UNICEF Bulgaria continued to support the realization of the rights of every child with a special emphasis on the most disadvantaged and excluded children, providing policy advice and technical assistance, facilitating national dialogue, generating evidence and enabling knowledge exchange, modelling and supporting the scale-up of new approaches and services, leveraging resources from different sources and building strong alliances for advancing child rights in Bulgaria and abroad.

Critical contributions to the realization of a child’s right to live in a family environment was made through the evaluation of the ‘Family for Every Child Project’ and the independent assessment of the closure of Infant Homes in Bulgaria, which informed the updated Action Plan on Deinstitutionalization. The process of reducing the number of children living in residential institutions continued and those figures fell to 866 this year (a decrease of 85 per cent compared with 2012), while 2,342 children were in foster care.

UNICEF Bulgaria supported the Government with the national scaling up of the home-visiting services to all 28 regions, as envisaged in the updated Action Plan, through documenting, costing and evidence generation. The Government decided to include early childhood development as a priority for Bulgaria’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2018.

An important step to ensuring the right of every child to live free of violence and exploitation was the adoption of the National Programme for Prevention of Violence and Abuse against Children (2017–2021), which was developed with support from UNICEF Bulgaria. A comprehensive national study on violence against children was initiated by UNICEF and the Government, which will inform the implementation of the National Programme.

A major achievement in the protection of the rights of refugee and migrant children was the legal prohibition of the detention of unaccompanied and separated children with the adoption of amendments in the Law on the Ministry of Interior and the Law on the Foreigners at the end of the year. This was the result of the joint advocacy efforts of UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other organizations, and the excellent policy dialogue with the Government.

Important progress was achieved towards increasing school enrolment and reducing the rate of early school drop out with the adoption in July of a Council of Ministers Resolution, which establishes a cross-sectoral coordination mechanism for identifying children out of school and (re)enrolling them in the educational system, under the direction of the Deputy Prime Minister. Sustained efforts to introduce inclusive education in all kindergartens and schools continued, with a special focus on developing curricula for teachers’ training and engaging leading universities. The Government commitment to ensure inclusive quality education for every child took an international dimension with the initiative of the Permanent Mission in Geneva to
develop a Human Rights Council’s Resolution on empowering children with disabilities through inclusive education, which was supported by UNICEF Bulgaria, the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office and UNICEF NY Headquarters.

While the submission of the draft Diversion and Implementation of Educational Measures Act to Parliament was delayed due to major changes in the Ministry of Justice, a key achievement in the area of access to justice was the introduction of child-sensitive forensic interviews in specialized facilities, individual assessment of the victims and special protection measures through the amendments of the Penal Procedure Code, developed with technical assistance from UNICEF Bulgaria, in force since November.

The partnerships with civil society, the media and the private sector were further expanded during the reporting period. UNICEF Bulgaria demonstrated the power of engaging adolescents as agents of change through involving girls and boys from different backgrounds as actors and speakers in key advocacy initiatives such as the first National Conference on Adolescence, the ‘Voice It’ youth forum, the launch of The State of the World’s Children and through the Seekers of Inequality initiative, a new mechanism for unleashing their potential to promote social change.

UNICEF Bulgaria’s high visibility and strong integration between programme, communication and fundraising contributed to sustaining the good results in mobilizing financial resources through engaging individuals and the private sector for child rights. The funds raised during the year amounted to US$1,249,296 (Bulgarian Lev (BGN) 2,157,523), meeting the annual target.

The development of the new Country Programme Document 2018–2022 provided an excellent opportunity to discuss the evolving partnership between UNICEF and Bulgaria. In July, during the visit of the UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia to Sofia, the Prime Minister expressed highest appreciation for UNICEF’s significant contributions to the advancement of child rights in the country and the Government’s strong commitment to continue its excellent cooperation with UNICEF and to support and promote child rights in the region and globally.

**Humanitarian assistance**

In the past few years, the international and domestic conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa and the geographic location of Bulgaria on the route of refugees and migrants from these regions towards Europe resulted in a considerable increase in the number of people coming to the country. Nearly 19,000 people sought international protection in 2016, of which 6,644 were children, with 2,768 of them being unaccompanied and separated. In 2017, the situation in Bulgaria was affected by the changing European migration and asylum polices, the European Union (EU)–Turkey agreement, the strengthened border controls and the enforcement of return policies under the Dublin III Regulation. While the reception and registration centres for refugees were overcrowded in the first half of the year, the number of asylum seekers gradually decreased towards the end of the year.

UNICEF Bulgaria in partnership with the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee continued to monitor and report on the situation of refugee and migrant children, to identify unaccompanied and separated children in detention and to facilitate their release. UNICEF provided unaccompanied and separated children with legal aid and counselling on their rights, legal situation and risks of irregular movements, and facilitated family tracing and reunification.

UNICEF also supported the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee in filing lawsuits to challenge the
detention of unaccompanied and separated children in order to achieve a sustainable court practice against it. This, coupled with strong advocacy efforts led by UNICEF, UNHCR, the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee and other partners, resulted in the derogation of the legal provision that allowed the detention of unaccompanied and separated children. The new Law of the Ministry of the Interior stipulates that unaccompanied and separated children cannot be detained and shall be referred to the child protection departments for implementation of child protection measures. The legal vacuum regarding the representation of unaccompanied and separated children was also resolved through a new article in the Law on Foreigners, which establishes that unaccompanied and separated children will be represented by the local child protection departments.

UNICEF Bulgaria, in partnership with Caritas, continued to support the recreational and non-formal learning activities in all reception and registration centres for refugees in Sofia. In April, activities were extended to Harmanli – the biggest reception centre in Bulgaria near the border with Turkey. More than 900 children had access to a wide range of recreational and educational activities in safe and child-friendly environments, where positive socialization and non-formal learning were promoted. In addition to the activities for children, a dedicated mother and baby/toddler area and women’s space was established in Harmanli, where women participated in various activities such as learning of baby care and parental skills, knitting and drawing, and lessons in English and Bulgarian languages. An information desk was established to provide information about available services, employment opportunities, housing options, social assistance, and access to medical care.

To strengthen the capacity of the Border Police, Migration Directorate and the local child protection departments to protect the needs of refugee and migrant children, UNICEF Bulgaria organized an in-depth training on international child protection standards, which provided a forum for discussing relevant coordination issues at the local level and finding solutions to improve the cooperation among stakeholders. UNICEF also conducted a training for judges on the international standards on protection and care for unaccompanied and separated children, best practices in the EU, and the safeguards of children’s rights in asylum and return procedures under the Dublin III Regulation. To build the capacity of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), two trainings were organized: on child protection for volunteers working in the reception centres and on funding mechanisms available to NGOs working with refugee children.

In September, with support from the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office and jointly with UNICEF Greece and UNICEF Serbia, UNICEF Bulgaria started the implementation of a one-year regional project aimed at strengthening national capacities to prevent, identify, refer and respond to cases of gender-based violence among the refugee and migrant population. An introductory training in gender-based violence in emergencies for representatives from the State Agency for Refugees, including all six reception and registration centres and NGOs, was conducted in November. Topics included general overview of gender-based violence, survivor-centred approach and gender-based violence guiding principles, multi-sectoral services, referral systems, and tools and methods for monitoring safety risks in communal spaces.

In addition, in response to an urgent request from the State Agency for Refugees, UNICEF Bulgaria, with support from UNICEF Serbia, met the critical needs for winter clothes and boots of 1,100 children in the reception and registration centres.
At the end of 2013, Bulgaria was among the countries with the highest rates of children 0–3 years old in institutional care (291 per 100,000). Several studies conducted by UNICEF and national stakeholders identified poverty, marginalization, disabilities, child marriages and early pregnancies, prejudices and lack of access to quality health and rehabilitation, child care, and social assistance services as the major causes of children being placed in residential care.

To help the country take actions to avoid separation of children from their family environment and to accelerate the implementation of the 2010 National Strategy ‘Vision for Deinstitutionalization of Children’, UNICEF Bulgaria implemented a plan with the following key elements:

1. High-level advocacy on the right of every child to a family environment;
2. Technical assistance and capacity strengthening for the development of a family-based alternative care programme and early childhood development (ECD) services with special focus on children with disabilities, Roma children and children from the poorest families; and
3. Modelling of services for the prevention of family separation and support to ECD.

The modelling of services in one region with high rates of children in formal care – Shumen (north-east) – was aimed at generating knowledge and testing approaches to be scaled up across the country. Based on a regional assessment of needs and gaps, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, local authorities, NGOs and UNICEF agreed to establish a network of three family centres in the municipalities of Novi Pazar, Shumen and Veliki Preslav to facilitate access of the most vulnerable families to public services, strengthen parental capacities and address harmful practices, such as child marriages and early pregnancies, thus contributing to the prevention of family separation, child abandonment and neglect.

