the evaluation was unable to move to an efficiency-level evaluation due to constrained access of national consumption survey data. It is, however, hoped that such constraints will be overcome in 2015.

Other key points stemming from the exchanges around the UNICEF Algeria mid-term review hinged on the usefulness of the recent focus on strong research work produced over the past two years, and related efforts to frame existing challenges through a bottleneck analysis. As notably evidenced in both the health and child protection sectors, this approach provided a strong platform for future action at both the central and decentralised levels.

**Humanitarian Assistance**

In 1975, a large number of Saharawi, mainly women and children, fled to Algeria and were allowed to settle in five camps set up for them by the Algerian Government in the south-western part of the country’s desert, near Tindouf. Forty years later, the third generation of children, adolescents and young adults are still there. After single-handedly caring for them for over a decade, the Algerian Government requested assistance from the United Nations (UN) (the High Commissioner for Refugees [HCR], the World Food Programme [WFP] and UNICEF) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Currently, the humanitarian community focuses its programme on a cohort of 125,000 of the most vulnerable refugees, 80 per cent of whom are women and children. The limited opportunities for self-reliance in the harsh desert environment have forced the refugees to be fully dependent on international aid for their human and socioeconomic development, and indeed for their survival. UNICEF focuses its interventions in the areas described below.

UNICEF’s emergency health care support programme aims to reduce maternal and child mortality within the Sahrawi refugee camps revolving around two key axes: immunisation and maternal/newborn health. In 2014, efforts were mainly oriented toward the reinforcement of capacities of midwives promoting safe delivery and motherhood. In addition, the unfinished agenda of reducing preventable deaths among children was addressed through vaccination against diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhoea, meningitis and other infectious diseases, which are the leading causes of morbidity and mortality for children under five. Thus, UNICEF continued to play a critical role as a vaccine provider, supporting the vaccination of nearly 30,000 children in 2014.

In education, children’s deprivations range from the availability of most essential pedagogical tools required for their learning, such as pens, exercise books, chalk etc., as well as a lack of leisure and sport equipment that would allow for the promotion of healthy behaviour and support younger children’s development. In addition, school buildings were hit by seasonal sandstorms,
causing heavy damage and engendering physical risks for children when attending classes.

UNICEF thus continued to provide nearly 32,000 Saharawi children and students with several basic school items such as pens, exercise and drawing books amongst other, while, in partnership with Comité International pour le Développement des Peuples, an international organisation working in the refugee camps, it also rehabilitated 25 classes allowing children to learn in improved and safer school environments.

In addition to the above, in 2014, UNICEF and the Sahrawi Ministry of Education concurred on the need to undertake an education sectoral assessment with a view to providing a more comprehensive picture of the sectoral needs and highlighting specific bottlenecks related to quality, access and coordination. Thus, all education sector partners can be better informed and equipped to coordinate their interventions to improve the efficiency of the combined donor and partners’ responses and increase the overall quality of education.

For the first time, 2014 witnessed public demonstrations headed by the Saharawi youth highlighting their discontent at the lack of recreational opportunities and jobs, and more importantly their perception of a stagnant and fruitless political status quo. For any who have been to the camps in question, it is clear that such a long and protracted displacement crisis interspersed with political negotiations, which, in the eyes of the majority appear to provide no future and no solution on the horizon, is a heavy burden to carry. It is particularly difficult for energetic young adults who have devoted long years to achieving high education status who then see so few life opportunities open to them as young adults and as future parents.

Fully acknowledging such reactions and needs, and equally aware of a growing donor fatigue resulting in progressively reduced humanitarian budgets made available to the benefit of the Sahrawi populations, the humanitarian community (including UNICEF, the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department [ECHO], HCR and WFP) together with the Red Crescent Federation initiated a joint reflection to sharpen humanitarian responses around an approach more focused on promoting resilience – and options towards progressive self-reliance – within the refugee community. Basic needs such as food, water and shelter will continue to be covered. The brainstorming was well received, although many pointed out that resilience and even partial self-reliance would be difficult to achieve in a living environment as harsh as the desert areas where the Saharawi camps are located, where very few resources are available. Humanitarian partners agreed to continue the reflection and hope to put to light a few possible avenues that will then be submitted to potential resource partners for support and field testing over the coming years.

**Equity Case Study**

The year 2014 was rich in terms of translating commitments towards “equity” for children into concrete decisions for a more institutionalised equity approach at the policy level. This was possible thanks to a political environment favourable to the social equity agenda. Although social justice has always been a priority for Algeria, resulting in significant budgets allocated to social redistribution since the birth of the Algerian nation, the 2015-2019 Government Development Agenda explicitly states for the first time ever that “with regards to efforts towards improvement of public services, all necessary measures will be undertaken to guarantee equitable provision of services, throughout the country, respectful of quality and safety standards aligned to international norms”. UNICEF Algeria took this unique opportunity to strive for more equitable policies for children through a range of initiatives.
Data from the latest Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) were consolidated with other existing data in order to support the production of substantive equity research on social exclusion and vulnerable children, leading to the production of a national “Equity profile of children, adolescents and mothers” with a strong emphasis on disparities in terms of access to and quality of social services and the impact for most vulnerable population groups in the country, notably children.

Key findings of the equity profile were introduced within a process of policy dialogue around child-sensitive social protection schemes that UNICEF Algeria initiated with CNES in order to provide evidence on the importance of reviewing the schemes in order to optimise social benefits for the most vulnerable children. The equity profile shows that more than half of the children living in the poorest households are deprived of two to five dimensions in education, health and nutrition. The concentration of deprivation from multiple dimensions among poorest children highlighted by the report is another indication of the inconsistencies and partial lack of effectiveness of existing social protection schemes that were initially created specifically to decrease or eliminate inequalities and empower the most vulnerable populations.

In line with the conclusions above, UNICEF Algeria pursued a policy dialogue process with key strategic partners focusing specifically on social protection effectiveness and coherence with a view to influencing senior national decision-makers in terms of future investment cases. The partnership concluded between UNICEF and CNES is the best example of such efforts to deploy institutional capacities for the benefit of vulnerable children.

Aiming to substantiate the above objectives, a reflection on existing social protection schemes and their associated operational mechanisms was initiated with the CNES President, who demonstrated significant interest in pursuing the issue further by directly producing policy options to be used as decision-making instruments for the new Government programme. The CNES President, as a ranking Minister, reports directly to the Algerian Head of State who was directly informed of – and supported – the CNES intention to collaborate with UNICEF with a view to proposing policy options and possible orientations on social protection. In this framework, South-South cooperation was used as a key strategy to facilitate knowledge and knowhow transfers from Latin American countries, specifically Brazil and Mexico, and benefit from their expertise in such regard. This led to a commitment to formalise a triangular South-South cooperation among Algeria, Brazil and UNICEF, around social protection reform, initiated in 2013 with a visit of a high-level Algerian delegation to Brazil in order to learn more about the Bolsa Familia programme and its impact on the reduction of poverty and vulnerability among children. This should be formalised in 2015.

Another major step towards a national equity agenda was the Algerian commitment to establish an SEO using the Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA) as one of the key analytical tools on equity. As a transition step to the observatory, the CNES is currently establishing a dedicated unit mandated to produce multi-sector equity research with a view to inform existing and future Government development plans and social policy choices. The CNES has already produced a draft MODA report on analysis that could be considered as a first step to institutionalising equity analysis at the policy level. The report is intended for the higher officials and decision-makers of the Algerian State. UNICEF supported the establishment of the SEO by facilitating the South-South exchanges between Mexico and Algeria that were initiated by a study mission in Mexico to learn from Mexican experience in setting up an institution with the specific mandate to evaluate public policies and monitor equity (CONEVAL).

CNES and UNICEF concluded the commitment towards institutionalising equity by convening
an international conference on “Social equity monitoring and measurement and its integration into policy processes”, a major event that gathered some 200 experts and government officials from 15 countries from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe and Arab regions, to present and debate their experiences in implementing country and/or regional equity mechanisms.

Beyond its contribution to the birth of an expert network linking both South-South and North-South dimensions around the notion of equity, other concrete results included the formal announcement of an Algerian SEO, mentioned above. It equally facilitated a strong South-South cooperation with Mexico on the matter of consistently monitoring the equity impact within a national social development agenda. Possibly more importantly, it also served as a foundational event for a collaboration between the two countries around the necessity to advocate for strong monitoring and impact evaluation systems as cornerstones to the post-2015 development agenda in order to evaluate transparently effective progress against the Sustainable Development Goal agenda and ensure that development efforts in the future would effectively leave no one behind. The high quality of exchanges and the strategic outcomes of the conference demonstrated the engagement of Algerian authorities in more operational approaches to integrate equity, and confirmed UNICEF’s role in elevating equity to the top of the political agenda.

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

CMT – Country Management Team  
CNES – Conseil National Economique et Social  
CONEVAL – National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy  
CPD – Country Programme Document  
CRASC – Centre de Recherche en Anthropologie Sociale et Culturelle (Centre for Research in Social Anthropology and Culture)  
CREAD – Centre de Recherche en Economie Appliquée au Développement (Centre for Research in Applied Economic in Development)  
CRC – Convention on the Rights of the Child  
DCT – Direct Cash Transfers  
ECD – Early Childhood Development  
GSS – Global Staff Survey  
GSSC – Global Support Service Centre  
HCR – High Commissioner for Refugees  
HIV/AIDS – Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome  
ICT – Information and Communications Technology  
MICS – Multiple Indicators Clusters Survey  
MODA – Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis  
MOSS – Minimum Operating Security System  
NGO – Non-Governmental Organization  
OR – Other Resources  
OR-E – Other Resources-Emergency  
SEO – Social Equity Observatory  
UN – United Nations  
UNICEF – United Nations Children’s Fund

**Capacity Development**

UNICEF capacity development activities continued to revolve mainly around the Saharawi programme, and the increased capacity of professionals from institutions, civil society and academic partners thus visibly affecting the quality of services for children at the decentralised
and community levels.

Remarkable results were particularly noticeable around improved health care practices of Saharawi pregnant women and newborns, resulting from an intensive immersion of Saharawi midwives brought from the refugee camps to work for three months in some of the busiest maternity wards in Algeria through a UNICEF-facilitated knowledge and knowhow transfer scheme.

This effort both promoted Saharawi women’s empowerment and visibly increased the flow of pregnant women to local health structures in the camps where midwives were known to have returned from this intensive hands-on experience. Thus, Saharawi pregnant women now indicate they feel “in safe hands” in such care conditions and announce themselves more inclined than before to abandon their tradition of delivering in their tents without skilled personnel.

