

Belarus

Executive Summary

In the UNICEF Belarus Country Office, 2015 was marked by such major processes as the 2016–2020 Country Programme Document and Country Programme Management Plan preparation, finalization of the 2016–2020 United Nations Development Assistance Framework and closing audit recommendations. A robust gap analysis, combined with a comprehensive consultative inter-sectoral and ‘bottom-up’ approach, led to the development of the above documents.

During 2015, UNICEF Belarus contributed to significant gains in improvement of the legal and policy framework in Belarus through evidence-based advocacy, provision of technical assistance and effective programming. Assistance was provided to the drafting of the national programme, Health of the Nation and Demographic Security for 2016–2020, comprising such sub-programmes as ‘Family and Childhood’, which is aimed at improving health care to mothers and children, and Prevention of HIV Infection, which envisages universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and countering the spread of HIV among the most at-risk population, including adolescents practicing risky behaviour. Perennial advocacy efforts of United Nations agencies and civil society organizations (CSOs), supported by evidence and good practices piloted in the region of Brest, forged the Government’s commitment to develop a special law on the prevention of domestic violence that stipulates wide access of survivors to health, legal, psychosocial and community support services.

Persistent advocacy efforts resulted in the signing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which will enable moving the inclusive society agenda forward and integrating the rights of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, across all policy areas and funding decisions. To gain momentum UNICEF will intensify cooperation with national stakeholders aimed at the development of community-based support services for families with children with disabilities to prevent placing them in residential care and facilitate a smooth transition to inclusive education.

Lack of inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation among social-sector services (health care, social protection, child protection, education), including lack of application practices and gaps in legislation, remains the main bottleneck that influences the effectiveness of programmes that aim to address children's needs. Thus, priority was given to the formalization of protocols of cooperation regulating referral mechanisms and multidisciplinary work. UNICEF managed to influence such important decisions of the National Commission on the Rights of the Child as improvement of the regulation on the cross-sectoral collaboration aimed at identification of children in social danger, assessment of the situation of the child in the family and development of an inter-agencies’ rehabilitation plan. The decisions to conduct national studies on violence against children in education, health, social protection and police institutions and on the situation of families with children with disabilities were fixed in the protocols of the Commission’s meetings and will be carried out in 2016.

Funds mobilization continues to be a challenge for UNICEF and other United Nations agencies in Belarus. The environment for foreign assistance is generally unfavourable. Donor interest is further limited in Belarus because of its conditioning on democracy, human rights and civil society development. New types of partnership with the donor community were promoted to ensure growth in other resources from international and national sources of funding in support of the Country Programme goals. UNICEF will explore modalities for involving the private sector more closely in corporate social responsibility, including application of children's rights and business principles, promoting the prioritization of child rights among private companies and seeking their support.

UNICEF Belarus made efficient use of its capacity to engage with a wide plurality of constituencies in the country. Collaboration with line ministries, the Parliament, CSOs and donors active in the social protection sphere has been strengthened during the year and has been instrumental in bringing equity concerns to the Government's attention.

Taking into account the UNICEF's unique relationship of trust with the Government, non-governmental sector, donors and other development actors, UNICEF Belarus strived to build a space for dialogue, creating bridges of communication and cooperation between civil society and the state. The Country Office will continue to help addressing the shortage of systemic institutionalized mechanisms for the participation of CSOs in policymaking and in the debates of draft laws affecting the population, as well as their engagement in the rendering of social services and the monitoring of the realization of children's rights.

Humanitarian Assistance

In 2015, there were no major natural or human-made disasters affecting the country that required UNICEF humanitarian assistance.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

ADSL – Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line
BelarusInfo – national database of socio-economic indicators
BelAU – Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs
Belstat – National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus
CEDAW – Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEE/CIS – Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States
CFC – Child-Friendly City
CFCI – Child-Friendly City Initiative
CIS – Commonwealth of Independent States
CMT – Country Management Team
CO – Country Office
CP – Country Programme
CP Officer – Child Protection Officer
CPD – Country Programme Document
CPMP – Country Programme Management Plan
CRC – Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRING – Country Reporting on Indicators for the Goals
CRPD – Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSOs – civil society organizations
ECD – early childhood development
ECI – early childhood interventions
EU – European Union

FACE – Funding Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures
GSSC – Global Shared Services Centre
HACT – Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
HRBA – Human Rights-Based Approach
IBCS – Integrated Budget Costing System
ICT – Information and Communication Technology
IMEP – Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
LSA – Local Staff Association
LTA – Long-Term Arrangement
MARA – most-at-risk adolescents
MDGs – Millennium Development Goals
MFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MIA – Ministry of Internal Affairs
MLSP – Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
MOSS - Minimum Operating Security Standards
MoE – Ministry of Education
MoH – Ministry of Health
NGO – non-governmental organization
PAS - Performance Appraisal System
PBR - Programme and Budget Review
PRIME - Plan for Research, Impact Monitoring and Evaluation
RAM – Results Assessment Module (database)
RKLA – Regional Knowledge and Leadership Agenda
RO – Regional Office
SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
SitAn – Situation Analysis
UNAIDS – Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCT – United Nations Country Team
UNDAF – United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund

Capacity Development

To prevent and counteract domestic violence during 2015, special attention was paid to the capacity development of professionals. To institutionalize and ensure continuity of professional training, special courses on domestic violence, including topics on prevention and response to violence against children, were integrated into curricula of the higher and post-graduate educational institutions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP), the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Education (MoE).

Violence against children was integrated as a topic in the national school curriculum starting in September 2015. It is expected that this will contribute to better awareness of children on self-control, self-securing behaviours, and available services.

Local authorities were oriented by Liudmila Rzhanitsyna, Senior Researcher of the Institute of Economics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and Elena Mezentseva, Associate Professor of the Higher School of Economics on child-centred budgeting. More than 30 representatives of local executive committees and the MoE learned about per capita financing of education and health institutions and a methodology for making budgets sensitive to children's issues.

UNICEF Belarus supported the Regional Knowledge Hub run by the Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs (BelAU) (, a non-governmental organization (NGO), to increase access to information for professionals working with adolescents practicing risky behaviour, and more generally on HIV prevention, testing and counselling. Several distance-learning courses and webinars offered by the Hub were completed by professionals from educational and health-care institutions and NGOs. Long-distance trainings were promoted regionally and helped to share ideas and create networks across borders.

The capacity of the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus (Belstat) to collect, analyse and disseminate data on children with disabilities was strengthened through its representatives' participation in the regional workshop on Measurement of Child Disability. Participants were equipped with new knowledge and tools for the designing, planning and collecting of data on child disabilities and Belstat started preparatory work on the introduction of a new approach to data collection on children with disabilities. This work will be accelerated with the adoption of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health.

