Executive Summary

In the first year of the 2016–2020 Country Programme, UNICEF China worked closely with the Government to identify innovative and new approaches essential for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) achievement for children, in line with ambitious national development goals and targets. With tens of millions of children living in poverty, left behind when their parents migrate for work, unable to access social services due to migration from their home county, or facing gender-based violence;

UNICEF focused on helping identify children most impacted by growing inequalities (rural/urban, economic and gender-based), testing and implementing pilot approaches to reach vulnerable and excluded children, using evidence from pilots to advocate for the adoption and scale-up of high impact interventions, and influencing the normative agenda through a focus on child rights.

Studies and advocacy undertaken emphasised the need for child-focused interventions as the Government pursues poverty eradication goals. UNICEF was able to demonstrate some early successes from an integrated maternal and child health to a conditional cash transfer pilot, and to position investments in early childhood development (ECD) as a response to child poverty. UNICEF also supported the Government’s plans to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, congenital syphilis and hepatitis B, another example of an ambitious Government commitment that will save millions of lives.

Complementing this, a collaboration with Tsinghua University was established to develop innovative solutions for child rights realisation through the use of new technology and design methods to create products and services related to maternal, newborn and child health; inclusive learning; and climate change.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on South-South cooperation was signed with the Government, and extensive support was provided to raise awareness on maternal and child health challenges in several African countries, in order to leverage and support their achievement of SDGs through the contribution provided by the Government of China.

Despite some delay in the signing of workplans, important milestones were achieved in promoting and realising child rights particularly for the most vulnerable. ECD gained significant momentum, as did recognition of the need for integrated interventions covering health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection, and education in the first 1,000 days of a child’s life. With collaboration across sectors and government departments, UNICEF China helped develop guidelines and standards for parents, caregivers and service providers, and continued to implement community-based models that offered home-based, centre-based, and outreach services to disadvantaged children aged 0-3 years in four provinces. Results show a 37 per cent reduction in suspected developmental delays amongst children in the UNICEF-supported integrated early childhood development (IECD) project sites. This together with effective advocacy helped raise awareness and placed early childhood development at the centre of China’s roadmap to people-centred development.
A National Child Survival Strategy was jointly developed by the National Health and Family Planning Commission and UNICEF. It identifies and promotes 24 cost-effective interventions. In 2017, the goal is to achieve nationwide implementation of this strategy, which could help avert around 4,243 maternal deaths and 263,000 under-five deaths between 2016 and 2020. In nutrition, continued efforts to promote the use of Ying Yang Bao (YYB) supplement for children aged 6–23 months showed positive results. Evidence from surveys in two counties have reconfirmed the effectiveness of the supplement in reducing stunting prevalence by 20 per cent after seven years of high-level compliance.

UNICEF supported child-centred, participatory and inclusive education through innovative teaching and learning models and enhanced the capacity of schools and teachers to put this to use. With the Ministry of Education, UNICEF helped scale up and refine the Child-Friendly Schools initiative, including the promotion and replication of models such as WASH in schools and social and emotional learning.

The adoption of ‘Opinions on Strengthening Protection for Vulnerable Children’ by the State Council speaks to the success and recognition of UNICEF-supported child-friendly spaces that provide recreation, non-formal education, psychosocial support and referral services to children and their families. With all 21 UNICEF-piloted child-friendly spaces now taken up by the local government, UNICEF worked with the National Working Committee on Children and Women (NWCCW) to ensure quality expansion. The entering into force of the Family Violence Law will go a long way in protecting women and children against violence in family settings, including through the creation of more channels for victims of domestic violence to receive assistance.

The collection and analysis of disaggregated data and advocacy towards amplifying child rights and equity issues with the Government and the public, helped underpin and further consolidate these achievements.

**Humanitarian Assistance**

Prone to recurrent and major natural disasters, China is among the top 10 countries suffering the greatest toll from disasters. Except in the most extreme cases, the Government has both the capacity and resources to provide emergency relief. Three important national laws (Emergency Response Law, Flood Control Law and the Law on Protecting Against and Mitigating Earthquake Disasters) allow the Government to immediately mobilise resources and implement contingency plans. An early warning system is in place. The Government and NGOs are also increasingly seeking training and support that will enable them to respond rapidly and effectively to support responses to disasters in other countries.

UNICEF supports the Government to reduce the risks faced by communities, and respond when disasters strike. On disaster risk reduction (DRR), efforts have focused on increasing knowledge at the local level in schools, health facilities and in communities, improving co-ordination among different essential services and their providers, strengthening disaster preparedness awareness and buy-in of governments at all levels, and improving policies and standards for disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness and response.

UNICEF China has worked with the Government to provide humanitarian relief and response, primarily through partnerships with local governments in regions where UNICEF-supported projects exist. In 2016, UNICEF continued the support for several prior emergencies. This included the 2015 armed conflict in Myanmar’s Shan State (adjacent with Yunnan province of China) that caused an influx of displaced Myanmar residents into China; the 2014 Jinggu earthquake in Yunnan province; and the 2013 Dingxi earthquake in Gansu province. UNICEF provided emergency supplies, leveraged Government investment to restore basic infrastructure, including latrines through community-based total sanitation.
approaches, strengthened capacities of local health staff in the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) surveillance and emergency preparedness, piloted models to provide integrated services, and provided safe spaces and psychosocial support for children through child-friendly spaces.

Technical assistance and capacity-building support in Yunnan focused on: enhanced local immunisation surveillance; training local health providers to conduct emergency vaccination campaigns for high-risk children; and improving local health providers’ communication for development (C4D) skills to identify high-risk populations and advocate for vaccination of immigrants and local ethnic communities. In November, after the conflict worsened, Yunnan Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Dehong CDC immediately conducted risk assessments on infectious and vaccine preventable diseases and developed a preparedness plan for vaccination. Enhanced surveillance measures have been taken to prepare for an emergency vaccination campaign, if needed.

UNICEF also supported three emergency child-friendly spaces to ensure psychosocial support, non-formal education including self-protection, sports activities, ECD and parenting skills that reached children and families most affected by the Jinggu earthquake. In 2016, 1,001 children and 931 caregivers benefited from these services. In 2017, these child-friendly spaces will become permanent, with UNICEF support.

