Executive Summary

The most important achievements of 2014 include:

1) The Health and Nutrition (H&N) programme introduced new approaches and innovations to accelerate MDG results:
   • Integrated Community Case Management (iCCM) was extended geographically and malnutrition management was scaled up, including introduction of micronutrient powders;
   • A cross-sectoral maternal and child health booklet was introduced with national coverage and real-time monitoring of key maternal and child health and nutrition interventions was launched;
   • Solar-powered fridges were tested to replace traditional cold chain equipment.

2) The Education programme contributed to accelerating progress toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):
   • As Education sector lead, UNICEF coordinated policy dialogue, support to the curriculum reform and consolidation of the Education Management Information System (EMIS), within the education basket fund;
   • The supply, demand sides and quality of education were enhanced through training of teachers, provision of pedagogical material and construction of school infrastructure. Major strategic interventions such as the Back to School campaign, Child Friendly School (CFS) programme and school preparation for 4-to-6 year olds contributed to an increased primary achievement rate of 71.2 per cent (2013/2014);
   • Gender parity was fully achieved at primary school level, and partially achieved at secondary level with a representative rate of girls of 48 per cent at primary and 36 per cent at secondary levels, respectively.

3) The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme scaled up traditional approaches and introduced innovations:
   • Access to safe drinking water was provided to 42,500 people, and 22 communes of four provinces delegated their water services to by private water service providers;
   • The Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach was scaled-up, providing an additional 42,022 households with access to sanitation and hygiene.

4) UNICEF continued to strengthen the child protection system in Burundi:
   • The National Criminal Procedure Code was promulgated, the National Child Protection Code was validated, and some residential care centres were replaced by durable community care solutions;
   • Two rehabilitation centres for minors in conflict with the law were established, removing the key bottleneck related to detention of minors with adults;
   • Community solidarity groups received support to increase socio-economic opportunities – thereby contributing to children’s increased education, health and nutrition – through the introduction of innovative energy solutions.

5) UNICEF’s cross-sectoral programmes addressed:
• Promotion of key family practices, to contribute to children’s improved health, sanitation and nutrition;
• Strategic partnerships with NGOs and faith-based organisations to strengthen adolescents’ life skills in the areas of HIV/AIDS prevention, sexual and reproductive health and peace education;
• Child-led advocacy through child journalists and child participation in peacebuilding was reinforced when over 50 children from across the Great Lakes Region met directly with high-level authorities;
• UNICEF, as sector lead for social protection, coordinated elaboration of the national Social Protection Strategy;
• UNICEF further deepened its cooperation with Burundi’s national statistics department (ISTEEBU) in key areas, including child rights monitoring, quality statistics and research.

The most significant shortfalls for 2014 were:
1) Dire socio-economic indicators remain a key barrier to programme results. Burundi continues to be one of the poorest and most densely populated countries in the world, with extremely high child mortality and poverty rates.
2) Low educational attainment continues to pose challenges for the future of the country. Burundi is likely to meet only one MDG by end 2015 (MDG 2, universal primary education). However even this success masks issues of education quality and high repetition and low retention rates.
3) The 2014 Global Hunger Index report ranked only two countries in the most severe category of hunger this year (“extremely alarming”) - Burundi and Eritrea - among 120 countries ranked. The goal of removing this major bottleneck poses a continuous challenge for the programme, including fundraising and timely supply provision.
4) Accountability for fulfilling child rights in political, economic and social processes is still widely neglected, and Burundi’s institutions require greater capacity in the areas of monitoring, knowledge management and evidence-based planning.

The important collaborative relationships in which UNICEF is currently involved are:
1) Key institutions and organisations active in Burundi – including the World Bank (WB), African Development Bank (AfDB), International Monetary Fund (IMF), European Union (EU), sister UN agencies and representatives of key donor countries – continue to be essential partners for UNICEF in ensuring the promotion and protection of child rights.
2) Partnerships with national and international academics and alliances with private sector entities became increasingly important during 2014 for strengthening the knowledge base regarding children, and for progressively using innovative, technologically oriented ways to deliver services and empower children and young people.
3) The scope of interventions undertaken through fostering partnership with religious communities was strategically focused.

**Humanitarian Assistance**

High levels of poverty and dire socio-economic indicators further undermine the populations’ vulnerability to natural disasters and shocks (flooding, drought) in Burundi. In 2014 UNICEF and partners provided humanitarian assistance to more than 20,000 Burundians affected by floods in Bujumbura. Supplies and technical support were offered to the Ministry of Health (MoH) for the management of severe acute malnutrition and treatment and prevention of childhood diseases. Non-food items were provided to the affected populations. Children living in the temporary sites set up after the floods benefited from daily recreational activities for a period of four months. Individual psychosocial support services were also offered. Birth registration services for children affected by the floods were ensured.
In July 2014 UNICEF and its partners responded to a cholera outbreak: by end 2014, 700 cholera cases had been reported with no fatalities.

UNICEF and partners also provided WASH, health, nutrition and child protection support to 45,000 Burundians (60 per cent children), considered to be illegal immigrants, who had been expelled from Tanzania. UNICEF helped deliver WASH services and non-food items to four internally displaced persons (IDP) camps and three transit sites. UNICEF provided tents, classroom equipment and learning materials to more than 18,240 school-aged children, including 6,500 returnee children now integrated into the national education system. Approximately 16,627 children under five suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), more than 50 per cent of whom were girls, were treated by UNICEF-supported, community-based nutrition programmes. Unaccompanied and separated children were identified among the Burundians expelled from Tanzania, and were reunited either with their biological families and extended families or placed in foster care.

To strengthen the preparedness of national child protection actors, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Global Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) and Terre des Hommes (TDH), organised the launch of the Child Protection Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Action and supported the contextualisation of six priority standards on: coordination, information sharing, psychosocial support, unaccompanied and separated children, case management and community-based services.

UNICEF Burundi focused on preparing for the upcoming 2015 elections and Ebola contingency planning, training the Burundian Red Cross on "Do no harm" approaches and conflict sensitivity in humanitarian responses. A multi-sectorial contingency stock was established and a child protection coordination mechanism is now in place between Tanzania, the DRC, Rwanda and Burundi.

UNICEF participated in a national simulation exercise on potential natural disasters, together with other UN agencies and national partners. Identified weaknesses and gaps will be strengthened in the updated National Risk Reduction and Disaster Preparedness plan.

Burundi was identified as an Ebola high-risk country due to the proximity to DRC and its weak health system. UNICEF, WHO and MoH prepared an Ebola contingency plan. UNICEF led Ebola communication activities and organised training for health care providers at central and provincial levels on Ebola preparedness. A free hotline and temporary isolation centre were put on standby and are ready for operation if necessary by January 2015.

**Equity Case Study**

Title of study: Inequity in education, dropout and teenage life in Burundi

Key findings:

• Literacy: On average, illiteracy has declined from 67 per cent to 37 per cent over the last 20 years. Although there is a gap between the literacy rate in urban and rural areas, the percentage of women who read easily in rural areas has increased sharply in recent years (from 14.64 per cent to 41.24 per cent between 1987 and 2005).
- On average 60 per cent of men can read easily, against about 50 per cent of women. The level of education (measured by the average number of years spent in school) does not radically differ by gender.
- Children living in unstable environments have worse exam results, revealing a high risk for relapsing into illiteracy.

• Inequity in access to secondary education: There is an over-representation of students from the capital city in high schools (13.6 per cent) in terms of their success rate in the national competition (1.6 per cent)

• Drop-out: Girls living in urban areas, raised by an educated mother, in larger households with a radio, are least likely to drop out of school. Boys born to uneducated mothers living in a smaller rural household, with an older brother who already abandoned school are the most likely to drop out.
- Females are less likely to drop out of school, despite several threats such as early pregnancy,
- The more the head of the family is educated, the lower the drop-out probability. The probability of drop-out decreases sharply in female-headed households.
- Drop-out is much more likely in rural households. Land ownership plays a minor role, while the availability of electronic devices favours retention.

• Impact of education on employability: Professional and managerial jobs are accessible only to those who have completed primary school. In urban areas, having a degree really makes a difference. Employment opportunities in rural areas are more limited, which can be an obstacle to the battle against the drop-out in rural areas.

Methodology: The quantitative approach was conducted in parallel with a qualitative analysis based on field surveys, interviews and focus group discussions with students, teachers and head masters. The quantitative study is based on several sets of data collected in Burundi between 2005 and 2012, including: "Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys" (MICS, wave 2 in 2000 and wave 3 in 2005), "The Core Welfare Indicator Survey" (QUIBB, 2006), the "Priority Survey Household Survey" (PS 2007) and "Demographic and Health Survey" (DHS 2010 and 1987). The qualitative fieldwork was conducted in eight schools in the provinces of Cibitoke, Gitega and Makamba selected according to several variables on poverty, the legacy of the civil war, the presence of returnees and gender. Within a province, schools were randomly selected and interviews covered all aspects. Respondents were selected from students in 5th and 6th year of school, according to a representative key (good and bad students, boys and girls, different age groups (between 12 and 18, the difference being due to high rates repetition), members of ethnic minorities if applicable). A total of 54 students, six directors, three Deputy Directors and one teacher were interviewed.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

2VP – Second Vice-Presidency
AfDB – African Development Bank
AMP – Annual Management Plan
APAI-CRVS – Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
AU – African Union
UNICEF Burundi – Burundi Country Office
BNUB – Bureau des Nations Unies au Burundi
C4D – Communication for Development
CAMEBU – Centrale d’Achat de Médicaments Essentiels du Burundi (Centralised Public Health Warehouse)
CERF – Central Emergency Response Fund
CFS – Child-friendly school
CLTS – Community-Led Total Sanitation
CMT – Country Management Team
CPC – Child Protection Committees
CPWG – Child Protection Working Group
CRB – Central Review Board
CRC – Contract Review Committee
CRS – Catholic Relief Services
CRVS – Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
CSO – Civil Society Organisation
CT/CNPS – Technical Committee of the National Commission on social protection
DCT – Direct Cash Transfer
DHS – Demographic and Health Survey
ECD – Early Child Development
EMIS – Education Management Information System
FARN – Foyer d’Apprentisage et de Rehabilitation Nutritionnelle (Positive-Deviance Health)
GAVI – Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation
GoB – Government of Burundi
GS – General Service
HACT – Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfer
IBCR – International Bureau for Children’s Rights
iCCM – Integrated Community Case Management
ICT DRBCP – Information Communication Technology, Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Plan
ICT4D – Information and communication technologies for development
IMEP – Integrated Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
IRV – Integrated Rural Villages
ISTEEBU – Institut de Statistiques et d’Etudes Economiques du Burundi
JCC – Joint Consultative Committee
LQAS – Lot Quality Assurance Sampling
LTA – Long-term agreement
LTC – Learning & Staff Development Committee
MCHW – Mother and Child Health Weeks
MDG(s) – Millennium Development Goals
MENUB – Mission Electorale des Nations Unies au Burundi
MICS – Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoE – Ministry of Education
MoF – Ministry of Finance
MoH – Ministry of Health
MORSS – Minimum Operating Residential Security Standards
MYR – Mid-Year Report
NFI – Non-food Item
NSPP – National Social Protection Policy
OMT – Operation Management Team
OVC – Orphan and Vulnerable Children
P & M – Planning and Monitoring
PBEA – Peacebuilding, Education and Advocacy
PCA – Programme Cooperation Agreement
In 2014 UNICEF Burundi supported the Government of Burundi (GoB) in revising its Health Positive Deviance (FARN) manual addressing chronic malnutrition. Community health workers and “light mother” role models have already proven successful using this new approach in the pilot province.

The Government further committed to a sector-wide approach for water and sanitation and adhered to the national “Planning for Results” initiative during a high-level meeting. It also launched the WASH bottlenecks analysis tool (WASHBAT), which resulted in a thorough analysis of sector bottlenecks. To address some of the identified bottlenecks, UNICEF supported the decentralisation of water infrastructure management to local communities.

UNICEF Burundi supported the education sector to develop equitable policies and integrate aspects of conflict sensitivity in the new curriculum. Technical support and training were provided to integrate conflict sensitivity and peace education into teaching practices and into teachers’ manuals and textbooks for grades 8 and 9. Teacher training in CFS and psycho-social support were key for the roll-out of child-centred pedagogy, and a new life skills module for adolescents was developed. UNICEF’s close work with school management committees has reinforced capacities of community members in construction and other key areas.

Efforts continued to strengthen key stakeholders’ capacity on child rights and juvenile justice. The International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR) modules were incorporated in the curricula of the police, 30 trainers are available, and 207 personnel who regularly deal with minors were trained. Sixty government social workers benefited from a training of trainers (ToT) on the new Child Protection Committee (CPC) tools, and over 1,000 new CPC members received training on child protection and peace consolidation.

UNICEF Burundi promoted the six key family practices and child protection at various levels.
Religious leaders were trained in communication strategies for behaviour change and key family practises to enable incorporation of the themes into faith-based activities.

To enhance the Government's capacity to manage social protection schemes, UNICEF provided training on social transfers. In collaboration with the University of Burundi and ISTEEBU, UNICEF organised data analysis training for the Permanent Secretariat in charge of economic reforms (SP/REFES), focusing on analysis of monetary and multidimensional child poverty. UNICEF further invested in capacity development within ISTEEBU for the collection, management and statistical analysis of data on children and women.

**Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy**

UNICEF's long-term advocacy efforts led to the adoption of key health strategies, as well as to a better cross-sectoral dialogue on social protection. UNICEF introduced enhanced equity monitoring for child survival interventions using the Lot Quality assurance Sampling (LQAS) method and two data collections were conducted in April and October at district, health centre and community levels in five targeted provinces.

UNICEF Burundi, in cooperation with the WB, engaged in several high-level policy advocacy events to ensure that the non-contributory side of social safety nets is well integrated and nutrition becomes a cross-sectoral priority. The Office further invested in the situation monitoring tool “Burundinfo” in cooperation with the UN Statistics Division, and has been one of the lead agencies in preparations for the 2015/16 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS).

The Government launched the WASH bottlenecks analysis tool “WASHBAT”, which resulted in a thorough analysis of sector bottlenecks. To address some of the identified bottlenecks, UNICEF supported the decentralisation of water infrastructures management by local communities; 22 communes in rural areas were selected and received support to strengthen their capacity in monitoring and managing water infrastructure.

As sector lead in education, UNICEF plays a significant role in the policy dialogue related to sector challenges. As part of the common basket fund that covers 80 per cent of the sector budget (except salaries), UNICEF participated in the definition and implementation of the education national plan. To count every child in school, UNICEF further invested in the EMIS, a high-quality data management tool.