Beyond the Tindouf emergency programme, the Algerian programme itself dedicated considerable efforts, specifically in the education sector, towards the development and implementation of a large training programme targeting more than 500 school inspectors and aiming to increase the capacities of education professionals around a “teaching methodology and pedagogical approach” through a competency-based approach. This allows for a shift of focus from simple mnemonic teaching to a more pragmatic and systematic approach based on competences children are supposed to acquire in school.

This crucial capacity-building intervention, which directly impacted children’s learning, was conducted in partnership with several professors from Bruxelles University. Its sustainability is evidenced through the institutionalisation of the whole programme into the education governmental training plan for the coming two years.

Coupling high-level international expertise from individuals, institutions and academia with national expertise resulted in more effective and valuable knowledge and promoted local capacity development in a more comprehensive and sustainable manner.

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

In 2014, UNICEF capitalised on a number of strategic research efforts initiated in 2012 and 2013, the results of which were used in advocating for specific programme areas and approaches.

The equity profile of disparities in access and quality of social services available to children, adolescents and women in country – produced in collaboration with national research centre CREAD – as well as the preliminary findings of a social protection evaluation focusing on the effectiveness of existing non-contributory social transfer schemes, both supported by UNICEF, were important evidence bases in a dialogue process engaged with CNES to highlight possible ineffectiveness and inefficiencies in current social protection schemes. Using such evidence, UNICEF was able to advocate in order to engage CNES – and through it the Algerian Government – in a reflection on social protection reform and in a process of institutionalising social equity monitoring building on South-South cooperation with Brazil and Mexico around these two respective areas.

Equally importantly, the UNICEF-supported “Out-of-School Children” study findings provided critical evidence both in terms of the geographical of such school drops outs as well as some
important specific highlights on how the issue appears to disproportionately affect adolescent boys. Thanks to evidence-based advocacy based on study findings, the Education Minister gave immediate instructions to several Ministry department heads to produce a comprehensive response plan in order to follow up on the study recommendations, which could be organised in the form of a national workshop in 2015.

Finally, the study findings on “Effectiveness of Decentralised Social Services for Child Protection”, which analysed bottlenecks and barriers in accessing local-level quality and enabled child protection services, were presented to a national steering committee that was chaired by the Ministry of Solidarity and Family and involved all sectoral ministries concerned with child protection issues. Committee members agreed to start working on social services models aligned with international norms for child protection interventions in some pilot wilayas (provinces). This will be supported by UNICEF from 2015 onwards.

**Partnerships**

Establishing and sustaining result-focused partnerships remain one of UNICEF Algeria’s key strategies for making a difference in the lives of Algerian children in line with its Country Programme Document (CPD) objectives. Beyond specific advocacy and child rights partnerships established in 2014, which will be detailed in subsequent sections, UNICEF Algeria engaged in programme-focused partnerships with academic centres and sought international expertise on specific issues. The approach is geared towards knowledge and know-how transfer to national counterparts with a view to building their expertise in identifying and/or responding to jointly identified child rights challenges.

Such an approach was used in the organisation of a participatory brainstorming retreat of a range of Algerian health practitioners supported by high-level UNICEF-supported technical expertise. The retreat culminated in a common bottleneck analysis around constraints in reducing maternal mortality in the country, in line with Algeria’s full commitment to the global partnership around “A Promise Renewed,” which focuses on reducing maternal and neonatal mortality worldwide. This joint analysis paved the way for a national plan on Accelerated Maternal Mortality Reduction. A similar bottleneck analysis tool is expected to be used in 2015 towards a reduction of neonatal mortality.

Similar efforts in pairing international expertise with existing national experts towards effective knowledge and knowhow transfers were equally effective in the field of social protection, through partnerships established with Oxford Policy Management Group in close cooperation with CREAD. Similar work was undertaken in the development of an early childhood strategy with extensive data gathering work done by the Algerian organisation Centre de Recherche en Anthropologie Sociale et Culturelle (Centre for Research on Social Anthropology and Culture) that was subsequently used as the pillar for the development of a national early childhood strategy supported by two internationally renowned experts on the issue. Finally, in the area of child protection, two specialised Swiss NGOs – the Swiss Foundation of the International Social Service and the Institut des Droits de l’Enfant – provided extremely valuable know how transfers in support of national professionals working on juvenile justice as well as children deprived of parental care.

**External Communication and Public Advocacy**

UNICEF Algeria devoted significant efforts to communicating widely around its routine programming results in the country, systematically making a link to the rationale for UNICEF’s engagement on the matter, based on a child rights perspective mixed with an equity focus.
Beyond such efforts, three major moments were highlights of UNICEF Algeria’s advocacy work in 2014, as outlined below.

i) In support of its #ENDVIOLENCE campaign initiated at the end of 2013, UNICEF capitalised on the credibility of its goodwill ambassador and national football team’s captain to mobilise a large number of media, partners and children around violence towards children at a gala football match, with ensuing national-scale media impact.

ii) A special child rights-focused weekend edition of the largest francophone newspaper in the country – El Watan – was issued. This newspaper edition, usually read by virtually all national and foreign decision makers in country, was focused almost solely on child rights. The edition showcased significant progress and challenges for children’s rights, but also side-by-side editorials on the state of child rights in the country from the Minister of Social Welfare on one hand and that of a 15-year-old child on the other.

iii) Developed by UNICEF and its key partners, a “pathway towards children’s rights” allowed each partner to illustrate what rights they fight for daily, the progress achieved to date, and what paths remains to be “walked”. The pathway was also the opportunity to launch a new UNICEF web application designed to test adults and children’s knowledge of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and child rights through an interactive quiz. This platform facilitated participatory and passionate exchanges and allowed several hundred children to interact with adults around their rights.

Last but not least, UNICEF Algeria launched its Facebook page, which received about 31,060 visits since it went online on 20 November.

Overall, there were over 700 articles on child rights’ topics and the work of UNICEF in Algeria in 2014, showing both an increased interest from the media towards children and youth but also the reference role that UNICEF is progressively shouldering on children issues.

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

South-South cooperation became the central strategy of UNICEF Algeria’s social policy programme in line with the Algerian State orientation in promoting South-South alliances in order to progressively insert the Southern countries in the global economic and social development agendas. From Brazil to Mexico, the Algerian Government and UNICEF are creating a continued bridge between Algeria and Latin America countries around social development. These countries, despite their high level of poverty and inequality, have succeeded in establishing credible institutions to support the design and implementation of pro-poor and equity-focused policies. They have also effectively documented the impact of their policies on vulnerable populations through extensive evaluation work. For its part, Algeria has always promoted equitable policies by adopting universal approaches and extensive social transfers and redistribution schemes. However, the lack of institutionalised mechanisms of evaluation and policy orientation has limited the capacity of Algeria to demonstrate a concrete impact of its domestic policies on vulnerable populations.

In order to learn from its experiences, Algeria – through CNES and supported by UNICEF – engaged in a South-South cooperation programme with Brazil around social protection reform. This programme built on a first mission of an Algerian delegation to Brazil in 2013 in order to learn from the Brazilian social protection policy, especially the “cadastro unico” system, which
unifies targeting across institutions and sectors, and the effective integrated monitoring and evaluation coordinated by the Brazilian Ministry of Social Development. The formalisation of the triangular cooperation and effective initiation of knowledge and knowhow exchanges is expected to take place in 2015.

With similar objectives of South-South knowhow transfers, UNICEF Algeria supported a high-level delegation study mission from CNES to Mexico, this time focused on the establishment of evaluation and equity monitoring institutions. In Mexico, CONEVAL was created to evaluate Mexican public policies and to measure multidimensional poverty and inequality institutionalised in the frame of social development legislation. The triangular cooperation of Algeria, Mexico and UNICEF aims to provide the appropriate expertise to CNES as it establishes a social equity observatory.

**Identification and Promotion of Innovation**

UNICEF Algeria pursued what it sees as a strategic partnership with a youth civil society organisation (*Santé Sidi El Houari*) focusing specifically on supporting youth and adolescents from vulnerable and poor neighbourhoods in one of Algeria’s largest cities, Oran. Hundreds of youths have been socially and economically reintegrated over the past few years. In 2014, this partnership was widened towards two of Oran Universities in an attempt to emulate the previous success of youth-centred efforts by *Santé Sidi El Houari*. The aim was to start with future University alumni from various disciplines working together on a project working on social goods, in whatever forms these may be created, by these youths working together. The project remains in its inception phase, but it is hoped that the nascent links between youths from radically distinct communities and backgrounds may do much to help shed light on their common needs and may also give birth to projects they will work on together.

Access to new technologies emerged as a key factor enabling young people to convert ideas into concrete innovative projects that help them better serve their communities. UNICEF thus launched an innovative partnership with the Algiers-based High School of Computing and created the first ‘Innovation Lab’ in Algeria, which is completely run by youth. Students are now proposing a vast range of projects such as digital mappings of social services and access to social digital data. These projects aim to make visible the situation of children and women from the perspective of the most vulnerable populations, and to raise awareness of national disparities. One of the priorities for the youth involved in the project is to put online a series of interactive mappings based on a UNICEF-funded national Household Survey Project, which is expected to be launched in 2015.

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

Based on solid evidence-generating work undertaken in 2013 and earlier by CRASC, UNICEF supported the leadership of the Education Ministry in creating and managing a multi-sectoral working group that has worked together throughout 2014 on what will become the first national ECD Strategy for Algeria.

Supported by two internationally renowned ECD experts, the work involves five different Ministry partners – Education, Health, Solidarity and Social Welfare, Religious Affairs and Interior – and is fast moving forward through a series a joint workshops that are proving invaluable in highlighting the existing gaps in structuring effective care for all Algerian young children in a manner that would allow all children to reach their full potential. In addition, the interdependence of the work of each of the involved sectors in such a strategy in the future will be key.
Although the full strategy is expected to be finalised and launched in 2015, some of the Ministry partners are already taking stock of some of its key components in moving forward.

One of the key examples of the success of such common work is the recent agreement between the Education Ministry and the Religious Affairs Ministry to work hand in hand in designing and delivering a core curriculum that will be similar for all children attending pre-schooling in either of these institutions as well as in private pre-schooling institutions as early as 2016.

This collaboration will go a long way to supporting true equity in the learning opportunities offered to all Algerian children attending such classes, and will constitute a truly critical milestone on the pathway to each Algerian child having access to quality pre-schooling prior to his or her access to the primary school cycle.

### Service Delivery

Direct service delivery remains a programme strategy solely used in the framework of UNICEF support for Sahrawi refugee camps near Tindouf. Algeria’s national development plan continues to be fully supported by its own national budget.

Conversely, the Sahrawi population, and notably women and children, who are estimated to represent some 60-70 per cent of the population in the camps, continue to be 100 per cent dependent on international assistance.