In Gansu province, UNICEF supported a joint WASH and nutrition intervention in areas affected by the Dingxi earthquake, which promoted infant and young child feeding and provided micronutrients supplementation to children aged 6–23 months. To eliminate open defecation, UNICEF helped trigger community-based total sanitation in 20 villages. By the end of 2016, 456 sanitary latrines were constructed and more than 1,000 pit latrines were covered by slabs using Government funding, benefitting more than 2,000 villages. This was also expanded to local schools and township hospitals to improve WASH conditions and increase public awareness. It was accompanied by communication and advocacy to improve breastfeeding, complementary feeding and compliance to the YYB supplement. Preliminary findings from an assessment of this intervention in Min County show that the prevalence of anaemia among children aged 6-23 months decreased significantly after only eight months of intervention.

UNICEF China responded to the flooding in its disaster risk reduction (DRR) project sites in Yuexi County, Sichuan province. Heavy rains in eight towns affected more than 10,000 people, caused more than 4,000 people to be temporarily evacuated, nearly 530 hectares of crops were ruined, and 350 houses were damaged. Upon request from the local Health and Family Planning Commission, UNICEF provided WASH supplies, including disinfection solution and powders, sprayers, and rain boots.

UNICEF engaged in policy dialogue and high-level partnerships with the Government on DRR. Efforts focused on strengthening cooperation with the Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA), the central coordinating body for emergency response and DRR, and the National Disaster Reduction Center of China (NDRCC), to improve national policy and standards and provide systematic cross-sectoral coordination.

UNICEF chaired and participated actively in the United Nations Disaster Management Team (UNDMT). The office also completed the full update of UNICEF’s Emergency Preparedness and Response System.

Emerging Areas of Importance
Accelerate integrated early childhood development (ECD). Recognising the importance of an integrated approach to ensuring children receive adequate nutrition, stimulation and protection for their holistic development, IECD is embedded as key advocacy and programme priority in the 2016-2020 Country Programme.

Building on previous UNICEF experience in China and internationally, the approach is to develop standards and norms while implementing community-based models that provide IECD services; and then use the evidence gained on the feasibility and impact of these models to inform potential scale-up and adaptation.

In this regard, UNICEF worked with the Government to develop ECD guidelines and standards for parents, caregivers and service providers, and implement two community-based models for disadvantaged children aged 0-3 years. These models offer centre-based, home-based, and outreach services, covering 146 sites across six provinces. UNICEF supported evidence and research from these pilots and initiatives to inform policy advocacy and potential scale-up and adoption by the Government.

The first model, is a National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC)-led initiative together with MCA and UNICEF, embracing an IECD approach. Nutrition counselling and supplementation, play and responsive caregiving, social security and financial aid, early learning support, and healthy growth and development assessment/follow up services are provided. These are delivered through home visits, community and centre-based activities, clinic-based activities, and mobile services through four mobile resource units (MRUs) providing expert support to volunteers and village doctors in 80 sites. Home-based services were provided by community volunteers and village doctors. These served to build connections with families; provide simple tips on reading, playing, appropriate nutrition, hygiene, and violence prevention; mobilise families to attend ECD centres; and helped promote ECD amongst families with limited access to centres through home-based play groups for parents/caretakers of children.

Centre-based services were accessed by children 47,696 times through ECD centres that operated five days a week, with volunteers coordinating parent-child games, reading, and parent focus group discussions. Outreach services were provided by four MRUs for 333 days. Children at risk of developmental delay were followed up and/or referred, early stimulation activities and check-ups were conducted, while home visits responded to children subjected to neglect/maltreatment/developmental delays, referring children with multiple vulnerabilities to social assistance and joint screening services. In addition, community members, parents and caretakers were trained on child protection and welfare through 235 training sessions.

A mid-term assessment of this first model found that each child had between 2.8 to 12.4 ECD contacts per month, thereby meeting the internationally recommended standard of 2.5 visits. Developmental delays, which were present in 40 per cent of the children at baseline, were reduced by one third (37 per cent) on average.

The second model is an initiative of UNICEF and the All China Women’s Federation (ACWF), where early stimulation and parental education services are provided through ECD volunteers, while providing linkages to health and protection services at the community level in 66 pilot sites. Twenty-four of the 66 ECD centres commenced outreach services, following an assessment of the quality and capacity of volunteers. Outreach visits reached children aged 0–3 years and their parents/caregivers with knowledge-building, parent-child games and reading activities.

These pilot services were complemented by national Early Learning Development
Guidelines (ELDGs) for the physical, cognitive, social, emotional, language and behavioural development of children under three years of age; developed by the Ministry of Education (MoE) with UNICEF support. UNICEF also supported MoE to develop a Parenting Portal and NHFPC to develop a Mother’s Booklet, both containing information on appropriate nutrition, early stimulation, violence prevention, hygiene and timely health care-seeking for use by all service providers.

A baseline survey for this second model is being planned to assess 0–3-year-old children’s language, development and social interactions, brain development using neuroscience, and to increase understanding of needs amongst parents and staff.

To further simplify screening of children at risk of developmental delays, validation of a Government-promoted ‘warning sign checklist’ was conducted. It showed a much shorter screening time than current approaches, and similar sensitivity/specificity compared to internationally validated screening tools.

Advocacy on the importance of ECD continued through multiple channels. This included the ECD advocacy month, Xinhua News Agency visit to ECD sites, fora such as the Fifth International Conference on Poverty Reduction and Child Development, an international parenting forum, an international family education conference, the Annual Conference of the Chinese Maternal and Child Health Association, and the Annual Review Meeting on Preschool Education.