The child protection program supported the Ministry of Labour to conduct a study on child domestic work. About 19,000 children are estimated to be involved in domestic work in four urban areas. Based on the evidence, UNICEF has advocated with the GoB and at community level to prevent child domestic labour.

UNICEF Burundi, in cooperation with the Burundi National Council of Churches (representing 13 major protestant churches) conducted a qualitative study on knowledge, attitudes and practices of churches in the area of child survival and child development. The results of this diagnostic study will help to strengthen the ability of Protestant churches to support child rights.

**Partnerships**

In 2014 UNICEF Burundi continued strengthening established partnerships with Government, UN agencies, the national university, Parliament, civil society organisations (CSOs) and the media, while pursuing the establishment of an innovation-driven approach to emerging private
sector and social enterprise partnerships.

As nutrition sector group lead, the UNICEF Burundi contributed to sustaining the momentum of Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) and supported the establishment of a multi-sectoral civil society platform for nutrition. UNICEF organised a South-to-South exchange with Niger’s REACH international facilitator to reinforce REACH in Burundi, and recruited a REACH national facilitator to support the coordination of UN agency interventions and the SUN focal point. As social protection sector group lead, UNICEF, in strategic alliance with the World Bank, supported the adoption of a national Social Protection Strategy focusing on young children and the fight against malnutrition with US$30 million of pledged cash transfers.

Strategic evidence and analysis, crucial to identify and address systemic bottlenecks, were supported in equity assessment of education, social microfinance and the linkages of peacebuilding with early childhood development (ECD) and adolescents. Triangular academic cooperation is core to the UNICEF Burundi’s approach: a second research symposium with national academics and UNICEF international capacity development partners including Harvard, Brussels and Amsterdam universities was organised.

UNICEF Burundi scaled up its collaboration with faith-based partners and community-based organisations, notably in adolescent life-skills, nutrition and grass-roots social entrepreneurship for child protection. Based on 2014 awareness campaigning on child rights and scoping research conducted with major alliances of religious communities, C4D materials on child survival and development will be deployed in local congregations. Radio partnerships were multiplied and the youth participation tool ‘U-report’ extended within the country to allow child journalists and young social activists living in remote areas to participate, ensuring an equity-based approach to amplifying children’s voices.

UNICEF Burundi strengthened relations with key National Committees for UNICEF particularly in programmatic innovations and match-making with child-relevant private sector and specialised international NGOs. The Office brokered an unprecedented National Committee-Implementing fundraising alliance around a child-friendly construction challenge for engineering students.

In 2014 UNICEF Burundi established 30 Programme Cooperation Agreements and 15 small-scale funding agreements totalling over US$7 million.

**External Communication and Public Advocacy**

In 2014 UNICEF Burundi celebrated its 50 year presence in the country. As part of the 50th anniversary of cooperation between the GoB and UNICEF, a series of media events were held to showcase notable achievements and remaining challenges. These included a press visit to key health and education sites in the presence of high-level government authorities and an open house for media on innovating for children at the Innovations Lab.

Throughout the year, social and online platforms were leveraged both to spark conversations around key issues for children and showcase key innovations to tackle remaining challenges. The UNICEF Burundi Facebook page garnered over 11,000 followers and Burundi became one of the most talked-about Country Offices on UNICEF Connect and ICON.

The Office’s child participation approach, which supports child-led advocacy, was strengthened during 2014 as child journalists were enabled to lead targeted advocacy initiatives through the
simultaneous use of a full range of communications platforms (radio, social media and U-report) on key priority issues.

Child participation in peacebuilding was reinforced when over 50 children from across the Great Lakes Region met directly with high-level authorities, including the Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region, during the Children’s Forum of Hope held in Bujumbura in May. Key recommendations drafted by the children were then shared at the Heads of State Summit in Nairobi by four elected ‘Ambassadors of Hope’, enabling children to express themselves on the future they want for their region in the presence of the highest authorities.

Similarly, the nationwide child-led event around the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child allowed children to express themselves on a better world for children through visual art; winning drawings were presented to authorities.

The visibility of children in Burundi was reinforced as the country’s child journalist programme was showcased on the BBC, the Guardian, and Political Exterior, and as by-lined articles by UNICEF management were placed in local media and the situation of children in Burundi was featured on Al Jazeera, RTL, La Vanguardia, 20 Minutos, and El Pais.

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

UNICEF Burundi continues to seek new opportunities for South-South cooperation, notably through the sharing of knowledge and best practices, and the pursuit of a regional dynamic favouring child rights. In the area of child-led peacebuilding, over 50 children from seven different countries (Rwanda, DRC, Uganda, Sudan, South Africa and Zambia) met with high-level authorities, including the Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region, during the Children’s Forum of Hope held in Bujumbura in May. Key recommendations drafted by the children on the future they want for their region were shared at the Heads of State Summit in Nairobi by four elected ‘Ambassadors of Hope’, enabling children to advocate for strengthening peacebuilding across the region in the presence of the highest authorities.

In July, UNICEF Burundi supported the MoH in organising an advocacy workshop to disseminate recommendations from the iCCM Accra symposium (February 2014). Participants from the Benin and Rwanda MoH were invited to share lessons learned. Subsequently, an iCCM orientation plan for the scaling-up of the approach was developed and validated.

UNICEF Burundi supported the participation of four Ministry of Education (MoE) staff members in a workshop on conflict prevention and emergency preparedness organised by UNICEF’s Regional Office for West and Central Africa. UNICEF Burundi’s construction engineer and supply manager participated in a workshop on school construction held in WCARO.

UNICEF Burundi participated in a workshop on improved emergency preparedness and response to cross-border movements of children in the Great Lakes region and organised, in coordination with the CPWG and TDH, a workshop for the contextualisation of Child Protection Minimum Standards in humanitarian action in the sub-region. Participants from Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Burundi and DRC discussed current standards and coordination of support to separated and unaccompanied children, and agreed on key actions to improve cross-border collaboration.

UNICEF Burundi benefitted from exchanges with various other UNICEF offices regarding communication for behavioural change monitoring structures and best practices, highlighting the
need for better dialogue and sharing of evidence between Communication for Development (C4D) sections.

To enhance the Government’s capacity to manage social protection schemes, UNICEF facilitated a South-South mission by the newly established Executive Permanent Secretariat of the National Commission on Social Protection (SEP/CNPS) to Niger, an experts meeting in South Africa and GoB participation at a meeting of African Union Ministries of Social Development in Ethiopia.

Identification Promotion of Innovation

UNICEF Burundi made significant strides toward institutionalising innovation as a key crosscutting strategy of its programme. Innovative technologies, products, partnerships, and processes were leveraged by different programmes to accelerate the delivery of services and information, with focus on the most marginalised. In addition to operational gains, several projects with promising initial results were identified for scale-up, and further opportunities for innovation became available following the advent of RapidPro.

Burundi’s Innovations Lab (IL) was strengthened with a Technology for Development (T4D) officer and through a new recruitment modality, the Junior Fellow Programme, whereby four young Fellows receive a stipend to work in in the areas of technology, business, and operations.

The IL supported several sections to effectively integrate innovation into their programmes. This work was guided by an overall innovation strategy founded on three key pillars: real-time information to improve service delivery, new models for youth and community engagement and innovation for environmental sustainability.

U-report, a mobile-based system that allows young people and volunteers to speak out on issues important to their lives, was scaled-up. As a result of promotion, training, and mobilisation activities conducted throughout the year, the platform now has over 14,000 users who are engaged in regular reporting within their communities.

The same open-source platform that powers U-report – RapidPro – was recently launched at a global level with additional applications. Health/Nutrition and WASH are in the process of planning and piloting selected applications to supplement existing data collection and monitoring efforts. Cases range from monitoring water point functioning, to tracking pregnancies, to improving the distribution of supplies during vaccination campaigns.

Achievements were also made in the area of sustainable energy through Project Lumiere, a micro-enterprise model that provides off-grid energy solutions to households while increasing community purchase power through the sale and recharging of LED lights. The initiative has successfully completed its pilot phase and is currently being scaled-up, with the aim of reaching 16,000 households by the end of 2015.

Burundi’s first ever T4D/Open Source event was organised by the country’s small but enthusiastic open source programmers’ community, jointly with UNICEF’s Innovations Lab and local universities.
Support to Integration and cross-sectoral linkages

In 2014 UNICEF Burundi recruited an ECD Specialist to sharpen the ECD lens for all programmes, and to orient health and nutrition programming towards a focus on the 1,000 first days of a child. The Child Protection and Health sections collaboratively supported the GoB in the development of a new Maternal and Child Health booklet that integrates information on birth registration, health, nutrition, communication and other areas. The booklet will facilitate the initial registration of children born in health centres.

WASH supported inter-sectoral coordination of the GoB, civil society and local entities in the health/nutrition, education and C4D sectors, the result of which led to improved coordination for sanitation implementation and monitoring mechanisms at the community level.

UNICEF Burundi strengthened knowledge on child protection in communities through the development of a booklet for members of Child Protection Committees (CPCs) and interactive theatre sessions in four provinces. More than 25,000 people (including 10,000 children) participated in community debates on the role of parents in protecting children and on prevention of neglect, abandonment and placement of children in residential care centres.

C4D has been integrated in all UNICEF Burundi programmes. Mainstreaming of communication for behaviour change approaches across key GoB and non-governmental partners led to productive inter-sectoral cooperation. As a result, the ministries of National Solidarity and Communication work together to produce a radio show composed of CPC members, drawing from expertise of civil society groups specialised in communication through interactive local theatre groups.

UNICEF provided extensive support to the GoB in building a cross-sectoral social protection system. Evidence generated on social safety nets and non-contributory social protection, in partnership with the WB, contributed to policy dialogue between the main stakeholders and served to point out current overlaps and unfunded mandates.

On the margins of the Children’s Forum of Hope, UNICEF and the Burundi Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) hosted an event with several high-level dignitaries, including the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, the SRSG for the DRC, the Special Envoys of the US, AU, and EU, and key members of the diplomatic community, to present the latest research on child-centred peacebuilding and UNICEF’s work in the region.

Service Delivery

UNICEF Burundi continues to support the GoB in the procurement, storage and distribution of basic health and nutrition commodities. UNICEF remains the sole provider of traditional routine vaccines and therapeutic feeding products. In 2014 storage responsibility for nutrition therapeutic products was officially transferred from UNICEF to the National Warehouse “CAMEBU”. UNICEF ensures distribution to districts and is currently conducting a supply chain bottleneck evaluation, the results of which will guide 2015 programming.

A mop-up campaign on unregistered persons in the civil registrar in Ngosi province resulted in registration of 128,474 births, 8,824 marriages and 5,117 deaths. Taking into consideration the data on unregistered persons before the campaign, 99.7 per cent of unregistered children, 41 per cent of unregistered marriages and 21 per cent of unregistered deaths were registered.
through the campaign. UNICEF Burundi ensured that Government social workers completed the
documentation of 340 children living in residential care in ten centres not respecting the
Minimum Standards adopted by the GoB in 2013. As a result, alternative care measures at
community level are underway. UNICEF Burundi supported improved inter-sectoral delivery of
education, health, nutrition, legal, psychosocial and registration services for more than 6,000
orphans and vulnerable children (OVC).

WASH interventions resulted in access by 7,800 pupils to potable water and of 32,800 pupils to
improved hygiene and hand-washing facilities, separated for boys and girls. Three more health
centres have access to potable water, and six health centres (with about 300 patients daily)
were equipped with latrines separated for women and men. To ensure sustainability, school
management committees and teachers as well as health centre personnel were trained on
WASH standards and norms for hygiene promotion. Moreover, 550,000 community members
were exposed to periodic hand-washing campaigns.

C4D contributed to changing behaviours, beliefs and practices to achieve optimal utilisation of
basic social services. In 2014 UNICEF Burundi used a wide range of key tools – such as
interactive theatre, mobile cinema, community dialogue, listening groups, interpersonal
communication and mass media – to foster dialogue on health, nutrition, hygiene, protection,
and education topics. These participatory community approaches aimed at improving links
between individual beliefs, attitudes, intentions and behaviour.

**Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation**

Building on evidence generated through the research programme of the Peacebuilding,
Education, and Advocacy (PBEA) programme, UNICEF Burundi engaged in a number of high-
level advocacy events to highlight inequity and the role of children and education in the trans-
generational transmission of violence in Burundi.

In May, on the margins of the Children’s Forum of Hope, UNICEF and the SRSG for Burundi
hosted a closed event with several high-level dignitaries present at the Forum, including the
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, the SRSG for the
Democratic Republic of Congo, the Special Envoys of the United States, AU, and EU, as well as
key members of the diplomatic community, to present the latest research on child-centred
peacebuilding and UNICEF’s work in the Great Lakes region. In November, UNICEF Burundi
hosted a one-day research forum for international researchers, national counterparts and
partners to present progress on the research agenda. And in December, UNICEF and the
SRSG met with key ministers to present research findings and advocate for the importance of
child-centred peacebuilding and equity in education.

UNICEF Burundi supported the Ministry of Solidarity to develop the Initial State Party Report of
Burundi to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, with
participation of civil society. Issues and bottlenecks affecting child-focused programming in the
national context were also discussed. To support the sustainable reintegration of children
recently expelled from the United Republic of Tanzania to Burundi, efforts were made to
strengthen community child protection mechanisms in areas of major return, namely the
Provinces of Rutana, Ruyigi and Makamba. As a result, an additional 337 child protection
committees were set up and more than 2,400 people at the community level were empowered
to identify local solutions to violence, abuse and exploitation of children, and to strengthen the
socioeconomic situation of vulnerable families.
Gender Mainstreaming and Equality

Women make up 52 per cent of the total population in Burundi. Women of child-bearing age represent 23 per cent of the population and fertility rates are very high at 6.1 children per woman. Of the 66.9 per cent of the population living below the national poverty line, vulnerable children and women are still most affected. In terms of land rights, there is great inequality between men and women in Burundian society; only 18 per cent of women have access to land, against 63 per cent men. This also has a serious impact on gender-based violence, particularly after the war, and there are many unwanted pregnancies, especially among schoolgirls.

A joint programme to strengthen efficiency and performance of institutions and communities in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls and providing assistance to survivors, has been launched by UNICEF, UN-Women, UNDP and UNFPA. The joint project represents a timely and needed response to the prevailing human rights violations of women in Burundi, with a specific focus on gender-based and sexual violence.