Thanks to generous contributions from the Italian government and the French National Committee for UNICEF, UNICEF Algeria continued to deliver services in three key sectors for vulnerable Sahrawi children:

1. In health, UNICEF continued to provide vaccines and all related cold-chain material support to support the immunisation of up to 30,000 children up to six years of age. Thanks to UNICEF’s support over the last few years, full immunisation coverage for children under two has increased from 32 per cent to 70 per cent, therefore significantly increasing their chances of survival and leading healthy lives. UNICEF also pursued its efforts towards the reduction of mother and neonatal deaths, through material purchase of specialised equipment for 27 health centres. UNICEF also organised on-the-job training for 16 Sahrawi midwives directly in some of the leading Algerian hospitals in Algiers and Tizi Ouzou, leading to improved level of care at birth for both mothers and newborns.

2. In education, UNICEF remains the sole provider of all children’s school supplies – bags, notebooks, pens, etc. for some 32,000 primary and lower secondary school-aged children – as well as a range of teaching supplies for 26 schools.

3. For youth, funding constraints did not allow UNICEF to continue in the footsteps of its 2013 interventions targeting youths. UNICEF Algeria is expecting a significant contribution from the Italian government in 2015 that should enable the UNICEF Country Office to resume work on this population who has already expressed its frustrations at the lack of opportunities available to them as well as the dearth of life choices overall in the current political stalemate.

### Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

UNICEF Algeria continued to ground its programming interventions in country on a human rights-based approach to cooperation, as outlined below.
a) An internal review of the situation analysis of women and children was carried out in support to the mid-term review of the UNICEF 2012-2015 Country Programme. Largely grounded in ministry partners’ data as well as the preliminary findings of the most recent national MICS, this document was coupled with the production of a national disparity profile, focusing specifically on the issue of equity of access to essential services, and aimed to identify specific inequalities and vulnerability pockets or groups, be they related to gender, geography, or other criteria. All of this knowledge production provided a solid data basis for the subsequent joint Common Country Assessment exercise and elaboration of the cooperation framework (2016-2019).

b) UNICEF Algeria equally co-organised with CNES a large international conference gathering over 15 countries and 200 participants dedicated to the centrality of monitoring disparities and the equity impact of social policies, so as to better inform national and decentralised public policies and afferent budget investments aimed to redress such disparities.

c) In line with a UNICEF global campaign on the matter, UNICEF spearheaded an important multi-stakeholder advocacy campaign around the #EndViolence campaign. The issue resonated to such a level amongst key human rights civil society partners and national government partners that Algeria took a leadership role in championing the campaign within the UN Human Rights Council, leading to both an initial resolution on the issue and a high-level panel on the matter, paving the way for a range of strong recommendations for action at the global level.

d) UNICEF Algeria also continued to work closely with the national Welfare Ministry partner as well as the international NGO Handicap International towards effective management and pedagogical practices in support of a recently created centre catering for children with mental disabilities. It is hoped that the centre in question may become part of a new model of child care in the matter, and further highlight publically the issue of children with disabilities.

**Gender Mainstreaming and Equality**

Illiterate vulnerable rural women were the specific target of a joint programme (UN agencies including UNICEF and Government) developed in the regions Djelfa and Adrar Wilayates aimed at supporting increased access to economic opportunities, thus far largely available to men in such regions of the country.

More than 5,000 women subsequently benefited from newly created “community centres” promoting women’s empowerment, including literacy classes, professional training and micro-credit. They were supported in doing so by the UNICEF-funded establishment of early childhood centres to take care of the younger children while the mothers attended the activities organised within the community centres. The evident results attracted the full engagement of the Ministry of National Solidarity, which now wants to scale up this initiative.

The fresh data included in the UNICEF-Ministry of Education study around “Out-of-School Children” remains quite stunning and made available to decision makers important gender-related information on the higher risk for boys to drop out from middle school than girls (21 per cent and 9 per cent respectively). This trend is also reflected in the lower enrolment rate in secondary education for boys (57 per cent) against 65 per cent of girls. Such a trend increases with a University attendance ratio of two to one in favour of girls. Specific recommendations, expected to be operational in 2015, will expressly address the mentioned gender disparities within education.
An additional initiative is the UNICEF partnership with the Religious Affair and Health Ministries, which in 2014 targeted 400 women religious leaders engaged as community mobilisers. Their excellent work in terms of diffusing key messages on mother/child health and wellbeing brought about the development of an appealing and more structured child-rearing "behaviour-focused communication toolkit" used by the religious leaders in support of the discussions they organise within communities around safe motherhood and appropriate childrearing practices. UNICEF will field test the toolkit in 2015 and, if successful, will support all trained women religious leaders so that they may expand the use of the kits to the benefit of disadvantaged rural women.

**Effective Leadership**

The UNICEF Country Office continued to support effective management and leadership practices through a number of governance mechanisms as well as credible management practices and performance review systems. These include the following:

a) Detailed two-year annual work plans jointly established with ministry partners covering the period 2013-2014 and shared with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other ministry partners; these are now being updated to cover 2014-2015.

b) A monthly Country Management Team (CMT) meeting that systematically reviews: Manager's Dashboard alerts; the full status of budget implementation; programme implementation progress and bottlenecks; information and communications technology (ICT) governance issues; updates on Regional Management Team decisions and their impact on UNICEF Algeria; and feedback as appropriate from Senior Management Team and United Nations Country Teams meetings;

c) Joint Consultative Committee meetings;

d) Quarterly programme meeting; and

e) Weekly operations meetings.

Above and beyond these statutory and information exchange meetings, a number of issue-specific meetings were organised throughout the year, mostly around information exchange on key partnerships, critical programme events or initiatives, or issues raised by partners that concerned UNICEF’s perception or credibility. Such meetings intended to do the following:

i) Build the full team’s understanding and ownership around UNICEF’s expected programme results as well as possible new initiatives;

ii) Ensure that issues and partnerships that could be key opportunities or risks to UNICEF are fully understood by all and acted/mitigated against. As a rule, management endeavoured to establish best and worst outcome options and prepared the team for either, so as to mitigate potential risks appropriately; and

iii) Strengthen staff members’ capacity to act as effective advocates for UNICEF with partners and the general public, making sure that they are in a position to respond to intended programme objectives even if there is no direct link to one’s programme, and are able to explain issues/constraints if and when faced with queries.
UNICEF Algeria updated its business continuity plan in April 2014 with a view to maintaining and/or strengthening its operational response capacity should it be faced with a crisis situation affecting its operational capacity.

**Financial Resources Management**

Manager’s dashboard alerts, budget implementation status and progress and direct cash transfer (DCT) monitoring are permanent agenda items of the CMT and are thoroughly reviewed to ensure continuous quality and punctual programme implementation. The CMT took steps to address any deficiencies and deal with them promptly.

UNICEF Algeria was able to use 100 per cent of the Institutional Budget, 79 per cent of allocated Regular Resources, 97 per cent of Other Resources (OR) and 100 per cent of Other Resources-Emergency (OR-E) within the original life of the Programme Budget Allotment.

No outstanding direct cash transfers of more than nine months was registered.

Bank reconciliations of accounts were done according to set deadlines with no errors, and year-end closure activities were completed in a timely manner.

After ten years, an audit was conducted at UNICEF Algeria in December 2014. Recommendations and observations are expected by the end of January 2015.

**Fund-raising and Donor Relations**

UNICEF Algeria continued its efforts towards a widening of its partner base for Algeria. In 2014, a range of programme funding proposals was completed to identify additional financial resources for priority programmes. This set of documents will shortly be translated into English so that both sets may be shared both in the country and with potential donors’ capitals as required.

UNICEF Algeria equally pursued its efforts to maintain a true partner relationship with its existing resource partners, notably the French National Committee and the Italian Government, both critical to UNICEF’s operations with Western Sahrawi children based around Tindouf.

Part of such efforts revolve around quality assurance processes established around donor reports. UNICEF Algeria established a workflow that imposes a minimum of two reviews for each fund utilisation report, at the level of the Deputy Representative and Representative. Such reviews aim to ensure that reporting is of the highest quality possible. Reports are to provide a transparent perspective on results achievements against programme objectives, underline success stories as well as possible constraints, outline the overall impact on children, highlighting what positive changes the programme supported or contributed to, and indicate UNICEF’s plans in the given sector.

UNICEF Algeria also ensured that 97 per cent of OR and 100 of OR-E resources were spent within their original allocation timeline.

Such efforts, along with successful programing, are now bearing fruit, with the Italian Government announcing a tripling of its 2013 contribution to UNICEF from US$ 330,000 to US$ 1 million, expected in early 2015. The French National Committee equally appears open to an extension of the existing partnership in the future.
Finally, the European Union (EU) confirmed its intent to support UNICEF’s re-enrolment of out-of-school children through a US$ 1.3 million funding, which will be the first UN-EU collaboration in Algeria.

**Evaluation**

UNICEF Algeria adopted a shift in planning evaluation, research and overall knowledge production activities, which were limited to those having a direct link with its Country Programme objectives around anticipated advocacy and public policy influence.

The quality of research and knowledge products subsequently visibly improved thanks to concentrated quality assurance efforts on a narrowed number of research activities. In addition, their impact on policy processes and dialogue were more visible, strategic, and appropriated by the Algerian Government partners. This is clear from the endorsement and policy commitments seen from a range of institutional partners in the areas of early childhood, out-of-school children, decentralised child protection mechanisms, as well as the creation of a national SEO, all major milestones in UNICEF’s CPD objectives.

Specific evaluation results were more limited in scale for 2014, as per the following.

a) An evaluation focusing on the immunisation coverage impact of UNICEF support in Sahrawi refugee camps highlighted the massive increase in full immunisation coverage for children under two from 32 per cent in 2009 to over 70 per cent today. There is significant space available to increase this even further in the coming years with limited effort.

b) An evaluation was partially completed on the effectiveness of non-contributory social protection schemes in collaboration with the Oxford Policy Management Group and CREAD.

UNICEF intends to complement the above in 2015 and will conduct an evaluation of a selected Country Programme component and the effectiveness and impact of its communication for development strategy in 2015.

The nascent UNICEF-supported South-South cooperation between Algeria and Mexico should for its part go a long way to strengthening the country capacities to undertake equity-focused analysis and social policy impact evaluations in the future.

**Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings**

A cost-saving initiative plan was introduced in 2011 and further developed and implemented to date, allowing for substantial savings by negotiating preferred rates (internet connection, telecommunication, transport, hotel, catering, office furniture, security services, cleaning, etc). We can highlight the savings UNICEF Algeria was able to make with its proposal for the Global Support Service Centre (GSSC).

UNICEF has been sharing its premises with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) since 2010 (cost sharing for rent and related expenses is 16.9 per cent) and with The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) since October 2014 (US$ 1,300 per month).
Supply Management

The upward trend in the supply component that was witnessed in the past two years was not continued in 2014. There was a substantial increase of 77 per cent in the supply component from 2011 to 2012 and another 60 per cent increase from 2012 to 2013. There was then a decrease of 53 per cent in the supply component from 2013 to 2014 (US$ 1,840,449 in 2013 to US$ 869,501 in 2014).