The family centres, situated in marginalized communities, applied outreach work and community-sensitive approaches, developed flexible interventions based on continuous assessment of needs and cooperated with local services. Their staff provided information, facilitated access to mainstream services (e.g., legal, housing, health care, education, social benefits and employment) and worked together with local authorities and professionals in the realization of the rights of the most deprived children and families. The centres also contributed to changing attitudes and behaviours by raising awareness and supporting informal networks (mothers and mothers-in-law) to prevent child marriages and early pregnancies. Since 2013, the five Centres worked with more than 3,000 families promoting positive parenting practices and more than 5,000 children. The family centre model was also successfully tested in the Montana region (north-west) and is planned for national scale-up in 2018.

A health visiting service for expectant parents and families with children under 3 years of age was modelled in two target regions – Shumen and Sliven – in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Agency for Social Assistance. The service strengthened the capacity of the health system to identify and support children at risk of poor developmental outcomes, build caregivers’ knowledge and skills to provide nurturing care and improve access of the most disadvantaged groups to essential health, social and education services. While offering all caregivers a minimum package of support, the service reached out to the most disadvantaged families with intensive guidance, education and support for accessing basic services and social protection in close collaboration with local social, health and education services.

Since 2013, more than 68,000 home visits were made to 10,000 families in the two regions. Approximately 1,200 disadvantaged families with children under 3 years of age received intensive support on an annual basis. The model of the service is planned for national scale-up
in 2018. In parallel, the Government established ECD services in 63 (out of 264) municipalities in the country.

The combined effect of all interventions led to reduce the rate of children 0–3 years old in residential care to 159 per 100,000 at the end of 2016. In 2016, the Government adopted an updated Action Plan for Deinstitutionalization, which clearly defined prevention of family separation as a main goal and envisages the expansion of the network of child and family support services and the closure of all homes for children 0–3 years old. In 2017, the independent assessment of the closure of institutions for children 0–3 years old in Bulgaria showed a positive change in the attitudes of professionals towards the upbringing of young children, including with disabilities, in a family environment.

**Emerging areas of importance**

**Refugee and migrant children.** UNICEF Bulgaria continued to monitor the situation of refugee and migrant children in detention centres, reporting violations of their rights and advocating for ending their detention and improving the care of unaccompanied and separated children. The information gathered helped to address gaps in the child protection system.

The Country Office supported strategic litigation and legal aid and counselling to unaccompanied and separated children in detention to facilitate their immediate release and create jurisprudence on the issue. The joint advocacy of UNICEF, UNHCR and other human rights organizations led to the legal prohibition of the detention of unaccompanied and separated children in December and the adoption of an explicit legal provision, establishing the responsibility of the child protection departments to represent unaccompanied and separated children during the immigration procedures, thus addressing a legal vacuum existing for years. Special provisions were adopted, guaranteeing that if accompanied children are detained, they are placed in special and separate facilities.

To strengthen the resilience of refugee children and help them overcome the effect of conflict and displacement, UNICEF Bulgaria supported the provision of recreational and non-formal learning activities in the reception centres. Asylum-seeking women in Harmanli (the largest reception centre in Bulgaria) were provided with safe space to participate in various activities, including Bulgarian and English language lessons. Access to information for asylum seekers in Harmanli was facilitated through the establishment of an information desk.

To inform and sensitize Bulgarian society about the adversities and hardships of children on the move, UNICEF Bulgaria supported the global and regional information campaigns related to refugee and migrant children.

**Early childhood development (ECD).** ECD has been a specific priority of the Country Programme since 2013. During the reporting period, UNICEF Bulgaria continued to support ECD through targeted interventions focused on strengthening parenting skills and provision of nurturing care during the first three years of life, as well as through integrating ECD in other programme areas such as inclusive early education and child protection. UNICEF advocacy, technical assistance and modelling contributed to the establishment of home visiting as an effective practice for building caregivers’ skills to provide nurturing care to young children and for promoting early intervention. To accelerate the implementation of the updated action plan for deinstitutionalization, in 2017 UNICEF helped the Government to scale-up home-visiting services nationwide. The joint efforts of UNICEF and partners led to the recognition of ECD as a national priority and its inclusion in the Government’s political agenda for the Presidency of the

The second decade. In 2017, UNICEF Bulgaria supported the initiation of a national dialogue on the importance of the second decade through the organization of the first national conference on adolescence, ‘Adolescence:A time of opportunities’. The event brought together more than 150 representatives of the Government, civil society, business, academia, media, parents, teachers and adolescents who discussed how adolescents’ specific needs can be better addressed by national policies and programmes and how adolescents can be empowered and engaged as partners. The conference was preceded by a two-day preparatory workshop where 20 adolescents from different backgrounds discussed specific issues related to their health and well-being, learning and skills, and participation and inclusion. The main findings and recommendations from the workshop were presented during the conference as part of a panel discussion and sparked discussions and debate. To build knowledge, better understanding and raise awareness about the importance of adolescence, UNICEF Bulgaria partnered with the Bulgarian National Television and supported a media campaign, which was coupled with a dedicated campaign in social media.

In addition, UNICEF Bulgaria participated in two regional initiatives on adolescence, launched by the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office: a regional study on parenting programmes for parents of adolescents and adolescents who are parents, and a consultation with adolescents about age-related policies and minimum ages (Age Matters Phase II). The results from both studies will be finalized and presented in 2018. As part of the new Country Programme, UNICEF Bulgaria will strengthen its focus on adolescence, which was identified as a cross-cutting priority in all components.

Strategic Plan 2018–2021

The discussion of the new partnership between the Government of Bulgaria and UNICEF coincided with the formulation of the Strategic Plan 2018–2021 and, therefore, the new Country Programme (2018–2022) is fully aligned with its goals, approaches and strategies. In line with the 2016 Executive Board Paper Review of UNICEF experience in high-income countries and in countries transitioning from upper-middle-income to high-income status, the new Country Programme will continue to have a strong equity focus to reach the most deprived children and the farthest behind first, while at the same maximizing the potential of Bulgaria as an upper-middle income country and member of the EU to support and promote child rights globally.

The application of integrated approaches to address the underlying causes of child rights violations and deliver results for children, starting with the most disadvantaged, is reflected in the selection of four outcomes related to (1) early childhood development and child care; (2) inclusive education and early learning; (3) prevention and response to violence; and (4) partnerships for child rights monitoring, communication and promotion in Bulgaria and globally. The first three outcomes are directly linked to Goal Areas 1, 2 and 3, while the fourth one is cross-cutting. All outcomes are inter-linked and will contribute to Goal Area 5 and progress under one outcome will nurture progress in the others. In addition to this, the new Country Programme puts stronger emphasis on supporting children with disabilities and adolescent development, which cut across all outcomes.

With respect to the change strategies identified by the Strategic Plan, UNICEF Bulgaria will support at-scale systems strengthening, policy development and normative work, backed by modelling of programmes and services in target regions, with a stronger focus on engaging all relevant stakeholders in all stages of the process and building national ownership. UNICEF
Bulgaria will continue to apply gender-responsive programming, to build wider alliances for child rights, to engage children and adolescents as agents of change, to leverage resources and partnerships for children and to fill data gaps and generate evidence on what works and what does not work. In the new Country Programme, more efforts will be made to harness the power of business and markets for children and to foster innovation for children, including through further strengthening the synergies and integration between programme, communication and fundraising and through strengthening staff capacities.

Summary notes and acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BGN</td>
<td>Bulgarian Lev</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECD</td>
<td>Early childhood development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HACT</td>
<td>Harmonized approach to cash transfers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Capacity development

As part of a UNICEF regional communication for social change initiative, ‘Reducing Discrimination and Promoting Social Inclusion of Roma Children and Young People, and Children and Young People with Disabilities’, coordinated by the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office and supported by 7: The David Beckham Fund, UNICEF Bulgaria conducted a series of trainings targeted at teachers, social workers and representatives of civil society organizations working with these vulnerable groups of children. Some 267 kindergarten and preschool teachers and social workers, and 140 representatives of NGOs from the National Network for Children were sensitized and equipped with practical tools to address prejudice and promote diversity, enabling children to enjoy their rights to quality education, protection and healthcare.

UNICEF Bulgaria continued to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies, judges and legal practitioners in the protection of child rights. Police officers from the National Police, Border Police, Migration Directorate and the local child protection departments participated in a training on the protection of the rights and special needs of refugee and migrant children, with a special focus on unaccompanied and separated children. In addition, a training for judges was organized on the international standards on protection and care for unaccompanied and separated children, best practices in the EU and the safeguards of children’s rights in the asylum and return procedures under the Dublin III Regulation.

This year, special emphasis was placed on the capacities of lawyers to provide quality legal aid to child participants in civil, criminal and administrative proceedings. More than 150 lawyers participated in trainings, seminars and round tables dedicated to the rights of child participants in legal proceedings, the introduction of child-sensitive procedures and the exchange of knowledge and good practices on child-friendly justice.

Evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy

UNICEF Bulgaria supported the Government, local authorities and NGOs to accelerate the ongoing child care reform, prevent family separation and strengthen the child protection system by generating evidence on the results and outcomes of the closure of institutions for children 0–2 years old. Two important analyses were finalized, including:
1. ‘Assessment of the Approaches for Closure of Infant Homes in Bulgaria’ for appraising different projects for closure of 14 Infant Homes in the country from 2010 to 2015. The assessment, carried out by the Government, UNICEF and key NGOs, reviewed the effectiveness of the prevention strategies and services, the capacity of the systems, and the level of cooperation and coordination. It highlighted the reduced rate of children 0–2 years old in institutional care, noted the specific vulnerability of children with disabilities, and made recommendations for the continuation of the deinstitutionalization process.

2. Evaluation of a joint UNICEF–Government project, ‘Family for Every Child’, for the establishment of a regional system of child and family support services and closure of one Infant Home for children in the region of Shumen (north-east Bulgaria). The evaluation confirmed the reduced rate of children 0–2 years old in formal care in the region as a result of the prevention services and new approaches introduced in the work of the child protection system.

The findings and recommendations from both documents are informing the design of national projects to support services for prevention of family separation of young children, home-visiting services targeting children 0–2 years old, and medico-social services for children with disabilities.

The methodology of the Family Consultative Centres, established with support from UNICEF as part of the ‘Family for Every Child’ project, will inform the reform of the community based services planned by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy for 2018.

**Partnerships**

UNICEF Bulgaria initiated new partnerships with the Ministry of Education and national leading universities to introduce inclusive education in teacher training. A joint framework on inclusive education was developed and integrated in the core training of 120 future teachers by three universities.

A new memorandum of understanding was signed between UNICEF Bulgaria and the Sofia Bar Association. The cooperation aims at ensuring children’s right to obtain fair, timely and effective legal redress when their rights are violated by strengthening the capacity of lawyers to provide specialized quality legal aid to child participants in civil, criminal and administrative proceedings.

The partnership agreements with Happy Bar and Grill, Giulian and Orange Centre were renewed to engage their customers and employees beyond funds. Various initiatives and events with these partners promoted child rights, positive parenting, early learning and reading such as public reading of child literature, and a campaign for donation of children’s books. Orange Centre conducted a training on digital marketing for UNICEF communication and fundraising staff.

Two new corporate partnership agreements with Circus Balkanski and PlayPark agreements were signed for unrestricted income through the donation of a fixed amount from every ticket and for promotion of regular giving through dissemination of information among parents.

The partnership with Piraeus Bank was expanded with Face2Face activities and IKEA supported UNICEF’s inclusive education programme through customer fundraising activities and employee voluntary work. The launch of *The State of the World’s Children* 2017 report convened the Government, civil society organizations, parents and adolescents, the media, and
Internet and telecommunications companies and opened the possibility for establishing new alliances with a wide range of partners to protect every child from online harm.

The partnership with NovaTV was extended to include a joint telethon in November 2017 and a violence against children campaign to be launched in 2018.

**External communication and public advocacy**

The advocacy efforts of UNICEF, UNHCR, the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee and other organizations resulted in the legal prohibition of the detention of unaccompanied and separated children in December. The strong policy dialogue with the Government and lobbying in Parliament, public statements in conferences, messaging in social media and other activities led to legislative amendments ending the detention of unaccompanied and separated children.

UNICEF further expanded its role as a voice of and for children through engaging with adolescents and amplifying their voice. UNICEF Bulgaria organized the first national adolescence conference and initiated a campaign, ‘Let’s Hear the Voices of Youth’ with Bulgarian National Television. On World Children’s Day, UNICEF supported the Voice IT youth forum. Right before adolescents took over ‘the Largo’ – a symbolic space in the heart of Sofia, the UNICEF Representative discussed with the President of the Republic different approaches to ensure the participation of children in all decisions affecting them. During the forum – a mixture of fun and engagement – children and adolescents discussed issues related to violence, sexual and reproductive health, family life, safe Internet and climate change and came up with solutions that were sent to state and local authorities and the media. Adolescents were also actively engaged in the launch of *The State of the World’s Children report in 2017, Children in a Digital World*. They presented interactively the current situation of children’s presence in the digital world, the risks that are hidden in the online space and the mechanisms for peer-to-peer awareness raising and support to prevent risks.

Communication efforts culminated in a telethon, ‘Be Part of the Positive Change for Every Child’, on Nova TV. About 100 celebrities and children sent compelling messages on ECD, inclusive education and prevention of violence against children, and 7,457 new pledge donors were attracted during a telethon that was broadcast live in prime time.

**South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation**

UNICEF Bulgaria continued to support knowledge exchange and sharing of experience with other countries in different areas.

The bilateral cooperation between Bulgaria and Armenia in the area of childcare, facilitated by UNICEF, was further expanded. The exchange of knowledge and experience was initiated in 2015 when an Armenian delegation, including representatives of the Government and civil society, came on a field visit to Bulgaria, organized by UNICEF, to learn about the Bulgarian experience regarding the closure of residential institutions and establishment of child and family support services.

In 2017, the knowledge sharing continued with a two-week mission by the UNICEF Bulgaria child protection specialist to Armenia to share lessons learned from the reform of the child protection system in Bulgaria. UNICEF Bulgaria and UNICEF Armenia were engaged in policy dialogue with the respective Foreign Ministries to complement the technical assistance with financial support. In 2017, the Bulgarian Government decided to allocate US$174,000 through its official development assistance to UNICEF Armenia for the implementation of a project,
Reform in the Field of Childcare in Armenia: The lessons of Bulgarian experience.

In August, UNICEF Bulgaria organized a field visit of a delegation led by UNICEF Belarus for knowledge and experience sharing in local fundraising and, specifically, on successful partnerships for children with financing institutions. The Belarus delegation was composed by the UNICEF Representative, the Special Adviser to the Head of the National Bank, and representatives from Prior Bank and an advertising agency. They met high-level managers of Piraeus Bank to learn about effective fundraising mechanisms, such as ATM and affiliated cards that can be adopted by banks in Belarus. The cooperation will continue in 2018.

Support to integration and cross-sectoral linkages

UNICEF Bulgaria supported government efforts to strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation between education, health, child and social protection systems for addressing the main reasons for school dropout. In February, the Country Office conducted a rapid review on the implementation of an early warning system for identification of children out of school and at risk of dropping out. The recommendations from the review emphasized the need for strengthening cross-sectoral data exchange and joint planning between institutions and informed the establishment by the Ministry of Education and Science of an integrated information management system. The system now supports the implementation of the new mechanism for cross-sectoral collaboration for enrolment and retention of children at mandatory preschool and school age, adopted by the Council of Ministers in July. UNICEF Bulgaria supported a rapid review of the implementation of the mechanism and provided recommendations for enhancing cross-sector collaboration at the local level through guidance to local enrolment teams.

UNICEF Bulgaria continued to support the implementation of the national Coordination Mechanism for Child Victims of Violence through modelling local plans of action, integrated services for child victims and training. The first regional coordination plan between the child protection, education, health, law enforcement, justice and social systems was initiated in October, in Shumen region, as a result of UNICEF advocacy and technical assistance. The Plan establishes responsibilities among all stakeholders and includes actions for identification and reporting of violence, and protection of child victims. It envisages how the individual assessments, intervention, treatment, evaluation and monitoring of each case should be conducted by the child protection department and the police in a coordinated manner with the support of the child advocacy centre in Shumen.

Human rights-based approach to cooperation

UNICEF Bulgaria promotes children’s rights in all programme components and activities. This year, technical support was provided to the State Agency for Child Protection for the development of an action plan for the implementation of the 2016 Recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

UNICEF Bulgaria, in cooperation with the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office and UNICEF NY Headquarters, provided technical assistance and policy advice to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations Office in Geneva for the initiation and conceptualization of a Human Rights Council’s Resolution on empowering children with disabilities through inclusive education in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. UNICEF supported the preparation of a concept note and the organization of a side event on 27 September in the frame of the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, which was hosted by the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on the
Rights of Persons with Disabilities and co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Brazil, Finland, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Portugal, Singapore, Spain and Uruguay and the International Disability Alliance. The event focused on removing the main barriers to ensuring the realization of inclusive education based on the standards of the General Comment #4 on Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The main conclusions will lay the ground for a joint statement on the right to inclusive education and its impact on children with disabilities to be adopted in September 2018 by the Human Rights Council.

UNICEF Bulgaria continued to raise awareness about the situation of children in detention. The strong advocacy led by UNICEF, UNHCR and the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee resulted in the derogation of the provision allowing the detention of unaccompanied and separated children. One more correctional boarding school (Dragodanovo) was shut down during the year, reducing the number of these institutions to five. However, due to a delay in finalizing the Act on Diversion from Criminal Proceedings and Implementation of Alternative Measures, many children continued to be deprived of their freedom because of status offences.

**Gender equality**

UNICEF Bulgaria worked on three of the four targeted gender priorities – (1) addressing gender-based violence in emergencies; (2) advancing girls’ secondary education; and (3) ending child marriage.

Prevention of child marriages and advancing girls’ secondary education included interventions targeting Roma communities. The three family centres in Shumen region reached 500 Roma adolescent girls and boys with motivational health and educational activities to increase their knowledge on the benefits of staying longer in education and the harmful effects of child marriages and early pregnancies. Another 26 adolescent girls, including young mothers, received individualized support – psychosocial consultations, development of parental skills and assistance for reintegration in school.