WASH constructed 177 new water points during 2014 and, focusing on reduction of disparities and participation, empowered communities in their management and monitoring. Water point committees always aim to be composed of 50 per cent women and 50 per cent men. Considering gender aspects, improved hygiene constructions in schools and health centres always provide toilets and hand-washing facilities separated for boys/men and girls/women.

UNICEF Burundi supported the implementation of a combined nine-month technical and three-month on-the-job vocational training programme for vulnerable adolescents, including youth repatriated from Tanzania. The training mainly focused on business development customised for young single mothers (368 out of 535 participants).

UNICEF Burundi continued to support solidarity groups to strengthen socio-economic resilience of communities. The main target group remain women. An exploratory study was conducted in 2014 to determine the impact of women’s participation on their self-determination and on domestic violence. The study results confirmed that participating women indeed gained increased decision-making power, respect of their community and economic independence from their husbands.

Environmental Sustainability

UNICEF Burundi has made significant strides towards integrating environmental sustainability into its programmes and cross-sectoral approaches. In 2014 the Office supported the MoH in piloting and testing solar-powered fridges for vaccine cold chains, and is developing a transition plan for gradual replacement of the traditional devices. After adoption of the transition plan by MoH, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) plans to order 100 of the new solar-powered fridges through UNICEF procurement services.

The pilot phase of the “Kiramama” project, anchored in UNICEF’s new global real-time monitoring tool “Rapid-Pro”, was launched in 2014, aiming at further reducing maternal and neonatal mortality through real-time monitoring and management of obstetric services. UNICEF Burundi assessed initial infrastructure needs, including electrification, and equipment needs of the 12 health facilities that will manage obstetrical and neonatal emergencies in the pilot province of Gitega. Solar electrification was proposed as a solution for the 12 health facilities. WASH integrated environmental protection issues as part of the facility construction strategy for water supply schemes and latrines. Detailed environmental impact studies allowed for
sustainable planning of water supply systems to ensure continuous use and sustainability, and water sources were protected against contamination. Moreover, the programme piloted the construction of biogas systems linked to latrines for lightening in primary schools.

UNICEF Burundi piloted a social enterprise model known as “Project Lumiere” for delivering affordable, off-grid household energy, in addition to developing an integrated Decentralised Rural Electrification strategy. Project Lumiere is environmentally sustainable, helping to reduce emission of CO2 by substituting kerosene-based lamps and wood as the current main source of lightening of households with a clean source of energy for lighting. The 2015 scale-up plan foresees the expansion of the project by improved cooking stoves, to reduce the amount of wood,charcoal used for cooking, which remains the main cause of deforestation in the country. The design of UNICEF’s planned new office integrated eco-friendly dimensions to reduce both the carbon footprint and running costs.

Effective Leadership

The Office has statutory and non-statutory committees with terms of reference and guidelines consistent with those provided through UNICEF Organisational Policies and Procedures. In 2014 they were: Country Management Team (CMT), Joint Consultative Committee (JCC), Contract Review Committee (CRC), PCA Review Committee (PCARC), Local Central Review Board (CRB), Selection & Advisory Panel (SAP), Learning & Staff Development Committee (LTC), Property Survey Board, Internal Control Team, Staff Association Executive Committee, Caring For Us Team, HACT Task Force, Emergency Task Force, Innovations Task Force and VISION Task Force.

The Office objectives and priorities were discussed and compiled in the Annual Management Plan (AMP), which was approved by the Country Management Team (CMT) during the first quarter of the year, shared with the Regional Office, and reviewed twice during 2014 (mid-year and end-year). The Rolling Work Plan (RWP) was developed with and signed by the GoB during the first quarter. The management performance indicators, the review of which was a standing CMT item on a quarterly basis, helped track Office progress on key benchmarks related to programme management, budget, supply, operations and staff well-being. The CMT held six meetings in 2014 and endorsed the AMP 2014, the RWP 2014-15, the IMEP 2014, the key performance management indicators, the Learning and Development plan for 2014, as well as findings and recommendations of programme, operations meetings, and of the mid-year and annual reports.

Financial Resources Management

UNICEF Burundi performs periodic monitoring on compliance and sustainability of audit and peer review recommendations. Good practices of cash flow forecast and bank optimisation were maintained by both programme and operations. Sections systematically provided their monthly estimate, which was consolidated and posted on the net for replenishment. The minimum benchmark of US$200,000 was exceeded once in 2014 due to programme activities postponed to following months.

The Office did not have long outstanding items on bank reconciliation. Open items were consistently matched and cleared the following month, and deadlines from DFAM HQ were met throughout the year. Standard Operating Procedures were updated and checklists for each type of payment were introduced to reduce processing errors.
UNICEF Burundi kept track of DCT records with a figure of 0.6 per cent, nearly achieving the target of zero DCT balance > 9 months. The Office monitored DCT status twice a month and shared reports during programme, operations and CMT meetings. US$9,865,000 was spent in RR, representing 100 per cent of its yearly funding. The OR expenditure was at 80 per cent, and ORE expenditure at 79 per cent (actuals).

The Office complied with the new HACT regulations released this year, and applied Insight HACT online portal for monitoring purposes. The HACT task force, composed of key programme and operations staff, developed a HACT assurance plan for endorsement by the CMT. The HACT assurance plan for 2014 was implemented through 273 programmatic visits, nine spot-checks and 15 scheduled audits for a total cost of US$32,890. The assurance plan was reviewed during four dedicated HACT meetings and during CMT meetings. An amount of US$47,080 was utilised for HACT capacity-building trainings, which were delivered to all key partners in the course of the year, including off-site partners, namely the universities of Amsterdam and Brussels.

**Fund-raising and Donor Relations**

In 2014, the overall budget increased by more than 60 per cent (or by 62 per cent) over 2013, reaching a total of almost US$34,982,794. The Office was able to mobilise 144 per cent of resources of the OR ceiling in the CPD. Funds available were utilised optimally, with grants expiring during the reporting period recording an almost 100 per cent utilisation level. With zero delays, the quality of donor reporting remained high throughout the year.

Various new funding opportunities were explored, especially in the context of innovations projects, including partnerships with private sector partners such as the German “Engineers without Borders”. Office management was actively involved in exploring new funding options, and the development of an updated and innovative fundraising strategy is underway, to be completed in 2015. New potential donors from emerging donor countries, including the Middle East, were proactively engaged. A mission by the Deputy Head of Office to Japan and Korea secured further funding of these two important donor countries.

More than 20 proposals and concept notes were submitted to potential donors during the year. In 2014, UNICEF Burundi continued to strengthen relations with key UNICEF National Committees by hosting visits from UNICEF Spain, UNICEF Belgium, UNICEF Netherlands and UNICEF Next Gen. Going beyond classic fundraising and media field visits, these visits also allowed for the exploration of new, hybrid partnerships including technical expertise and knowledge transfer, in particular in the area of innovations and communications.

**Evaluation**

The Integrated Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) 2014-15 was elaborated in close collaboration with programme sections and the GoB. To ensure high quality of research, studies and evaluation, sections collaborated in the provision of technical support to the development, implementation and monitoring of research, studies and evaluation, including review of and assistance to the development of terms of reference, design and methodology, data collection tools, analysis and review of reports, etc. As of end December 2014, 44 per cent of planned activities were completed, and 56 per cent ongoing.

In close collaboration with the WASH and Planning and Monitoring (P&M) section, the Social Policy, Advocacy and Evaluation (SPAE) section tracked management response to the findings
of the 2013 WASH evaluation of the integrated rural villages (IRV) project in Rutana Province and reported progress in Insight. In 2014 the baseline for the impact evaluation of Projet Lumière, using an randomized controlled trial approach, was completed in partnership with the Free University of Brussels (ULB), with the aim of enhancing the quality of the evaluation and using a cost-effective approach. The findings will provide insight into household energy poverty in Burundi.

The Office’s ambitious research agenda investigating the trans-generational transmission of violence gained strong momentum in 2014. Three key studies were finalised, and data collection for two national surveys completed. The studies examined, inter alia: the role of the education system in peacebuilding in Burundi (independent consultant); adolescent resilience and capacities for peace (independent consultant); inequity in the education system (ULB); national household survey on early childhood caring practices (ULB); and a national survey on resilience (Harvard Humanitarian Initiative). Additional anthropological and sociological research on the trans-generational transmission of violence at household and community levels began in December 2014 (University of Amsterdam). In addition, three students from the University of Amsterdam undertook three months of Master thesis field research in association with UNICEF.

**Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings**

Savings linked to the streamlining of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in 2014 were evaluated at 46,000 minutes working time (96 days), representing US$83,000 cost reduction. The greatest improvement was observed in local travel work processes, with savings of 44 man days representing US$58,000 cost reduction by 31 December 2014. The SOPs were reviewed and streamlined to suppress bottlenecks and to improve workflow efficiency. Savings were derived from the implementation of new SOPs, compared to those in place until January 2014.

In 2014 UNICEF and other UN Agencies elaborated 13 common long-term agreements (LTAs), of which four are managed by UNICEF. The target is to ensure better economy of scale and to reduce transaction costs. Most UN Agencies use the LTAs on a regular basis. The total estimated transaction cost saving for UNICEF is around US$7,000.

**Supply Management**

The total procurement plan for 2014 was estimated at US$14.6 million, of which US$9.4 million was funded. The realisation of the funded supply plan was 90 per cent, amounting US8.4 million, of which US$5.4 million was for procurement of goods, US$7 million for services and US$1.3 million for construction.

Health and Nutrition was the biggest contributor, with 55 per cent of the total share. Main focus was given to US$1.5 million for nutrition products and US$1 million for vaccines, medicines and medical supplies. WASH has a share of 17 per cent, Education of 14 per cent and Protection of 2 per cent. The remaining 12 per cent was for C4D, Communication, SPAE, Operations and Innovations.

The share between local and offshore procurement was 68 per cent versus. 32 per cent.

Nearly half, 48 per cent, of the goods were delivered directly to partners, avoiding the storage of items in the UNICEF warehouse. The total value of supplies managed in the controlled warehouse amounted US$3.4 million. The current stock level is at US$0.9 million, of which 57 per cent is for contingency; contingency stock increased with DFID II and CERF funding.
The delivery of therapeutic food products was optimised this year using the additional warehouse space at CAMEBU (Centralised Public Health Warehouse), permitting direct delivery of nutrition products to the central store, without transit through the UNICEF warehouse.

Construction benefited in 2014 from the creation of a shortlist of supervision/control companies, increasing reliability for future projects.

A market survey was conducted in early 2014 to identify key suppliers for UNICEF essential commodities.

Attention was also given to activities related to “ONE UN”. Thirteen LTAs were managed jointly with other UN agencies to reduce transaction costs and increase economies of scale.

In addition to the supply plan, a volume of US$5.3 million was procured in 2014 for Procurement services, of which US$1.9 million was for GAVI.

### Security for Staff and Premises

The UN Office for Burundi (BNUB) mission closed down at the end of December 2014. Transition arrangements were discussed through a joint UN-GoB Steering Committee in terms of programmatic and operational responsibilities. A new election mission to monitor upcoming elections in 2015 will open early 2015.

As a result, agencies residing at the BNUB compound were asked to relocate, in accordance with organisational security standards (MORSS). UNICEF selected a new building closer to the city centre. The ongoing construction of a new office, which will be rented by UNICEF and sub-rented by other agencies, is under supervision of the UNICEF Burundi operations and construction teams. The regional Security Advisor visited the Office for three days in May 2014 to assess preparedness, in view of the upcoming general elections and to pre-assess the suitability of the new offices under construction for UNICEF staff. The assessment concluded that the move will take place during the first half of 2015. To comply with recommendations of the regional security report, UNICEF Burundi requested support of a Security Officer from the Haiti Country Office to update security files.

To comply with MORSS, all vehicles were equipped with HF and VHF radios. Security briefings were provided to new staff, consultants, volunteers, interns and visitors. Residence inspections were performed for compliance with MORSS.

The Office has an Emergency Task Force that coordinates emergency risk management with all staff. Seven UNICEF staff members have attended the EPR workshop organised by the UN in Burundi.

One security briefing session was held by UNDSS to update UNICEF staff on the security situation during the pre-election period (upcoming national elections in 2015).

The warden system for national and international staff was reviewed and will be tested in 2015. During the year, regular security debriefings were held for new staff/consultants/NatComs. All security-related training required by the United Nations was undertaken online by staff members. Finally, a training session on the use of fire extinguishers was carried out by the local UNDSS office in Burundi.

For 2015 UNICEF Burundi will request a visit by the Regional Security Adviser to carry out a security evaluation and conduct an FSSS of the new premises.
Human Resources

Current UNICEF Burundi staffing comprises 79 staff members, including: 28 IPs, 15 NPs, 31 GS, 1 international GN, 3 UNVs and 1 JPO. Six positions were filled (2 GS, 4 IPs), and five positions are at the last stage of the selection process (4 IPs, 1 NOC). Most positions became vacant when incumbents were reassigned to new positions, and at least four positions were newly recruited. Six OR-funded NO positions are temporarily frozen because of lack of funds.

This year’s PBR review process resulted in a slight change of the existing Office structure through merging the C4D and Communications sections into one “Communication and Participation” section. Increased efforts were made to keep both gender balance, currently 53 per cent female and 47 per cent male staff members, and geographic diversity, currently 16 IPs from donor countries and 12 IPs from programme countries, at all stages of the selection process. The average recruitment time was less than 60 days for GS positions, but went beyond 90 days for some IP positions.

The Office continued to strengthen its roster system to hasten the recruitment of consultants, GS and TA staff. Advertisement of posts through different websites contributed to cost reduction. Approximatively US$20,000 was saved and the recruitment time reduced from one month to seven days.

100 per cent of PER were regularly discussed between supervisors and supervisees and submitted on time. This is the result of two MPR trainings conducted in 2012/2013 during which almost 80 per cent of staff were trained, and a training on PER carried out by the HR Unit in 2014.

The recommendations of the last global staff survey were fully implemented. A training session on ethics for all staff was carried out in March 2014, training on Ebola awareness was conducted by the UN Medical Doctor in Burundi, and several learning sessions were organised to inform staff on different fields of work (HR, Supply & Logistics, Innovation, and Finance etc.).

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

UNICEF Burundi fully migrated to Office 365 to adopt the new cloud-based services Exchange, Lync and online SharePoint, improving messaging, real time communication, collaboration and conferencing. With the new Outlook client, “Business Everywhere” connection is available for internal e-mail from anywhere, subject to internet connectivity.

Most UNICEF IT services are accessible from smartphones and tablets. The centralised systems enabled remote support to staff using TeamViewer Application, Windows, and Antivirus Updates, critical when working in emergency sites. UNICEF Burundi has reduced cost for hardware servers since the introductions of virtual servers. The UNICEF Burundi backup system was upgraded with the new VEAM application for virtual servers, HyperV infrastructure.