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

<p>| ACWF       | All China Women’s Federation |
| BFSW       | Barefoot Social Worker       |
| CAST       | China Association for Science and Technology |
| CATS       | Community Approach to Total Sanitation |
| CCT        | Conditional Cash Transfer   |
| CDC        | Center for Disease Control and Prevention |
| CDRF       | China Development and Research Foundation |
| CEDAW      | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women |
| CFS        | Child Friendly School       |
| CIEFR      | China Institute for Education Finance Research |
| CIP        | Child Injury Prevention     |
| CMT        | County Management Team      |
| CRBP       | Child Rights and Business Principles |
| CRC        | Convention on the Rights of the Child |
| C4D        | Communication for Development |
| DPRK       | Democratic People’s Republic of Korea |
| DRR        | Disaster Risk Reduction     |
| ECD        | Early Childhood Development |
| ECE        | Early Childhood Education   |
| ELDG       | Early Learning Development Guideline |
| ETAT       | Emergency, Triage, Assessment, Treatment |
| EPI        | Expanded Programme on Immunisation |
| GSSC       | Global Shared Services Centre |
| HACT       | Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfer |
| HLM        | High Level Meeting          |
| ICT        | Information and Communication Technology |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IECD</td>
<td>Integrated Early Childhood Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMCH</td>
<td>Integrated Maternal and Child Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMCHD</td>
<td>Integrated Maternal and Child Health and Development</td>
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<td>IMEP</td>
<td>Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan</td>
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<td>IP</td>
<td>Implementing Partner</td>
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<td>IPRCC</td>
<td>International Poverty Reduction Center in China</td>
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<td>LGOP</td>
<td>Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development</td>
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<td>LTA</td>
<td>Long Term Agreement</td>
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<td>MCA</td>
<td>Ministry of Civil Affairs</td>
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<td>MCH</td>
<td>Maternal Child Health</td>
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<td>MCH-MIS</td>
<td>Maternal and Child Health Management Information System</td>
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<td>METRU</td>
<td>Mobile Educational Training and Resource Units</td>
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<td>MHE</td>
<td>Mental Health Education</td>
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<td>MIC</td>
<td>Middle Income Country</td>
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<td>MIS</td>
<td>Management Information System</td>
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<td>MoE</td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
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<td>MoF</td>
<td>Ministry of Finance</td>
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<td>MoFCOM</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce</td>
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<td>MoU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
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<td>MRM</td>
<td>Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism</td>
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<td>MRUs</td>
<td>Mobile Resource Units</td>
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<td>MTR</td>
<td>Mid-Term Review</td>
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<td>NDRC</td>
<td>National Development and Reform Commission</td>
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<td>NDRCC</td>
<td>National Disaster Reduction Center of China</td>
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<td>NHFPC</td>
<td>National Health and Family Planning Commission</td>
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<td>NPA</td>
<td>National Programme of Action</td>
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<td>NWCCW</td>
<td>National Working Committee on Children and Women</td>
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<td>OR</td>
<td>Other Resources</td>
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<td>PFM</td>
<td>Public Financial Management</td>
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<td>PPP</td>
<td>Public-Private Partnership</td>
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<td>PISA</td>
<td>Programme for International Student Assessment</td>
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<td>PMTCT</td>
<td>Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission</td>
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<td>RR</td>
<td>Regular Resources</td>
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<td>RSEs</td>
<td>Research, Studies and Evaluations</td>
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<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<td>SEL</td>
<td>Social and Emotional Learning</td>
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<td>SOPs</td>
<td>Standard Operating Procedures</td>
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<td>SP</td>
<td>Strategic Plan</td>
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<td>SPC</td>
<td>Supreme People’s Court</td>
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<td>SRGBV</td>
<td>School-related Gender-Based Violence</td>
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<td>STEM</td>
<td>Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>TALIS</td>
<td>Teaching and Learning International Survey</td>
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<td>TUGICC</td>
<td>Global Innovation Centre for Children at Tsinghua University</td>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>UDMT</td>
<td>United Nations Disaster Management Team</td>
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<td>UNDSS</td>
<td>United Nations Department of Safety and Security</td>
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<td>UNEG</td>
<td>United Nations Evaluation Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
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Capacity Development

Strengthening skills and capacities of partners, programmes and systems is integrated in all UNICEF China programmes. In health, UNICEF strengthened the capacity of 31 provincial technical groups on near miss, maternal and neonatal death audit, and helped Government prepare the validation of elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and Hepatitis B. The capacity of the expanded programme on immunisation was enhanced through the new polio vaccination schedule switch, a vaccine confidence survey protocol and the introduction of effective vaccine management.

In nutrition, knowledge on breastfeeding among Government officials, maternal and child health staff, nutrition experts, paediatric doctors and volunteers was strengthened through the Lancet Breastfeeding Series launch and associated advocacy that brought together national and international experts. UNICEF also helped draft recommendations on mandatory iodised salt production. In WASH, knowledge and capacities of Government on Community Approach to Total Sanitation (CATS) was strengthened through demonstration projects.

In education, 300 experts were trained on social and emotional learning, WASH in schools and early childhood development. These experts then developed the capacity of 5,000 ECD teachers and volunteers, and 3,000 teachers. Furthermore, 200 lecturers were trained to set up training centres in 120 tertiary institutions; an online 30-hour course was developed to support MoE enhance the skills of its one million statisticians; and a series of mini-talks with over 700,000 listeners were held to increase the knowledge of parents and caregivers on ECD.

In child protection, the number and competencies of social workers, para-social workers and volunteers were increased through partnerships with training and higher education institutes. UNICEF China helped MCA develop an online platform and app for long-distance learning to develop skills of community workers. A UNICEF-supported event organised by the Supreme People’s Court with over 100 participants (mostly judges) shared lessons-learned and issues to be addressed in the judicial protection of women and children.

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

Generating evidence, disseminating through strengthened communication, and using it to inform programmes continued to be a major UNICEF China strategy to drive public and policy advocacy and promote child rights. In 2016, opportunities arose to focus on two areas: children affected by migration and equitable access to quality services.

UNICEF engaged with the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and academia on promoting equitable access to an identified minimum package of essential services for children and families. This will help NDRC clarify mandates and assign service delivery duties to subnational governments in the 13th Five Year Plan. Consultations were also supported with academics and Government on developing policies to expand coverage and ensure that the needs of the most excluded (e.g., children affected by migration in rural/urban areas) are met. The findings of the consultation were submitted to the State Council.
UNICEF advised the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and subnational governments in urban areas on the public funding needs for core public services aimed at migrant families and children, as part of the new urbanisation strategy (2015–2030). A joint study highlighted critical issues, such as the diverse level of public investment per child in compulsory education across regions and the high cost of social insurance and protection entitlements for female migrants (given that women retire at earlier ages, thereby contributing less and using pensions longer). These findings strengthened evidence on the cost and funding needs for inclusive urbanisation, to inform decision-making.