To inform the work with vulnerable adolescents, a study was conducted on their attitudes towards education, family and employment on the basis of which a comprehensive programme for prevention of child marriages was drafted and will be implemented in 2018. The programme is in line with the National Strategy for Prevention of Violence and Abuse of Children, which identifies child marriages as violence, and the mechanism for cross-sectoral collaboration for enrolment and retention of children at mandatory preschool and school age, adopted in 2017.

The family centres also provided information and counselling to vulnerable young women for continuing their education and identifying employment opportunities as a mechanism for empowerment and changing traditional gender roles in closed communities.

To strengthen national capacities to prevent, identify, refer and respond to cases of gender-based violence among the refugee and migrant population, UNICEF Bulgaria, jointly with UNICEF Greece and UNICEF Serbia, started in September 2017 the implementation of a regional project, ‘Action Against Gender-Based Violence Affecting Refugee and Migrant Women and Children’, coordinated by the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office. An introductory training for 39 representatives of the State Agency for Refugees and NGOs was conducted in November 2017. Topics included general overview of gender-based violence, survivor-centred approach and gender-based violence guiding principles, multisectoral services, referral systems and tools and methods for monitoring safety risks in communal spaces. A
mapping of support services in the reception and registration centres for refugees, gender-based violence services available in the country and their capacity was initiated.

**Environmental sustainability**

UNICEF Bulgaria took part in the global UNICEF initiative and recorded its environmental footprint for the third time. The following initiatives were undertaken:

- Increased use of the Internet, webinars and teleconferences to reduce CO₂ emissions;
- Responsible disposal of electronic waste;
- Used battery collection point;
- Recycling of used toners;
- Recycling of paper, plastic and glass, and limited usage of plastic bottles, cups and utensils;
- Use of recycled paper for printing in the office, and double-sided printing as the standard setting; and
- Use of electrical taxi services for work-related transportation within the city, when the office car is unavailable.

**Effective leadership**

In 2017, the country management team monitored the application of standards, policies and procedures as well as the implementation of the annual management plan on a bimonthly basis. The country management team approved the annual management plan, the institutional and programme budgets, the private sector fundraising allocations, the updates of the country office advocacy plan, the country office risk assessment input form and the country office emergency preparedness and response strategy. Management indicators were monitored using InSight tools.

The business continuity plan was updated and the Country Office identified the risks, applying enterprise risk management in all spheres of its work. The risk assessment input form was revised in InSight and identified four risks as well as concrete actions to address them with responsible staff and deadlines. The early warning/ early action system was updated throughout the year.

In September, the country management team approved the Country Programme Management Plan 2018–2022 as well as the Country Office Private-Sector Fundraising Plan 2018–2022 and the Country Office Resource Mobilization and Leveraging Strategy 2018–2022. The management plan was approved by the regional programme budget review in October 2017.

To reduce risks in programmes and operations, the separation of functions was applied as well as full compliance with the new roles after the eZHACT roll-out in October. The table of authorities was updated on a regular basis to reflect changes and was expanded to include VISION roles and alternate staff in case of absence.

Continued monitoring of programme financial implementation enabled the Country Office to avoid having liquidations pending for more than six months.

In 2017, UNICEF Bulgaria implemented all five recommendations (medium priority) identified in the report on the internal audit of the Bulgaria Country Office (2016/15) dated 27 October 2016. All necessary actions were completed in the five areas: risk identification and mitigation, ethics, resources mobilization, harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT) and direct cash transfer management.
Financial resources management

UNICEF Bulgaria continued to implement the approach of managing and recording private sector fundraising contributions on a monthly basis. Procedures, approved by the country management team, are in place to ensure systematic, timely and accurate recordings of private sector fundraising income.

UNICEF Bulgaria continued to apply HACT rules and regulations. As part of the HACT Assurance plan, a total of 7 spot-checks and 47 programmatic visits were conducted. Liquidations were processed based on evidence that activities had been performed and approved by the respective programme officer. Progress of HACT assurance activities was monitored regularly through quarterly HACT meetings. In 2017, the Country Office hired the audit company Moore Stephens to conduct two HACT audits of implementing partners that exceeded the respective thresholds. The audits were both satisfactory and no recommendations for follow-up were identified. Additionally, three micro-assessments were performed of partners that were either new or had reached the threshold for micro-assessment eligibility.

An inventory/physical count of the assets was performed in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards requirements. All items corresponded to VISION records and there were no errors on assets.

Global Performance Indicators were regularly monitored by the country management team. At the end of 2017, there were:

- No outstanding direct cash transfers over six months;
- 100 per cent utilization of the regular resources budget;
- 100 per cent utilization of the institutional budget; and
- 100 per cent utilization of the other resources regular budget for the year; the remaining amount was re-phased to 2018.

Fundraising and donor relations

In 2017, funds came from various donors: Velux Foundation (US$208,513), UNICEF France National Committee (US$148,350), David Beckham Fund/UNICEF United Kingdom National Committee (US$109,979), the Basque Government/UNICEF Spanish National Committee (US$219,414), United States Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (US$165,000) as well as thematic funding for education (US$128,000) and child protection (US$200,000).

UNICEF Bulgaria submitted a joint proposal with UNICEF Peru and UNICEF Uganda to the H&M Foundation for an ECD programme. The estimated budget for Bulgaria for three years is US$530,000.

The overall income from local fundraising was US$ 1,249,294 and met the annual target (US$ 1,240,000). Three corporate alliances were renewed (Happy Bar and Grill, Giulian and Orange Centre). The partnership with Piraeus Bank was expanded with Face2Face activities. The partnership with Post Bank was terminated, as the bank cancelled all ATM fundraising activities and was not able to reach the minimum guaranteed amount as per the agreement. Despite this fact, the income from corporate partnerships reached US$473,313, which is slightly below the annual target of US$490,000. The income from private individual donors was US$775,981, of which US$719,714 came from monthly pledge donors, and 5,300 new monthly donors were acquired.
The contribution to global Regular Resources (20 per cent of the pledge gross income) was US$143,943.

All donor reports were prepared in line with the 2017 Donor Reports Plan and followed donors’ requirements. The quality assurance was provided through the established internal review process as well as through review of one report to a major donor by the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office.

In the last year of the country programme, UNICEF Bulgaria reached 81 per cent of the approved Other Resources ceiling for the five-year cycle (US$10,071,351 out of US$12,500,000). Some 45 per cent of the Other Resources in 2017 came from local private-sector fundraising.

**Evaluation and research**

The 2017 Plan for Research, Impact Monitoring and Evaluation (PRIME) included two evaluations and several research, studies and surveys. Out of 19 activities in the Plan, 7 were finalized, 8 are ongoing – to be completed in the first quarter of 2018 – and 4 were cancelled as partners from the Government and civil society initiated similar activities.

The independent evaluation for the ‘Family for Every Child’ project, implemented by UNICEF from 2011 to 2016, was finalized with a satisfactory quality rating. The management response was developed and discussed with partners and is being implemented.

An independent evaluation of the process of juvenile justice reform and related UNICEF interventions in the past five years was started and will be finalized at the beginning of 2018.

In 2017, the situation analysis on children and women in Bulgaria, which used a wide range of available administrative data and analyses from government studies and planning documents, went through a round of formal consultations with all government partners. The final draft was submitted to the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office in October for quality assurance and will be published and disseminated at the beginning of 2018.

UNICEF Bulgaria used both internal (Country Office and UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office) and external (independent experts) reviews for quality assurance of draft terms of reference and draft reports such as the evaluation of the ‘Family for Every Child’ and the national study on violence against children.

**Efficiency gains and cost savings**

UNICEF Bulgaria continued to apply a zero value-added tax approach with vendors. As a result, more than US$64,000 in savings were generated, which increased the funds available for programme implementation.

UNICEF Bulgaria occupies government-provided, rent-free premises for the fifth year in a row, realizing annual rent savings of about US$50,000.

Sharing of office security services with other tenants in the building saves approximately US$2,000 per year.

In 2017, cost savings were optimized on mobile telephone bills, as an analysis was carried out in the summer and different packages per person were negotiated.
Throughout the year, UNICEF Bulgaria continued to lower utility bills by using less air-conditioning and heating in the summer and winter. The Country Office initiated a new request for quotation for cleaning services and obtained lower prices.

**Supply management**

UNICEF Bulgaria does not have a dedicated procurement staff member, despite the increased volume of procurement activities in 2017. The respective assistants perform procurement functions, overseen by the respective programme officer and the operations officer.

The procurement of services was mainly for consultancies in support of programme implementation, including HACT (micro-assessments and audits of implementing partners), organization of communication/fundraising campaigns and printing services. The Country Office predominantly used local providers. International expertise was sought for highly specialized consultancies and services not available in the country. UNICEF Bulgaria followed the general supply processes and guidelines, adhering to standardized global payment terms and delivery options.