UNICEF Burundi transitioned to a new SMS platform RapidPro, which is a cloud-hosted, scalable platform designed for integration and interoperability. UNICEF Burundi internally runs the SMS aggregation service and successfully activated two shorts codes for U-Report and Amasi Mesa projects. The ICT4D unit currently supports the data centre, the Innovation Lab, the SMS-gateway platform, the Digital Drums setup, media content upgrades and is leading the project of raising an Open Source Community at country level. ICT4D continues to provide technical support of all Innovation related IT projects in the office.
The Information Communication Technology, Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Plan ICT document was updated, and a simulation exercise was implemented with staff members.

UNICEF Burundi’s social and digital presence was reinforced to spark conversations around key issues for children and showcase innovations. Its Facebook page garnered over 11,000 followers, and UNICEF global channels, including UNICEF Connect, were successfully leveraged to reach new audiences. A series of videos produced on innovations initiatives such as U-report were followed on UNICEF Burundi YouTube channel. Child journalists were enabled to successfully use social media and U-report in combination with traditional media, to amplify messages and engage stakeholders through targeted advocacy initiatives.

**Programme Components from RAM**

**ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS**

**OUTCOME 1** School and preschool-aged children (4-12 years) have access to quality education and achieve universal primary education, and adolescents in and out of school have strengthened skills in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention, reproductive health and peacebuilding by 2016.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
During 2014 UNICEF played a major role in Burundi’s education sector, continuing to act as sector lead/coordinating agency of the Education Sector Group. In this position, it ascertained and shaped education sector coordination and policy dialogue and provided technical support to key government partners engaged in curriculum reform. Expertise was provided for consolidation of the EMIS, to ensure the efficiency of the sector, relevance of the education system and implementation of the 2012 – 2020 Education Sector Plan.

In parallel, the education programme enhanced the supply and demand sides and quality of basic education, with a focus on major strategic interventions such as the “Back to School” campaign and CFS programme. The result of these interventions contributed to an increased primary achievement rate of 71.2 per cent in 2013/2014. Furthermore, gender parity was fully achieved at primary school level, and partially achieved at secondary level with a representative rate of girls of 48 per cent at the first level and 36 per cent at the second level, respectively. UNICEF supported the improvement of quality education through the construction of school infrastructure, training of teachers and provision of pedagogical material. Strategic partnerships for programme implementation with NGOs and faith-based organisations were put in place to reach out-of-school adolescents, strengthening their life skills in the areas of HIV/AIDS prevention, sexual and reproductive health and peace education through sport. To enhance school preparation for four-to-six-year-olds, pre-school interventions were implemented in cooperation with the Government, NGOs and faith-based organisations.

**OUTPUT 1** By the end of 2016, the National Education Sector plan is implemented and significant progress is made on major reforms, sector coordination is strengthened and planning of the last phase of the ESP is on progress in order to improve quality and efficiency by better governance of the sector and reduced repetition and dropout rates.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2014 UNICEF continued to support the implementation of the 2012-2020 Education Sector Plan, which includes gender and equity strategies. In line with the Burundi basic education reform – comprising nine years of compulsory school education, up from six years prior to the reform – major curriculum revisions were launched for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 academic years. UNICEF provided technical support to the revision of the curriculum (which had not been revised since the early 1990s) including new 7th – 9th grades, education system management, and continued to invest in teacher training. A multi-skilled team composed of consultants specialised in the six areas of basic education was set up to help the Ministry of Education in defining and implementing a quality curriculum reform that meets the intent of basic education and the needs of Burundian society. As Sector Lead, UNICEF provided significant technical support to Government partners in planning and coordination. Coordination of the Global Partnership for Education and monitoring of the implementation of the 2012-2020 Education Sector Plan were enhanced, and two Joint Sector Reviews were held, in May and November 2014. Technical expertise was provided to the Ministry of Education to improve the Education Management Information System through the development of an EMIS work plan, jointly supported by the local donor group (Belgium, France, Norway, UNICEF, UNESCO), addressing the three new upper grades of the nine-year basic education.

OUTPUT 2 By the end of 2016, access, quality and equity of schools are improved through classroom construction and equipment, dissemination of teaching and learning materials, integration of conflict sensitive concepts and CFS in the curriculum, with emphasis on vulnerable children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2014, to improve pupil: classroom ratios, UNICEF supported its partners in the construction of 63 classrooms in two communes hosting significant returnee populations, Nyansa-Lac and Rumonge. As a result, 4,450 children now have access to child friendly school spaces in the beneficiary communes. The construction of additional seven classrooms through a community-led approach is ongoing with UNICEF support. To strengthen quality teaching and learning amongst the most vulnerable groups, 3,000 teachers received teaching kits. UNICEF continued to support the “Back to School” campaign to help maintain vulnerable and excluded children in school. In this regard 205,832 children received school materials for the 2014/15 school year.

To further promote girls’ enrolment and retention in school, UNICEF launched a programme cooperation agreement with FAWE for the formation and training of 153 “Aunts’ Clubs” / “Clubs des Tantes” in its focused provinces. These clubs promote awareness of parents, especially mothers, on the importance of enrolling their daughters in school and supporting them in the completion of at least the primary cycle.

OUTPUT 3 By the end of 2016, access and quality of preschool is improved through classroom construction and equipment, dissemination of teaching and learning material as well as capacity building of actors.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
To improve pupil: classroom ratios, UNICEF supported its partners in the construction of 63 classrooms in two communes hosting significant returnee populations, Nyansa-Lac and Rumonge, in 2014. As a result, 4,450 children now have access to child-friendly school spaces in the beneficiary communes. The construction of an additional seven classrooms through a community-led approach is ongoing, with UNICEF support. To strengthen quality teaching and learning amongst most vulnerable groups, 3,000 teachers received teaching kits. UNICEF
continued to support the “Back to School” campaign to help vulnerable and excluded children remain in school: 205,832 children received school materials for the 2014/15 school year.

To further promote girls’ enrolment and retention in school, UNICEF launched a programme cooperation agreement with the Federation of African Women Educators for the formation and training of 153 “Aunts’ Clubs” (“Clubs des Tantes”) in its focus provinces. These clubs raise awareness of parents, especially mothers, on the importance of enrolling their daughters in school and supporting them in the completion of at least the primary cycle.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF continued to advocate for and support the provision of early learning services for children in Burundi at the national level and in its focus provinces. Through strengthening existing and establishing new partnerships, a stronger and dynamic ECD/pre-learning model was put in place in targeted communities.

At the national level, UNICEF supported the development of a training module for educators in pedagogy and organisation of preschool education, and key learning materials, including the activity book "Kerebuka" for children aged 3-4 years. UNICEF supported the organisation of a symposium gathering major stakeholders of the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, staff of various sectors involved in early learning activities (health, justice, water and sanitation, security), NGOs, the donor community, and other UN agencies to share good practices on how to improve coordination, standards and actions to increase participation in organised quality early learning, through formal pre-primary education and other forms of community-based approaches.

UNICEF provided financial and technical support to the establishment of community-based ECD models. 612 educators, inspectors and directors in seven provinces were trained in early learning to enhance their technical knowledge, skills and ability to manage community-based early learning centres. A pilot preschool was constructed and will be maintained in cooperation with the NGO Village Health Works (VHW), benefiting 80 children from the Kigutu community in Bururi province. Fifteen more preschool centres were constructed or rehabilitated by UNICEF in cooperation with the non-government organisation, AVSI and faith-based organisations in Rutana (ODECO). UNICEF, in cooperation with the International Refugee Committee, piloted a quality model for pre-learning of vulnerable children in refugee camps, as a contribution to peace building starting with the youngest. The project outline was elaborated based on evidence received of a baseline study on the integrated management of young children in refugee camps. The project was launched in four refugee camps, where preschool recreational spaces were established and 50 educators were trained on the “healing classroom module”, benefiting 1,000 young children. Moreover, 56 preschool centres in five provinces received 400 mats, 810 chairs, 198 tables and 100 ECD kits.

OUTPUT 4 By the end of 2016, at least 40 per cent of adolescents in and out of school have strengthened life skills, including competencies, attitudes and behaviours in HIV/AIDS prevention, Reproductive Health and Peacebuilding.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
During 2014, UNICEF continued to support the inter-ministerial coordination around youth and adolescents, with a focus on life skills in the areas of HIV/AIDS, reproductive health and education for peace. Partnerships with NGOs and church-based organisations were created or maintained in support of implementation of the inter-ministerial synergy initiative for adolescents and youth. In cooperation with two international NGOs and eight local NGOs, the life skills-
based education programme was implemented in five target provinces, benefiting 38,000 children and adolescents in and out of school. Using a new module on life skills training for adolescents supported by UNICEF, 56 trainers from various ministries, international and local NGOs were trained. UNICEF, in cooperation with the MoE, supported the development of a booklet on management and supervision of life skills school clubs, shifting from clubs solely focused on HIV/AIDS prevention to a more comprehensive response at school level, including SSR and Education for Peace.

Twenty-two teachers, 22 peer educators and 735 adolescents in vocational training centres were trained in life skills, with Organization for the Development of the Diocese of Muyinga (ODEDIM) supervision. In addition, 120 youths were trained in life skills and supported in micro-projets management with faith-based organisations in Rutana (ODECO) supervision. In collaboration with the inter-ministerial synergy, a school campaign on HIV and early pregnancy prevention was organised in seven provinces, and around 32,400 adolescents were reached by related messages. Of these, 2,825 were screened for HIV (almost 9 per cent of adolescents in attendance).

OUTPUT 5 By the end of 2016, education sector can face emergency situations.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2014 the Peacebuilding, Education and Advocacy programme became an integral part of UNICEF Burundi’s education programme, focusing on further strengthening systems for promoting peace and stability. With UNICEF support, 70 teachers benefited from training on peacebuilding and psychosocial support for returnee children, and 245 children repatriated from Tanzania were re-integrated in the education system and received basic learning materials to facilitate their active participation in the learning process. In cooperation with Right to Play (RTP), 750 adolescents in school and out of school were trained on life skills, with a focus on peaceful co-existence and self-esteem.

In the area of emergency response, UNICEF was one of the key participants in the national platform managing the floods of early February, and distributed almost 20,000 school kits for pupils affected by the disaster.

To address emergency preparedness, warehouses identified by the Government in two provinces (Gitega and Makamba) were equipped, with support of partners, including UNICEF. Selected provincial education officers and staff of two NGOs, RTP and RET, were trained in emergency response planning and preparedness, including handling and managing emergency stock.

Moreover, UNICEF supported focus provinces, communes and schools to strengthen their capacities in disaster risk reduction.

In relation to curriculum review, 150 manual developers were trained on conflict sensitivity, in order to integrate this aspect in the conception of the new programme and textbooks.

OUTCOME 2 Health and Nutrition: By 2016, children and women benefit from prevention of chronic malnutrition through an integrated health and nutrition package, maternal and neonatal health and child survival.
Analytical Statement of Progress:

Despite some improvements in the last years, infant and under five mortality rates remain very high in Burundi, with the main causes being neonatal causes, pneumonia and diarrhea, followed by HIV and malaria. The theory of change of the UNICEF Health and Nutrition programme and its corresponding outcomes and outputs are in line with the National Health Sector Plan 2011-2015, aiming to improve access and quality to health services with a clear focus on the delivery of an integrated package of health and nutrition interventions at facility and community levels.

UNICEF continued its technical support to high-level health and nutrition policy discussions and planning at national level such as the health financing system, as well as key cross-sectoral issues such as social protection, the multi-sectoral fight against chronic malnutrition, and implementation of high effective interventions towards MDG 4 and 5. A joint Government – UN (UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO) program to implement the Millennium Accelerated Framework for MDG 4 and 5 was signed in December 2014 by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the UN Country Coordinator.

The UNICEF Health and Nutrition program has introduced several new approaches and innovations to accelerate results towards MDGs. The integrated Community Case Management (iCCM) pilot project implemented by UNICEF with support from NGOs was extended geographically (one more district in Gitega and starting in the province of Kirundo) with the addition of pneumonia and malnutrition management. UNICEF’s major advocacy efforts led to integration of the iCCM component in an important Concept Note submitted to the Global Fund early December 2014.

UNICEF is Group Sector Lead for nutrition in Burundi and the only regular provider of therapeutic feeding products. As a result of UNICEF’s interventions, the government revised and validated the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) protocol. During 2014, CMAM was implemented in all 17 provinces in at least one health center per commune. The government, with support of all implementing partners, developed and validated the Positive Deviance / Health (FARN) training module to address chronic malnutrition. FARN/FAN are currently functioning in 9 provinces with UNICEF support.

UNICEF also supported MoH in a feasibility survey for the introduction of Micronutrient Powders (MNP) for children from 6 to 23 months. Based on the evidence received, MNP were introduced in two pilot provinces (Ngozi and Cibitoke) during the December 2014 Mother and Child Health Week (MCHW).

The Intermittent Preventive Treatment of malaria for pregnant women (IPTp) manual and related tools were validated in March 2014 for introduction in one pilot province (Gitega) during 2015. Based on results of a 2013 assessment revealing the need to complement medical support to seropositive mothers with socio-economic approaches, a new PMTCT project including a cash transfer component was initiated.

UNICEF has been the main provider of standard vaccines to the government over the last decades, resulting in almost universal vaccination of children under five. In addition, the coverage of new vaccines increased to 94% for rotavirus and 60% for the 2nd dose of measles. To prepare the introduction of the new polio vaccine (IPV) and additional doses of DTC to prevent maternal and neonatal tetanus, UNICEF tested solar-powered fridges in 2014, and supported MoH in developing a transition plan to replace the traditional cold chain. Focusing on this challenge, the government with UNICEF support successfully implemented two Mother and
Child Health Weeks (MCHW) in June and December, with a focus on reducing diarrhea which still represents 14% of all causes of death of children under five in Burundi.

**OUTPUT 1** By 2016, at least 60 per cent of 'sous-collines' in 8 provinces have their capacity strengthened in chronic malnutrition prevention.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The Government, with support of all implementing partners, developed and validated the Positive Deviance/Health training module to address chronic malnutrition. With UNICEF support and in cooperation with four NGOs, the modules are now in use at 24 per cent of the health districts of nine provinces (Cankuso, Cibitoke, Makamba, Rutana, Gitega, Kirundo, Muyinga, Ngosi and Kayansa) as an approach for managing moderate acute malnutrition and entry point to address chronic malnutrition.