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

UNICEF Belarus strived to strengthen the country's capacity to monitor child rights, analyse the situation and undertake evidence-based actions that are focused on the most disadvantaged children. Continued support was provided to improve availability of data through the TransMonEE and DevInfo databases and secondary analysis of Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys 4 data. UNICEF facilitated the preparation of the analytical report 'Gender Analysis of the Data of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey of Households (MICS4)' for the Eighth Periodic Report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

The finalized Situation Analysis (SitAn) defined pathways to enhance the child protection system to better address children's vulnerabilities, and also provided evidence for prioritization in UNICEF programming within the new programme cycle. The SitAn, as well as other government and UNICEF-led research and studies, ensured a solid base for strategic planning, drafting policies and national legislative acts to provide necessary support to the most vulnerable children.

For the first time since 1990, Belstat with assistance from UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), conducted a Time Use Survey in line with internationally recognized methodology to generate evidence on manifestations of gender inequality in the distribution of time devoted to household chores and taking care of children, elderly and the disabled by men and women. This evidence will be used in advocacy for development of the next Gender Action Plan, monitoring progress and design of measures to transform gender stereotypes, as well as for CEDAW reporting (2016).

UNICEF Belarus used the signing of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) to strengthen advocacy to ensure the rights of children with disabilities and deprived of parental care to quality education and living in a family environment. Important occasions including the collegium of the MoE on inclusive education and the meeting of the National Commission on the Rights of the Child were used to facilitate dialogue on these issues and ensure high-level commitment. Other examples of policy dialogue and advocacy are given in the Results Assessment Module database (RAM) and strategies.

Partnerships

To support the achievement of national development priorities aimed at promoting and protecting human rights and improving the lives of Belarusian people, the 2016–2020 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) was developed jointly by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in consultation with the Government of Belarus, civil society, the private sector, vulnerable groups, and national and international partners, and signed in the presence of the President of the Republic of Belarus. The 2016–2020 UNDAF is the second joint strategy of United Nations organizations in Belarus. The strategic areas set the main direction and scope of cooperation with the Government over the next five years and include: Inclusive, Responsive and Accountable Governance; Sustainable Economic Development; Environmental Protection and Sustainable Environmental Management Based on the Green Economy Principles; Sustainable Human Capital Development: Health, Education, Social Inclusion and Protection; and Comprehensive Post-Chernobyl Development.

The Country Office (CO) strengthened collaboration and support for civil society. UNICEF was particularly successful in facilitating dialogue between the Government and civil society organizations (CSOs) on the provision of respite and palliative care services, and the prevention and response to violence. On the eve of the new Country Programme, the second phase of CSO mapping was conducted. This provides more detailed background information about the functioning of CSOs, as well as their capacities, strengths and weaknesses. It will help to identify new partners, especially those that serve marginalized and vulnerable groups of children. This new evidence will help to choose and enter into strategic partnerships.

With the new programme cycle in 2016, the office is about to explore opportunities to involve the private sector more closely in corporate social responsibility, including the application of children's rights and business principles, promoting the prioritization of child rights among private companies and seeking their support. Sensitization of private companies will be around children's rights, children and young people with disabilities, and responsible parenting.

External Communication and Public Advocacy

To further facilitate dialogue between the international development community and national stakeholders, the international conference 'Strengthening Belarus: UN Development Cooperation' was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and UNCT in January 2015. In total, 24 United Nations agencies and 16 foreign development partners and government and CSO representatives participated in it. During the conference, participants discussed priorities for international development assistance in line with the National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development until 2030 and the National Development Plan for 2016–2020.

The CO helped to highlight and promote awareness about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On 22 September, schools were engaged in the World's Largest Lesson. During this event, students become acquainted with the SDGs, discussed their implementation challenges and opportunities in Belarus, and thought about everyone's personal engagement and commitment to help achieve the SDGs. The students' conclusions were uploaded on <<https://wethepeople.globalgoals.org/>>. The event helped to strengthen partnership with the MoE and raise awareness among schoolchildren about child rights with respect to the SDGs.

In October, the SDGs were presented within the UN-MFA initiative UN70 Belarus Express: Towards Partnership for Development. The initiative worked as an educational engine and hosted 253 events, 70 workshops, talk shows and discussions engaging more than 30,000

people throughout Belarus. The main events were attended by representatives of 30 diplomatic missions, 30 private companies and 40 NGOs, as well as by almost all line ministries, the President's administration, members of Parliament, and governors of all regional executive committees and districts' local authorities. The initiative involved UNICEF and United Nations Goodwill Ambassadors and celebrities, and garnered extensive media coverage.

UNICEF Belarus' Facebook page was regularly updated with international and local news. The number of followers more than doubled, and the page's engagement value is 15 (second place in the region by both indicators). UNICEF Belarus will seek to further systematize its external communications, public advocacy and social media presence.

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

The Regional Knowledge and Leadership Agenda (RKLA) provides a framework for UNICEF Belarus to share experiences and best practices with other COs and their partners in the Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS) region.

UNICEF helped to expose national counterparts to best international experiences and practices. The head of the law-making department of the Ministry of Justice learned from Georgia's reform of its national juvenile justice system and took part in an international conference where main reform achievements and the newly approved Georgian Juvenile Justice Code were presented. The experience gave new momentum to the discussion on the introduction of restorative justice approaches in Belarus. As a follow-up, UNICEF and the Ministry of Justice agreed to conduct an analysis of the Belarusian juvenile justice system in terms of its compliance with international standards. Analysis conclusions and recommendations would serve as the grounds for further national discussion and development of a road map on strengthening the national juvenile justice system. An increase in the past year in the number of children in detention made obvious the need to introduce changes to the current justice and juveniles' crime prevention systems.

Distance trainings offered by the Regional Knowledge Hub on HIV prevention among most-at-risk adolescents (MARA) run by BELAU (set up within the regional MARA project; see *RAM, output 2.2*) were promoted. Professionals from CIS countries and Lithuania got acquainted with methods on to reach the hard-to-reach adolescents who practice risky behaviours, as well as how to engage them in preventive programmes and motivate them to get HIV testing.

During 2015, the CO supported the evaluation and documentation of good practices and lessons learned in Belarus, as a contribution to the realization of children's rights beyond a country's borders. The Belarusian model of palliative care for children was presented at the World Health Assembly 2015 and was recommended for dissemination as a best practice in the CEE/CIS region. Within horizontal cooperation, specialists of the Belarussian Children's Hospice NGO shared experiences and trained palliative-care teams in Tajikistan.

Identification and Promotion of Innovation

To create the notion of innovation and promote innovations in UNICEF programming, a working group on innovations was created in the CO and the Innovation Strategy was drafted, presented and discussed at the CO's retreat. The CO's strengths (favourable global environment for innovations, management support, motivated staff and a working group on innovations) and weaknesses (lack of a clear vision of what the innovation goals and intervention areas are, lack of a strategy supported by resources (financial and human), lack of innovative experience and tools) were identified. Meaningful discussion resulted in the decisions to seek additional training for staff members, revise the Innovation Strategy draft, and focus on the development and

introduction to partners of UNICEF innovative approaches in planning, designing, implementation and monitoring, wherever feasible and appropriate.

Support to Integration and Cross-Sectoral Linkages

Integrated social protection systems involve coordination and communication across sectors to ensure maximum efficiency and impact on vulnerable children. Lack of inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation as one of the main bottlenecks influencing the effectiveness of actions was addressed through various strategies and activities.