The supply component represents 10.3 per cent of the Country Programme (programme goods only), of which 77 per cent relates to supplies distributed to Saharawi refugees in Tindouf.

Delivery of supplies to Saharawi refugees was hindered by excessive bureaucratic burdens and hurdles linked to distribution of goods due to the change in the legislation for humanitarian support to Saharawi, which is now labelled as a humanitarian donation. Vaccines held in customs since October 2012 were cleared only in May 2014, leading to unprecedented storage costs.

Security for Staff and Premises

The security considerations and constraints in Algeria remain significant, following the successful terrorist attack of the In Amenas oil and gas complex in January 2013 as well as the kidnapping and beheading of a French tourist in the northern mountains in September 2014. Both incidents led to an immediate response both from the host government and the UN system, and significant security restrictions were imposed in a number of the country’s southern wilayats as well as known risky areas of the northern mountains. A mandatory armed escort is required for any movement outside of Algiers for all international staff.

UNICEF devoted significant resources to mitigating such risks – along with that of a repeat of the 2007 bomb attack that destroyed the common UN premises – over the past few years, and now stands as one of the most protected premises within all UN building in Algiers. Significant mitigation measures are in place both in terms of access control and a possible blast. In 2014, UNICEF Algeria was allocated additional security funds for a total of US$ 74,000 to enhance the safety and security of staff and premises. The allocation was used to upgrade the access control system, a walkthrough metal detector, and all surveillance camera systems.

UNICEF Algeria also signed a comprehensive extended maintenance contract of its x-ray machine for two years, which includes full coverage of all parts, remote assistance and annual on-site preventive maintenance visits.

Finally, UNICEF contributed with other neighbouring UN agencies to the cost of the installation of a barrier system in the road leading to UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) offices to provide an additional security mitigation measure by acting as a first point screening area.

Human Resources

The most recent staffing gap analysis was done during the latest Country Programme Management Plan preparation in February 2014 followed by the mid-term review in April and the GSSC exercise in June 2014 that allowed for a fine-tuning of the needs, particularly within the support team.

A comprehensive gap analysis will be conducted based on the new CPD (2016-2019)
preparation.

After a thorough strategic review of UNICEF Algeria’s operations structure including identification and review of posts most affected by the transactions being transferred to the GSSC, the UNICEF Country Office proposed the abolishment of a Senior Admin/Finance post (vacant) and the merger of the ICT and Finance functions.

UNICEF Algeria continues to encourage an ongoing feedback and coaching process where both supervisors and supervisees have an active role in sustaining successful and constructive discussions.

An office improvement plan was developed in a consultative manner to address the key concerns emerging from the Global Staff Survey (GSS) as well as to continue to build on strengths. Findings may be categorised as follows.

1. Staff security was addressed efficiently and in a timely manner. Since the 2011 GSS, the office became fully Minimum Operating Security System (MOSS) compliant and has adopted additional mitigation security measures to improve staff safety and security.

2. In order to address staff well-being, flexitime was given due consideration; all requests from staff for flexible hours were approved (more than 40 per cent of staff are benefiting from flexitime). To improve the work environment, the office space was optimised and re-designed, providing additional working space and an ample area that staff can use to relax and have lunch.

3. Business processes were reviewed and explained to ensure a wide understanding of responsibilities at all levels.

The open-door policy encourages management interaction and availability of senior staff at any time.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

Cooperation with external experts, UN agencies and within UNICEF was strengthened through extensive use of the Office 365 features (especially Share-Point, sky-drive and Outlook), which strongly contributed to improved remote collaboration using both professional and personal devices such as laptops, tablets and smartphones.

ICT resources were engaged in the testing of a quiz web application during the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the CRC (CRC@25). This initiative will be widely implemented in 2015. The main purpose of this quiz is to test and gather answers from children related to the CRC using smartphones and tablets. This application will be able to be customised to meet any need of the Country Programme by only changing the questions to collect any information.

Digital/social media used in the framework of programme activities is detailed in the section on Identification and Promotion of Innovation.

The remote intervention of key experts to the international conference hosted by Algeria on “Social equity monitoring” was made possible through a video conference facility arranged in coordination with UNICEF Ecuador and UNICEF’s Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia the in Beirut. This very first experience with the Government was highly
appreciated and proved to be a strong signal to participants on the country level in terms of using new technologies at the service of strengthening South-South cooperation.

Risks related to the discontinuity of business were significantly reduced following the transition to the Office 365 cloud, which resulted in lightening the Business Continuity Plan document. The local email server and local Citrix Server were decommissioned. Teleworking on personal devices and the remote helpdesk greatly contributed to smooth access to UNICEF resources.

It is important to recall that the ICT Officer is also performing Finance functions.

Programme Components from RAM

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 By 2014, access for vulnerable children and women, especially the most vulnerable, to high-quality community-based social services will be strengthened from an institutional perspective particularly in poor urban areas, in the Highlands and the south.

Analytical Statement of Progress: The important investments of the Algerian Government in social sectors such as education (15 per cent of the state budget), health (7.7 per cent of the public budget) and social protection (up to 30 per cent to social transfers) underline the high-level engagement at the institutional level to programmes targeting children and women.

The Presidential election of April 2014 and the composition of a new government marked the political scene in a regional context of extreme instability and striking continuing emergencies, such as the ongoing situation in Syria. This caused an increase in the flow of migrant populations mainly escaping from war-affected countries seeking stability and better living conditions. At the same time, their presence resulted in an enlargement of the circle of vulnerabilities and disparities for women and children.

While social services were rather more or less available throughout the country, especially schools and medical facilities, Algeria faces an important curve in terms of demography with nearly one million newborns per year facing challenging access to and quality of services.

The new Government plan presented to Parliament in May 2014 promoted participation, good governance and better quality of services through decentralisation, in line with future UNICEF programming.

Through large and sustained result-focused collaboration and partnerships, comprising institutions, academia and civil society, the rights of children and the equity perspective were fairly visible on the country agenda. New strategic partnerships, such as the one with CNES, addressed the social protection reflection around improved coherence and efficiency of social protection towards vulnerable children. By using good practices proven to provide concrete results for children in emerging countries such as Brazil, UNICEF facilitated a South-South cooperation programme involving the two countries that aimed to identify the most effective and operational tools to better reach vulnerable children and families.

While specifically addressing quality of services, UNICEF provided the Ministry of Solidarity with the high-level technical expertise of Service Social International and Handicap International in order to transfer and improve knowledge of professionals and set standards for enhancing
quality of care provided to children deprived of family care, and disabled children.

The new Child Protection Act adopted by Parliament (February 2014) focusing on reinforcement of mechanisms to detect situations of violence against children was an important step towards a stronger and coordinated child protection system. However, nearly 7,000 children are still in conflict with the law and once in front of the judge they are too often treated as adults. The longstanding partnership with the High School of Magistrates led to a comprehensive training programme having at its heart the best interests of the child. Through UNICEF-supported expertise from the Swiss Institution of Child Right, judges expert in juvenile justice, professionals working in the police forces, social workers and psychologists acquired the required knowhow to strengthen their multi-sectoral work and coordinated response around children experiencing problems with law.

UNICEF key programming directions in education addressed both quality of teaching and access to preschool education. The engagement of the Ministry of Education at the highest level allowed for the gathering of not less than seven different ministries around the national strategy for ECD. The latter is based on solid evidence generated through a long-lasting partnership with a renewed CRASC in 2013.

The post-election political setting engendered the reorganisation of the Ministry of Youth, which temporarily hindered the execution of the programme addressing youth participation and quality of youth services. However, UNICEF worked closely with expert youth local organisations to demonstrate options for socio-economic reintegration of vulnerable youth coming from deprived urban areas. The first “Innovation Lab” shed light on the potential of youth’s ideas to be transformed into concrete projects for the benefit of Algerian communities.

On the national agenda of the Ministry of Health, the “National Plan for Reduction of Maternal Mortality”, was a follow up to the signature of the pledge “A Promise Renewed” (2013) and a further engagement towards an in-depth analysis addressing bottlenecks related to neonatal mortality.

The long-lasting Saharawi refugee emergency, with refugees entering their 40th year of exile and totally dependent on external aid, meant UNICEF remained a crucial partner in health and education. Lifesaving interventions for children such as vaccination and improvement of school environment remain the key engagements for children despite donor fatigue and funding constraints.

**OUTPUT 1** International norms and standards for mothers and newborns’ healthcare are adopted in four pilot health zones in the Highlands, southern and urban areas in the north

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** Over the past decade, the monitoring of mothers-to-be and the support offered to them have improved. Today, 93 per cent of pregnant women are monitored during their pregnancy, and 97 per cent give birth with the help of a skilled attendant. Nonetheless, the maternal mortality rate has dropped slowly over this time period, with 700 women dying every year, corresponding to 63 women for every 100,000 live births in 2014 and 16,000 children die before reaching 28 days of age, which corresponds to a neonatal mortality rate of 16 for every 1,000 (MICS 4, 2013).

The rural regions and the south are the most affected by the absence of monitoring during pregnancy and unaccompanied birth. Nationally, fewer than 17 per cent of women know where to go to undertake a human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) test; only two per cent benefited from
HIV counselling and testing when receiving maternal care; and only one per cent of pregnant women tested for human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS). Furthermore, the budget allocated to the health sector only amounts to 12 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), much of which is dedicated to financing equipment and infrastructure and does not improve coverage for those left behind.

With its new National Plan for the Reduction of Maternal Mortality, the Ministry of Health, in partnership with UNICEF, decided to tackle the issue of maternal mortality and disparities. This plan involves five types of strategic interventions: improving governance around the fight against maternal mortality; reaching every woman so as to reduce inequalities; strengthening family planning; raising the quality of pre- and post-natal care; and strengthening social movements, including through the promotion of women’s and caregivers’ participation.

Meanwhile, the National Strategy on the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS is now operational in most of the national territory (40 out of 48 wilayas). HIV/AIDS testing and support centres for pregnant women have been put in place and/or revitalised. For the remaining region, in the south, the Ministry of Health has planned to revitalise the existing network of testing and support centres during the first quarter of 2015.

OUTPUT 2 Social protection programmes and social budgeting are oriented towards reducing the difficulties of access to healthcare and quality education for the most vulnerable women and children and, notably, those living in poor households and those without medical/health insurance

Analytical Statement of Progress: The Algerian Government invests about 25 to 30 per cent of its annual public budget on social transfers/social protection. Of this budget, 37 per cent is dedicated to financing social transfers serving three different purposes: improving conditions for deprived families, strengthening education, and ameliorating health. However, it has been demonstrated that many poor families and children are still left behind. For instance, whereas access to primary education seems to be equitable whatever the household’s level of income (indeed, 22 per cent of enrolled children come from the poorest quintile and 18 per cent come from the richest), in secondary school, significant disparities become evident. Only 13 per cent of the enrolled students at secondary level belong to the poorest quintile, while 29 per cent of them come from the richest quintile. At university level, only ten per cent of enrolled students come from the poorest quintile, while over 35 per cent are from the richest quintile (Social Protection Evaluation, 2014).