UNICEF China helped the Government understand the impact of public-private partnerships in the provision of public services on issues such as coverage, quality and equitable access. Research on private sector involvement in pre-school education helped MoE to better understand the effects and challenges of various public-private partnership models. This will inform Government decision-making for subsidisation of private kindergartens in the future.

**Partnerships**

UNICEF China leveraged existing and new partnerships with the Government, academia and private sector, using their influence, technical expertise and resources to promote child rights. Significant partnerships that supported programme pilots and informed policy and advocacy included:

- Collaboration with the Government, Beijing Normal University and other organisations to promote a child welfare system through the nationwide scale up of the barefoot social worker (BFSW) initiative which links vulnerable children to social services;

- To advance ECD, with the Lancet, the Gates Foundation and the China Development and Research Foundation (CDRF) on the launch and promotion of the Lancet series; cooperation with the Government on promoting ‘ECD Month’; and engagement with media and a UNICEF national ambassador on raising awareness;

- A new relationship with the architect of Programme for International Student Assessment and Teaching and Learning International Survey in Shanghai Normal University, which will help improve teacher quality and methodology;

- Efforts to build a coalition of Government agencies, academia and media to recognise and address multi-dimensional child poverty continued, linked to the 2020 Poverty Eradication Strategy.

Collaboration continued with various national partners on advancing child rights and business principles (CRBP), including the Centre for Child Rights and Corporate Social Responsibility. A series of articles and tools were published in the China World Trade Organisation (WTO) tribune and a national industry publication. A CRBP page was created as a repository for information on child rights for the private sector. UNICEF also hosted a panel on child rights at the national Corporate Social Responsibility Conference to engage domestic business leaders in collaboration with the Golden Bee Network.

UNICEF China played an active role supporting the Government’s first SDG reporting and implementation plan, contributing to youth engagement on United Nations Day and chairing and participating in technical groups.

**External Communication and Public Advocacy**
UNICEF China invested considerable effort to identify and articulate three major advocacy priorities for the new country programme: ECD, improved access to social services, and addressing child poverty. These priorities are being further developed through an office-wide advocacy plan that provides direction, timing and focus to messaging and advocacy.

UNICEF China used several advocacy opportunities to further programme objectives. The launch of the Lancet series helped raise awareness on breastfeeding and ECD, and enhanced collaboration with partners working in these areas. Activities designed around ECD month, including Children’s Day, focused on parental education and provided information on positive parenting to influence behaviour change, reaching approximately 56 million people online. UNICEF developed a question and answer paper for World Immunisation Week, based on questions arising from a vaccine supply chain problem that diminished public confidence in immunisation. A single tweet based on the paper reached over seven million page views on Sina Weibo and News channels. The UNICEF-supported Child Welfare Stocktaking Report was launched during Child Welfare Week presenting China’s progress and gaps in developing a robust child welfare system, and outlined a roadmap for China to make social protection and welfare work for every child.

The Global Innovation Centre at Tsinghua University (TUGICC) was launched and is working to harness talent to bring innovations for children. A UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador’s influence and reach was tapped during a visit to an ECD site, and documented in a short video that was distributed to the press. This, accompanied by a photo exhibition, generated considerable social media discussions around ECD.

A new charity law with potential impact on the ability of UNICEF to conduct advocacy and fundraising was reviewed. Based on this, UNICEF China will continue to self-regulate its outreach through the digital space.

**South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation**

Recognising China’s significant and growing development assistance to other developing countries and influence in global and regional forums, and in light of announced funding commitments, the Government of China and UNICEF China developed a MoU on an Expanded Partnership for Children. The Minister of Commerce and the Executive Director of UNICEF signed the MoU during the opening session of the UN General Assembly in September. This MoU now serves as an overarching document to guide South-South cooperation and partnership with the Government of China, and work has begun on the next steps in fully operationalising this.

In March, a dialogue on ‘Focusing on Child Health - Child Health Development Cooperation’, was held in Beijing. The meeting explored how China and African countries can engage to promote maternal and child health, particularly newborn health, as a priority area for Chinese aid to African countries. Consequently, the selected eight African countries (Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Zimbabwe) are working on project proposals for submission to the Government of China South-South Cooperation Fund.

In October, the Government of China provided US$1 million to UNICEF for humanitarian assistance funds to Syrian refugees in the Middle East. In partnership with UNICEF MENA Regional Office and UNICEF Lebanon, a proposal to support the distribution of in-kind winter assistance for Syrian refugees under 15 years of age was submitted and approved, with funds received by UNICEF Lebanon in December.

A delegation from China headed by the Vice-President of the All China Women’s Federation attended the Third High Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in
Malaysia in November 2016. Follow up to this meeting is ongoing, and will further strengthen South-South engagement and cooperation.

Identification and Promotion of Innovation

Finding cost-effective solutions to development challenges impacting children is the goal of the innovation portfolio of UNICEF China. In 2016, the Global Innovation Centre for Children (GICC), of which UNICEF is one of two founding partners, opened at Tsinghua University.

Bringing in expertise and resources from varied disciplines, members of TUGICC’s steering committee include department heads and school deans. At the inaugural steering committee meeting, members agreed on strategic directions and workplans. In the coming years, TUGICC will focus on addressing challenges in three main areas: maternal, newborn and child health; climate change and renewable energy; and inclusive learning.

To begin, TUGICC will establish cross-disciplinary teams, utilise innovative technology and design methods, and collaborate with academia and industry to create products and services for children, families and communities. A range of programme activities and a dynamic portfolio of innovations at different scales are under development. These include development of hardware and software technology products, youth engagement through courses and summer camps, and South-South cooperation with 13 academic institutions in the Asia-Pacific region. Four expert panels are being convened in child psychology, renewable energy, assistive and medical devices as well as biomedical research.