During 2015, UNICEF Belarus has continued facilitating inter-sectoral work to institutionalize case management. Priority was given to forming protocols of cooperation regulating referral mechanisms and multidisciplinary work. The National Commission on the Rights of the Child made important decisions aimed at improving the regulation on inter-sectoral collaboration on the timely identification of children in social danger, assessment of the situation of the child in the family and development of the inter-agencies' rehabilitation plan.

Facilitation of the implementation of the inter-ministerial action plan on child injury prevention led to new practices based on inter-sectoral cooperation aimed at reducing child mortality and disability from external causes and mitigating their adverse consequences. One of the achievements in the development of palliative care services was modelling of outpatient palliative care services for children provided by the multidisciplinary team of specialists in Mogilev and Bobruisk.

The equity analysis conducted prior to the 2016–2020 Country Programme Document (CPD) development pointed out the need to strengthen linkages between sectors, as well as promote multidisciplinary strategies, such as early childhood development (ECD) and early childhood intervention (ECI) strategies, a road map on the transition from special to inclusive education, and a multidisciplinary strategy for juvenile justice system development. Overall, adolescent development and participation will become one of the key areas of UNICEF Belarus' inter-sectoral work within the new programme cycle. Adolescents' social and psychological problems have an impact on their behaviour and can put them at risk. These risk factors are interdependent and need to be simultaneously addressed to achieve positive outcomes and build resilience. UNICEF Belarus will invest in harmonizing social statistics on children across sectors and ministries.

Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

In all interactions with line ministries, local authorities and CSOs, UNICEF Belarus pursued a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) in Programming with its basic principles of participation of right holders and capacity development of duty bearers. Together with other United Nations agencies, UNICEF provided substantial technical assistance in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), CEDAW and Universal Periodic Review recommendations, inter alia, on improvement of legislative framework, data collection, prevention and counteracting violence against children, and deinstitutionalization.

The UNCT prepared a report for the CEDAW Committee, with substantial input from UNICEF. It contains an analysis of the legal and policy context, information on the status of the Committee's previous concluding observations, and a list of major challenges and constraints for their implementation and main concerns. This next periodic report by the CEDAW Committee is scheduled for 2016.

Building on the momentum of Latvia's EU Council Presidency, and through an Embassy of Latvia contact, a tripartite initiative with the European Union (EU), UNICEF Brussels and UNICEF Belarus resulted in the launch of the 'Child Rights Toolkit: Integrating child rights in development cooperation' to a wide audience. This was complemented with training for NGOs and government officials on how to operationalize a rights-based, child-focused approach to development programming, including in sectors that were perceived to be unconnected to child rights, such as budgeting and policymaking and law-making.

One of the main challenges for young people in Belarus today is lack of opportunities for meaningful participation and engagement in decision-making concerning their life. This was addressed within the Child-Friendly City Initiative through facilitation of the work of Children's/Youth Councils and Parliaments in 22 cities. A United Nations Youth Advisory Panel was set up to make recommendations to the United Nations on issues related to youth and participate in related activities in the interest of young people.

Inclusion and participation of children with disabilities was emphasized during 2015. UNCT and CSO advocacy contributed to the signing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the Government of Belarus. Building on that momentum, UNICEF intensified efforts to support the country's shift from integrated to inclusive education for children with disabilities. International expertise of the National Concept on Inclusive Education was also conducted.

Gender Mainstreaming and Equality

UNICEF Belarus participates in the United Nations Gender Theme Group and is a member of the National Council on Gender Policy. Gender mainstreaming was actively promoted during the preparation of the 2016–2020 UNDAF and CPD.

With UNFPA and UNICEF assistance, Belstat completed the Time Use Survey. The survey provides reliable evidence that Belarusian women are more vulnerable than men in terms of a double workload in the workplace and at home. Women on average spent more time (5.4 hours) on household chores and care of children per day compared with men (3.39 hours). Thus, programmatic engagement aimed at the promotion of the father's meaningful participation in his child's upbringing and shared responsibility for children's health and development between mothers and fathers is highly relevant. The survey analyses in detail the differences in paid and unpaid work between men and women. Among other things, it examines the time spent on childcare considering the age of the respondents, marital status, presence of children in households and other variables. The presentation of the survey's results at the joint meeting of the National Council on Gender Policy and the Council of Republic (December 2015) aroused great interest and generated extensive media coverage. The survey results will be used for CEDAW reporting (2016), development of the next Gender Action Plan, monitoring progress and identification of measures to transform gender stereotypes (one staff member, two years, US\$31,846).

The CO conducted an assessment of gender mainstreaming in programme design and implementation of the ending 2011–2015 Country Programme. This assessment helped to prioritize measures for effective gender mainstreaming within the new programme cycle, and to identify capacity gaps. Based on the recommendations, UNICEF Belarus will integrate a gender dimension in the prevention of child injuries, taking into account boys' risky behaviour; in peer education initiatives; in the design of youth-friendly health centres; in the transformation of social views about masculinity in the context of domestic violence prevention; and in the formation of

healthy lifestyles in the context of prevention of alcohol and drug addiction (one staff member, US\$7,500). To address the recommendations in the assessment, the CO developed an Action Plan, which is under implementation.

Environmental Sustainability

The effects of the Chernobyl nuclear accident and the sustainable development of affected territories remain on the national agenda of the Government of Belarus and United Nations agencies.

The main channel of the irradiation of the human body by radionuclides in Chernobyl-affected areas is the consumption of contaminated mushrooms, berries and other 'gifts of the forest'. In this regard the issue of increasing the population's – and primarily children's – knowledge on the basics of radiation safety and rules of safe living on radioactively contaminated territories, health preservation techniques and healthy lifestyle behaviour patterns remains an actual problem. A considerable contribution to raising public awareness is made by the network of information, training and counselling centres on radiation safety that was created jointly by UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and local authorities in previous years.

Results of the work of one such centre that was set up with UNICEF support in a school in Zalessie village was presented at the Social Projects Fair organized within the UN70 Belarus Express initiative.

To attempt to reduce its footprint on the environment in line with global UNICEF initiatives, the CO in 2015 changed all printers to print double-sided and to return back to single-copy printing after each use, and limited colour printing. In addition, all technological equipment (laptops/printers) was set up for low-energy consumption by implementing a 'sleep mode' policy, and travel was reduced, while online collaboration, including trainings, was increased.

Effective Leadership

Throughout 2015, the CO further improved its management practices. Management priorities were determined following thorough analysis of (i) the results of a 'Monkey Survey' conducted at the beginning of the year; (ii) recommendations of the recent audit; and (iii) ad-hoc working groups on office modernization, communication and innovation. The final audit report issued in December 2014 concluded that controls and processes were generally established and functioning. Audit recommendations were treated in a systematic and transparent way, and were closed in the first half of 2015, with continuous support from the Regional Office (RO).