In view of the requirement to use Windows 10 as of January 2018, UNICEF Bulgaria procured nine new laptops to replace older desktops and laptops that were not compatible with the new requirements and one laptop on behalf of the UNICEF Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States in Geneva, in the amount of US$2,018, for the communications for social change regional adviser, who is out-posted in Bulgaria. The Country Office additionally procured two printers and consumables. The Supply Plan for 2017 was developed in March and regularly updated. There were more than 20 procurement cases (consultancies, requests for quotations and RFPs) totalling US $469,537, of which 7 were reviewed by the contract review committee.

UNICEF Bulgaria does not operate a warehouse.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supply and logistics key figures (in US dollars)</th>
<th>Bulgaria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Total value of procurement performed by the office, including on behalf of the other country offices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement for own office</td>
<td>$467,518.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational supplies</td>
<td>$17,721.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>$449,796.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement on behalf of other country offices</td>
<td>$2,018.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational supplies</td>
<td>$2,018.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total procurement performed by the office</strong></td>
<td><strong>$469,537.12</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Total value of supplies and services received (i.e. irrespective of procurement location)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational supplies</td>
<td>$17,721.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>$449,796.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total supplies and services received</strong></td>
<td><strong>$467,518.40</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Security for staff and premises

In 2017, the security situation in Bulgaria was calm and stable, with only minor security incidents and no direct threats to United Nations operations or personnel.

The Security Risk Management was updated and approved by the security management team in November. The standard operating procedures for receiving office visitors and postal packages were regularly reminded to administrative staff. A security guard from a private security company provided services throughout the year, ensuring a safe working environment. The Country Office driver provided safe and reliable transportation.

An evacuation drill was performed to test staff readiness and response. The calling tree, the warden system and the staff lists were kept up to date to enable quicker transmission of information. The security management team met twice during the reporting year and discussed security issues of common interest of the United Nations agencies.

In July, the United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Road Safety came to Bulgaria and UNICEF facilitated a meeting with all United Nations agencies to discuss road safety issues and to promote child road safety interventions.

In Bulgaria, the UNICEF Representative is the Designated Official for safety and security, and the UNICEF Operations Officer is the Country Security Focal Point.

Human resources

In February, a new operations manager and a programme officer on access to justice on a temporary appointment were recruited.

The completion rate of the 2016 end-year performance evaluation review in ACHIEVE (the UNICEF performance appraisal system) by the end of February was 93 per cent. A performance management workshop for all staff was organized in June to help create a culture of giving and receiving feedback.

The results from the UNICEF Global Staff Survey 2017 for Bulgaria were positive and the action plan was developed to address some specific issues with the participation of all staff during the Country Office retreat held from 20 June to 22 June. The retreat, supported by the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, contributed to strengthening team spirit and included discussions of the new Country Office staffing structure, the 2017 Global Staff Survey results and UNICEF ethics and standards of conduct. Three informative sessions on human resources reform were organized with support from regional human resources experts and a one-day training on emergency preparedness and response was conducted by the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office.

Staff developments and trainings included:

• eZHACT training for the operations manager and programme assistants;
• The child rights monitoring specialist attended a ‘Children, Data and Ethics and Data Visualization’ Workshop;
• The Representative attended the private fundraising and partnerships orientation; and
• The fundraising officer and assistant attended a Face 2 Face Workshop.
• The Agora course ‘Best Start in Life: ECD for sustainable development’ was completed by the ECD and Child Protection Officers.
• The operations manager participated in the HACT training in the Global Shared Services Centre, the Emergency Preparedness and Response training in the Supply Division, and IBCS/Country Programme Management Plan training, conducted by the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office.

During the ethics month in November, staff participated in different webinars and, on UN Day, all staff and non-staff personnel of UNICEF Bulgaria gathered to retake the Oath of Office.

**Effective use of information and communication technology**

UNICEF Bulgaria updated the business continuity plan and disaster recovery plan to reflect all current changes and corporate developments.

Information and communication technology systems continued to be improved. A number of adjustments were performed in line with the organization’s requirements, including hardware upgrades in preparation for migration to Windows 10 as of January 2018.

UNICEF Bulgaria continued to use the three personal computers as local servers for the key application processes: Donor Perfect, Bank Application and Communications Video Productions Processing.

The second and independent Internet access line through Wi-Fi routers was kept in use and provided timely, reliable and secure information flow, as well as the possibility for end users to have Internet access outside the office.

The email servers and file servers are based in the UNICEF Regional Office or UNICEF NY Headquarters. As of 2018, the Country Office will have an information and communication technology assistant that will continue to provide overall support for end users in the Country Office, such as local computer installation and configuration, software upgrades, user training and consultations.

UNICEF Bulgaria communication and fundraising strategies were supported online by the Country Office website, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, SMS communication and other channels. UNICEF Bulgaria dealt internally with the content management and outsourced support services like hosting, maintenance and management of the content management system platform.

**Programme components from RAM**

**ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS**

**OUTCOME 1** By 2017, more children from excluded and poor families benefit from equal access to education and protection systems.

**Analytical statement of progress**

In the final year of the Country Programme, UNICEF Bulgaria continued to promote equity and support social inclusion for the most disadvantaged families and children. This was achieved by providing policy advice and technical assistance in critical areas, facilitating national dialogue, enabling knowledge exchange, monitoring and evaluation, modelling new approaches and services, leveraging resources from different sources and acting as a voice for children and adolescents.

The process of reducing the number of children living in residential institutions continued
throughout 2017. In November, 866 children were placed in such institutions (a decrease of 85 per cent compared with 2012) and 2,342 children were in the foster care system.

The implementation of the updated action plan on deinstitutionalization, adopted by the Government in 2016, was informed by two major studies supported by UNICEF: the evaluation of the ‘Family for Every Child’ project and the independent ‘Assessment of the Approaches for Closure of Infant Homes in Bulgaria’. National efforts included the enlargement of the network of services across the country with a focus on the prevention of family separation as well as rehabilitation and inclusion of children with disabilities. The Government provided funding to selected municipalities for establishing 66 new community-based services and 55 residential services and for improving the quality of the 41 existing community-based services.

UNICEF Bulgaria supported the Government in the scale-up home-visiting services to all 28 regions, as envisaged in the action plan, through documenting, costing and evidence generation.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy continued to work on the new law on social services with support from UNICEF, the World Bank and civil society. A working group was established and adopted a roadmap for the development and formulation of the law. The first draft is expected by mid-2018.

In February, the Government approved the National Programme for Prevention of Violence and Abuse against Children (2017–2021), developed by the State Agency for Child Protection with support from UNICEF Bulgaria. An Action Plan for the implementation of the National Programme was also adopted and includes integrated services for child victims of violence, supported by UNICEF. National efforts to enhance the prevention and response to violence against children will be informed by a comprehensive study initiated by UNICEF and partners, by the modelling of integrated services in three target regions and the programme on the prevention of child marriages, supported in one target region – Shumen.

The Ministry of Education and Science continued to work on the introduction of inclusive education in all kindergartens and schools through the implementation of the Support for Equal Access and Personal Development programme, funded under the Operational Programme for Sustainable and Intelligent Growth and the Together from Kindergarten pilot initiative, supported by UNICEF. The State Standard on Inclusive Education was revised with the inclusion of a school protocol on violence prevention and response.

An important step towards increasing school enrolment and reducing the rate of early school dropout was the adoption of a cross-sectoral coordination mechanism under the Deputy Prime Minister for identifying children out of school and (re)enrolling them in the educational system. In November, UNICEF Bulgaria, with support from the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, conducted a rapid review of the implementation of the coordination mechanism, which provided recommendations for its strengthening towards improved cross-sector collaboration at the local level and guidance to support the work of the enrolment teams.

While the submission of the draft Diversion and Implementation of Educational Measures Act to Parliament was delayed due to the restructuring of the Ministry of Justice, the number of children in correctional-educational facilities continued to drop. An additional Social Pedagogic Boarding School was shutdown as a result of joint advocacy efforts by UNICEF, the Ombudsman and NGOs, and the number of closed correctional-educational facilities was reduced to five. Progress was made in the area of access to justice with the introduction of
child-sensitive forensic interviews in specialized facilities, individual assessment of the victims and special protection measures through the amendments of the Penal Procedure Code in force from November, developed with technical assistance from UNICEF.

A major achievement in 2017 was the legal prohibition of the detention of unaccompanied and separated children with the adoption in November of respective amendments to the Law on the Ministry of Interior and the Law on the Foreigners by Parliament. This came as a result of the sustained advocacy efforts by UNICEF, UNHCR, the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee and other organizations for ending the detention of refugee and migrant children.

Working towards this outcome has contributed to the advancement of the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office Regional Knowledge and Leadership Agenda in several key result areas, such as a child’s right to a supportive and caring family environment, a child’s right to access to justice, a child’s right to early learning and inclusive quality education, and a young child’s right to health and well-being.

**OUTPUT 1** By the end of 2017, based on the results of tailored approaches in three regions, key stakeholders at the central level (especially the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the Ministry of Health) ensure that relevant regulatory provisions and budget allocations incorporate effective, culturally sensitive and accessible prevention and protection services for vulnerable and marginalized children, especially children at risk of family separation, children living in institutions and children with disabilities.