TUGICC is also working with UNICEF programme teams to provide direct support. These include the research and development of a WeChat platform to enhance caregivers’ knowledge of children’s social and emotional learning (SEL) skills and needs; and the development of an interactive software product for positive parenting. Digital tools for data collection on poverty through community engagement were piloted in Shanxi province, and planning and development of the ‘First 1000 Days’ is ongoing. The latter is a mobile health programme intended to foster data collection and increase access to health information and services through messaging and a mobile app.

Support to Integration and Cross-sectoral Linkages

Cross-sectoral action and integration is a core approach of the new UNICEF country programme. This is illustrated by the inter-sectoral approach to ECD elaborated on earlier in this report, and its formulation as a dedicated outcome of the country programme structure.

UNICEF China continued work on building a disaster risk reduction model pilot programme: another example of cross-sectoral integration between UNICEF programmes in health, education, and protection, and among Government counterparts. The objective is to improve the knowledge and capacity of public authorities, service providers and communities, and build cross-sectoral linkages to increase preparedness, respond to emergencies, and strengthen resilience in identified disaster-prone areas.

In 2016, UNICEF worked closely with NHFPC and NWCCW to complete a pre-assessment of county plans for disaster risk reduction, preparedness and resilience building. Along with baseline surveys for child protection, health, nutrition, immunisation and WASH, this will generate evidence for designing a community-based DRR model and defining future cross-sectoral programme activities.

An integrated provincial resource centre was established, comprising a group of experts with extensive experience in DRR, child protection, social work, health, education and other sectors. This will help strengthen capacities of local emergency responders, provide
UNICEF strengthened its partnership with MCA, the central coordinating body for emergency response and DRR, and the NDRCC, a technical organisation under MCA, to develop improved DRR policy and standards and cross-sectoral coordination and advocacy.

Challenges remain in creating stronger cross-sectoral linkages between line ministries and NWCCW – both operationally and strategically. Operationally, there is a need to align messaging, organise multi-sectoral workshops and jointly organise a disaster risk reduction awareness-raising month. Strategically, there is a need to facilitate a wider understanding of DRR, resilience building and its links to climate change and the SDGs.

**Service Delivery**

In the middle-income context of China, UNICEF supports service delivery by piloting community-based models to demonstrate ways in which high impact interventions target and reach the most vulnerable. Each model includes strong capacity development and C4D components, and robust evidence is generated to inform Government adoption, scale-up and policy design.

In child protection, UNICEF China supported pilots and the expansion of community-based models, including child-friendly spaces and barefoot social workers, which provided basic services to vulnerable children and families such as timely identification and referral to social assistance and protection services. UNICEF also supported the transformation of six street children protection centres into broader child protection centres. These new centres provide operational coordination and a reporting mechanism for statutory and community-based services for children, particularly children at risk of or experiencing abuse or neglect.

To strengthen IECD services, achievements identified through the mid-term project assessment were presented at a high level national forum, child development benchmarks for children aged 0–3 years were finalised, and a comprehensive evaluation index of child development initiated.

An adolescent health review included a bottleneck analysis of services, policies, delivery channels, human resources and financing mechanisms. Technical support to refine iodine deficiency surveys helped improve the targeting of services.

In WASH, service delivery was strengthened through the development of criteria to verify open defecation-free townships (for use in the five pilot townships), new evidence for advocacy on sanitation financing and scale up costs of community, health and education facility latrines.

In education, UNICEF-supported mobile education and training units provided on-site training of teachers in disadvantaged provinces. A pilot ECD intervention was initiated to address the specific needs of migrant children (aged 3–6 years), and the piloting of two IECD models is demonstrating the complementary role of centre-based, home-based and outreach IECD services for effective coverage.

**Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation**

In its concluding observations of 2014, the CEDAW Committee requested China to provide written information within two years on the steps taken to implement the recommendations related to the independence of the judiciary and access to justice and participation in political and public life. UNICEF China, as a member of the UN Theme Group on Gender, supported the UN Resident Coordinator’s office outreach to NWCCW on its reporting obligations under CEDAW.
UNICEF is also a member of the UN Sub-Group on Disabilities and the UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. As a member of the latter, UNICEF received funding from the Multi Donor Trust Fund. The funds are being used to collaborate with the China Disabled Persons’ Federation to conduct a needs assessment on family support services for children with autism and to strengthen the capacity of social workers in rehabilitations centres to provide support and referral services.

Training on child rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child is embedded in UNICEF’s work on capacity development of staff working in UNICEF-supported community-based child protection models such as barefoot social workers and child-friendly spaces. Additionally, to ensure that new staff become familiar with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and link it to the work they are doing, an introduction session to the Convention and its optional protocols was held for all new and other interested staff in 2016.

As mentioned elsewhere in this report, UNICEF China created a page on child rights and business principles as a repository for information for the private sector, and hosted a panel on child rights at the national corporate social responsibility conference to engage domestic business leaders.

**Gender Equality**

Gender mainstreaming is a focus of UNICEF China’s work on equitable results for children and women. Select examples of interventions into which gender dimensions were mainstreamed are described below, with further details available under the Outcome and Output analyses of progress, later in this annual report.

The community-based ECD pilot programme emphasised the role of fathers to improve child-rearing practices. Male volunteers were encouraged to be role models in project communities and training sessions, and classes for parents and caregivers have built-in lessons on positive fathering. Consequently, more fathers and grandfathers brought their children to ECD centres.

Gender equality was included in the training of principals and teachers, as one of the five principles of the child-friendly kindergarten project.

Menstrual hygiene management and gender-segregated latrines were addressed in national and select county-level trainings, and the special needs of girls’ toilets integrated into infrastructure planning in select county-level schools.

UNICEF participated in the assessment of the Special Post Teacher Programme, which seeks to attract newly qualified teachers to posts in rural schools to improve the quality of education. Sex disaggregated data revealed that the proportion of female teachers in special posts rose from 72.4 per cent (2012) to 77.5 per cent (2015). The assessment recommended attracting more male teachers to improve the gender balance, and provide positive role models for boys.