CO advisory and review committees were active and functioning well. In line with the audit recommendation, the Country Management Team (CMT) was strengthened in terms of membership and functions. At the suggestion of the Representative, one senior programme staff member was included into the CMT on a rotational basis. The CMT met five times, and minutes of the meetings were shared with all staff members for follow-up.

Concerns about the implications for staff of the new Country Programme were discussed at an all-staff retreat. The 2016–2020 Country Programme Management Plan (CPMP) and the new office structure were prepared in a consultative and transparent manner, with Local Staff Association (LSA) engagement. The draft CPMP was submitted to the Programme and Budget Review (PBR) Committee in April 2015. The PBR budget submission (Integrated Budget Costing System, or IBCS), budget analysis and reports were completed on time. After the PBR, management followed up on concerns related to the abolishment of posts, separation

procedures and termination indemnities.

The Business Continuity Plan was updated in 2015. All staff are periodically informed on security and safety issues accordingly. Often the risks come from bad weather conditions. Also, the CO continues to be Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS)-compliant.

Financial Resources Management

Major office objectives and priorities, including financial resource management, are regularly discussed at all CMT meetings, staff meetings and outings. Constant review of budget utilization led to almost 100 per cent expenditure rates.

To ensure full compliance with the revised Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) Framework, the CO developed an Annual Programme Monitoring and HACT Assurance Plan for 2015. The plan builds on the risk profile of partners determined by micro-assessments, and considers the value of transfers to them. The Assurance Plan was regularly discussed and updated. The CO received US\$7,000 from the RO to hire an audit company for conducting financial spot checks, which previously were done by the Operations section. The use of the external professional company ensures reports of better quality and allows the small Operations section to focus on other pressing issues. The Assurance Plan required documentation of the results of programme monitoring and HACT assurance visits irrespective of whether a travel authorization was issued. The HACT Focal Point briefed all staff members in the office on HACT policy and procedures to clarify their assignments and accountabilities. All staff passed the e-training on HACT. There were no direct cash transfers outstanding for more than nine months.

The CO hired a company to conduct the macro assessment for the 2016–2020 programme cycle using the existing UNICEF Global LTA for HACT services. The report will be issued shortly.

Bank reconciliation was regularly completed, and the CO followed all established deadlines. The few outstanding items were investigated and cleared quickly.

The process of bank replenishment is well established, no delays were recorded and there were no interruptions to programme implementation. All requests in US dollars and Belarusian Rubles went through the UNICEF Treasury to take advantage of better exchange rates.

Fund-raising and Donor Relations

The environment for foreign assistance in Belarus is unfavourable. Nevertheless in 2015, the CO continued to further strengthen and extend donor relations. To facilitate dialogue between international development partners, including traditional and emerging donors, and to leverage resources for United Nations agencies' Country Programmes under the 2016–2020 UNDAF, the MFA and the UNCT organized a conference at the beginning of the year. The conference, under the heading 'Strengthening Belarus: UN Development Cooperation – Results, new perspectives and emerging opportunities', brought together 24 United Nations agencies and 16 foreign development partners, and government and CSO representatives. The conference provided a dynamic platform for a constructive debate around the effectiveness of existing cooperation and new partnerships.

Donor relations were maintained at representative level with an extremely packed agenda. The Representative frequently met bilaterally with the donor community – particularly Russia and the EU – for funding and leveraging resources for children; engaged the diplomatic corps in

dialogue about children's issues; and emphasized the mutual interest of the donor community and UNICEF around the planned results of the Country Programme. Besides negotiations in Minsk, the Representative covered non-resident donors based in Lithuania with briefings on UNICEF Belarus' current and new Country Programme (CP) priorities.

Forward-looking negotiations with potential donors were supported with a set of proposal outlines as an immediate meeting follow-up. The RO helped to ensure the quality of these proposals.

UNICEF also discussed fund-raising for joint United Nations projects, especially with UNDP, UNFPA and the World Bank, as well as the Multi-Donor Trust Fund. Following the finalization of the UNDAF, the UNCT will discuss the benefits of a common fund-raising strategy

The CO has mechanisms in place and completed during the CMT meetings as a standing agenda item. Manager Dashboard is also used to monitor the expiration and deadlines for grants. All located funds for 2015 were 100 per cent utilized in time.

Evaluation

At the beginning of 2015, the Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) developed by the CO was successfully transferred into Plan for Research, Impact Monitoring and Evaluation (PRIME). All activities were regularly tracked and necessary adjustments were made in time.

In 2015, the CO completed four studies and finalized the SitAn report originally planned for 2014. All products were uploaded to the UNICEF Global Evaluation and Research Database and PRIME sites.

High-level decision makers were informed about the findings and recommendations of the multi-country evaluation of results achieved through the childcare system reform in 2005–2012 in CEE/CIS countries (RKLA 1) at the international ministerial conference on effective systems of support to families with children and the National Commission on the Rights of the Child meeting. The summary of the evaluation report was translated into Russian and shared with the Government of Belarus. Strengthening the inter-sectoral cooperation on early identification and timely support of families in social danger; improvement of the legal framework; undertaking additional measures to provide substitute family care for children younger than 3 years old and those with disabilities; training and in-service support of foster parents; and closure/re-profiling of residential-care institutions of education, health and social protection systems were defined as the priority areas for Belarus.

UNICEF assisted the MoH in assessing youth-friendly health services. The aim of the assessment was to provide evidence for making informed decisions on the improvement of the management of such services and widening the scope of health care and social services, tailoring services to the needs of the most vulnerable adolescents and young people practicing risky behaviour. Following the assessment's recommendations, the MoH plans to develop a Plan on Youth-Friendly Health Services and scaling up and reviving the Youth-Friendly Health Services Methodological-Resource Centre. Within the new programme cycle, recommendations will be used as an advocacy tool for policy and normative framework improvement, strengthening partnerships between youth-friendly health services and local CSOs, and dissemination of the best practices nationally and internationally.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

UNICEF Belarus explored the effectiveness and efficiency options available for the CO. All staff were involved in the brainstorming, resulting in a strategy and an Action Plan with five pillars: operational costs, business processes, consultants, staff and partners. The last three pillars were discussed in terms of bringing more efficiency to the processes and systems. In this connection, the Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC) initiative was discussed as well.

Recommendations included enhancing common services to include more items onto the list, working towards a rent-free United Nations House, and creating a shared United Nations transport fleet. The CO is effectively reducing travel costs, cutting expenditures on printing through the increased use of digital products, and generating savings on telephone services by using Viber and Skype, switching to cheaper, more reliable and effective fibre-optic Internet services, and lowering utility costs by saving on electricity, water, etc. The CO established an effective system of preparing its cash requests to UNICEF headquarters in New York from the office sections. This results in not losing money due to inflation or devaluation.

Incorporating cloud-based technology advances steadily into UNICEF and the Belarus CO will be among the first implemented recommendations. The CO saw significant savings by removing servers that are no longer needed and discarding the post of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) assistant. There is no ICT staff in the office. The operations manager is now the ICT Focal Point.