In addition, targeting capacity-building of the public health system, a four-agency joint UN project (UNICEF, WHO, FAO and WFP) supports direct implementation using this new approach through community health workers and “light mother” role models in Ngosi province. Positive deviant “Light Mothers” play a key role in the management of moderate acute malnutrition, demonstrating ideal hygiene and feeding behaviours and family practices while living in the same conditions as other mothers with malnourished children in their community. For food diversification, they collaborate with agricultural agents who play a crucial rule in introducing kitchen gardens and “tippy-tap” hand-washing stations.

The combination of key interventions to tackle chronic malnutrition seems is showing promise in this province. UNICEF is responsible for coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the joint UN project and conducted a survey that will serve as baseline for measuring progress of the project in this province.

In the area of Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices, UNICEF supported the development of a communication strategy (to be finalised in 2015). In addition, UNICEF started investing in harmonisation of IYCF training modules by integrating the six key family practices acknowledged by MoH. Previously, NGO-based training of community health workers and “Light Mothers” used un-validated and non-harmonised training tools.

Moreover, UNICEF implemented a formative research with British Columbia University to assess the feasibility and acceptability of introducing Micronutrient Powders (MNP) in Burundi. The assessment revealed high potential for scale-up of MNP, and UNICEF will invest in further research during 2015. Based on the evidence, MNP supplementation of children 6-to-23 months was introduced as a new approach to address chronic malnutrition. The use of MNP was piloted through the Mother and Child Health Week in December in two provinces (Cibitoke and Ngosi).

**OUTPUT 2** By 2016, 80 per cent of deliveries take place in a health facility in at least five provinces.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The institutional delivery rate is progressing thanks to free health care for pregnant women and the relatively good geographic access to health centres. However, the maternal mortality ratio is still a major concern (740/100,000 live births).

Antenatal care (ANC) coverage is generally high for the first ANC visit (nearly 100 per cent), but
few women benefit from ANC after the first quarter of their pregnancy (17 per cent) and only 25 per cent realise four ANC during their pregnancy (MoH, 2013). The 2014 inventory of reproductive health equipment and commodities undertaken by MoH in 695 facilities indicated serious gaps, such as the absence of emergency neonatal and obstetrical care equipment, preventing most of the facilities to provide quality antenatal and delivery care. The training of health workers has started slowly with the Emergency Neonatal and Obstetrical Care training modules developed by UNFPA in 2013, but challenges remain due to the lack of basic knowledge of health workers on management of neonatal and obstetrical emergencies. UNICEF worked with MoH, Japan’s International Cooperation Agency and WHO to develop a training module on Essential Neonatal and Obstetrical Care.

In line with the Millennium Accelerated Framework signed in 2013, UNICEF is supporting Burundi to introduce mobile phone technologies with RapidPro. The “Kiramama” project, aimed at reducing both maternal and neonatal mortality, was launched in June 2014 by the Minister of Health. UNICEF donated four ambulances and maternal and neonatal equipment for the pilot province (Gitega). The MoH designated two staff to work with the UNICEF international consultant to coordinate implementation of this project.

After intensive advocacy from UNICEF, one major achievement in 2014 was the development and validation of guidelines and training documents for the introduction of the Intermittent Preventive Treatment of malaria in pregnancy (IPTp). The new approach will be introduced in the province of Gitega in 2015 upon registration of the new drug “sulfadoxine pyrimethamine” in the national essential drugs list.

The HIV transmission rate remains high (19.3 per cent), and only 57.9 per cent of seropositive women received PMTCT services, according to national norms (MoH, 2013). UNICEF is directly funding MoH to expand existing PMTCT interventions to an additional 40 public health facilities. In addition, a new agreement with a local NGO was signed to implement PMTCT activities at 50 additional health centres, including a “cash transfer” pilot component to complement the PMTCT medical approach with socioeconomic support to seropositive mothers.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2016, 60 per cent of health facilities provide an integrated care package for child survival in at least 5 provinces

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In line with the “Promise Renewed” and the “Millennium Accelerated Framework” signed respectively in 2012 and 2013 by the GoB, UNICEF continued advocacy at all levels on MDG 4 and 5 for high-impact interventions and integrated activities at health centres and at the community level.

In July UNICEF supported MoH in organising an integrated Community Case management (iCCM) advocacy workshop to disseminate recommendations from the Accra symposium with participants from Benin and Rwanda. This led to the development, costing and validation of a national iCCM Orientation Plan in early December 2014. The iCCM component was added to the Concept Note for the Global Fund submission. The iCCM pilot project implemented by UNICEF with support from NGOs was extended to cover three health districts, combining child health and nutrition.

Revision of the Community Management of Acute malnutrition (CMAM) protocol in September was an opportunity to address the quality of care for the management of children with severe acute malnourished and refresh the pool of trainers. At total of 25,540 children under five were
enrolled for the management of acute malnutrition (January to October 2014).

UNICEF Burundi with support from HQ, prepared the introduction of RapidPro for CMAM to improve supply tracking and beneficiary reporting. The introduction of this innovative tool is planned for 2015.

In February 2014, Burundi hosted the annual Expanded Program for Immunisation (EPI) managers meeting and WHO-UNICEF EPI meeting for Central Africa. UNICEF supported the MoH technically, in the elaboration of a plan on maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination. Its validation in March 2014 included the adoption of additional doses of Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis Vaccine (DTP 4th, 5th and 6th doses). The coverage of new vaccines (Rotavirus and second dose of Measles) has increased, reaching 94 per cent for Rotavirus and 60 per cent for the 2nd dose of Measles (data January to August 2014).

Mother and Child Health Weeks were successfully implemented in June and December 2014, with a focus on diarrhoea (cases of diarrhoea still represent 14 per cent of all causes of death of children under five in Burundi).

A new Maternal and Child Health booklet was designed in 2014 with support from partners (mainly JICA and UNICEF) and introduced in one pilot district (Gitega). This new booklet integrates Protection, Health, Nutrition, Communication and Early Child Development components. UNICEF contributed to the national scale-up through dissemination of 500,000 booklets during the December 2014 MCHW.

**OUTPUT 4** By 2016, Government structures and leadership and emergency response capacities are strengthened.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In 2014 UNICEF supported the nutrition leadership in Burundi with financial support to REACH facilitators and the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) secretariat which, demonstrating the Government’s commitment, is located at the second Vice Presidency. In addition to the UN joint programme (UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO) for child and maternal health, UNICEF is coordinating a UN project (UNICEF, WHO, FAO and WFP) in Ngosi province tackling chronic malnutrition.

UNICEF supported the MoH in elaborating the roadmap towards the next National Health Plan 2016-2025. In collaboration with other partners (notably WB, AfDB, WHO) and under the leadership of the Belgian Embassy as sector lead, UNICEF supported the MoH to undertake a situation analysis of the health financing system and the on-going development of the Health Financing Strategy. UNICEF’s role was critical to linking the Health Financing Strategy with the Social Protection Strategy currently under development.

UNICEF provided extensive support in the elaboration of the two Concept Notes for the Global Fund and development of documents, including a proposal on Strengthening the Health System as well as Human Papilloma Virus vaccine and Injectable Polio Vaccine submissions for GAVI. Both submissions were approved by GAVI, but due to the 2015 Presidential elections, the country will only introduce IPV in 2015, and HPV in following years.

In 2014, UNICEF introduced an L3 monitoring tool “Lot Quality Assurance Sampling” for child survival interventions. The tool was adapted to Burundi with a first data collection in April and a second data collection in October 2014 (twice a year).
In terms of emergency response, following flooding in Bujumbura north in February 2014, supplies and technical support were provided to the MoH for the management of SAM and the treatment and prevention of childhood diseases. UNICEF continued its support for Burundians repatriated from Tanzania (in Makamba and Rutana provinces) during the first quarter of 2014.

A cholera outbreak started on 20 July 2014 and UNICEF, in cooperation with other partners, provided immediate response, mainly through distribution of cholera kits. As a result of this support, no deaths occurred amongst 700 reported cholera cases.

Burundi was identified as being at high risk for Ebola by ESARO, due to its proximity to DRC and its weak health system. UNICEF supported the MoH in preparing an Ebola contingency plan. UNICEF leads Ebola communication activities, and invested in the development of training modules and organised training for health care providers. In late December a free Ebola hotline was launched to ensure better management of suspected Ebola cases. UNICEF also supported the MoH in the identification of isolation space for the potential evacuation of suspected Ebola cases. The space will be rehabilitated and equipped in 2015, following the standard model of the Community Ebola Centre Plans that UNICEF utilised in Sierra Leone.

**OUTPUT 6** 80 per cent of pregnant women and children under five sleep under LLITNs.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
According to the 2012 Malaria Indicator Survey validated in 2013, 54 per cent of children under five and 56 per cent of pregnant women sleep under LLINs.

Integration of malaria with IMCI and Reproductive Health Program (RHP) is still a concern. The current revision of the Malaria Strategic Plan 2013-2016 is an opportunity for UNICEF to raise this issue. UNICEF is supporting MoH in organising a workshop with the National Malaria Program and RHP on Intermittent Preventive Treatment for pregnant women (IPTp) planned for early 2014. Currently only 0.1 per cent of pregnant women benefit from IPTp.

Nationwide, 59 per cent of people have sought advices/treatment for their children with fever. Disparities in the prevention and the treatment of malaria were revealed in the MIS 2012 between the North and the rest of the country, urban and rural areas and between women with education or with no/primary education.

**OUTPUT 7** The managerial capabilities of selected district medical health teams are reinforced by the end of 2016.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
No quantitative indicator for the follow-up of this IR is available.

Trainings with the revised tools for health district teams were organised.

UNICEF and partners supported the MoH in developing an integrated booklet for maternal and child health with the new WHO growth chart, new vaccines, birth certificate and messages about the six key family practices.
The extension of the National Drug Store (CAMEBU) for the purchase, storage and distribution of drugs was completed.

**OUTCOME 3** Child Protection: Girls and boys live in a protective environment in accordance to international standards on child rights and protection by the end of 2014.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF continued to support the country in strengthening its Child Protection System through reinforcing Government capacity to lead the process, including all key actors involved in the system and Child Protection Committees. Moreover, UNICEF supported the Government in the definition of a “Minimum Package of Services” that will lead to a better service delivery to OVC.

The National Child Protection Policy and its Action Plan for 2014-2016 set the priorities for strengthening the child protection system both at national and decentralised levels. In addition, UNICEF supported the Government in the development of the “Minimum Standards for Children Living in Residential Care Centres and Deprived of Family Care”, to guide the process of improving care services for children in residential care centres and to promote the deinstitutionalisation process.

Additional support was provided to the Child Protection Technical Coordination Committee under the umbrella of the Ministry of National Solidarity to strengthen coordination and management of the child protection sector at the national level, as well as to support children and families at the community level. As sector coordination remains very challenging (not least due to the involvement of a large number of different NGOs), UNICEF conducted capacity building and training sessions to strengthen the capacity of key personnel, and the role of the Government social workers was formalised, especially in relation to their collaboration with Child Protection Committees at decentralised level.

As Burundi’s population remains one of the poorest in the world, and child poverty is of particular concern, socio-economic opportunities for families were further explored through support to “solidarity groups”. Access to micro-credit directly impacted household incomes, thereby increasing children’s access to education and health services, as well as improving their nutritional status.

Regarding strengthening of the justice system for children in Burundi, in addition to the promulgation of the new code of criminal procedure – which includes important positive measures related to minors in conflict with the law – the Child Protection Code was approved, with UNICEF support. Efforts continued to strengthen the capacity of the Justice and Police sectors on child rights and juvenile justice with IBCR. Relevant modules were incorporated in the curricula of the police academy, and 30 trainers and 207 magistrates from the chambers and sections of minors were trained on child rights and justice for children. Moreover, two rehabilitation centres for minors in conflict with the law were established as a contribution to protection of minors deprived of liberty.

UNICEF strongly supported sustainable community-based development, directly impacting the well-being of children. Innovative approaches such as U-Report, new ways of sharing and obtaining information from Child Protection Committees, and income-generating approaches using alternative energy sources (“Projet Lumière”) were explored. These pilot projects will contribute to identifying new solutions to current challenges.

The development of community and individual capacities on peacebuilding was incorporated in child protection programming at the community level, as part of the PBEA programme. By recognising the primary protective role of families and communities, UNICEF capitalises on their inherent resilience and strengths to protect children and contribute to peacebuilding at community level. This intervention was mainly focused in returnee’s areas, where scarce
resources, lack of land, and limited services and infrastructure are insufficient to cover the new influx, and can therefore create tensions between host community and returnees.

Almost 2,000 members of CPC and village associations, equally composed by women and men, received training on peace building and child protection, access to services was ensured for 3,294 children and the reintegration of more than 1,000 repatriated children was facilitated. These interventions aimed not only to support resilience and well-being for the children, but also to strengthen social cohesion among the host and repatriated communities through community-led social protection mechanisms. The action research on the impact of community mechanisms on promoting social cohesion that started in early 2014 will enhance the understanding of the role of community groups in facilitating relationships, conflict prevention and mitigation, and the establishment of lasting social cohesion, as they impact children and their communities.

The first phase of research was conducted in collaboration with the North-South Institute. The research is guided by a human security conceptual approach to social cohesion, and utilises a mixed-method design that incorporates participatory qualitative and quantitative action research strategies. Phase I focused on gathering preliminary baseline information on knowledge, attitudes and practices of social cohesion, identifying relevant child protection stakeholders, and eliciting local perceptions on structures and process contributing to (or hindering) social cohesion and peacebuilding at the community level. Qualitative research methods, including focus group discussions, key informant semi-structured interviews, body mapping exercises and qualitative surveys were conducted with selected study participants (children and adults), people affected by current and past conflict, and those who lived on the margins on the community and were exceptionally poor. The action research will be completed at the end of 2015.

**OUTPUT 1** Justice for children with child sensitive procedures for child victims, witnesses, and offenders is functional in Burundi by the end of 2014

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF continued to support Government efforts to strengthen its justice for children system. The validation of the child protection code contributed to the harmonisation of national legislation with international standards for child protection.

Children in conflict with the law in Burundi face huge challenges, including co-housing with adult prisoners in prisons throughout the country. UNICEF has supported the Government to alleviate the situation, specifically through the establishment of two juvenile rehabilitation centres. The two centres are located Ruyigi and Rumonge provinces; their establishment also demonstrates the Government’s commitment to ensure the protection and dignity of minors deprived of liberty.