A strategic partnership was established by UNICEF, namely with CNES, which is positioned at the presidential level. CNES took ownership of the reflection around social protection reform and enabled UNICEF to pursue its advocacy efforts in favour of the improved coherence and efficiency of social protection for vulnerable children.

The policy dialogue on social protection reform was elevated with high officials of CNES. This dialogue, facilitated by UNICEF and experts from the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth in Brazil, built on knowledge generated by the recent evaluation of social protection in Algeria as well as the equity profile of children and women in the country, and was enriched by the experiences shared by Latin American countries. Through CNES, the highest Algerian authorities, namely the Prime Minister and the Head of State, were formally informed of this reflection – in line with UNICEF’s goal to mainstream social protection reform at the governmental level starting in 2015.
The formalisation in early 2015 of a South-South cooperation programme around effective operational tools to better reach vulnerable children and families is of interest to Algeria, Brazil and UNICEF. To this end, in 2014, several formal and triangular exchanges took place among the Brazilian Agency of Cooperation, CNES and UNICEF Offices in Algeria and Brazil.

OUTPUT 3 Decision makers at local and central level and civil society develop good practices on participation of adolescents and young people in social policies that affect them in the targeted regions in the Highlands, the south and poor urban areas

Analytical Statement of Progress: Nearly a third of the population of Algeria is aged 10-24. The economic and social integration of these adolescents and youth remains a challenge considering the high rate of unemployment currently affecting young people (59 per cent of the unemployed are less than 30 years old), the lack of participation opportunities provided to youth, and the lack of modern and appropriate youth services available to them. Vulnerable youth living in poor neighbourhoods in urban areas or in disadvantaged settings in the Highlands and southern regions of the country are even more affected by these phenomena.

Halfway through 2014, the Government had already clearly manifested its engagement and commitment towards better and more targeted actions for addressing the needs and wishes of Algerian youth. To coordinate these actions, it established a dedicated Ministry of Youth, which initiated a series of national conferences bringing together different ministries, youth associations, and a significant number of civil society partners. The Prime Minister also requested that a youth-focused national strategy be prepared, and UNICEF proposed to support its development in 2015 by providing fresh data and knowledge around youth issues. Meanwhile, UNICEF continued its support at the local level through focused partnerships with national youth organisations such as Santé Sidi El-Houari. Activities around integration, professional training, participation and mobilisation that specifically targeted poor urban areas and addressed youth vulnerabilities reached over 2,000 young people in 2014. Of these, more than 100 were reintegrated into active economic life, clearly showing the positive effects of promoting participation and democratic values among youth and of empowering them by increasing their professional capacities.

Access to new technologies emerged as a key factor enabling young people to convert ideas into concrete innovative projects that help them better serve their communities. UNICEF thus launched an innovative partnership with the High School of Computing and created the first ‘Innovation Lab’ in Algeria, which is completely run by youth. Students are now proposing a vast range of projects such as digital mappings of social services and access to social digital data. These projects aim to make visible the situation of children and women from the perspective of the most vulnerable populations, and to raise awareness of national disparities (the Digital Household Survey Project).

OUTPUT 4 Quality education norms and standards, including those related to inclusive education and the prevention of natural disasters, are adopted in the targeted wilayas in the south, the Highlands and the poor urban north.

Analytical Statement of Progress: The important investments of the Algerian Government in the education sector, which absorbed over 15 per cent of the Government budget, are reflected in the outstanding results achieved in terms of infrastructure and access to school, especially among children aged 6-16.

Throughout the biggest country on the African continent, more than 18,000 primary and middle
schools are available to nearly nine million children, with an enrolment rate reaching almost 100 per cent. Several forms of education subsidies are also available to vulnerable children, such as school feeding and subsidies for school transport.

However, this progress risks being undermined by several bottlenecks related to educational quality. If they are not addressed, they will continue to threaten children’s learning achievements and to negatively impact secondary and higher education.

For younger children, a good start in life depends in great part on their preschool attendance and the early learning programmes available to them providing appropriate conditions for their holistic development. According to data from the Ministry of Education, 76 per cent of five-year-olds have access to early learning classes and only 23 per cent of younger children (aged 34-59 months) have access to kindergarten preschool education (MICS 4). Moreover, in rural areas, only one out of 16 children benefit from a preschool programme.

Two crucial interventions are supported by UNICEF and its partners with the intent of paving the way for key changes in the Algerian education sector. The first deals with addressing inequalities and the second deals with promoting access to preschool and improving the quality of education.

Engagement of the Ministry of Education at the highest level has made a substantial difference in bringing together several ministries around the National ECD Strategy. In order to develop this strategy, local consultations were undertaken with education stakeholders and civil society in two regions affected by disparities. The extension of preschool, as prescribed in the Government’s plan, benefited from a combination of efforts, including: advocacy, the generation of fresh and disaggregated data, and the provision of highly skilled technical expertise funded by UNICEF. The modelling of good practices around ECD, based on the national strategy, is expected to take place in 2015.

Meanwhile, a national trainers’ programme for more than 500 school inspectors is meant to promote the acquisition of pedagogical skills centred on the competency-based approach. This will continue to have a direct impact on the improvement of education services for primary school children.

OUTPUT 5 A children’s community-based justice and social work model is adopted that complies with international norms and standards, and is adapted to the regional specificities of the south, the Highlands and major urban areas.

Analytical Statement of Progress: The engagement of the Algerian Government in the reduction of childhood vulnerabilities is reflected in the new Child Protection Act, which was adopted by Parliament in February 2014 and focuses on the reinforcement of mechanisms that detect situations of abuse and violence against children.

Indeed, more than 6,000 children, of who nearly half are girls, are still experiencing different forms of violence, including sexual violence. Nearly 7,000 children are in conflict with the law and 1,700 children are deprived of family care and live-in institutions.

The lack of inclusive policies promoting the integration of children with disabilities is also an issue of concern, at both the institutional and civil society levels. This issue is partially addressed in the new Governmental Plan 2015-2019, which has a specific focus on inclusive education.
Networking among child protection professionals involved in juvenile justice – such as social workers, police, and juvenile judges from three pilot wilayas – was reinforced through a training programme developed by UNICEF in collaboration with the High School of Magistrates, the International Institute of Children’s Rights, and the Ministry of Solidarity. The objective is now to scale up the training in order to promote multidisciplinary and collaborative work that supports the best interests of the child.

In order to improve the quality of services for children living in institutions, a programme to reinforce the capacity of social workers was implemented. The trained social workers are now able to accompany every child. The programme is to be extended throughout the country, starting with three pilot wilayas in 2015.

Professionals working for children with disabilities are now better prepared to support this group of vulnerable children in their social inclusion process. The expertise was provided by Handicap International, with the support of UNICEF, under the leadership of the Ministry of Solidarity.

**OUTPUT 6** The skills of healthcare personnel and managers in terms of knowledge around immunisation and maternal and neonatal health are reinforced, and health facilities are provided with critical supplies needed for immunisation and maternal and neonatal health programmes in the five refugee camps

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** After 40 years of exile, Sahrawi mothers and children continue to depend entirely on humanitarian assistance for their basic needs, particularly maternal health and immunisation.

The vaccination coverage of Sahrawi refugee children in Tindouf did not allow for sufficient protection against diseases preventable by vaccination given an overall coverage rate of 32 per cent (UNICEF 2009). These rates represent a risk of spreading epidemics not only among the population of refugee children but also among children of the host country.

According to Sahrawi health authorities, at the end of 2013, the total number of births that year was 3,089, of which 44 per cent were estimated to have taken place in a hospital. Meanwhile, 56 per cent of women continue to give birth in tents, assisted by traditional birth attendants. Moreover, 37 per cent of pregnant women attended only three prenatal consultations instead of the mandatory four.

As of 2014, 74 per cent of children under one year of age are fully immunised against the top five diseases that can kill them (UNICEF 2013). This has been possible thanks to UNICEF’s support of the vaccination programme for refugee children in Tindouf camps, the continued availability of vaccination supplies (where UNICEF was the Government’s sole partner), the strengthening of the cold-chain, and the training of immunisation staff.

The care of pregnant women and newborns improved thanks to increasingly qualified staff. Staff capacity and knowledge were strengthened not only by the practical and theoretical knowledge they acquired, but also by the improvement of their working conditions and the equipment, materials and medicine provided by UNICEF.

One hundred per cent of midwives and 75 per cent of traditional birth attendants operating in the five refugee camps benefited from UNICEF’s training programme. They successfully acquired and put into practice the knowledge necessary to make delivery safer. At the same time,
UNICEF continued to strengthen its communication among refugee communities, with the goal of promoting behaviour change. It sought to impart the importance of monitoring pregnancies and of delivering babies with skilled attendants. In addition to these communication initiatives, UNICEF also trained Sahrawi journalists on techniques that would raise awareness around maternal and newborn health through radio broadcasts, spots and campaigns.

**OUTPUT 7** The educational skills of preschool, primary and intermediate school teachers are upgraded and the educational, cultural, recreation and hygiene conditions conducive to a protective school environment are reinforced in the five refugee camps

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** The limited opportunities for becoming self-reliant in the harsh desert environment have forced the refugees to rely on international aid for their human and socioeconomic development, and their survival more generally. The humanitarian community estimates the population in the camps to be nearly 125,000, 80 per cent of who are women and children; of them, 40,000 are school-aged children (those aged three and above).

Despite the harsh living conditions, all schools are staffed by 1,765 teachers who organise schooling activities in more than 30 primary and middle schools for more than 32,000 children. With the exception of one private school, all schools are public and attendance is compulsory up to the intermediary school level. Younger children aged three to six attend preschool education and stimulation activities in kindergartens. Following these programmes, one can report both positive results, in terms of increased access to primary education, and challenges. Indeed, the quality of education (as indicated by the level of teachers’ training and of educational planning and management) and the availability of supplies for children leave room for improvement. In short, Sahrawi children are deprived of the most basic pedagogical tools they need to develop their learning and cognitive capacity. Year after year, they rely on what UNICEF and other donors provide in order to enhance the quality of their learning environment and increase their developmental potential.

UNICEF has worked tirelessly for these children with the goal of alleviating the appalling conditions of their everyday life, at least when they are in school. Thanks to financing from Italy, which allowed for the rehabilitation of five schools and 80 classes in three camps (Laayoune, Awserd and Smara), students learn and play in an improved and safer school environment. In those schools, hygiene brigades were also organised in order to sensitise children about hygiene practices and how to keep the schools clean and safe.