The CO continues to streamline work processes. The transfer of officer-in-charge rights and wider usage of cloud technologies (SharePoint) were considered. The Operations Manager plans a training for the staff on how to use the SharePoint options more effectively. By purchasing airline tickets through the Internet, the CO expects to reduce its travel costs by at least 15 per cent. Discussion of 'tickets from the Internet' is included in the next CMT agenda, and it is expected that the CMT will approve the idea.

Supply Management

The CO participated in the tender procedures for the common LTAs with travel agents; hotels for conference facilities, accommodation and meals; and event companies, together with UNDP, the UN Refugee Agency, the World Health Organization, UNFPA, UNAIDS, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and United Nations Department of Public Information. All procurement was performed through market research and formal commercial offers from suppliers.

UNICEF Belarus 2015	Value in US\$
Programme Supplies	0
Operational Supplies	16,759
Services	124,014

Office premises were renovated and obsolete office equipment was replaced.

The Supply Focal Point completed training on procurement services at the Supply Division in Copenhagen. Information on procurement services was shared with the MoH, which is considering procurement of vaccines from Copenhagen in the future.

Security for Staff and Premises

The UNCT Country Security Associate provided regular heads-ups to the office management on the situation in the country, including related to the political stability and criminal statistics. Overall, Belarus is a safe country. Major risks relate to the lack of funding and weaknesses of the national financial system: the aid environment and the predictability of funding and critical devaluation of the national currency. In addition, another risk relates to the unsigned Country Programme Action Plan.

Ahead of the October 2015 presidential elections in Belarus, a security briefing was done for all staff members to ensure awareness of organizational policy with respect to political activity. Staff members were reminded to avoid political activities that could reflect adversely on the United Nations, or diminish the CO's independence and impartiality. The CO acquired a new Inmarsat 'IsatPhone' satellite phone.

In 2015, the United Nations Department of Safety and Security appointed a new Security Adviser to Belarus based in Tbilisi (Georgia). During a mission to Belarus, the Security Adviser introduced the United Nations Contingency Planning Exercise. The heads of agencies and their alternates were trained to effectively address emergency issues.

The CO driver was trained in first aid. Subsequently, the office thought it important for all staff members to complete first aid training. Staff members appreciated the training by a reputable ambulance practitioner and considered it very practical and useful.

The CO continues to be located in government-administered premises, along with other United Nations agencies and diplomatic missions. Apart from UNICEF, there are UNFPA, UNAIDS and UNHCR offices and UNDP projects. In accordance with the Security Focal Point's conclusion, the office premises are MOSS-compliant.

Human Resources

A new CPD was prepared in 2015, and the CO organized a day-long CPD preparation brainstorming session in February. Guided by SitAn findings, all staff members took an active part in the identification of CPD priorities and the formulation of outcomes.

The process of required competencies and assessment for implementing a new CPD and discussion of the CO structure adjustment was participatory, with a full-day CPMP session on 10 April 2015. Engagement of LSA in discussing and communicating changes to staff was pivotal.

The new CO structure approved by the PBR is expected to enhance efficiency and effectiveness as well as help the CO respond to opportunities and risks. Subsequent recruitment processes have steadily progressed and are expected to be finalized by mid-2016.

With the above recruitments and planned staff development, the CO will be able to ensure implementation of core roles, as well as foster real cross-sectoral programming with a focus on child rights system monitoring and evidence-based policy support; communication for social change and stigma reduction; partnership and alliances building for fulfilment of children's rights; and resource mobilization.

In preparation for a new Country Programme, an annual retreat to review key operational modalities, office governance structures and priority programme results was held in December.

Multidisciplinary programming where two or more sectors have to work in synergy to achieve planned results will be essential. Staff members revisited the importance of working as a team and renewed their commitment to work together.

Performance management was undertaken systematically and monitored by the CMT. Honest performance evaluation reviews discussions were held for all staff members at the middle and end of 2015. Performance planning for 2015 Performance Appraisal System (PAS) was completed by the end of April. PASs for 2015 were finalized by the end of December and, together with PAS discussions and relevant memos that detailed recommendations, served as a basis for the extension of contracts. Staff members also have regular feedback discussions with supervisors on performance, challenges, aspirations and career opportunities.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

The CO is among the first in the region to become a servers-free office. The LIGHT project has been progressing and is expected to be finalized at the beginning of 2016. During the preparation for the project, the CO conducted a review of its hard ware. The CO has also negotiated a transfer of its Internet access from an Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) technology to fibre-optic cable for higher connectivity speed, reliability and safety.

Staff in the office are using more Office 365 opportunities, including Skype for Business. There is room for improvement, and the CO has scheduled training for all staff. The CO has also modernized its conference facilities to increase the use of web-based technology.

Programme Components from Results Assessment Module

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1: By the end of 2015, comprehensive social policy securing child rights protection and monitoring is developed, resourced and implemented.

Analytical statement of progress:

During 2015, the UNICEF Programme of Cooperation in Belarus contributed to significant improvements to the legal and policy framework through evidence-based advocacy, provision of technical assistance and effective programming. UNICEF provided expertise during the drafting of the national Health of the Nation and Demographic Security for 2016–2020 programme. The sub-programme Family and Childhood focuses on the improvement of health care to mothers and children: modern approaches to the provision of special care and rehabilitation of newborns with extremely low birthweight; prevention of child injuries and disability; strengthening the system of social protection; and expanding the scope of services for families with children. The sub-programme Prevention of HIV Infection prioritizes the widening of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and countering the spread of HIV among the most at-risk population, including adolescents practicing risky behaviour.

Persistent advocacy efforts of the UNCT and CSOs resulted in signing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This provides unique opportunities to promote the inclusive society agenda and place realization of the rights of children with disabilities higher on the agenda of the Government of Belarus. Ratification of CRPD is expected early next year.

The SitAn was finalized with a focus on children's rights and equity. Based on the evidence provided in the SitAN, the Country Programme of Cooperation for 2016–2020 was jointly

developed with the Government, widely discussed with key partners and approved by the Executive Board. The Programme of Cooperation will help Belarus to close equity gaps and protect the interests of the most vulnerable children; for instance, in ensuring better conditions for children to grow up in families. UNICEF will help the Government to apply the principle of the best interests of the child in national policymaking and decision-making.

Manifestations of gender inequality, in particular in the distribution of time by men and women devoted to household maintenance and taking care of children and elderly and disabled family members were found in the Time Use Survey completed by Belstat in 2015, with technical assistance from UNICEF and UNFPA. The survey also examined how much time schoolchildren spend on educational activities, household chores and leisure. The data will be used in advocacy for the advancement of gender equality and transformation of gender stereotypes, as well as the development of programmes promoting the social engagement of young people.

UNICEF Belarus provided substantial input into the UNCT Report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which will contribute to the formulation of concluding observations and recommendations regarding gender equality and women's human rights realization in Belarus.

OUTPUT 1: By the end of 2015, the Government addresses targeted gaps in legal and institutional frameworks related to the provision of preventive and protective services to children.