Capacity building of the magistrate and police on the administration of juvenile justice was achieved through support to the Centre for Training of Justice Professionals and the police schools of Burundi. Some 217 magistrates and 75 police staff (including 30 trainers) were trained on child rights and justice for children. Pilots on diversion, conciliation and community reparation were implemented to prevent the involvement of children in criminal procedures.

**OUTPUT 2** A child protection system, with a focus on gender equality that protects children from violence, abuse and exploitation, is in place in Burundi by the end of 2014
Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Burundi child protection system is in the process of being strengthened through the implementation and dissemination of the National Child Protection Policy and the "Minimum Standards on Children Living in Residential Care Centres and Deprived of Family Care". The national and community child protection coordination mechanisms received support through a harmonised approach, creating networks between government social workers, child protection committees and village credit/loans associations. Focal points of all key ministries, the personnel of the Child and Family Department and government social workers now have increased capacity to support and monitor the work of community-based child protection mechanisms. The ability of members of 1,235 Child Protection Committees to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation was strengthened. In collaboration with C4D, more than 25,000 people (including 10,000 children) were reached with sessions of interactive theatre, and participated in community debates on the importance of the role of parents in protecting children and preventing neglect, abandonment and placement of children in residential care centres.

UNICEF’s advocacy led to the establishment of a joint quality assurance mechanism to evaluate proposed new residential care centres against ‘Minimum Standards for Children in Institutions or Deprived of Family Care’ set by the Government. As a result, no new residential care centre can be established unless it meets the Minimum Standards. During 2014 the number of residential care centres was reduced by 17 in the four targeted provinces (Gitega, Kayansa, Kirundo and Bujumbura Mairie), and 113 children previously living there were supported with durable community care solutions.

In terms of emergency response, following the floods of February in Bujumbura, more than 2,300 children benefited of recreational activities in child-friendly spaces, 262 children and 118 women received psychosocial support and 882 received their birth certificates.

A total of 128,474 births, 8,824 weddings and 5,117 deaths were registered during the civil registration campaign in the province of Ngosi. Based on data on unregistered persons before the campaign, 99.7 per cent of unregistered children, 41 per cent of unregistered marriages and 21 per cent of unregistered deaths were registered through the campaign. The process of conducting a Civil Registration and Vital Statistics assessment has started following the guidelines of the UNECA, the ADB and the AUC. The report on the CRVS assessment will be available by February 2015.

Preliminary results of the study on child domestic labour were disseminated during the celebration of the Day against Child Labour. The results will inform further interventions and programming during 2015, including Burundi’s Social Protection Strategy, which is currently being developed with UNICEF support.

OUTPUT 3 Social Protection System developed through initiatives for the reinforcement of the socio economic capacity of the families and the communities

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF further strengthened sectoral services for all children with a special focus on the most deprived and vulnerable, especially OVC, children living in and on the street, children in conflict/contact with the law and survivors of gender-based violence. The process of defining a minimum package for OVCs and mapping of the continuum of care for children in need of services, to identify the gaps and reinforce the system, is ongoing.

UNICEF provided further support to children in Gitega and Mpimba prisons. Every child now has
a single bed of his/her own. The equipment will be transferred to the new re-education centres in Rumonge and Ruyigi during 2015.

Interventions are currently underway in Kayansa, Muyinga, Ngosi and Gitega to provide support to OVCs and strengthen the referral system to guarantee access to services. Some 1,246 children in Muyinga Province benefited from the package of services; 721 repatriated children were supported by the CPCs in the province of Makamba; 4,256 OVCs were identified by the CPCs in the provinces of Ruyigi and Rutana, Some 2,569 OVCs received support for schooling.

More than 700 solidarity groups are in place in the provinces of Kirundo, Muyinga, Gitega, Kayansa, Ngosi, Makamba, Bururi, Karusi, Rutana and Ruyigi, contributing to improving the socio-economic situation of the OVCs’ families.

The drop-in centre in Ngosi is under construction. It will provide basic services for children living in the street and other children in the community (including a primary school). UNICEF supported the Government in launching a Child Helpline for Burundi. All preparatory steps to launch the helpline were completed during 2014, including identification of a dedicated space, construction and rehabilitation and commitment of dedicated staff.

To measure the impact of the Nawe Nuse project, a micro-finance assessment is ongoing, comparing different initiatives, and an exploratory study on the socio-economic impact on families participating in Nawe Nuse is available.

OUTCOME 4 WASH: By 2016, populations in provinces with low access to potable water and basic sanitation have an improved access to these services and adopt appropriate hygiene practices.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Despite improvements in overall access by Burundi’s population to safe drinking water and sanitation, national indicators remain low. Burundi is also one of the countries with the highest rate of chronic malnutrition in the world, and cases of diarrhoea account for 14 per cent of child deaths in the country. WASH interventions are therefore part of a crucial set of interventions to reduce the high levels of child mortality and morbidity.

UNICEF interventions in schools further contributed to promoting the CFS approach by providing access to safe drinking water to 7,800 children (26 primary schools) and safe hygienic and sanitation systems to 32,800 children through the construction of latrines (37 primary schools) in 2014. In addition, UNICEF supported health care centres by creating or repairing connections to the water supply network and ensuring access to hygiene and sanitation, separated for women and men.

To increase ownership, ensure sustainability of WASH infrastructures and promote good hygiene behaviour practices in schools, health centres and communities, UNICEF supported capacity development for caregivers (teachers, health workers, school parent association members, etc.).

Additionally, 177 new water points were constructed for 42,500 people living in deprived rural areas, providing access to safe drinking water, in compliance with national norms and standards. The new water points are managed by trained local committee members engaged in operation and maintenance of the existing water supply system. To support communes fulfil
their role and responsibility in water service provision, the programme supported dialogue between communal administration and the private sector for the delegation of water services. Twenty-two communes were supported during the transition from a community-based management to public-private partnership approach, and completed the process of water service delegation.

To accelerate access to sanitation in rural communities and end open defecation, the programme continued to promote CLTS. At the national level, hand-washing devices promoted by UNICEF were adopted by the Government and acknowledged as one of the key actions to reduce chronic malnutrition in Burundi. With UNICEF support, a total of 42,000 latrines were built at household-level, and key family practices were promoted in communities where CLTS had been implemented.

UNICEF continued to support the Government in monitoring the country’s SWA engagement. The ministries in charge of water and finance were supported to attend a high-level meeting in Washington. The WASH sector bottleneck analysis was conducted using the WASHBAT tool developed by UNICEF. Directly addressing some of the bottlenecks identified, UNICEF enhanced the capacities of local stakeholders in sustainable WASH service delivery in rural areas, through introduction of an innovative approach of real-time data collection using RapidPro to monitor and manage water infrastructures.

Celebration of Global Hand-Washing Day and World Water Day were opportunities to address the Government and key partners on WASH priorities in policy making, programming, and advocacy. Some 555,000 people were reached during a hand-washing campaign organised in the capital during 2014.

WASH interventions reached 11,000 people affected by emergencies (flooding, expulsion). They were assisted through drinking water provision, construction of temporary toilets and showers separated for men and women and NFI distribution (soap, bucket, and rigid jerry cans). More than 6,000 people living in IDP sites participated in hygiene promotion sessions.

OUTPUT 1 By 2016, 10 per cent and 30 per cent of primary schools without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, respectively, have a source of drinking water and gender-separated sanitation facilities for their pupils who adopt adequate hygiene practices including hand-washing with soap.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2014 WASH interventions in schools were concentrated on activities to improve the well-being of school children, focusing on gender and inclusion. As a result of UNICEF’s interventions, 7,800 additional school pupils at 26 primary schools now have access to potable water, and in addition, 32,800 school pupils from 37 primary schools (52 per cent girls, 48 per cent boys) have access to hygiene and sanitation as a result of construction of 558 toilets, separated for boys and girls and equipped with hand-washing facilities. Ninety-six parent members of school management committees and 319 teachers from 48 schools were trained on WASH standards and norms for hygiene promotion.

WASH interventions in health centres provided access to potable water for six health care centres, and additional 3 health care centres were equipped with latrines accessible for patients, and separated for women and men. To enhance the capacity of health care centre personnel in hygiene promotion, including hand-washing with soap, the programme supported training of key
health personnel on WASH standards and norms. In addition, 550,000 persons were exposed to hand-washing awareness-raising campaigns organised in Bujumbura town.

During 2014, UNICEF also further explored innovative approaches for WASH. As a result, linking sanitation promotion and environmental protection, a biogas pilot project was launched in Bukeye primary school for lighting and cooking to serve 1,100 school pupils.

OUTPUT 2 By 2016, 10 per cent of the population without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation at the national level has sustainable access and adopts good hygiene practices including hand-washing with soap, treatment and safe storage of household water.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2014, the WASH programme contributed to providing access to safe drinking water to 42,500 people through the construction of 177 stand-pipes. Moreover, UNICEF, in cooperation with local authorities, trained water point committee members to ensure maintenance and management of the water supply system.

To enhance the sustainability of WASH infrastructure in rural areas, 22 communes in Bubansa, Cibitoke, Mwaro and Muramvya provinces delegated water service provision to private water service providers, with UNICEF support.

The scaling-up of the CLTS approach in seven communes of three provinces provided 42,022 households an opportunity to construct their own latrines, and as a result 124 sub-hills were declared “Open Defecation Free”. WASH interventions, including hand-washing with soap, are commonly perceived as essential to mitigate the effects of malnutrition on children and to improve health. As a result of UNICEF’s strong advocacy, the Government included the promotion of “tippy tap” hand-washing stations as a key action to reduce chronic malnutrition. Moreover, the UNICEF-supported CLTS approach promoted good hygiene practices within households.

OUTPUT 3 The legal, institutional and technical capacities of the government structures at the central, provincial and municipal levels are enhanced and they contribute to the promotion of WASH activities and the sustainable management of WASH facilities.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The WASH programme continued to support institutional and technical capacity development of Government counterparts and WASH sector stakeholders.

The Government’s commitment to the sector-wide approach (SWA) initiative was further demonstrated during a high-level meeting in April 2014, where the ministers in charge of the water sector and finances adhered to the "National Initiative Planning for Results". In line with this commitment, the Government launched “WASHBAT”, which resulted in a thorough analysis of sector bottlenecks. To address some of the bottlenecks identified, UNICEF supported the decentralisation process of water infrastructure management by local communities. Twenty-two communes were selected and received support to strengthen their capacity in managing water infrastructure through the delegation of water service provision in rural areas.

Within the context of the innovative RapidPro approach, the programme engaged in a dialogue with the Government for piloting the AMASI-MESA project, which aims to inform the functionality and management of water points/services in rural areas.
OUTPUT 4 By 2016, at least 35,000 people, in particular women and children affected by emergencies have adequate access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation and adopt good hygiene practices.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2014, the WASH programme provided continuous support to people affected by emergencies, especially women and children, to enable adequate access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, and adopt good hygiene practices. The interventions were focused on children and their families repatriated from Tanzania and victims of the February flooding in Bujumbura.

More than 11,000 people affected by humanitarian situations were supported through sustainable access to safe water through the rehabilitation of water supply networks, water treatment through chlorination and water provision in remote areas through trucking. 15 temporary sites in Mabanda, 15 transit centres in Kinasi, and four IDP sites in Bujumbura were equipped with nearly 200 sanitation and hygiene constructions (latrines combined with showers), separated for men and women, to serve the affected people.

More than 6,000 people living in four IDP sites were sensitised on good hygiene practices. Non-food items were also provided to affected people (including 520 boxes of 48 pieces of soap, 2,555 jerry cans (10 l), 2,900 buckets, and 15 sprayers for the disinfection of households); 15,000 "Aquatab" tablets were distributed for water treatment.

WASH efforts contributed to peace-building by enhancing solidarity and cohesion within communities through the construction of water gravity systems, water points managed and maintained by water point committees. The approach used to strengthen community management of WASH facilities includes common community participation with limited support from outside. Through this the community can gain the indirect benefits of creating a real sense of ownership, pride and community cohesion for all community members, including the most vulnerable. The introduction and use of the Community-Led Total Sanitation approach to mobilise communities to completely eliminate open defecation helps in triggering the community’s desire for collective change, propels people into action and encourages innovation and appropriate local solutions, thus leading to greater ownership and sustainability.

OUTCOME 5 Communication for Development: Communities adopt practices that are conducive to health, nutrition, education and child and women protection against abuse, exploitation and violence by 2016

Analytical Statement of Progress:
During 2014 the C4D section strengthened the multi-channel behaviour change strategy, recognising that improved knowledge and practices in the key areas of health, nutrition, WASH, child protection and education practices are crucial to improve the overall condition of children. The combined communication strategy included interactive theatre, community dialogue, interpersonal communication, listening groups and mass media, all of which is underpinned by behaviour change research. This multifaceted approach reinforces the adoption of the six key family practices at an individual and community level, as well as strengthening existing structures that support child survival.

A community diagnostic generated from a community dialogue on C4D and child survival was produced, and action plans were developed and adopted by Ministry of Communal Development in direct contribution to communal development. The use of social mobilisation to
enhance knowledge and awareness in various campaigns contributed to higher participation levels, for example during MCHW, the pre-school and “Back to School” campaigns, the introduction of new vaccines, and action against gender-based violence.

To reinforce knowledge and promote the six key family practices, C4D supported radio shows that address issues related to maternal and child health, knowledge of vaccinations and basic childhood disease prevention, as well as knowledge of the correct treatment of diseases such as malaria and pneumonia. Additionally, information about nutrition, and good infant and young child feeding practices were broadcast, and proper nutrition for physical and intellectual growth was promoted. Gender-based violence, the status of women, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV/AIDS) were also addressed through the radio shows, providing listeners with a diverse but complementary information source.

Through establishment of 75 active community listening groups, discussion around the radio shows has been facilitated, ensuring the uptake of the knowledge and its practice. These community agents were equipped to teach and foster discussion in their local community about good family practices.

In terms of youth, adolescents and peacebuilding, activities were conducted in partnership with international and national NGOs at a community level. To ensure sustainability of the peacebuilding activities, community associations were supported, linking communities of different ethnic and social background to work together on specific development projects. Following nation-wide focus groups with adolescents and UNICEF partners, a draft adolescent strategy was completed, the results of which will guide 2015 youth programming.

To expand the reach of C4D interventions, activities with faith-based organisations were conducted. This not only reinforced the religious communities’ knowledge of child rights and survival, particularly focused around community development, but also enlarged the audience benefitting from information about key family practices. The collaboration was informed by two complementary qualitative studies that assessed the influence of faith and the current capacity of faith-based communities to incorporate the six key family practices in their programmes.