The National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) and UNICEF China commissioned a baseline survey for the 2016–2020 Integrated Maternal and Child Health and Development (IMCHD) project and the final assessment of the 2011–2015 Integrated Maternal and Child Health (IMCH) project in 15 counties of 12 provinces. This will assess the differences between girls and boys in health and development status and their access to and utilisation of services in western and central China. The results, expected early 2017, will inform the design of the IMCHD Project.
Following several years of advocacy and technical support from UNICEF China together with other UN agencies, the Family Violence Law entered into force on 1 March 2016. It marks a significant step forward in promoting gender equality and addressing violence against women and children in the family setting.

Environmental Sustainability

UNICEF promoted environmentally sustainable and risk-informed programming across sectors. A child environmental health action plan to address the impact of issues including water and air pollution is being developed with Government, as are guidelines on the exposure to lead by children in classrooms, and an early warning system for adaptation to heatwaves. Discussions are ongoing with the Government on the development of a monitoring system and an awareness-raising campaign on prevention of child exposure to adverse environmental conditions. Inspired by the global report on the impact of air pollution on children, an expert debate was organised by UNICEF and aired on media, generating considerable social media discussion on steps to be taken in China.

UNICEF in China and Mongolia promoted knowledge-sharing on cold climate sanitation solutions, with a consultation between experts planned for 2017. UNICEF is engaging with private sector partners and scientists to explore ecologically sound products like water-free urinals and products for cold climate and dry regions. A new initiative to develop materials and a teacher-training package on climate change education was initiated. This will be piloted in 600 schools in 10 provinces with MoE in 2017.

The DRR Model Pilot Programme, aimed at strengthening knowledge and capacity emergency preparedness, response and strengthened resilience continued to progress. The pre-assessment of county disaster risk reduction plans was completed and baseline data collected on protection, health, nutrition, immunisation and WASH.

UNICEF supported the International Youth Green and Low Carbon Practice Exchange and the 2016 Guangzhou World Youth Environmental Protection Conference organised by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Guangdong Provincial Environmental Protection Agency, which fostered sharing of best practices and youth participation.

Internally, the UNICEF China ‘Green Committee’ monitored and reported on the office’s environmental footprint. Measures such as the purchase of an electric car, replacement of light bulbs with energy efficient LED bulbs, switching from LCD to LED screens, and the installation of solar powered streetlights contributed to a more environmentally sustainable office operation. Air purifiers for offices and cars were procured by the office to reduce illness and the negative impact of air pollution on the productivity and health of staff.

Effective Leadership

The UNICEF China country management team (CMT), composed of senior management, section chiefs, staff association representatives and focal points met on a monthly basis. The team oversaw the effective implementation of the first year of the country programme, and facilitated the efficient functioning of the office. Key performance indicators for programme, operations, human resources, supply, administration and resource mobilisation were identified and reported on each month in CMT meetings after being reviewed by the various teams in the office, and specific performance areas for attention were highlighted. Terms of Reference for governance mechanisms were revised and particular attention given to new membership, training and support to the contracts review committee.

The rolling management plan was developed and approved by the CMT in March, and shared with the UNICEF Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific. The management
plan builds on a new risk assessment for the country programme, and defined management priorities designed to address or mitigate the identified high risk areas. These were effective support to South-South cooperation, upgrading the supply function, and the realignment of public fundraising. Progress on management priorities and indicators were also monitored on a quarterly basis by the country management team.

Programmatic and emergency risks and mitigation measures as identified in the Rolling Management Plan were discussed with programme partners and incorporated in the Rolling Workplans and implementation procedures. The Business Continuity Plan was also reviewed by the CMT and tested during 2016, based on which further revisions were made. UNICEF China remained prepared to take action at the Government’s request to support the response to natural disasters.

**Financial Resources Management**

The country office achieved 100 per cent closure of all audit recommendations, with the two remaining audit recommendations from 2014 being closed. The country management team rigorously monitored risk areas identified by auditors through monthly meetings and office risk management documents. Before the transition to Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC), standard operating procedures (SOPs) in related areas were updated in a risk-informed manner to be in line with GSSC operating processes.

To leverage the capacity of the Government in programme management and simplify work processes for cash transfers, with the support of the Ministry of Commerce (MoFCOM), UNICEF China undertook a two year process of streamlining partner management. Through a process of having the central level Government partners as UNICEF’s implementing partners (IPs), instead of partnering with innumerable provincial level government entities, the number of partners was reduced from 352 to 45 by the end of 2016.

Micro-assessments of 14 IPs receiving more than US$100,000 per year were completed early in the year. UNICEF China successfully negotiated with the implementing partners to use direct payment and reimbursements as the main cash transfer modality. This has helped reduce the pressure and burden of liquidating outstanding advances, monitoring funds transfers and reprogramming remaining funds.

UNICEF China developed a detailed spot check and programmatic visit plan, and made use of global long-term agreements (LTAs) by engaging external expertise to ensure the highest compliance with Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) procedures.

In addition to the Insight report, the CMT reviewed the status of budget utilisation on a monthly basis, along with other programme and operations indicators.

Bank reconciliations were completed according to the monthly closure schedule. All reconciling items were cleared within 30 days. The month-end schedules were examined regularly, and no overdue items were reported. Closure activities were completed as per deadlines.

**Fundraising and Donor Relations**

Other resources (OR) continued to be an important funding source for programmes, accounting for 74 per cent of total resources allocated, up from 66 per cent in 2015. This share will further increase as regular resources (RR) continue to decline. The OR ceiling for the five year country programme was approved at US$79 million, and the goals and objectives serve as the blueprint for raising and using OR.
UNICEF China managed to secure 100 per cent of its annual OR ceiling in 2016, due to the combined efforts of National Committees, global alliances, and private sector fundraising activities. About one-third was flexible and predictable income. The office effectively used over 80 per cent of the OR that was allocated. The contribution to global RR from sales of Inspired Gifts also grew, doubling last year’s results. This is attributable to higher awareness of UNICEF’s role in global emergencies among e-shoppers, and expanded support from corporate partners who until now have only supported the UNICEF China country programme.

Corporate donors continued to be the primary OR funders, both from National Committees (corporate donors outside China) and China’s private sector. In 2016, the trend from the previous year of widening areas of support from corporate partners continued, with companies and corporate foundations agreeing to multi-year support for, among others, interventions on climate change, online security for children, and interactive app development.