Analytical statement of progress:

Throughout the year, UNICEF helped to prioritize children's rights in the national policy debate. As a result, the National Commission on the Rights of the Child, a coordinating body for children's issues chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, put violence against children and a child's right to live in a family environment at the forefront of the Government's agenda. UNICEF advocacy and expertise enabled the Commission to decide on needed improvement of legal frameworks regarding the identification of and assistance to children in social danger and drafting a law on domestic violence. The Commission also decided that public awareness should be raised on the prevention of domestic violence through mass media and special activities at education institutions, enterprises and organizations; and that substitute-care family arrangements for children with disabilities should be strengthened through the provision of incentives and special training, and targeted assistance to foster parents. Importantly, the Commission decided to have a representative study conducted on violence against children in institutions of the education, health and social protection systems and in detention and correctional facilities (RKLA 2).

UNICEF reviewed the draft law on the prevention of domestic violence in coordination with other United Nations agencies, primarily UNFPA. UNICEF urged the passing of the law to address children's rights issues and stipulate special protection measures for child survivors and witnesses of domestic violence, ensuring the primacy of the best interests of the child. These inputs gave a new impulse to the public discourse on the need for a comprehensive legal act consolidating existing legal provisions in different laws and by-laws. All parties involved agreed to advocate that the plan of preparation of legal acts for 2017, which will be endorsed by the President, includes drafting the law.

Realizing previously made commitments and demonstrating ownership of the existing and now publicly available and updated child-related datasets, Belstat provided information for the 2015 Country Reporting on Indicators for the Goals (CRING) and updated the national database of socio-economic indicators (BelarusInfo) with 2014–2015 statistics.

The 'Situation Analysis of the Children's Rights in the Republic of Belarus' was verified with UNICEF assistance, and was finalized and publicly released on the websites of the National Institute of Education of the MoE and the UNICEF CO. The MFA helped to ensure that ministries and other government institutions and organizations got acquainted with the report for evidence-based decision-making.

OUTPUT 2: By the end of 2015, local authorities, young people, children and CSOs are engaged in alliances for building child-friendly cities.

Analytical statement of progress:

The Government of Belarus declared 2015 as the 'Year of Youth' in Belarus. Building on this momentum, UNICEF helped to widen children's and young people's engagement in socially oriented initiatives at the community level. Within the Child-Friendly City Initiative (CFCI), young people mapped barrier-free recreation places for children with disabilities, and children with special needs conducted peer education sessions. UNICEF helped to document best practices and shared them as methodological guidelines with representatives of Children's Parliaments, Youth Councils and local authorities in 118 districts for practical application.

Within the UN70 Express initiative, UNICEF facilitated the meetings of young people with Ahmad Alhendawi, the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. Many concerns of young people were discussed, such as access to quality education to become competitive in the labour market; provision of health-care services tailored to the needs of young people; environment sustainability; and possible modes of engagement of youth and adolescents in socially oriented local initiatives.

The National Coordinating Council of CFCI awarded the honorary title of Child-Friendly City to the city of Soligorsk, as the seventh Child-Friendly City, out of 22 that joined the initiative. The designation was based on the assessment of the supportive environment in the spheres of education, health, culture and safety of living. The progress in the CFCI was discussed and appreciated by the National Commission on the Rights of the Child.

To formally recognize the value added of the CFCI, UNICEF initiated and agreed with the Government on an independent assessment of the initiative. With the help of international expertise, the methodology of the assessment was developed and the fieldwork was completed. Once completed, the assessment findings and recommendations will provide evidence for needed policy change and legislative improvement. It is also expected that an action plan will be adopted to strengthen partnerships between the Government and CSOs for promoting meaningful youth participation in decisions concerning their life, and for the greater involvement of communities in the realization and monitoring of children's rights.

OUTCOME 2: By the end of 2015, an increased number of vulnerable children and families benefit from quality and inclusive social services in education, health and protection.

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF assisted the Government of Belarus in its systemic efforts to realize the right of children to live in a safe and caring family environment (RKLA 1). The share of children deprived of parental care living in residential care declined from 25 per cent in 2011 to 19.7 per cent in 2014. Conversely, the number of adoptions, guardianships, foster families, and family type children's homes is increasing: 17,756 children (or 80.3 per cent) without parental care lived in such alternative arrangements in 2014. Also, the number of children younger than 3 years old

residing in infant homes fell from 1,334 in 2011 to 783 at the end of 2014. Still, children with disabilities and special needs are among those most vulnerable to institutionalization. Children with disabilities make up 70 per cent of children in infant homes and 54 per cent of children in other residential-care institutions.

The late identification of at-risk families, lack of family centred services, high prevalence of alcohol addiction and social acceptance of corporal punishment are key bottlenecks for children to be protected from violence, neglect and abuse and to grow up in a safe and caring family environment. The limited capacity of service providers (health, education, social protection and police) to detect, report and address cases of abuse and neglect, as well as weak inter-sectoral collaboration, leave many vulnerable families unassisted. The best interests of the child are not always a primary consideration for authorities in deciding on separation of children from their families, alternative placement arrangements or family dispute resolution.

Lack of coordination and cooperation among civil servants and institutions working in different sectors was identified as a main bottleneck, and became the focus of UNICEF's work. UNICEF influenced important decisions of the National Commission on the Rights of the Child related to the needed improvement of legislation regulating the inter-sectoral collaboration for identification of children in social danger, assessment of the situation of the child in the family and development of an inter-agencies' rehabilitation plan. UNICEF also advocated for strengthening data collection systems across sectors.

UNICEF worked with the Government of Belarus on strengthening services to families caring for children with disabilities. Two important elements are to provide parents the opportunity of short relief periods, in accordance with the law 'On Social Services', and counselling on care patterns for their children considering the child's health and disability status, his or her abilities and life skills. UNICEF made recommendations to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection on how to organize the provision of respite-care service, which also included cost estimates for facilitating the access of any family in need. The finalized package of the developed documentation on four respite-care models provides local authorities with the options to run the service taking into consideration the category of children with disabilities, the service provision costs, available facilities and professional human resources, as well as the opportunities of the established social contracting mechanisms.

To provide additional evidence for policy development and planning, UNICEF assisted the MoE in conducting an assessment of the quality of preschool education. The collected qualitative data allow assessing the level and parameters of satisfaction of parents and preschool teachers with the quality of preschool services in terms of access to education services, conditions of the educational process and learning outcomes. The MoE was provided with recommendations on optimization of the network of preschool institutions, inter alia, through expanding new forms of preschool education services, such as private kindergartens, short-term attendance groups, family kindergartens, preserving multi-functionality of preschool institutions, especially in rural areas; and setting up a national monitoring system on the quality of preschool services against established set of indicators, including family satisfaction with preschool educational services.

As a result of UNICEF advocacy, the National Commission on the Right of the Child decided that the MoE shall develop a road map for phasing out special education in favour of inclusive education. The decision will be implemented with UNICEF assistance in the new programme cycle starting in 2016.