In addition, at the schools’ opening, all children received basic materials, including exercise and drawing books, pencils, pens and chalk. These essential supplies enabled children and teachers to teach and learn in more adequate conditions.

**OUTPUT 8** Adolescents and young people in the five Sahrawi refugee camps acquire relevant life skills, notably on participation and HIV/AIDS protection

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** Although great strides were made on this objective in 2013 thanks to a CERF contribution, funding constraints hampered the realisation of youth-focused projects for 2014. However, the fundraising efforts along with successful results demonstrated during the previous year led to additional funds from the Italian Government for implementation of youth-related interventions in 2015. This will enable UNICEF Algeria to revert to programming efforts that will draw much from its 2013-initiated activities that were pursued in 2014 largely through sport for development by youth themselves, supported by equipment provided by UNICEF in 2013.
OUTCOME 2 By 2014, evidence-based knowledge of the situation of children, including adolescents and women, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, will be available and accessible

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In the largest country of the African continent, knowledge around social disparities and exclusion, generated in order to provide decision makers with fresh data useful to affect and guide equity-oriented policies for vulnerable groups and especially children, is not always available. Data sensitivity also remains an issue, and has an impact on quality and relevance of studies and research processes.
The absence of a dedicated Ministry tasked to manage country statistics and data definitely contributed to hindering the dissemination and sharing of the available knowledge that is produced mainly by the Office of National Statistic and the sectoral Ministries.

In middle- and upper-middle income countries like Algeria, quite often UN agencies are solicited for their high-level technical expertise, international experience and proven good practices. Frequently, they fill the gaps around specific knowhow and competences conducive to radical sectoral changes.

UNICEF remains the reference organization around knowledge related to children, mainly in social sectors as well as in the analysis of the several forms of poverty and vulnerability affecting children, thus, the importance of the newly available information around the profile and numbers of children not attending school or at risk of abandoning education. The recommendations described in the “Out-of-School Children” study were presented to the highest levels within the Ministry of Education and captured the attention of several decision makers over the urgency of engaging specific measures to keep children in school and halt the drop out phenomenon.

The theoretical knowledge is often coupled with capacity development allowing the appropriation of new methodologies and analytical approaches/framework from local human resources. This was the case when more than 40 professionals from the health sector were brought together to identify and analyse the causes of maternal mortality to subsequently elaborate a national plan aimed at reducing mothers’ deaths.

The availability of disaggregated data on children and women by region, gender, age and socio-economic status gathered from the nationwide survey that in 2012-2013 reached more than 30,000 households underpins the further advanced analysis required for better targeting the most vulnerable children by identifying their vulnerabilities and the multiple deprivations they face.

Last but not least, South-South cooperation remains a key and attractive strategy for equity children’s programmes. The most recent exchange of experience with Mexico, including the most senior authorities from CNES, resulted in a commitment towards the establishment of an SEO.

The year 2015 is expected to witness a new triangular cooperation among Algeria (CNES), Mexico (CONEVAL) and UNICEF aiming to strengthen the capacity of Algerian institutions in the operationalisation of the equity observatory.
Knowledge management is reinforced around the areas of child wellbeing, child and adolescent rights, child protection, child poverty, and socio-economic, geographic and gender disparities.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** Although national surveys implemented by the National Statistical Office and sectorial ministries produce social and economic statistics, there is a lack of secondary analyses to enhance knowledge on social exclusion and to influence more equitable public policies for children, women and vulnerable populations.

To overcome this constraint, data from the MICSs (2006 and 2012-2013) was used to produce an equity analysis that provided a profile of children and women suffering from multiple deprivations. This allowed for better knowledge of the situation of vulnerable children and women through the life cycle and main rights domains.

As part of evidence-based advocacy efforts, the situation of children who are out of school was presented to the high officials of the Ministry of Education thanks to a further analysis of the latest MICS data. Additional knowledge products, such as the updated situation analysis of children and women and the ‘Progress for Algerian children’ reports, are made available based on the analysis of MICS micro-data.

The momentum on mainstreaming equity measurement and monitoring at the policy level was sustained by exposing a high-level Algerian delegation, from CNES and UNICEF, to the Mexican experience. Mexico’s establishment of a dedicated institution to evaluate public policies and monitor equity and multi-dimensional poverty can be a useful model for Algeria.

Following the institutional commitment to put in place an SEO, a formal agreement was reached to formalise a South-South cooperation programme between Algeria (CNES), Mexico (CONEVAL) and UNICEF Offices in both countries, as well as the UNICEF Regional Office in the Middle East and North Africa. This partnership will be focused on strengthening the capacity of Algerian institutions to operationalise the observatory.

Prior to the establishment of the SEO, a transition unit focusing on equity analysis was established within CNES. This unit used the MODA to inform a country equity report that will be released in 2015 alongside the launch of the SEO itself.

The recommendations of the international conference hosted by Algeria and co-led by CNES and UNICEF on ‘Social equity monitoring institutions and their integration with public policies’, reflected the agreement of experts and government delegations from Arab countries, Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe as to the criticality of integrating social equity monitoring into public policy processes.

**OUTPUT 2** Knowledge management on social and institutional resources directed towards adolescents (boys and girls) in terms of accessibility, involvement and development, is strengthened.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** No progress.

At the national level, the activities planned with the Ministry of Youth were considerably delayed by several ministerial changes. These activities include the 'study on the use of youth centres by youth' and the 'mapping of available youth services (and their functioning)', which would allow the Government to adapt the supply of such services to youth, especially the most vulnerable.
vulnerable. Despite the delays, however, the Government’s current plan confirms the relevance of these activities and points towards their probable implementation in 2015.

**OUTPUT 3** Research-action on the quality of education informs national programmes and policies on school dropouts, repetition and low levels of enrolment in targeted regions of the south, Highland and poor urban areas

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** Every year, more than 400,000 children abandon their education. Two per cent of children are still not enrolled in primary school and this proportion rises to 14 per cent for children of secondary-school age. Furthermore, significant disparities exist across regions, as evidenced by the southwest of the country, where 18 per cent of secondary students abandon school.

The multiple factors that hinder the Government’s efforts to improve the education of Algerian children as well as the fulfilment of their rights are mainly related to: weak inclusive policies that effectively address extremely vulnerable groups (such as children with disabilities, nomads and migrants); and, last but not least, the poor quality of education. The latter is, without a doubt, a major contributory factor to both school dropout (more elevated for boys than girls) and the high grade repetition rates.

The need to have a clear picture including disaggregated data around the situation and profile of children not attending school or at risk of dropping is now met through the UNICEF-supported “out-of-school children” study and conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Education. The richness of the study relied on the participation of several stakeholders, ranging from civil society to institutions working on education for vulnerable children, such as the Ministry of Solidarity, which is, by law, in charge of the education of disabled children. The recommendations provided by the “Out-of-School Children” study, which was officially presented to the highest levels of the Ministry of Education, captured the attention of decision makers and conveyed the urgency of taking significant actions in order to avoid a further increase in children dropping out of school.

Meanwhile, UNICEF continues its ongoing advocacy work around issues related to governance: coordination across ministries, inclusive education, and the establishment of catch-up programmes for students that cannot re-enter the education system.

**OUTPUT 4** Research-action on health around ECD and nutrition for women of child-bearing age inform national programmes and policies in targeted regions of the south, Highlands and poor urban areas

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** Despite the availability of knowledge and national and annual data on maternal, neonatal and prenatal pregnancy monitoring that the National Statistics Office and the Ministry of Health publish thanks to several national surveys and estimates, there are significant gaps in regional-level data as well as insufficient analyses of causes and of consequences for health policy. Indeed, national figures alone are no longer relevant since there are disparities in access to quality health care despite the existence of national health policies. Furthermore, the only maternal mortality figure recognised by the UN system is the one published by the Ministry of Health in 1999, which cites 117 deaths per 100,000 live births. Other figures are estimates that probably do not reflect reality, much less the causes of inequality of access. At the same time, issues related to quality of care are not documented, which is a barrier to putting forth effective health policies.
To counter this situation, UNICEF supported the development of national strategies and tools, and built the capacity of 48 teams of auditors at the national level (two teams per wilaya). A maternal mortality auditing system, including judicial and legal mechanisms as well as laws and ministerial instructions for its implementation, was thus implemented. As a result, maternal deaths must be reported wherever they take place. This system has already helped generate qualitative and quantitative data based on about 100 death cases preliminarily analysed by the Ministry of Health.

Data that is further focussed on prenatal monitoring and that complements MICS data was collected on 3,200 recent mothers from 11 wilayas. This data is being processed in order to inform and help finalise the national plan to reduce maternal mortality.

OUTPUT 5 Barriers and bottlenecks analysis informs national strategies, policies and programmes, in order to better manage issues relating to the social rights of children and adolescents

Analytical Statement of Progress: Results are integrated into the sectoral result.

OUTCOME 3 By 2014, the knowledge of families around maternal health and nutrition, ECD, child protection as well as specific needs targeting participation and of adolescents will be enhanced with a view to a positive and long-lasting behaviour change

Analytical Statement of Progress: As in many part of the world, Algerian families within local communities play an important role in the fulfilment of children’s rights especially in remote and disadvantaged areas that are often the most affected by social norms and behaviours negatively impacting children’s lives. In the majority of cases this is due to different factors, such as lack of knowledge, or inaccurate or poor quality of the communicated facts. At times, information does not reach the faraway communities at all favouring the persistence of harmful attitudes.

UNICEF remains very much concerned about “getting the right information or competencies to the right beneficiaries” and using the knowledge generated from several studies, surveys and reports to throw light on particular behaviour necessitating in-depth analysis and understanding before engaging with families.

Strategic partnerships, such as the one with the Ministry of Religion Affairs, are then put in place to locally and directly reach out to beneficiaries by using the most appropriate communication channel. Following several years of capacity development aimed at increasing the competencies of nearly 400 local religious leaders around the promotion of key messages around children’s development, UNICEF enlarged its network of this communities’ outreach to mid-wives, upon the request of the Ministry of Health.

Thus, the production of a transportable pedagogical tool to be used with communities that looks like a large book, including eye-catching and appealing illustrations describing correct behaviours to adopt with children. This includes mothers bringing their children to the health centres for vaccination, healthy children’s nutrition (obesity in children has increased from nine to 12 per cent during the last six years, with the lowest prevalence at seven per cent in the south), as well as early stimulation exercises to tackle children’s development. Pregnant women are also targeted through ante- and post-natal messages for their safe pregnancy and delivery.