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF Bulgaria supported improvement of legislation in the area of social services through active participation in the government task force to ensure that the revision of the policy and legal frameworks are evidence-based, follow a rights-based approach and are carried out with the active participation of all stakeholders.

UNICEF Bulgaria provided technical assistance and policy advice for the implementation and monitoring of the updated action plan for deinstitutionalization, the development of a concept note for further professionalization and specialization of foster care in the country, and the creation of a training programme for social workers of the regional foster care panels. The independent assessment of the different approaches for the closure of 14 Infant Homes was completed and its main findings and recommendations informed the closure process of the remaining Infant Homes in the country as well as the development of services for prevention of family separation and early childhood stimulation with EU and government funding.

The evaluation of the UNICEF-supported ‘Family for Every Child’ project in Shumen region was finalized. The main findings and recommendations are used to inform the development of national policies and projects for preventing family separation and the improvement of childcare in marginalized communities.

The modelling of outreach family support services (family centres) continued in Shumen and Montana regions. By mid-2018, the family centres will receive state budget funding in line with the envisaged reform in social services. The service model will be introduced in the national guidelines for social services and, thus, scaled-up nationwide. In 2017, the five family centres provided counselling and enhanced the parenting skills of 613 families, reaching 1,909 children with child development packages.
UNICEF Bulgaria expanded its support for prevention and addressing violence of children in the framework of the National Programme for Prevention of Violence and Abuse of Children. In partnership with relevant government agencies and specialized NGOs, UNICEF started the development of a national study on violence against children to understand the nature and extent of violence experienced by children and the perceptions of society, and to assess national capacities to prevent, respond to and protect child victims. Interdisciplinary trainings and local plans of action were supported to strengthen local capacities for the implementation of the national coordination mechanism to protect child victims.

The modelling of integrated services for children victims of violence – child advocacy centres - continued in three municipalities. Generated knowledge is used in advocacy for introduction of child-sensitive justice procedures, strengthening the capacity of the child protection system and the cooperation and coordination between justice, police and child protection. The three child advocacy centres provided services to 257 child victims of violence and parents. The launch of The State of the World’s Children report created an opportunity for engagement on child on-line protection and digital literacy promotion with new partners from law enforcement, Internet and telecommunication providers and NGOs. More than 50 stakeholders participated in the event and committed to develop an action plan.

**OUTPUT 2** By 2017, relevant stakeholders at all levels in the health, education and social protection systems apply inter-sectoral protocols of cooperation that enable the effective provision of integrated ECD services for the most disadvantaged and marginalized families and children, including from ethnic minority groups.

**Analytical statement of progress**

Together with national partners UNICEF Bulgaria continued to advocate for the adoption of an integrated national strategy on ECD to ensure a holistic approach to children’s well-being in all relevant policies, as well as to facilitate cross-sectoral cooperation for addressing the needs of the most disadvantaged children and families. The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy confirmed its support for the development of the strategy, but actual steps were not taken during 2018. The Government included ECD in its political agenda for Bulgaria’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2018 and UNICEF Bulgaria and the World Bank are helping the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy to organize an international conference, ‘The Future of Work: Lifecycle approach’, to be held in Sofia in March 2018.

Demonstration home-visiting services in Shumen and Sliven regions, established with support from UNICEF Bulgaria, continued to promote nurturing family childcare practices. More than 6,400 families and caregivers benefited from different packages of services depending on their needs, while strengthening their skills and resources to support healthy child development. The services ensured support to 67 per cent of the child population under the age of 3 years in the two regions, including 1,470 children from disadvantaged families. Access to antenatal care was facilitated for pregnant women without health insurance. The service quality was ensured through continuous training and supervision, including facilitating the exchange of international practices and expertise on home visiting.

Home visiting was included in the updated action plan for deinstitutionalization and, in 2017, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Government in the preparation of EU allocation for the scaling up of home visiting to all 28 regions. A package of documentation, including service methodology, parenting materials, guidelines for home visitors and a training programme, was finalized and will be offered to the Government to support service roll-out. UNICEF Bulgaria
established new alliances with national schools of medicine to set up a system for introductory and continuous training in the area of home visiting.

OUTPUT 3 By the end of 2017, the Government at all levels, with the support of NGOs and education institutions, implements school enrolment, drop-out prevention and second-chance education strategies for children, especially Roma girls and children with disabilities, who are not enrolled in, who have dropped out of or who are at risk of dropping out of compulsory education.

Analytical statement of progress
The State Standard in inclusive education and the Protocol on violence prevention in schools were revised and the latter was expanded to all education institutions, including kindergartens and support centres. UNICEF Bulgaria participated in the working groups for the revision of both documents.

The modelling work to introduce inclusive education continued with the development of a child-focused approach, tested in 35 pilot kindergartens, and capacity strengthening of the regional inclusive education support centres. Specialized training modules on inclusive education were developed and tested with 466 mainstream teachers and specialists and were incorporated in the teacher training requirements. In addition, UNICEF Bulgaria supported the development of a joint framework on inclusive education initial teacher training, which was integrated in the core teacher training by three universities.

UNICEF Bulgaria supported government efforts to increase school enrolment and prevent dropout through a rapid review of the early warning system for identification of children out of school and at risk of dropping out. Based on the review recommendations, the Ministry of Education and Science established a new integrated Information Management System, which supported the implementation of the mechanism for cross-sectoral collaboration between education, child protection, social protection and civil registrations systems and local authorities for enrolment and retention of children and students at mandatory preschool and school age, adopted by the Council of Ministers in July. Out of the 145,927 children at mandatory preschool and school age whose homes were visited between September and November 2017 by the local enrolment teams, 17,297 children were re-enrolled in school.

Some 200 children at risk of dropping out improved their learning outcomes through participation in a technology-based individualized approach. The model was validated and expanded to 30 per cent of schools in all regions in Bulgaria through the Ministry of Education and Science project ‘Your Class’.

UNICEF Bulgaria continued to work on promoting secondary education for Roma adolescent girls and to prevent child marriages in targeted Roma communities through the Family Centres in Shumen region. Some 500 adolescent boys and girls, identified in cooperation with local schools, participated in motivational health and educational activities to increase their motivation for completing secondary education.

To support the engagement of adolescents and youth not in employment, education or training, UNICEF Bulgaria strengthened the capacities of service providers, youth organizations and business incubators in Shumen, Sliven and Montana through a training programme on social entrepreneurship. At the end of the programme, the participating organizations developed business plans for the establishment of social enterprises and, after a selection process, three
of them received small start-up grants. In Montana, UNICEF Bulgaria provided technical assistance for the establishment of a municipal fund in support of social entrepreneurship.

In 2017, the child rights education initiative in 10 pilot schools focused on the documentation of the different approaches and the development of a training package on child rights education and child participation facilitation, which was tested with 20 teachers and 300 students.

**OUTPUT 4** By 2015, the Government enacts revised legislation that introduces intersectoral coordination and alternatives to custodial service for children in conflict with the law.

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF Bulgaria continued to provide policy advice and assistance to the Government, justice sector and civil society to ensure equitable access to justice for children and to end child detention.

Despite the progress made on the Draft Act on Diversion from Criminal Proceedings and Implementation of Alternative Measures over the past years, UNICEF continued the policy dialogue and technical assistance since the Draft Act was not included in the 2017 legislative priorities of the Ministry of Justice. In December, the Act was reviewed by the Council for Implementation of the Revised Strategy for the Reform of the Judicial System and included in the 2018 legislative agenda.

The joint advocacy of UNICEF, the Ombudsperson and child rights organizations for applying detention as a measure of last resort and for the closure of all correctional-educational facilities resulted in the closure of the Social-Pedagogic Boarding School of Dragodanovo. Thus, the number of correctional-educational facilities was reduced to five and the number of children placed in such institutions continued to drop: from 283 in 2010/2011 school year to 183 in 2016/2017 school year.

The advocacy and technical assistance provided for the establishment of child-sensitive procedures for children victims and witnesses of violence and crime resulted in amendments of the Penal Procedure Code introducing the requirement for child-sensitive forensic interview in specialized facilities, individual assessment of the victim and special protection measures.

The support to the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee (in filing lawsuits to challenge the detention of unaccompanied and separated children, the training of judges and the continued advocacy of UNICEF Bulgaria, UNHCR, the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee and other human-rights organizations resulted in amendments in the Law on the Minister of the Interior and the Law for Foreigners and the derogation of the legal provisions that allowed the detention of unaccompanied and separated children.

UNICEF Bulgaria continued to support the specialization of judges and prosecutors through advocacy for amendments in the Judiciary Act and for the scaling up of the specialized judges/panels and units for children, established in five pilot regions, to all courts and prosecutors’ offices. The specialization of magistrates became a priority for the newly elected Supreme Judicial Council and six Prosecutors’ Offices and seven Courts implemented the Guidelines on Specialized Units Dealing with Cases Involving Children, developed by the Ministry of Justice and UNICEF.
The partnerships with the Prosecutor’s Office and the Ministry of the Interior were consolidated through the training of more than 300 police officers and prosecutors to protect children participants in legal proceedings, including refugee and migrant children.