UNICEF strived to convince national stakeholders that targeted, gender-sensitive interventions

for MARA should be part of a long-term approach to address adolescents' risky behaviour and HIV/AIDS in Belarus. UNICEF provided expert support to the development of a new sub-programme on HIV prevention for 2016–2020 that emphasized HIV prevention interventions among the most-at-risk population, including adolescents.

UNICEF Belarus facilitated the setting up of the Regional Knowledge Hub (within the regional MARA project) run by BelAU, and supported capacity development of the specialists dealing with adolescents practicing risky behaviour. Special attention was paid to strengthening inter-sectoral cooperation and promotion of the outreach work among MARA, scaling up of peer-to-peer education on healthy lifestyles and HIV testing as an entry point for building adolescents' resilience to risk factors detrimental to their health and development.

In addition, UNICEF advocacy efforts strengthened government commitment to integrate outreach work for MARA into existing services. Youth-friendly health centres will henceforth use the skilled staff, tools and experiences resulting from the UNICEF programme to increase young people's access to voluntary HIV counselling and testing, including express testing.

In 2015, the topics of violence against children and domestic violence became part of the national school curriculum. This contributed to raising children's awareness on self-securing behaviour, opportunities for seeking assistance, skills on avoiding dangerous situations and self-protection.

OUTPUT 1: By the end of 2015, young and preschool children, including children with special needs, have access to quality integrated ECD services and early education in urban and rural areas.

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF and the World Bank provided international expertise and technical assistance to the MoE for development of a national ECD strategy and introduction of the preschool system per capita financing. Following UNICEF/World Bank consultations with the MoE on children younger than 3 years old as a group with insufficient access to quality ECD and education services, the International Forum on preschool education was organized. During the Forum, areas for improving access and quality of early learning and preschool education were identified.

Creating educational opportunities for parents in the area of ECD continued. Key messages of UNICEF's campaign, '4Rules4Parents: Read. Play. Talk. Hug.', emphasize active parental involvement and responsibility for children's early learning and development. The main products of the campaign are web-based downloadable and printed booklets and posters, which UNICEF distributed among about 100,000 parents through education and health facilities.

The assessment of the quality of the preschool education system showed that 80 per cent of parents are satisfied with existing preschool system, the range of educational services and time allotted to them. Only 54 per cent of parents, however, are completely satisfied with the progress in development of their children. Teachers (80 per cent) are satisfied with the quality of educational programmes and the volume of methodological support, diversity and number services; however, teachers are less satisfied with the quality and variety of methodological materials, books and toys available (less than 70 per cent). Every tenth educator recognizes them as not satisfactory.

To assess the impact of ECD programmes on children's rights to early learning and school readiness, UNICEF initiated the documentation of best practices and achievements of the

preschool system in Belarus. The intention is to glean opportunities for strengthening the quality of early learning and preschool education through inter-sectoral synergy. The documentation will include the experience of practitioners in the field of ECD, social protection and health, and will identify examples for replication countrywide. A set of drawn-up recommendations for improvement will be used for advocacy with the MoE in the process of national ECD strategy development. The documentation will be finalized in 2016 and shared with interested partners.

Following consultations with the MoE, the National Commission on the Rights of the Child stipulated in its protocol for 2016 to conduct, with UNICEF assistance, a SitAn on children with disabilities; a needs assessment of families with children with disabilities; and a study on the social-economic effectiveness of integrated assistance to children with disabilities. Setting up an advocacy platform was also planned to provide technical advice to the Government on implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Following the review of the national concept on inclusive education and its compliance with international standards, UNICEF facilitated the consultative process with CSOs. Some 20 CSOs provided comments to the concept document. Recommendations on the improvement of the legislative framework and practices to ensure the right of children with disabilities to inclusive education were shared with the MoE. Cooperation with NGOs laid the foundation for future synergetic efforts in the process of road map development.

The technical working group on early childhood intervention (ECI) was established and the MoH guidelines on 'Strengthening systems of early intervention cabinets' was developed. Guidelines are under consideration by the MoH.

OUTPUT 2: By the end of 2015, the MoH and MoE, in cooperation with other line ministries and CSOs, ensure the provision of comprehensive services for children's and youth health and development and HIV/AIDS services.

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF continued to promote outpatient palliative-care services for children (RKLA 1). A model of outpatient palliative-care services for children provided by the multidisciplinary team of specialists with the engagement of CSOs was piloted in Mogilev and Bobruisk and, following the decision of the MoH, will be scaled up nationwide. The developed electronic register of children receiving palliative care was regularly updated and as of now includes 850 of 934 children. A register would enable the Government to realistically plan such services and related investments, and allow for the tracking and monitoring of services utilization.

UNICEF cooperated with the Government on the reduction of child mortality and disability from preventable causes (RKLA 6) and assisted in implementation of the inter-ministerial action plan on child injuries prevention. Focus was made on capacity development of professionals (two TEACH-VIP workshops), raising parents' awareness on the creation of safe living environments for children (training programmes at the National Practical Research Centre on 'Mother and Child' and dissemination of information materials) and building safe behaviour skills among children and adolescents (the international summer camp 'Rescuer'). To facilitate better learning of road traffic rules and developing road-safe behaviour, an open-air playground was set up at school #217 in Minsk and serves as the training centre for schoolchildren in the capital.

UNICEF paid special attention to the capacity development and networking of specialists dealing with adolescents practicing risky behaviour (RKLA 10). Distance learning courses and webinars organized by the Regional Knowledge Hub equipped 460 participants (social

pedagogues, health-care providers, and outreach and social workers from CEE/CIS countries) with the information on best practices of services provision for MARA, reaching hard-to-reach adolescents and motivating them to agree to HIV testing and engage in preventive programmes. In total, 105 participants reported that they apply new knowledge and skills in their daily work. The work of the Regional Knowledge Hub was widely popularized on social networks (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Vkontakte).

On 1 December 2015, UNAIDS, UNICEF and UNESCO launched a campaign to promote voluntary HIV testing among young people, reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination, and promote youth-friendly health centres. In support of adolescents' resilience building, UNICEF assisted in the creation of the YouTube video-channel 'All Teens Can', which provides opportunities to adolescents to record short videos on healthy lifestyles and promote them among peers. The channel has 600 followers and its videos have been viewed about 13,000 times.

In view of negative factors detrimental to adolescents' health, UNICEF assisted the MoH in assessing youth-friendly health services. With findings of the assessment presented at the RKLA 10 meeting, the Belarusian model of the provision of such services was recognized as one of the most effective in the CEE/CIS region. The assessment conclusions and recommendations provide evidence for making informed decisions on the improvement of the management of YFHCs, widening the scope of health-care and social services tailored to the needs of MARA, strengthening partnership of YFHCs and CSOs, and sharing best practices nationally and internationally. Following the assessment's recommendations, the MoH will develop a plan on the scaling up of youth-friendly health services.

OUTPUT 3: By the end of 2015, authorities at all levels ensure referral systems and services for the protection of children.

Analytical statement of progress:

The capacity development of professionals who work on preventing and counteracting domestic violence was jointly supported by UNICEF and UNFPA. To ensure continuity of the professionals' training, the MIA, MLSP, MoH and MoE integrated special courses on domestic violence, including violence against children, into the curricula of their higher and post-graduate educational institutions.