National indicators on breastfeeding are not improving as expected by health authorities (only
25 per cent of children aged six months are exclusively breastfeed). Thus, UNICEF together with a consultative committee of health experts is finalising a national strategy to promote exclusive breastfeeding practices. The strategy expects to be operational in 2015 and will have a particular focus on the regions lagging behind, such as the Highlands.

UNICEF continued using communication for development as a critical strategy to address the required changes in local behaviours and norms. The enlargement of partnerships to technical ministries and their engagement has proven that more and more stakeholders are willing to be part of the transformation process.

**OUTPUT 1** The families and children targeted by the communication strategy around health, maternal nutrition and ECD in the targeted regions are reached through local actors and channels of communication such as television, radio, mosques, health centres, ICT and schools.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** Two types of progressions come to light when analysing data collected over the last 12 years in Algeria on exclusive breastfeeding for six months, continued breastfeeding for 12-15 months, and breastfeeding for 20 to 23 months. On one hand, there is a rapid progression of the exclusive breastfeeding rate, where it increased from 6.9 per cent to 25.7 per cent. On the other hand, there is a slow progression of the continued breastfeeding rates. These remain almost constant, at approximately 46.6 per cent for breastfeeding for 12-15 months and at 24.4 per cent for breastfeeding for 20-23 months. Unfortunately, these rates are inadequate. While many women do resort to breastfeeding, they do so for a period of time that is too short when compared to the time required for the proper development of the child.

The Ministry of Health and UNICEF developed a communication strategy that aims to change maternal behaviour and thus increase breastfeeding rates by teaching mothers the benefits of breastfeeding and exposing them to good practices.

In this context, the committee for the 'Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative' (IHAB) continued the inspections and ‘training on the promotion of breastfeeding’ that were first launched by UNICEF and WHO and that targeted health professionals in the remaining three establishments out of the ten that applied for the IHAB label. Of these, two establishments were identified as requiring support in obtaining the label.

At the same time, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and *Wakfs* trained 360 (74 per cent of the total number) *Mourchidat* (Religious Counsellors) with the intent of providing them with improved knowledge and skills around interpersonal communication. This initiative, organised with UNICEF since 2012, acknowledges the proximity of the *Mourchidat* to the population and the role that they can play in continuing to raise awareness and support across the country. It also recognises their access to the most disadvantaged areas, where it is crucial that mothers and families maintain good practices around maternal and child health. These *Mourchidat* also contributed to the completion of the educational tool ‘Image Box’, which was developed to help jog their memory when they meet mothers and families and speak to them about maternal and child survival. The ‘Image Box’ is an interactive tool that requires community participation and the willingness to adopt key life-saving behaviours on the part of families and mothers.

**OUTPUT 2** Mothers, fathers, families, children, and adolescents in targeted regions are reached by communication strategies around the specificities of adolescence, and adolescents’ right to participation and protection through local stakeholders and communication channels including television, radio, mosques, health centres, ICT, schools and youth-friendly spaces.
**Analytical Statement of Progress:** No progress to report.

**OUTPUT 3** Local actors and civil society in targeted regions develop good practices in 'close social dialogue' on issues related to childhood, women, and the participation and civic engagement of adolescents and women

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** The joint programme for gender equality and the empowerment of women ‘AL INSAF’ was implemented within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to support the Ministry of National Solidarity, Family and the Status of Women (MSNFCF) and ended in 2013. This programme, in which UNICEF was involved and collaborated with the National Office for Literacy and Adult Education, set up six community centres for illiterate and vulnerable women. It also created child-friendly spaces in the Djelfa Wilaya and three community centres in the Adrar Wilaya. In 2014, MSNFCF acknowledged the positive results achieved and took ownership of the programme in these wilayas, and proposed to extend these initiatives to other wilayate.

Meanwhile, the Algerian National Radio Company, with the support of UNICEF, set up a radio broadcast entitled ‘Al Insaf’, which can be heard on the 13 radio stations surrounding the Djelfa Wilaya. This radio show is dedicated specifically to mothers and families and aims to deliver key messages about the survival of women and children. In particular, the show discusses topics such as pregnancy monitoring, breastfeeding, hygiene, food appropriate for children, childhood diarrhoea, and accidents that can take place in the home. As a result of a programme adopted by Parliament promoting the exchange of radio broadcasts among different radio stations, ‘Al Insaf’ has been made permanent and will be extended to other local radio stations throughout the country.

**OUTPUT 4** The proportion of decision makers, families, children, adolescents and youth who know the rights of children and the rights stated in the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) has increased

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** Promoting child rights is a priority in Algeria and for UNICEF programmes. With this goal in mind, several actions have been undertaken in recent years. A survey conducted by UNICEF in 2010 on the knowledge of parents and children on rights of the child demonstrated that 75 per cent of parents and 82 per cent of children know about child rights. Yet, too many children are still victims of violence. In 2014 alone, there were over 5,000 cases of violence against children, of which 3,100 cases included corporal punishment. In this context, achieving an environment free of violence, in particular for children and women, became the consensus of different stakeholders working around children’s issues.

The #ENDVIOLENCE campaign that was launched by UNICEF along with several partners, both institutional and from civil society, paved the way for various other initiatives that aim to increase awareness of four main types of violence: sexual violence, violence toward handicapped children, and violence at home and in schools.

In order to enhance the importance of talking about violence and of taking action against it, UNICEF and the Ministry of Sport also organised a gala football match under the slogan “Young Actors Against Violence”. Forty young girls and boys from disadvantaged and sensitive neighbourhoods participated in this event, which brought together over 200 children and UNICEF ambassadors.
Ever since the launch of the #ENDVIOLENCE campaign, the Algerian Government has shown its strong engagement at the highest political level. Indeed, the Minister of Foreign Affairs brought the issue of violence to international attention by proposing a resolution to the Human Rights Council. This resolution, which aims to accelerate global efforts against violence toward children, was adopted by the majority of UN Member States.

This year’s flagship event was the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC@25). ‘The path of child rights’, as the event was called, was jointly organised with the Ministry of National Solidarity and mobilised a large number of partners. Through play and artistic activities, children and youth were able to express their views and perceptions of their rights in a space dedicated to the promotion of child rights.

‘I deserve a better world’ was the key message put forth by the special edition of the largest Francophone newspaper ‘El Watan’ (200,000 copies daily). This edition, which was entirely dedicated to the CRC@25, featured multiple articles on the situation of children and their rights.

**OUTCOME 4 Cross-sectoral costs**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** Since the end of 2013, the Algerian Programme of Cooperation has been marked by an important planning process leading to the preparation of the new Country Programme 2016-2019 that will address with an equity lens children and mothers’ crucial issues and the major barriers hampering the fulfilment of children’s rights.

This process has started with a mid-term programme review meant to provide major orientations and recommendations over the last two years of the actual programme (extended by one year) as well as presenting the major potential strategic axes of intervention for the next programme. In parallel, several UN agencies, including UNICEF, were involved in the preparation of the new United Nations Programme of Cooperation, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which started with a socio-economic analysis of the country drawn from national documents and existing data, including fresh data emerging from the UNICEF-supported household survey, disparities analysis, out-of school children study and the most recently updated situation analysis.

Structured and systematic meetings with line ministry partners, under the umbrella of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, allowed the complete alignment of UNICEF programmes with Government sectoral priorities. However, it is worth mentioning that despite the relevance of the actual Country Programme there is a need to invest UNICEF’s limited financial resources into a more narrowed number of areas having a large potential impact on deprived children.

The slight delays accumulated in programme implementation, mainly affecting the first quarter of the year, were mainly due to the Presidential election (April 2014) and consequent nomination of the new Government causing the replacement of several ministries, including the key ones UNICEF worked with. As well, the absence of a joint Government-UNICEF steering committee dedicated to coordinating, monitoring and evaluating the Country Programme constituted a major constraint in the realization of results for children. In addition, the evaluation of UNICEF’s contribution in changing the situation of children with a programme structured around strategies (institutional support, knowledge and social norms), rather than around sectors of children’s concerns, hampered the effective monitoring of results and the impact of UNICEF added value.
The planning of activities, both sectoral and cross-cutting, is rooted in efficient coordination increasing the leveraging effect of the programme.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** Since the end of 2013, the Algerian Programme of Cooperation has been marked by two important processes: the mid-term review and the preparation of the new Country Programme 2016-2019. This includes an important mass of crucial data and information gathered and generated around the situation of women and children, but seen through the disparities lens. It is to tackle these inequalities that UNICEF Algeria continued strengthening staff capacities in using the “Monitoring Results for Equity System” (MoRES), a framework allowing the analysis of key bottlenecks impeding the fulfilment of children’s rights, in each sector of UNICEF programming. To date, this analytical approach was applied for the elaboration of a national plan aimed at reducing maternal mortality; for an analysis of the weaknesses and forces of the protection services in the different wilayas of the country (through a mapping-study); as well as for the “Out-of-School Children” study.

Communication for development continued to be a key strategy to support programme implementation, but it is used predominately in the health and early childhood sectors. However, cross-sectoral programming showed excellent and visible results through the integrated strategy targeting young children (under eight years of age), which managed to gather around its priorities dedicated to child development at least four different programming sectors (protection, health, education and social policy), and, at the institutional level, seven ministries including, apart from the social sectors such as Health and Education, the Ministry of Interior, Religious Affairs, Justice and Communication.

Coordination with institutional partners gained momentum and was increasingly systematic and structured. Whilst effective in the follow up of rolling work plans, the collaboration remained somewhat activity-focused and struggled to elevate itself into a fully result-focused coordination. This will need further attention and engagement over the coming years.

**OUTPUT 2** Progress around the results of the programme components is systematically measured through evaluation and monitoring tools, and the success of the programme is assured through periodic strategic adjustments.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** The year 2014 marked the post-mid-term review (MTR) programmatic period and was decisive in the preparation of the new UNICEF Country Programme in line with the same dynamic initiated at the UN level with the Strategic Framework Cooperation process. Data, evidence and programme monitoring outcomes were crucial to inform the two parallel processes engaged by UNICEF and the UN system.

As a result of the process initiated late 2013, the MTR report and findings were shared and discussed with the Algerian Government. Although the MTR reflected short-term recommendations in the perspective of 2014-2015, it highlighted the qualitative results achieved throughout the first two years of the Country Programme. In particular, the MTR looked at the amount of knowledge and data addressing equity and quality issues for children and adolescents, underlining UNICEF’s commitment to invest more systematically in translating this knowledge into advocacy and policy dialogue efforts in different sectors related to child rights together with Government and civil society partners.

A strategic decision to undertake an evaluation of UNICEF Algeria of one Country Programme component in 2015 was taken in line with the regional recommendations to strengthen the evaluation function and to generate increased evidence on the impact of UNICEF interventions.
in the country and the changes occurring thanks to UNICEF involvement at different levels. This evaluation will be equally important in highlighting the constraints faced over the course of the programme cycle in developing a regular and updated monitoring system and will anticipate potential mitigation and response strategies against such constraints.