The office achieved a 100 per cent timely donor report submission rate with all 39 reports submitted on time, due to a strong quality assurance system in place in the office.

### Evaluation and Research

The office continued to manage the evaluation of the NWCCW–UNICEF Joint Child Friendly Spaces Project in China (2008–2015). The selection of the evaluation team took longer than anticipated, given the need to find an evaluation team with the right skills and capacities. The evaluation reached the inception stage, and is expected to be completed in 2017. It comes at a critical juncture; as it will provide evidenced-based good practices, lessons learned and recommendations to the Government as it continues to scale up this intervention to reach the National Programme of Action (NPA) for Child Development target of having child-friendly spaces in 90 per cent of communities by 2020.

To ensure quality and rigor, the office reviewed concept notes and prioritised research, studies and evaluations (RSEs) for inclusion in the Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) before CMT approval. IMEP activities were monitored monthly, and implementation status reported in the section monthly reports and the Programme Management Team dashboard.

There are no open management responses from previous evaluations.

An uneven awareness and understanding remained among Government counterparts and within the office on UNICEF/United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) requirements and standards for evaluations and their implementation. While evaluations are a recognised tool for accountability and strengthening programme effectiveness, there is a perception that evaluation standards and protocols are laborious and process heavy. Consequently, there are cases where RSE work categorised as assessments, reviews or studies serve an evaluation function, while not necessarily following UNEG standards.

To address this, the RSE manual was been enhanced to include material from the UNICEF evaluation policy and global guidance, highlighting the important role of evaluations and the different approaches to conducting them. Additional opportunities to build capacity and understanding in this area will be explored in 2017.

### Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

UNICEF achieved significant efficiency gains and cost savings as a management priority.

Effective supply chain management, quality assurance and risk informed procurement led to
timely delivery and reduction in costs of items purchased. Teaching and learning materials for Afghanistan were procured with an addition of 200,000 kits due to better prices.

The centralisation of transactional activities in a Vision Hub led to greater efficiency in transaction processes and helped free up staff time to focus on programme results.

Approximately US$80,000 was saved in travel, utilities and local currency replenishment through UNICEF’s Division of Financial and Administrative Management. Efficiency gains were seen in HR, with UNICEF China’s Human Resources Manager supporting UNICEF DPRK and Mongolia.

UNICEF worked with UN agencies to issue LTAs for cleaning, security, stationery and travel services; served as Vice-Chair for UN Operational Management Team; and participated in UN-wide HACT processes and security management.

**Supply Management**

The office further optimised its capacity and procedures to efficiently deliver products and services for programmes and operations as well as in support to other Country Programmes. The total value of supplies and services reached a record US$21,883,027 in 2016.

UNICEF China supply inputs were valued at US$ 6,716,856.

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<th>Table 1. UNICEF China supply inputs (in US$)</th>
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<td>Programme supplies</td>
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<td>Operational supplies</td>
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<td>Services</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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As part of its function as a regional as well as global supply hub, UNICEF China also managed local procurement of goods on behalf of other UNICEF country offices for a total amount of US$15,166,171 (see below).

<table>
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<th>Procurement of goods on behalf of other UNICEF offices (in US$)</th>
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<td>Nepal</td>
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<td>Other country offices</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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The office undertook discussions with the Government of China in establishing a UNICEF Emergency Hub, with view to upgrading the current Regional Logistics Centre in Shanghai, which continues to host production and pre-positioning of education materials for UNICEF programmes globally. In 2016, the Centre produced 224,750 kits, of which worth of US$9,724,679 supplies were shipped to other country programmes. UNICEF China continued its support to UNICEF DPRK programmes and operations, including raising 83 contracts. Nearly one-third of the US$3.66 million in supplies for DPRK were related to emergency response.
To support the post-earthquake recovery in Nepal, UNICEF China ensured an end-to-end operation in the delivery of 74 prefabricated buildings to serve as health facilities. This included organising a learning trip for a government delegation to visit China, and supporting training and installation of buildings on-site.

Demonstrating value-added support, teaching and learning materials were successfully delivered to Afghanistan in close coordination with suppliers, freight forwarders and UNICEF staff.

UNICEF China further strengthened quality control mechanisms and established independent inspection procedures through agreements with two reputable firms - SGS and Intertech. A total of 51 inspection reports were commissioned in 2016.

The office also enhanced its supplier database through an open market survey exercise, with a view to having an interactive system for capacity development and greater transparency in the procurement process.

**Security for Staff and Premises**

The UNICEF China office is situated in an independent compound, as space limitations hinder a joint UN compound. The premises are fully compliant with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) minimum operating security standards. No major security threats were identified or reported by UNDSS in 2016. In addition to the security service hired by UNICEF, the Government provides security guards stationed outside the compound, ensuring a high level of security coverage.

The office adhered to the mandatory process of obtaining security clearance for all travel through the TRIPS system. All new staff members were briefed on security and undertook online security training immediately upon joining.

Poor air quality remains a problem in Beijing. Indoor air quality is affected by the outdoor air quality, with the density of PM 2.5 particulates regularly been exceeded. To address this, the office ensured functioning air purifiers were available in all offices and indoor public areas. The office also recommended the use of outdoor breathing masks as per a UN Country Team and Operational Management Team decision. Options were implemented for staff to work from home on days where the air quality alert was high.

The business continuity plan was revised and tested. A MoU for the provision of a recovery location between the offices of UNICEF China and the United Nations Population Fund China was renewed. The office evacuation plan was strengthened following an annual fire drill that served to check the effectiveness and staff awareness of the plan.

UNICEF continued to improve its facilities to enhance efficiency and staff productivity. The office is in the process of turning the former canteen into a multifunctional room to accommodate improved seating arrangements and space for extracurricular activities. The installation of a solar panel system is underway to improve energy efficiency.

**Human Resources**

The staffing structure was further refined to align human capacity with the needs of the new country programme. During the year, two posts were abolished and four posts were created.