The programme acknowledged the necessity of analysing attitudes and practices from a social perspective, to complement other data sources on behaviour and knowledge of WASH, hygiene practices, and child protection, all of which contribute to a holistic perspective on causes and adoption of behaviour change in Burundi. To further strengthen the evidence base, a socio-anthropological study on the cultural issues surrounding the uptake of the six key family practices was completed to inform 2015 programming.

**OUTPUT 1** At least 60 per cent of children in provinces of geographical focus area are fed according to the guidelines on infant and young children feeding practices, 60 per cent of children under 5 sleep under LLITNs, 60 per cent of parents are able to recognise signs of danger and adopt key practices on the treatment of diarrhoea with OSR and zinc and 60 per cent of pregnant women use the PMTCT services in health structures by 2016.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The six key family practices were promoted through training, community dialogues and participatory development programmes. Moreover, the capacity of religious organisations to communicate health, hygiene and nutrition information has been strengthened, resulting in wider diffusion of key messages.
In Makamba, Bururi, and Rutana provinces, 75 community listening groups have been established and meet regularly to listen to a radio show on health, hygiene and nutrition practices. Based on the information received, the community groups conduct community information sessions, reaching an average of 3,000 people. The groups in Makamba and Rutana provinces benefited from a supplementary training, focusing on updating existing knowledge on key family practices and explanation of techniques for knowledge-sharing with peers, as well as celebrating the achievements of the respective groups. Following this training, 59 progress reports were sent to CIEP at central level.

Community dialogue was undertaken with a total of 50,814 participants in 841 dialogue sessions in Makamba, Gitega, Bururi and Rutana provinces. The sessions resulted in 32 communal action plans that are used to support the municipal community development plans under the umbrella of the Ministry of Municipal Development.

C4D focused on strengthening community structures through training of 576 community leaders in 10 municipalities in the provinces of Kirundo and Muyinga. These capacity building sessions trained leaders on how to promote the six key family practices. As a result, the community groups were in regular contact with community health workers to facilitate direct contact with the communities.

During 2014, as part of the partnership with religious leaders, 120 new community leaders from the municipalities of Butihinda, and Giteranyi were trained in the promotion of the key practices in their communities. Furthermore, 472 religious leaders were trained on C4D strategies, and 60 were trained on key family practices, thus enabling inclusion of their knowledge in religious activities. To widen the dissemination of key themes at decentralised level within various faiths, 62 religious leaders participated in a workshop on how to integrate these themes into religious activities.

The religious groups successfully conducted awareness sessions in their respective structures. The Catholic Church organised exchange sessions with catechists, encouraging awareness among local leaders. As a result, 30 members of grassroots ecclesiastical communities passed on knowledge on the six key family practices to their religious communities. The Muslim community organised awareness sessions for 17 imams and 38 leading members of associations and women’s actions.

OUTPUT 2 At least 60 per cent of school children in targeted primary school wash their hands at key moments and at least 60 per cent of parents in intervention areas with low access to drinking water and basic sanitation improved good hygiene practices (latrine use, hand-washing, treatment) by 2016.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Activities to improve local awareness of cholera risk in the outlying communes of Bujumbura targeted 300 community leaders, including local authorities, mobilised for the prevention of cholera. In Kinama, Kamenge, Butere and Mutimbusi municipalities, 120 young people were trained in good hygiene and cholera prevention by a community-based NGO which conducted door to door awareness campaigns that reached over 45,000 people. More than 25 discussion sessions, five per municipality, were organised to discuss health and diseases potentially transmitted by dirty hands.

Interactive theatre sessions followed by discussions were conducted in Karusi, Rutana and Makamba provinces, supporting the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) campaign. To
ensure the inclusion of religious communities, 476 religious leaders were trained in WASH, particularly hand-washing with clean water and soap, as well as the six key family practices. Results from a poll through U-report showed that 89.7 per cent (3,479 of 3,877) washed their hands at critical moments.

Communication tools were developed and disseminated through radio broadcasts, posters, picture boxes and training sessions. The Burundian Scouts Association has been pivotal in mobilising the community during the promotion of good hygiene practices, resulting in sensitisation of 40,000 people through peer education in Kirundo and Muyinga provinces.

OUTPUT 3 Protection networks, community leaders, local administration, religious groups, and partner NGOs are involved in activities of prevention, protection from violence, sexual exploitation, child labour and in the promotion of systematic and retrospective birth registration by the end of 2016

Analytical Statement of Progress:
To contribute to the reduction and prevention of violence, sexual exploitation and labour exploitation of children, the role of the family in child protection and the prevention of child abandonment and placement in institutions has been promoted through interactive theatre sessions in Gitega, Kayansa, Kirundo and Bujumbura Maire, reaching 23,175 people.

To strengthen the capacity of Child Protection Committees, a pocket-sized booklet was developed, enhancing the capacity of committees to synthesise and share information gained from various sources, such as radio programmes. These committees form a dynamic network between official child protection structures and communities, modelled on the community listening groups. They are able to relay key messages to their respective communities in the provinces of Gitega, Kirundo, Kayansa, Bururi, Makamba, Rutana and Ruyigi.

OUTPUT 4 At least 70 per cent of parents in the areas of intervention are aware of the importance of preschool and participate in the promotion of education for all, and at least 40 per cent of adolescents out of school in targeted areas have access to life skills activities including HIV / AIDS prevention and peace building by the end of 2016

Analytical Statement of Progress:
C4D has worked to improve communication tools used in education campaigns, including preschool education, Back To School, and the education of girls, through development and dissemination of audio and visual tools.

Through the lens of peacebuilding, C4D is pursuing a strategy to promote and engage young people. Consultations and focus groups were conducted with young people in the provinces of Ngosi, Cibitoke, Bujumbura Rural and Makamba, in which 880 young people and 40 adults participated.

A project with the Centre Ubuntu, a local NGO, is underway, targeting demobilised youth, IDPs, returnees and residents. Motivation sessions and psychosocial narrative theatre on the role of youth in promoting peace through the values of Ubuntu, in the communtes of Ruhororo, Rumonge, and Itaba were completed. This project is being extended to four provinces (Karusi, Makamba, Rutana, and Kayansa), where 120 young people have the skills to initiate development projects and have enthusiastically cooperated with other youth despite their differing values, ethnicities, and political affiliations. Nearly 500 (480) youth are involved in these youth associations and carry out small economic enterprise activities together. Additionally, 10
high schools and the National University of Burundi were targeted and benefited from sessions on how to manage identity differences between school students, and students from different universities, reaching around 337 youth.

A new partnership with the Episcopal Commission for the Apostolate of the Laity to reach 200,000 youth in all provinces with training on conflict resolution, leadership and peace was prepared; eight Peace Forums were completed. Baseline research is being conducted by the NGO Search for Common Ground, which will be followed by the implementation of youth activities at the field level.

Through the initiative End Violence against Children, a puppet theatre project has been developed in collaboration with the Education section. The project will be conducted mainly in refugees and returnees’ camps, and is designed to provide a space for children to be empowered to express themselves and understand their right to not be subjected to violence.

OUTCOME 6 Cross-sectoral programme: National monitoring and evaluation structures provide reliable data for monitoring MDGs and other national goals and advocacy for children and women by the end of 2014

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Data and knowledge management as well as statistically sound and internationally comparable data are essential for developing evidence-based policies and programmes and for monitoring progress toward goals and global commitments. However, Burundi is still at an early stage of the process of building sustainable statistical systems in line with international standards, and numerous and major issues remain to be addressed. The persistent absence of updated demographic and socio-economic data presents an enormous challenge for all development actors and planners.

To improve public accountability for achieving measurable results for children and women, the UNICEF Burundi P&M section continued to assist key institutions in building monitoring, reporting, data management and research capacities of key technical staff and Government officials. The improvement of these skills allowed institutions to respond to development challenges for children and women more effectively.

UNICEF’s commitment for the long-term goal of increasing accountability for children has started to show tangible results. Emphasis was placed on influencing key processes contributing to the realisation of child rights and advocating for support from key local and international actors for the most vulnerable children.

UNICEF’s collaboration with crucial institutions resulted in increased monitoring, reporting, data management and research capacities among technical staff and Government officials, including officials in the area of child and human rights of the Second Vice President’s Office, the national statistical organisation “ISTEEBU” (Institut de Statistiques et d’Etudes Economiques du Burundi), line ministries and others. These selected institutions are positioned to substantively contribute to increased child rights monitoring and advocacy, with a focus on equity and understanding the situation of the most vulnerable children and women in Burundi.

UNICEF Burundi’s child rights monitoring efforts served as an integral part of efforts to achieve increased accountability of key Government institutions, with a specific focus on monitoring the situation of the most marginalised. The P&M section continued to i) support institutions to build functioning M&E frameworks and statistical systems, ii) assist implementing partners in
monitoring programmes for children and women, iii) conduct quality research, and iv) collect reliable information with which to monitor and advocate for children and women.

UNICEF Burundi has fully embraced the renewed equity focus. With the P&M section supporting further customisation of equity planning and monitoring for the programme during 2014, sectoral programme theory workshops were launched during 2014 and will be continued during 2015. In line with these plans, determinant analyses were updated for selected sectors in cooperation with partners. Allowing for testing and verifying UNICEF’s programme theory against equity principles identified during planning and implementation of the CPAP 2010-2016, the analysis of programme theories, including theories of change and theories of action, will be finalised and verified with partner institutions and the Government during 2015. In addition, UNICEF’s monitoring and reporting framework will be updated with a focus on results for the most vulnerable children and women.

The IMEP and UNICEF BURUNDI Knowledge Management Strategy were implemented as planned. Data and knowledge management were widely used to improve public accountability and advocate for the situation of children and women in Burundi and beyond. UNICEF’s emphasis has been on: i) cross-sectorial collaboration; ii) research and methodology; iii) training, learning and programmatic knowledge sharing and dissemination; and iv) innovations. Building on these efforts, significant advances were achieved for institutions and partners during 2014.

The quality of research and evaluation received increased attention. Results of a 2013 WASH evaluation were considered at key programme planning stages, and management response to this evaluation was submitted to GEROS. UNICEF collaborated with key academic and research institutions to benefit from knowledge in key areas. To increase knowledge on areas affecting children and facilitate evidence-based advocacy for the realisation of children’s rights, UNICEF partnered with a range of partners in the realisation of research and evaluation, including local and external institutions: University of Brussels, University of Amsterdam, Harvard University, University of Burundi, Carlton University (Canada) and others. Thanks to these collaborative efforts, covering a number of socio-economic issues through qualitative and quantitative research, research and evaluation quality was strengthened, and the use and dissemination of data and knowledge contributed to a better understanding of child rights. Additional investments will be focused on documenting tacit knowledge of UNICEF and partners as well as finalising and verifying the internal file sharing re-structuring that started in 2014.

Considerable progress was made concerning the elaboration of the country’s National Social Protection Policy. A detailed draft of the strategy is available, including a comprehensive chapter on financing and costs. The strategy was developed by a team of consultants, jointly recruited by UNICEF and the World Bank, serving as a successful example of fruitful partnership. In accordance with the ToRs of the strategy, developed in close collaboration with partners in the health sector, a coherent chapter on social protection in the domain of health is in progress.

UNICEF Burundi, as sector-lead for social protection, is engaged in a permanent dialogue with its technical and financial partners in the sector, aiming to assist the development of an efficient social protection sector in the country. As shown in the social safety net review, several challenges remain that could slow down adequate development of the social protection agenda in Burundi, including weaknesses in national capacity and limited financial resources.
OUTPUT 1 National structures producing statistics are capable of providing reliable and disaggregated data to monitor the situation of women and children at central and decentralised levels by 2016.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2014 UNICEF further deepened its cooperation with ISTEEBU in key areas of data management, quality research and statistics. The coordination group of partners “Sectoral Group on Statistics” (established in 2013) aimed at further enhancing coordination of production of required information and data for monitoring of MDGs, the Burundi Vision 2025, the PRSPII and the other key national strategies. A “Joint Statistical Programme” to this effect was signed between ISTEEBU and the UN Resident Coordinator in May 2014, demonstrating ISTEEBU’s further commitment to contribute to enhanced equity data collection for development in the areas of health, education, child protection and juvenile justice, social protection and child well-being, as well as key demographic and macro-economic data.

UNICEF provided support to the national Technical Committee on Statistical Information (“Comité Technique de l’Information Statistique”/CTIS), comprised of ISTEEBU and all line ministries, in planning of key quality research and statistics and preparation of the 2015-16 work plan. Key staff received technical support to promote social and population statistics. In line with CTIS planning priorities, UNICEF further supported ISTEEBU in developing partnerships with sectoral management information systems (mainly with the Education and Health management information systems), in the areas of methodological discussion and data exchange, and to feed information into national databases.

ISTEEBU is host to “Burundinfo”, a national data dissemination platform that has been developed and further established since 2012. An administrative team regularly selects the most reliable national indicators for dissemination in the Burundinfo database and trains database users. To promote its continuous use, trainings were further extended to various audiences at national and sub-national levels. Further, UNICEF continued technical support to the Burundinfo team and provided required technical equipment, including hard- and software maintenance.

Finally, believing that research is one the key pillars for influencing qualitative, equitable and socially responsible planning and decision-making of key institutions in all child-related research areas in the long term, UNICEF Burundi has actively participated in the launch of a DHS survey, led by ISTEEBU in cooperation with ICF Macro over a period of 18 months. The proposed elements of the survey and indicators will help to measure programme achievements in key sectors such as health, nutrition, education, child protection, and will help to monitor progress for children and women.

OUTPUT 2 Tools and support for Planning, Implementation and Monitoring and Evaluation of the CPAP are made available annually to different programmes and national counterparts by 2016.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
During 2014 the P&M section provided continued support to programme sections in development of the UNICEF Burundi RWP and monitoring of its implementation. Emphasis was placed specifically on UNICEF’s contribution to higher-level results. The section played a lead role in conducting the midyear and annual reviews. The organisation of two joint field missions with key national counterparts from all sectors was crucial in this process. While the strengthening of monitoring and planning capacities of key Government institutions has been a general priority for UNICEF in 2014, regular monitoring and review meetings, review of
monitoring reports from implementing partners and agencies, visits with partners and field monitoring have taken place in all key areas.

The Planning and Monitoring section substantially contributed to key UN system coordination activities through the UN coordination team’s “Group for Results, UNDAF Thematic Groups and the Programme Management Team. In addition, the P&M section contributed to methodological discussion around the establishment of a regional situation and performance monitoring dashboard.