UNICEF, in cooperation with the MoE, completed an endorsement procedure allowing secondary schools to use methodological manuals on domestic violence prevention that equipped teachers with background information and interactive techniques to conduct classes on domestic violence prevention and non-violent conflict resolution for students aged 10 to 17. Printed manuals have been disseminated nationwide and their electronic versions are available on the UNICEF website and MoE special web portal.

A meeting of regional education experts (eight CIS countries) on the prevention of violence in school was organized jointly with UNESCO. Different approaches on the prevention of and response to violence in schools were presented and formed the basis for a regional methodological manual for teachers on counteracting violence in school and mitigation of its consequences. The manual was further elaborated by experts, printed, and disseminated in CIS countries. National editions of the publication will be prepared in 2016, taking into account the national context and realities.

Amendments introduced into Law 2014, 'On Basic Activities Aimed at Offence Prevention',

provided legal platform for the collection, systematization and analysis of information on domestic violence cases. However, lack of inter-sectoral coordination between different sectors still reduces the effectiveness of programmes addressing children's needs. The speed of data processing and exchange within the police system was much improved with a special-purpose software for the database 'unified registration system of persons under individual crime prevention measures'. The database is operated by police departments, and has the future possibility of linking data with those provided by other institutions dealing with survivors of domestic violence.

UNICEF helped to introduce a local electronic child protection database capturing child protection issues in three districts of Brest region. The database linked all education institutions, health, social protection, housing, emergencies and guardianship authorities, enabling prompt exchange of information and a quick multidisciplinary response in each case of child abuse and neglect, and identification of families in social danger. The database helps specialists to track rehabilitative work with client families, aiming to keep the child in the family. Successful database functioning in piloting districts would serve as a solid argument for the systemic upgrading from paper-based to electronic information exchange at the local level, and allow for improving the registration of cases of child abuse and neglect and increasing the number of reported cases.

Social acceptance of violence against children, especially corporal punishment, remains a key issue. UNICEF continued to disseminate brochures and posters on non-violent child rearing to parents and other caregivers through education and health-care systems. The publications are available on the promo website. An appeal for a caring family environment by Belarussian UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Maxim Mirnyi has been broadcasted daily by the main national public television stations.

OUTCOME 3: Programme efficiency and delivery enhanced

Analytical statement of progress:

This programme component complements the other ones in that it seeks to be an effective and credible voice for children, to reach and engage broad audiences and to build partnerships for children through the application of a strategic mix of communications, public advocacy and social mobilization strategies.

The CO continues synergetic communication to inform the public on the results of UNICEF programming in Belarus. UNICEF increasingly facilitates partnering with new actors in the fields of technology and social media to reach wider audiences. The CO continues work on the UNICEF Belarus website revival to raise UNICEF visibility, and maintains a Facebook page aiming to reach local audiences for communication, advocacy and audience engagement.

Meeting the challenges of the fund-raising environment, UNICEF Belarus continued further strengthening and extending donor relations and engaging new ones. As in other upper-middle-income countries, the pool of donors for Belarus is limited. Moreover, despite a public thaw in relations with Europe, the attractiveness of Belarus still remains at a low level, and donor interest is mainly focused on democracy, human rights, NGO business-sector development and ecological portfolios. The main objective of UNICEF Belarus has been to refocus the interest of the international community on the child rights agenda, promote UNICEF's programming, and expand networks. Forward-looking negotiations were supported by a set of project outlines provided to potential donors as an immediate follow-up to meetings.

OUTPUT 1: Programme implementation supported by appropriate human resources.

Analytical statement of progress:

Expenditure under this output contributed to the overall achievement of Country Programme goals by covering staff-related expenses that are not funded by two main programme components. It also financed logistical support for several visibility and advocacy events, translation services and other miscellaneous services (advertisements, renting vehicles, etc.), contributing to the effectiveness of the Country Programme.

OUTPUT 2: Programme implementation supported by appropriate supply and services.

Analytical statement of progress:

Funds under the output 'Supply and Services' were spent on the maintenance of an online national legal database, and programme-related statistical publications and courier services.

OUTPUT 3: Programme implementation is monitored, evaluated and supported by relevant advocacy and communication activities;

Analytical statement of progress:

As a highlight of the international conference 'Strengthening Belarus: UN Development Cooperation', an interactive exhibition was held for a wide range of international and local partners. With about 45 stalls, presenters explained and engaged visitors on the results of projects and initiatives implemented by the United Nations agencies, including UNICEF and partner organizations in Belarus. UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and UNAIDS assisted Belstat in producing a video reel summarizing the achievements against each Millennium Development Goal (MDG) in a captivating visual form. The public service announcement was shown during the conference and on several other occasions.

To promote zero tolerance to violence against children, to prevent children's abuse and neglect in the family, and to provide information on available services, UNICEF supported the production of a public service announcement as part of the joint UNICEF/UNFPA Playroom without violence campaign. The CO negotiated a year-long periodic broadcast of the announcement by three national channels ('Belarus1', 'Mir' and '8 channel'). UNICEF National Goodwill Ambassador Max Mirnyi, a tennis player, gave identity to the campaign, and made it clear to parents that violent forms of child disciplining are unacceptable.

The importance of early years in life was emphasized in the 4 Rules 4 Responsible Parents campaign developed and launched jointly by UNICEF Belarus and the MoE. The campaign promotes better understanding of parents' role in the early development of their children and the benefits of responsible parenting.

In July, UNICEF welcomed the World Balloon project 'Flying High for Kids'. Some 700 children and their parents were engaged during the Air Sports Festival in activities promoting three key messages of the Country Programme: an inclusive society, non-violent behaviour and better parenting. Thousands of people were attracted by a UNICEF balloon during the Night Glow Show. This and three flights performed by UNICEF balloon over Minsk helped to increase visibility regarding the programme's key priorities. The initiative was extensively covered in traditional and social media.

In November-December, UNICEF and child rights was high on the agenda of a United Nations joint communication 28-day campaign, 'Inclusive Belarus: SDGs 4 All'. The initiatives around

equity and inclusion were extensively represented in United Nations/UNICEF social media with the hashtag #inclusivebelarus, covering the range of issues related to stigma and exclusion. The final event gathered children with disabilities, the Government and representatives from the international community, civil society, business and media. Initial steps were planned for a road map on further actions to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Document Centre

Evaluation and Research

Title	Sequence number	Type of report
Assessment of youth-friendly health services	2015/005	Study
Assessment of the four piloted models of respite-care services	2015/004	Study
Assessment of gender mainstreaming in Country Programme	2015/003	Study
Assessment of preschool education quality	2015/002	Study
Child Rights Situation Analysis	2015/001	SitAn

Other publications

Title
ECD posters: Four rules of successful parenting
ECD booklets: Four rules of successful parenting
Methodological manual for teachers on early prevention of domestic violence
Methodological manual for teachers on the prevention of domestic violence
Brochure for parents on non-violent upbringing of children (0–18)