A systematic contribution to the evaluation of the United Nations Strategic Cooperation Framework (SCF) with the Algerian Government was ensured by UNICEF despite the difficulty implied by the absence of a monitoring system at the SCF level and the lack of data and evidence on the contributions of the UN agencies to the development agenda in Algeria.

Data and knowledge produced by UNICEF were used for the purpose of the Common Country Assessment, which confirmed the comparative advantage of UNICEF as a knowledge-oriented organisation.

**Constraints:** The absence of a joint Government-UNICEF steering committee dedicated to coordinating, monitoring and evaluating the Country Programme constituted a significant constraint in the appreciation of results for children. In addition, the evaluation of the contribution of UNICEF in changing the situation of children proved a challenge as the programme is structured around mainly strategies (institutional support, knowledge and social norms) rather than around sectoral interventions areas where impact of UNICEF interventions may have been easier to frame, monitor and evaluate.

**OUTPUT 3 Advocacy, visibility and partnership**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** Currently, there are five national TV channels, 24 private channels, and a national radio station with 51 local channels. The written press counts more than 45 newspapers in Arabic and in French. As for digital communication, there are ten million Internet users and seven million social network users. All these elements offer significant potential in terms of UNICEF visibility.

UNICEF maintained its leadership position as the organisation of reference around children’s issues. Child rights are also strongly present in the national agenda thanks to the voice of UNICEF’s Representative in Algeria, who participated in various TV and radio programmes that reached large audiences.

It is important to highlight that the Algerian press is read by 65 per cent of Algerians aged 15 and older. UNICEF took note of this and seized the opportunity to increase its presence in the written press from 538 articles in 2013 to 754 in 2014. In addition, UNICEF’s visibility was enhanced thanks to the initiation and organisation of crucial thematic events such as the #ENDVIOLENCE campaign, the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the CRC, the celebration of the Day of the African Child, and the International Conference on Institutional Frameworks for Social Equity.

UNICEF Algeria’s Facebook page, launched on 20 November, is intended to support the organisation’s advocacy efforts and enhance its visibility. In just two months, the page gathered more than 900 fans and UNICEF predicts a significant increase of the number of fans and visitors in 2015. UNICEF Algeria’s web page received about 45,000 visitors in 2014 and is becoming more active in terms of publishing information and providing frequent updates, as well as publishing fresh news and data.

UNICEF visibility within the UN system was strengthened thanks to its participation in and
organisation of joint events. Some examples include UN Day and the launch of the ‘Protect the Goal’ campaign, which was initiated by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and saw the involvement of Madjid Bougherra, UNICEF Ambassador and Captain of the Algerian football team. Finally, UNICEF’s actions and programmes in the country were also brought to light through the voices of beneficiaries themselves – especially those coming from the most disadvantaged populations – in a film co-funded by different UN agencies.

**OUTPUT 4.** Parents are provided with knowledge in order to enhance the effective participation of women, fathers, mothers, adolescents and children in the reduction of disparities.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** This result is closed as its results are mainstreamed into sectoral programmes.

**OUTCOME 5 Special Purpose**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** The security considerations and constraints in Algeria remain significant, following the successful terrorist attack of the In Amenas oil and gas complex in January 2013 as well as the kidnapping and beheading of a French tourist in the northern mountains in September 2014. Both incidents led to an immediate response both from the host government and the UN system, and significant security restrictions were imposed in a number of the country’s southern *wilayas* as well as known risky areas of the northern mountains. A mandatory armed escort is required for any movement outside of Algiers for all international staff.

UNICEF devoted significant resources to mitigating such risks – along with that of a repeat of the 2007 bomb attack that destroyed the common UN premises – over the past few years, and now stands as one of the most protected premises within all UN building in Algiers. Significant mitigation measures are in place both in terms of access control and a possible blast. In 2014, UNICEF Algeria was allocated additional security funds for a total of US$ 74,000 to enhance the safety and security of staff and premises. The allocation was used to upgrade the access control system, a walkthrough metal detector, and all surveillance camera systems.

UNICEF Algeria also signed a comprehensive extended maintenance contract of its x-ray machine for two years, which includes full coverage of all parts, remote assistance and annual on-site preventive maintenance visits.

Finally, UNICEF contributed with other neighbouring UN agencies to the cost of the installation of a barrier system in the road leading to UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) offices to provide an additional security mitigation measure by acting as a first point screening area.

**OUTPUT 1 Premises and Security**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** The security considerations and constraints in Algeria remain significant, following the successful terrorist attack of the In Amenas oil and gas complex in January 2013 as well as the kidnapping and beheading of a French tourist in the northern mountains in September 2014. Both incidents led to an immediate response both from the host government and the UN system, and significant security restrictions were imposed in a number of the country’s southern *wilayas* as well as known risky areas of the northern mountains. A
mandatory armed escort is required for any movement outside of Algiers for all international staff.

UNICEF devoted significant resources to mitigating such risks – along with that of a repeat of the 2007 bomb attack that destroyed the common UN premises – over the past few years, and now stands as one of the most protected premises within all UN building in Algiers. Significant mitigation measures are in place both in terms of access control and a possible blast. In 2014, UNICEF Algeria was allocated additional security funds for a total amount of US$ 74,000 to enhance the safety and security of staff and premises. The allocation was used to upgrade the access control system, a walkthrough metal detector, and all surveillance camera systems.

UNICEF Algeria also signed a comprehensive extended maintenance contract of its x-ray machine for two years, which includes full coverage of all parts, remote assistance and annual on-site preventive maintenance visits.

Finally, UNICEF contributed with other neighbouring UN agencies to the cost of the installation of a barrier system in the road leading to UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) offices to provide an additional security mitigation measure by acting as a first point screening area.

**OUTCOME 6 Human Capacity**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** Operations continued to aim for efficiency in providing support to programme development and delivery by ensuring that human, financial and physical resources were appropriately used for the achievement of the programme objectives and that strategic inputs were consistently provided to programmes in a cost-effective and timely manner.

**OUTPUT 1 Human Capacity**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** Effective and efficient governance systems are ensured by ensuring risk management and achievement of programme results are addressed. Programme coordination and appropriate guidance were provided and ICT management was well covered. The CMT is the principal mechanism for office management and coordination. It is the central management body for advising the Representative on all major issues affecting office and programme management. The CMT met eight times and minutes of the meetings were shared with all staff and the Regional Office. The CMT systematically reviewed in plenary: all Manager’s dashboard alerts; a full status of budget implementation; a full status of programme implementation progress; DCT monitoring; updates on RMTs and other key initiatives; and feedback as appropriate from Senior Management Team and United Nations Country Teams meetings. Joint Consultative Committee meetings met twice in 2014. Regular Programme and Operations meetings were also held.

ICT governance is governed by the CMT, which ensured adequate ICT capacity resources and support services to promote and provide ICT solutions to facilitate and improve programme delivery through secure, reliable, efficient and cost-effective systems and solutions. ICT matters were formally addressed and discussed by the CMT.

**OUTPUT 2 Financial Resources and Stewardship**
Analytical Statement of Progress: Manager’s dashboard alerts, budget implementation status and progress, DCT monitoring are permanent agenda items of the CMT and were thoroughly reviewed to ensure continuous quality and punctual programme implementation. The CMT took steps to address any deficiencies and deal with them promptly.

UNICEF Algeria was able to use 100 per cent of Institutional Budget, 79 per cent of allocated Regular Resources, 97 per cent of OR, and 100 per cent of OR-E within the original life of the Programme Budget Allotment.

No outstanding DCT of more than nine months was registered.

Bank reconciliations of accounts were done according to set deadlines with no errors, and year-end closure activities were completed in a timely manner.

After ten years, an audit was conducted at UNICEF Algeria in December 2014. Recommendations and observations are expected by the end of January 2015.

OUTPUT 3 Human Resources (HR)

Analytical Statement of Progress: An OIP was developed in a consultative manner to respond to the key concerns emerging from the GSS as well as to continue to build on strengths. Findings may be categorised as follows.

1. Staff security was addressed efficiently and in a timely manner. Since the 2011 GSS, the office became fully MOSS compliant and has adopted additional mitigation security measures to improve staff safety and security.
2. In order to address staff well-being, flexitime was given due consideration; all requests from staff for flexible hours were approved (more than 40 per cent of staff are benefitting from flexitime). To improve the work environment, the office space was optimised and re-designed, providing additional working space and an ample area that staff can use to relax and have lunch.
3. Business processes were reviewed and explained to ensure a wide understanding of responsibilities at all levels.

The open-door policy encourages management interaction and availability of senior staff at any time.

The most recent staffing gap analysis was done during the latest Country Programme Management Plan preparation in February 2014 followed by the mid-term review in April and the GSSC exercise in June 2014 that allowed for a fine-tuning of the needs, particularly within the support team.

A comprehensive gap analysis will be conducted during the new CPD preparation, which is due in September 2015.

OUTPUT 4 Human Resources

Analytical Statement of Progress: The most recent staffing gap analysis was done during the latest Country Programme Management Plan preparation in February 2014 followed by the mid-term review in April and
the GSSC exercise in June 2014 that allowed for a fine-tuning of the needs, particularly within the support team.

A comprehensive gap analysis will be conducted based on the new CPD (2016-2019) preparation.

After a thorough strategic review of the UNICEF Algeria operations structure including identification and review of posts most impacted by the transactions being transferred to the GSSC, the UNICEF Country Office proposed the abolishment of an IB Senior Admin/Finance post (vacant) and the merger of ICT and Finance functions.

UNICEF Algeria continued to encourage an ongoing feedback and coaching process where both supervisors and supervisees have an active role in sustaining successful and constructive discussions.

An OIP was developed in a consultative manner to respond to the key concerns emerging from the GSS as well as to continue to build on strengths. Findings may be categorised as follows.

1. Staff security was addressed efficiently and in a timely manner. Since the 2011 GSS, the office became fully MOSS compliant and has adopted additional mitigation security measures to improve staff safety and security.
2. In order to address staff well-being, flexitime was given due consideration; all requests from staff for flexible hours were approved (more than 40 per cent of staff are benefiting from flexitime). To improve work environment, the office space was optimised and re-designed, providing additional working space and an ample area that staff can use to relax and have lunch.
3. Business processes were reviewed and explained to ensure a wide understanding of responsibilities at all levels.

### Evaluation Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sequence Number</th>
<th>Type of Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Analyse des services de proximité dans le domaine de la protection de l’enfance en Algérie : enjeux et défis</td>
<td>2014/002</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etat des lieux de la prise en charge de la petite enfance</td>
<td>2014/001</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation du programme élargi de vaccination dans les camps de réfugiés sahraouis de Tindouf</td>
<td>2014/003</td>
<td>Evaluation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>