Also in 2014, the P&M team contributed to sound financial monitoring through assuming the Office’s budget reporting and monitoring functions. The donor reporting function was also transferred to the P&M section, resulting in high-quality reports and zero delays in reporting. Moreover, the P&M unit was responsible for HACT quality assurance and monitoring, including coordination of the UNICEF Burundi HACT task force and regular updates of the HACT quality assurance plan and Insight HACT portal.

Building on key 2012 MTR recommendations, the P&M section substantially supported UNICEF Burundi’s application for extension of the current programme cycle by two years. The extension until end 2016 was approved by the Executive Board in September 2014, allowing for programmatic alignment with both the extended national PRSPII and the Burundi UNDAF. During 2014, the P&M section launched a review of the current UNICEF Burundi programme theory, including sectoral theories of change and action. The analyses will be continued and advanced during 2015/16, to inform the new programme cycle.

In collaboration with the UNICEF Burundi Innovations unit, the P&M section extensively explored innovative possibilities for data collection, to inform the programme in real time. The P&M section supported the H&N section in the roll-out of a survey using LQAS that was piloted in five provinces during 2014. The P&M and Innovations sections collaborated in the preparation of the roll-out of RapidPro for Burundi, a strategy that will further be explored during 2015.

OUTPUT 3 By 2016, the right of children to expression is progressively fulfilled and donors, authorities and other stakeholders and duty bearers are increasingly aware of the situation of children and women in Burundi, especially the most vulnerable

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2014 UNICEF Burundi’s child participation approach, which supports child-led advocacy, was strengthened as child journalists were enabled to lead targeted advocacy initiatives through the simultaneous use of a full range of communications platforms (radio, social media and U-report) in order to reach all target audiences on key priority issues.

UNICEF Burundi took the regional lead in successfully organising and hosting the Children’s Forum of Hope, a youth forum in favour of peace in the Great Lakes Region involving seven countries, from 30 May to 1 June 2014, which enabled youth from the region to advocate at the highest level in the presence of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region. Among the four Ambassadors of Hope elected to continue advocacy was the current Secretary of the National Children’s Forum of Burundi, who helped share key recommendations at the Heads of State Summit in Nairobi in July. In addition, a child journalist from Burundi participated twice in the "WorldWeWant.de and friends” consultations in Germany, effectively enabling participation of Burundian youth in the post-2015 process.

Similarly, the nationwide child-led event around the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the
Rights of the Child focused on allowing children to express themselves on a better world for children through visual art, with winning drawings being presented to authorities. Throughout the year, social and online platforms were leveraged to both spark conversations around key issues for children and showcase key innovations to tackle remaining challenges. The UNICEF Burundi Facebook page garnered over 11,000 followers and Burundi became one of the most talked-about country offices on UNICEF Connect and ICON.

The visibility of children in Burundi was reinforced as the child journalist programme in Burundi was showcased in the BBC, the Guardian, and Politica Exterior, and as by-lined articles by UNICEF management were placed in local media and the situation of children in Burundi was featured on Al Jazeera, RTL, La Vanguardia, 20 Minutos, and El Pais.

Finally, as part of the 50th anniversary of cooperation between the Government of Burundi and UNICEF, a series of media events were held to showcase notable achievements and remaining challenges. These included a press visit to key health and education sites in the presence of high-level government authorities and an open house for media on innovating for children at the Innovations Lab.

**OUTPUT 5** Communal development plans (PCDC) take into account children and women issues

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
With UNICEF financial and technical support to the Ministry of Communal Development, 187 technical staff at communal, provincial and central level were trained on the application of the M&E manual. UNICEF participated in planning sessions of new Communal development plans in three communes of Gitega. Children, women, youth and vulnerable population were effectively represented in the planning process, and the specific issues facing children and women are reflected in the new generation of PCDCs. The challenge is to ensure the effective participation of children and women in monitoring and evaluation of the CPCDCs.

UNICEF participated actively in regular monthly meetings of the Thematic Group on “Decentralisation and local development” composed of Government institution representatives and technical and financial partners. UNICEF continued to use this platform to advocate for the integration of child rights in different development programs and projects at local and national levels, as well as in sectoral policies.

**OUTPUT 6** By end of 2016, monitoring and delivery of basic social services for children is strengthened through the integration of efficient and inclusive innovative technologies and approaches

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF Burundi made significant strides toward institutionalising innovation as a key crosscutting strategy of its programme. Innovative technologies, products, partnerships and processes, were leveraged by different programmes to accelerate the delivery of services and information, with focus on the most marginalised. In addition to operational gains, several projects with promising initial results were identified for scale-up, and further opportunities for innovation became available following the advent of RapidPro.

Burundi’s Innovations Lab was strengthened with a T4D officer and through a new recruitment modality, the Junior Fellow Programme, whereby four young Fellows receive a stipend to work in the areas of technology, business and operations.
The IL supported several sections to effectively integrate innovation into their programmes. This work was guided by an overall innovation strategy founded on three key pillars: 1) Real-time information to improve service delivery; 2) New models for youth and community engagement; and 3) Innovation for environmental sustainability.

U-report, a mobile-based system that allows young people and volunteers to speak out on issues important to their lives, was scaled up. As a result of promotion, training, and mobilisation activities conducted throughout the year, the platform now has over 14,000 users who are engaged in regular reporting within their communities.

The same open-source platform that powers U-report – RapidPro – was recently launched at a global level with additional applications. Health/Nutrition and WASH are in the process of planning and piloting selected applications to supplement existing data collection and monitoring efforts. Areas of use range from monitoring water point functioning, to tracking pregnancies, to improving the distribution of supplies during Mother and Child Health Weeks (MCHW).

Achievements were also made in the area of sustainable energy through Project Lumiere, a micro-enterprise model that provides off-grid energy solutions to households while increasing community purchasing power through the sale and recharging of LED lights. The initiative has successfully completed its pilot phase and is currently being scaled up, with the aim of reaching 16,000 households by the end of 2015.

Burundi’s first ever T4D/Open Source event was organised by Burundi’s small but enthusiastic open source programmers’ community, jointly with the UNICEF Innovations Lab and local universities. Aiming at bringing together and pairing up private sector mentors with enterprising youth, the event was built around demonstrations of ICT/T4D solutions for equity by private sector and not-for-profit innovators and self-starting youth entrepreneurs, and made a first contribution to strengthening a vibrant innovations eco-system in Burundi.

OUTPUT 7 By 2016, social policies, including the strategy of implementation of the national social protection policy, taking into account the specific needs of women and children are developed and implemented

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Considerable progress has been made in relation to elaboration of the country’s National Social Protection Policy (NSPP). A detailed draft of the strategy is available, including a comprehensive chapter on financing and costs. The strategy was developed to support the GoB jointly by UNICEF and the World Bank, serving as a successful example of fruitful partnership. In accordance with the ToRs of the strategy, developed in close collaboration with partners in the health sector, a coherent chapter on social protection in the domain of health is in progress.

The strategy builds on the findings of the Social Safety Net Review (SSNR) report, which was validated and disseminated on 6 May and 9 September 2014, respectively, during high-profile conferences, gathering the main key stakeholders involved in social protection issues in Burundi. The dissemination event also served as a forum to discuss successful targeting of the poorest and most vulnerable children and their families in Burundi.

Simultaneously, efforts continued to reinforce and develop the capacities of relevant national institutions and Government counterparts to ensure successful implementation and monitoring of the social protection strategy. In particular, the technical and institutional capacities of the
newly established Executive Permanent Secretariat of the National Commission on Social Protection (SEP/CNPS) have been continuously strengthened; e.g. through the participation of their staff in a South-South study tour to Niger that took place in February, an experts meeting held in South Africa and a meeting of the African Union Ministries of Social Development held in Ethiopia. This allowed SEP/CNPS staff to develop a better understanding on how other countries are managing their social protection schemes. In August 2014, the Social Policy section organised a one-week training on social transfers for key SEP/CIEP staff. Moreover, the Social Protection High Level Panel/Committee is chaired by the President of Burundi. With UNICEF support, the Panel met officially for the first time in 2014.

UNICEF Burundi, as sector-lead in the domain of social protection, is engaged in a permanent dialogue with its technical and financial partners in the sector, aimed at assisting in the development of an efficient social protection sector in the country. As shown in the SSNR, several challenges remain that could slow down an adequate development of the social protection agenda in Burundi, particularly weaknesses in national capacity and limited financial resources.

**OUTPUT 8** By 2016, strategic researches, studies, surveys, assessments and evaluations are conducted and disseminated to generate knowledge and evidence about the situation of children, young people and women and contribute to advocate for the development and implementation of programs and policies to achieve the best results for children, young people and women with equity.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF Burundi is continuously strengthening the planning of research and studies and is prioritising key areas in Burundi such as social protection, peacebuilding and energy poverty. The IMEP was successfully elaborated in close collaboration with programme sections. To ensure high standard of quality assurance of research, studies and evaluation, cross-sectoral efforts remain high to provide quality assurance and technical support to research, including during the development of ToRs, designing of methodology, drafting of data collection tools, review of draft reports, etc.

During 2014 major studies completed included a Social Safety Net Assessment, a study on the impact of microfinance on the most vulnerable populations, an impact assessment of the “Lumieres” project using RCT, a socio-anthropological study on knowledge, a study on Equity in Education, etc. As of end-December 2014, 44 per cent of studies and evaluations planned for the rolling 2014-2015 IMEP were already completed and 56 per cent were on-track (amounting a total expenditure of US$328,000).

In close collaboration with the WASH and P&M sections, SPAE tracked and reported on follow-up actions of management response to the 2013 WASH evaluation of the IRV project in the Rutana Province. Regular updates on management response were provided through Insight / Global Evaluation Report Oversight System (GEROS).

Through its partnerships with national/international universities, including University of Burundi, University of Brussels, University of Amsterdam, Harvard University, Science Politiques Paris (Paris School of International Affairs) and others, UNICEF continued to promote and to increase knowledge in areas affecting children and to engage academic researchers in evidence-based advocacy for the promotion of children’s rights. In this context, UNICEF successfully supported the capacity development of national stakeholders through the provision of data analysis programmes to universities and through the provision of training. In mid-August training on the
analysis of monetary and multidimensional poverty, with special focus on child poverty, was organised. Following the workshop, inputs on child vulnerability were provided for review to the Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan II (PRSPII).

Strong efforts were also expended to implement the Office’s Knowledge Management (KM) strategy. A proposed re-structuring of the Office’s shared drive to facilitate increased access/sharing of information and knowledge was approved by the CMT. In October, a training session on KM for all staff was held. Discussions on how to ensure the sharing and acquisition of knowledge with and from external partners through one of the Government’s websites were held. UNICEF is currently working with the second vice-presidency to better share research relevant to children and women with the public.

OUTCOME 7 Programme Support: Effective and efficient programme management and operations support

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Operation services were delivered to support Programmes to achieve their objectives, making a significant contribution to the wider Burundian community.

In relation to staff recruitment, 14 positions were frozen due to lack of funds. Furthermore, 46 individual consultants were successfully recruited in a timely manner. UNICEF Burundi has also put in place a Junior Fellow Scheme to reinforce the Innovation Lab, to support the Programme through cost-effective Innovative approaches. UNICEF Burundi successfully conducted two customer satisfactory surveys to measure the quality of service delivery by the Operations section. This led to enhanced partnership and cohesiveness between Operations and Programme.

In terms of staffing, UNICEF Burundi has 79 staff members (28 IPs, 15 NPs, 31 GS, 1 International GN, 3 UNVs and 1 JPO). 2014 witnessed a minor change in the existing structure, aimed at merging C4D and External Relations Communication sections in one, called “Communication and Participation”.

Under the Effectiveness and Efficiency initiative, UNICEF Burundi has saved 96 man days, which equals US$83,000, as a result of streamlining work processes to provide reliable support to the Programme. Relying on Cloud-based services such as Office365, it has dramatically impacted our way of working, solving problems and fulfilling needs in office messaging (real time communication, collaboration and conferencing). This has allowed mobility of staff to perform their duties almost worldwide with the arrival of high-speed internet provided by backbone Fiber Optic at lower costs.

UNICEF Burundi successfully set up an Innovation Lab, managed by the ICT4D staff and Junior fellows to provide technical support to all innovation-related projects, such as RapidPro U-report, Digital Drums, Project Lumiere etc. This also includes maintaining the data centre, hosting the SMS aggregation service within UNICEF Burundi, cutting operational cost by around US$60,000 annually.

OUTPUT 1 Human Resources

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Burundi has managed to save 96 days, which equals US$83,000 in cost savings, by streamlining its work processes to provide reliable programme support in more productive ways.

Utilising new technologies, such as Cloud-based services like Office365, has dramatically impacted our way of working, fulfilling our needs in office messaging, real time communication, collaboration and conferencing.

UNICEF Burundi spent 2014 without any new procurement in the Datacenter, now that 60 per cent of IT server services are centralised on the Cloud, also with the introduction of Virtualisation in the office, replacing the number of physical servers’ hardware with Virtual machines.

Ever since the arrival of Fibre Optic backbone in the country, the Office has gained a high and reliable bandwidth internet connection at a lower cost, allowing the use of cost-effective means of communication like Lync, Skype and mobility to work almost anywhere nationwide.

UNICEF Burundi also benefited from LTAs for various common services with other UN agencies, such as GSM mobile services, allowing free communication calls among staff within the agency in a Closed Group Call, negotiated tariff rates when making offNET calls to other GSM providers. The use of VoIP for OnNet and OffNet over the VSAT has dramatically reduced as well the overall telecommunication bill.

The introduction of u-Report platform in the office, operational since the beginning of the year, is now on RapidPro, a cloud-hosted platform, designed for integration and interoperability, allowing staff with non-technical background to interact with the platform easily.

This has successfully reduced the investment in hardware procurement. Also, the SMS aggregation service is run internally at UNICEF Burundi within its human resources, eliminating the operational cost of around US$60,000 yearly if it were run by a third-party service provider, not available in the country.

UNICEF Burundi has opened Junior Fellowships jobs, fresh graduates from universities to fill gaps in providing technical support for all innovation-related projects (U-Report, Digital Drums, Projet Lumiere, etc.)

OUTPUT 2 Effective and efficient Management and Stewardship of financial resources

Analytical Statement of Progress:

- Cash management improved: minimum bank balance benchmark of US$ 200,000 always observed
- RR funds fully utilised
- Outstanding DCT 3-to-6 months: 34 per cent, Outstanding DCT 6-to-9 months: 0.8 per cent;
- HACT assurance plan implemented: Visits - 273; Spot Checks: 9; Audits: 9
- SOPs with transactions checklists updated
- Bank reconciliation completed on time throughout the year.
Evaluation

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