In November, a new partnership was signed with Sofia Bar Association, the largest and most influential Bar Association in Bulgaria with more than 6,100 members. The cooperation aims at ensuring children’s right to obtain fair, timely and effective redress when their rights are violated by strengthening the capacity of lawyers to provide specialized quality legal aid to children.

OUTCOME 2 By 2017, a national alliance for children (involving the Government, international community, civil society, private sector and the media) mobilizes support, capacity and resources to significantly advance the rights of Bulgarian children and youth.

Analytical statement of progress
In the last year of the Country Programme, a main priority continued to be the provision of policy advice and technical assistance to strengthen the capacities of national institutions and civil society to monitor and advance child rights in the country and internationally. UNICEF Bulgaria supported the Government with the development of an Action Plan for addressing the 2016 Concluding Observations of the Committee of the Rights of the Child. Important progress was made in the preparation of the country for signing Optional Protocol 3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child with the development of a legal assessment by the State Agency of Child Protection, which was presented at the Fifth Meeting of the National Coordination Mechanism on Human Rights.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations Office in Geneva initiated the conceptualization of a Human Rights Council’s Resolution on empowering children with disabilities through inclusive education with support from UNICEF Bulgaria, the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office and UNICEF NY Headquarters. On 27 September, a side event was organized in the frame of the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council with the participation of the Bulgarian Ambassador, UNICEF Regional Director, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Secretary of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Children, parents and other stakeholders. The event focused on removing the main barriers to ensuring the realization of inclusive education based on the standards of the General Comment # 4 on Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The main conclusions will lay the ground for a Joint Statement on the right to inclusive education and its impact on children with disabilities to be adopted in September 2018 by the Human Rights Council.

The partnership with the Office of the Ombudsperson continued and UNICEF provided support for improving the capacity of the institution to monitor children’s rights. A special training was organized in cooperation with the Norwegian Ombudsperson for Children for developing the skills of the Ombudsperson staff to engage directly with children and adolescents. In May 2017, the Bulgarian Ombudsperson hosted a Capacity Building Seminar for Independent Children’s Rights institutions, organized by the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office and the European Network of Ombudsperson for Children, which contributed to the exchange of information and resources and facilitated bilateral contact.

In the international arena, Bulgaria continued to be a strong voice for child rights and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNICEF Bulgaria were engaged in a constant dialogue on
international cooperation initiatives. In March 2017, the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to New York, together with the Permanent Mission of Panama, co-hosted a side event on ‘Breaking the Cycle of Violence against Girls and Boys: The role of parliamentarians’, organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and UNICEF. In July 2017, the Government of Bulgaria, in partnership with the Governments of Argentina and Malaysia and UNICEF, organized a side event, ‘Bringing Awareness and Action on the SDGs to the Classroom: A presentation of students’ experiences with the SDGs’. The Chairperson of the State Agency for Child Protection participated in the event and presented Bulgaria’s experience with child participation and the World’s Largest Lesson, supported by UNICEF. In November, the Bulgarian Government hosted the 17th Informal Seminar of the Asia Europe Foundation on Human Rights, which was dedicated to human rights and children, and provided a forum for dialogue and cooperation between countries from Europe and Asia on specific issues such as unfolding policies for children towards all children, the protection of vulnerable children and children on the move, and children’s participation. The UNICEF Representative participated in the Seminar and gave a lecture on children and media.

Bulgaria continued to promote and advance child rights through its official development assistance. In November, the Council of Ministers allocated EUR 100,000 to the Global Fund on Education in Emergencies, managed by UNICEF, and approved the allocation of US$174,000 from Bulgarian official development assistance for the project ‘Child Care Reform in Armenia: Lessons learned from Bulgaria’, submitted by UNICEF Armenia. The project will further support the sharing of knowledge and experience, which was initiated with a visit of a high-level delegation from Armenia to Bulgaria in 2015 and continued in 2017 with support from UNICEF Bulgaria.

The partnerships with civil society, the media and the private sector were further expanded and more adolescents were engaged as agents of change through involving them as powerful speakers in key advocacy initiatives such as the first National Conference on Adolescence, the ‘Voice It’ youth forum and the launch of The State of the World’s Children, which focused on preventing online sexual exploitation and abuse of children. Television continued to be the most popular medium and instrument for public awareness raising and citizen engagement. In 2017, UNICEF Bulgaria and NovaTV organized a telethon, ‘Be Part of the Positive Change for Every Child’, with the participation of more than 100 celebrities and children, which contributed to the engagement of 7,457 new pledge donors. The Country Office further developed its strategic partnerships with the business sector through an integrated approach to corporate engagement, motivating socially responsible companies to go beyond funding and become active advocates for child rights through engaging their employees, customers and business partners.

OUTPUT 1 By 2017, an independent child right monitoring system, with capacity to regularly collect reliable data on the situation of children, is operating in the country.

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF Bulgaria supported the Government, the State Agency for Child Protection, the Agency for Social Assistance, Ministry of Justice, National Statistical Institute, the Ombudsperson’s Office and civil society to improve data collection and child rights monitoring.

An assessment of existing data gaps related to children and families was conducted with the National Statistical Institute. Research, data gathering and analyses in the areas of deinstitutionalization, violence, juvenile justice, ECD, adolescents and refugee and migrant
children provided important information and supported the development of evidence-based interventions to improve the lives of children and their families.

In partnership with the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, UNICEF continued to monitor the situation of refugee and migrant children in the detention centres, provided counselling and legal aid to children and families and supported the release of children attached to unrelated adults.

UNICEF developed with the Government the Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Bulgaria in preparation for the new Country Programme Document 2018–2022. The Situation Analysis enabled the identification of equity gaps and priority areas to be included in the new partnership between UNICEF and Bulgaria, and will be published and disseminated at the beginning of 2018.

The Country Office provided assistance to the National Network for Children to improve the quality of the monitoring carried out by the organization and its members in the area of child rights protection and on access to justice. Thematic meetings with NGOs were organized to discuss the documentation of specific cases and identification of follow-up steps.

The capacity of the Ombudsperson for independent child rights monitoring and promotion was strengthened through the establishment of a specialized unit on children with support from UNICEF Bulgaria. Technical assistance was provided to the unit on monitoring and responding to violations of child rights, including the planning and preparation of thematic reports and monitoring protocols.

**OUTPUT 2** By 2017, central, regional and local governments have put in place policies and mechanisms ensuring the meaningful participation of children and adolescents in decisions concerning their well-being.

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF Bulgaria continued to support the National Network of Children and its youth network, Megaphone. The adolescents from Megaphone contributed to the development of 2017 Report Card, which included consultations with 900 girls and boys, parents and professionals. Megaphone was engaged as co-organizer of the National Network of Children Annual Meeting, which gathered 250 participants, and half of them were children. On 20 November – World Children’s Day – the third youth forum, ‘Voice It: Opinion that matters’, brought together more than 100 girls and boys who discussed priority topics, identified by them, related to violence, sexual and reproductive health, family life, safe Internet and climate change, and came up with solutions that were sent to national authorities and media.

With the National Network of Children, a new initiative for engaging adolescents in changing social norms related to discrimination and social exclusion of Roma children was started. Some 20 adolescents of various ethnic backgrounds and social status participated in four teams as ‘Seekers of (In)Equality’, and explored the domains in their communities where prejudice, hate speech, discrimination and harmful practices occur most often. The Seekers collected evidence about inequality and injustice based on ethnic origin and presented the findings to community leaders and NGOs. The initiative is part of the communication for social change project, ‘Reducing Discrimination and Promoting Social Inclusion of Roma Children and Children with Disabilities’, coordinated by the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office and supported by 7: The David Beckham Fund.
In 2017, UNICEF Bulgaria worked on building knowledge and raising awareness about the importance of adolescence, which was identified as a cross-cutting priority in the new Country Programme 2018–2022. The first national conference on adolescence was organized in September under the auspices of the Deputy Prime Minister. The event was preceded by a two-day preparatory workshop where 20 adolescents from different backgrounds discussed specific issues related to their health and well-being, learning and skills, and participation and inclusion. During the conference, the latest research on adolescent brain development was presented together with the General Comment 20 and the results from the regional study ‘Age Matters’. In a panel discussion, where the adolescents presented the main findings and recommendations from the workshop, the participants debated how adolescents’ specific needs can be better addressed by national policies and programmes.

An important step towards strengthening child participation was the initiation of ‘An Independent Assessment of Child Participation in Bulgaria’ by the State Agency for Child Protection. The assessment is based on the recently developed tool of the Council of Europe, which presented for the first time in Bulgaria by UNICEF at a workshop for key national stakeholders in 2016. The results of the assessment will be ready in 2018.

In 2017, UNICEF conducted a national representative survey, ‘Voices of Children’. The results from the survey will be presented in 2018 together with the Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Bulgaria, in order to inform the priority actions to be taken by the Government and other national partners.

OUTPUT 3 By 2017, the media, NGOs, businesses, children and adolescents participate in partnerships and alliances for monitoring, advocacy and promotion of child rights.

Analytical statement of progress
Acting as a convener, UNICEF Bulgaria managed to build alliances around key issues and to trigger positive social change for children and with children. Strong partnerships were nurtured around UNICEF’s global pioneering initiative, World Children’s Day. They included the ‘Voice It’ youth forum in partnership with the National Network for Children, and a flash-mob with a corporate partner (Orange Centre) for promoting solidarity among children. In addition, the telethon ‘Be Part of the Positive Change for Every Child’, with NovaTV, Bulgaria’s top-rated media group, alongside a digital campaign in partnership with the largest online network, NetInfo, reached a national audience and engaged 7,457 new pledge donors.

The first national conference on adolescence was organized in partnership with Bulgarian National Television along with a social media campaign, ‘Let’s Hear the Voice of Youth’, and gathered 150 various stakeholders and reached 25,000 people in real time through Facebook live-streaming. Adolescents were engaged in the launch of UNICEF’s flagship report, The State of the World’s Children: Children in a digital world, organized in partnership with the State Agency for Child Protection to advocate for addressing online sexual violence against children. The coverage included 55 media cuts and 32,062 people were reached via social media.

Other key partnerships supported early childhood development and breastfeeding, including the promotion of breastfeeding in public spaces led by UNICEF with the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization, Support for Breastfeeding national association, and the ‘Our Premature Children’ foundation. The screening of the documentary ‘The Beginning of Life’, continued in cooperation partnership with municipalities, community centres, libraries and
kindergartens, and reached 1,131 viewers in 2017 (1,600 in total for the past two years). In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science, a conference, ‘Early Inclusive Education: Foundation for development and success’, promoted inclusive education through presenting results from the Together from Kindergarten joint initiative. The successful partnership with 400 schools on the World’s Largest Lesson enabled the engagement of 40,000 students in 2017 (60,000 in total for the past three years).

Main key performance indicators: Traditional media: 85 neutral/15 positive; social media: Facebook 114,000 followers, 10,320,374 reach (4.44 per cent engagement rate), Twitter: 2,935 followers, 703,200 reach (0.5 per cent engagement rate), Instagram: 1,300 followers, 9,900 engagements, YouTube views: 69,935, website: 116,615 users, returning visitors 49,757, and engagements 30.2 per cent.

OUTPUT 4 By 2017, the general public and the private sector mobilize financial resources in support of the most disadvantaged children in Bulgaria and worldwide.

Analytical statement of progress
In line with the updated Fundraising Strategy 2013–2017 and UNICEF Private Fundraising and Partnerships Plan, UNICEF Bulgaria continued to focus its fundraising efforts on expanding its strategic corporate partnerships and on developing its monthly pledge giving programme.

In 2017, the overall gross income from local private-sector fundraising was BGN2,157,521 (US$1,249,294) and the annual target was met.

The income from corporate partnerships amounted to BGN 809,294 (US$473,313), which is slightly below the annual target of US$490,000, due to the expiration of the partnership agreement with Post Bank. The gap was compensated with different fundraising initiatives aimed at individual donations. The income from private individual donors was BGN 1,348,227 (US$719,714), of which the income from monthly pledge donors was BGN 1,251,577 (US$719,714).

UNICEF Bulgaria managed to expand the database of individual supporters acquiring more than 5,300 new monthly donors through various direct marketing and digital activities and one telethon event in November.

The contribution to global Regular Resources (20 per cent of the pledge gross income) was BGN 250,315 (US$143,943).

In the last year of the Country Programme, UNICEF Bulgaria reached 81 per cent of the approved Other Resources ceiling for the five-year cycle (US$10,071,351 out of US$12,500,000). In 2017, 45 per cent of the Other Resources came from local private-sector fundraising.

In support of its individual giving programme, UNICEF Bulgaria conducted a national representative survey on the fundraising potential in the country and a study among UNICEF’s database of supporters to identify areas of improvement and new opportunities for monthly giving in Bulgaria.

UNICEF Bulgaria developed a private sector fundraising strategy and a resource mobilization and leveraging strategy for the implementation of the new Country Programme 2018–2022. The
two documents were attached as annexes to the Country Programme Management Plan and approved by the Programme Budget Review in October.

OUTCOME 3 Special purpose

**Analytical statement of progress**
All major operational benchmarks and objectives for 2017 were met, as described in detail in the corresponding sections of the Country Office Annual Report.

OUTPUT 1 Premises and security

**Analytical statement of progress**
All major operational benchmarks and objectives for 2017 were met, as described in detail in the corresponding sections of the Country Office Annual Report.

OUTPUT 2 Private-sector fundraising

**Analytical statement of progress**
All major operational benchmarks and objectives for 2017 were met, as described in detail in the corresponding sections of the Country Office Annual Report.

OUTCOME 4 PCR support

**Analytical statement of progress**
All major operational benchmarks and objectives for 2017 were met, as described in detail in the corresponding sections of the Country Office Annual Report.

OUTPUT 1 Governance and systems

**Analytical statement of progress**
The country management team monitored the application of standards, policies and procedures as well as the implementation of the annual management plan on a bimonthly basis. The country management team approved the annual management plan, the institutional and programme budgets, the private sector fundraising allocations, the updates of the country office advocacy plan, the country office risk assessment input form and the Country Office Emergency Preparedness and Response Strategy. Management indicators were monitored using InSight tools.

The business continuity plan was updated and the Country Office identified the risks, applying enterprise risk management in all spheres of its work. The risk assessment input form was revised in InSight and identified four risks as well as concrete actions to address them with responsible staff and deadlines. The early warning/early action system was updated throughout the year.

In September, the country management team approved the Country Programme Management Plan 2018–2022 as well as the Country Office Private Sector Fundraising Plan 2018–2022 and
the Country Office Resource Mobilization and Leveraging Strategy 2018–2022. The management plan was approved by the regional programme budget review in October.

OUTPUT 2 Financial resources and stewardship

Analytical statement of progress
All major operational benchmarks and objectives for 2017 were met, as described in detail in the corresponding sections of the Country Office Annual Report.

OUTPUT 3 Human capacity

Analytical statement of progress
All major operational benchmarks and objectives for 2017 were met, as described in detail in the corresponding sections of the Country Office Annual Report.

OUTPUT 4 Travel

Analytical statement of progress
All major operational benchmarks and objectives for 2017 were met, as described in detail in the corresponding sections of the Country Office Annual Report.

OUTPUT 5 Maintenance of premises

Analytical statement of progress
All major operational benchmarks and objectives for 2017 were met, as described in detail in the corresponding sections of the Country Office Annual Report.

OUTPUT 6 Communication

Analytical statement of progress
All major operational benchmarks and objectives for 2017 were met, as described in detail in the corresponding sections of the Country Office Annual Report.

OUTPUT 7 United Nations joint arrangements

Analytical Statement of Progress
UNICEF is the largest United Nations agency in Bulgaria, operating in an environment without the United Nations Country Team.

OUTPUT 8 Staff welfare

Analytical statement of progress
The results from the UNICEF Global Staff Survey 2017 for Bulgaria were positive and the action plan was developed to address some specific issues with the participation of all staff during the
Country Office retreat held in June. The retreat, supported by the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, contributed to strengthening the team spirit and included discussions of the new Country Office staffing structure, the 2017 Global Staff Survey results and UNICEF ethics and standards of conduct. Three informative sessions on the human resources reform were organized with support from regional human resources experts and a two-day training on emergency preparedness and response was conducted by the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office.

UNICEF Bulgaria allocated an institutional budget of US$5,500 for staff welfare and the Representative promoted the Staff Association activities to build team spirit and to care for the well-being of the Country Office.

**OUTPUT 9 Equipment**

**Analytical statement of progress**
All major operational benchmarks and objectives for 2017 were met, as described in detail in the corresponding sections of the Country Office Annual Report.

**Document centre**

**Evaluation and research**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sequence number</th>
<th>Type of report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young voices - opinion survey</td>
<td>2017/004</td>
<td>Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Assessment of the approaches for closure of infant homes in Bulgaria</td>
<td>2017/003</td>
<td>Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market research on the fundraising potential in Bulgaria, attitudes and behaviour towards charitable giving</td>
<td>2017/002</td>
<td>Survey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other publications**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child development from birth to 3 years old (in Bulgarian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human interest stories for fundraising telethon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voice it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescence: age of opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childhood without fear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change the story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General comment No. 20 (2016) on the implementation of the rights of the child during adolescence (in Bulgarian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Together from the kindergarten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“For every child a family”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Children’s Day – kids take over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European ombudspersons for children advocacy video</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of the Family for every child project in the region of Shumen, Bulgaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAC brochure children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAC brochure professionals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Breastfeeding brochure
Let's read together brochure

Lessons learned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document type/category</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesson learned</td>
<td>Assessment of the Approaches for Closure of Infant Homes in Bulgaria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Programme documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document type</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>