Priorities for staff learning and development were identified and reflected in the 2016–2017 learning and development plan. Several training and orientation sessions were conducted, including on the UN pension scheme, receiving gifts and rewards, writing of Terms of
Reference, and HACT. The orientation programme was revamped to support new staff; multiple career consultations were held; and four stretch assignments to other UNICEF offices were provided to staff to help expand career opportunities and build capacity.

Recruitment in 2016 comprised 11 fixed-term staff (with the process taking on average 63 days from the close of advertisement to approval of appointment), six temporary staff and three local UN volunteers. The recruitment included two senior appointments: the Deputy Representative and the Chief of Operations. A particular focus was placed on staff diversity through strengthened outreach to attract candidates from programme countries and male candidates for national positions. Partnerships with two recruitment agencies were established to support this. Eight staff recruitments were ongoing at the end of the year. The office engaged 63 consultants to provide technical expertise and support programme implementation.

In 2016, UNICEF offered internships to 17 students. New partnerships were explored with the Tsinghua and Peking Universities regarding interns, which will bear fruit in the coming years.

The office achieved a 100 per cent completion rate in performance appraisals for 2015 and performance planning for 2016.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

UNICEF China aligned its information and communication technology (ICT) strategy with the global strategy, to increase focus on innovative use of ICT for development. To encourage staff to use cloud-based services such as Office 365 and thereby improve productivity, the bandwidth of the secondary Internet connection was upgraded. The implementation of a universal wireless network simplified management of the wireless networks in the office, and helped improve effective utilisation of bandwidth. With the activation of the Application Performance Management service in the security gateway, Internet utilisation was better managed and monitored. To better support knowledge-sharing and research, the office implemented a proxy solution for users to be able to access websites and services that are otherwise blocked in China.

Programmes used ICT to improve delivery of services and enable increased information sharing, outreach and monitoring. In education, online learning platforms were developed for providing ECD information to the public and for training education statisticians nationwide. UNICEF China also worked with UNICEF Global Innovation Centre to plan the implementation of innovative ICT tools such as Rapidpro and with UNICEF Headquarters on eTools.

The office has a bilingual website hosted by a local cloud-based service provider, and measures were taken to improve website security. The average number of visitors to the website per day is around 20,000, and while most popular global social media platforms are unavailable in China, the office website attracted almost three million followers through local platforms such as Sina Weibo, Tencent Weibo and WeChat.

To reduce the ICT carbon footprint, desktop computers were replaced by laptop computers and the number of printers were reduced. The introduction of new IT systems, such as MyHR and Mycase, also helped reduce paper consumption.

**Programme Components from RAM**
ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 By 2020, pregnant women and children, particularly the most disadvantaged, increasingly benefit from benefit from equitable national policies, guidelines and tools for, and innovative monitoring and evaluation of, high impact and quality interventions for survival and development.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The partnership between UNICEF and NHFPC continued to build on research and results from UNICEF-supported demonstration sites to inform national policy changes and scale up interventions for better outcomes for China’s children, adolescents and pregnant women.

In collaboration with the China Health Development and Research Centre and the National Centre for Women’s and Children’s Health, UNICEF supported the development of child survival strategies in four provinces. This aims to improve the health of mothers and children through a menu of 24 cost-effective interventions; the initiative awaits the Government’s formal approval. A health care financing mechanism with pooled funds from diverse sources is being developed in collaboration with implementing partners, to ensure financial access to child survival interventions. Building on the success of the child survival strategy, the development of an adolescent health strategy has started and situation analysis and stakeholder assessment have been completed.

To improve nutrition behaviours and outcomes for pregnant women and their offspring, UNICEF advocated for multi-sectoral support of breastfeeding, in particular through promoting breastfeeding policies and rooms with 10 Government ministries including NHFPC, All-China Federation of the Trade Union and All China Women’s Federation. UNICEF also helped draft a national guideline for micronutrient supplementation for HIV-affected pregnant women. With support from the Institute of Nutrition and Health and international experts, successes and challenges in micronutrient deficiency prevention were summarised and recommendations provided to the Government.

In recognition of the early onset of risk factors for non-communicable diseases, UNICEF initiated the development of a national coalition of birth cohorts, which will help investigate strategic policy questions on the relationship between lifestyle and diet changes and the emergence of non-communicable diseases. This forms part of a global initiative bringing together one birth cohort each from China, India and South Africa.

UNICEF has been closely engaged in helping the Government switch to an improved polio vaccination schedule following global recommendations. To address vaccine hesitancy, C4D guidelines for the immunisation programme are being revised with support from UNICEF, experts from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, World Health Organization (WHO) and China CDC. To promote the introduction of new vaccines (Hib and PCV), a policy brief is being developed with support from WHO, summarising international recommendations and China’s status.

To address injuries amongst children over the age of one, UNICEF and China CDC supported the Government to institutionalise an annual forum to identify trends and solutions for road safety and child injury prevention. Good practices and experiences were documented in the National Child Injury Prevention Action Plan, and to guide its implementation UNICEF will continue to help the Government develop sectoral child injury strategies.

To increase access to improved sanitation among the 24 per cent of China’s population who are currently underserved and support the achievement of the SDGs on WASH, UNICEF
collaborated with the Government to prepare and refine WASH standards and guidelines for households, schools and health care facilities, and to replicate the success of CATS in Guangxi province.

Birth registration (*hukou*), through the Ministry of Public Security enables a newborn to receive public social services, following the issuance of a birth certificate by NHFPC. To demonstrate the feasibility of timely birth registration, a protocol for electronic birth certificate issuance and data transfer was developed and tested in two pilot counties, and research continues in three other provinces. The results will open the way for a discussion on strengthening timely birth registration across China.

An IECD service model with multi-sector collaboration implemented in four counties is showing encouraging results. Preliminary findings from a mid-term assessment indicated that developmental delays, which were present in 40 per cent of children in the baseline, were on average reduced by over one-third (37 per cent). UNICEF also advocated for increased attention to the second decade of a child’s life, and helped draft a National Adolescent Health and Development Strategy.

**Constraints and actions taken:**
Local and policymaker ownership is a critical success factor and hinges on the alignment of UNICEF support with Government initiatives. Consequently, UNICEF continued to pay special attention to identify national policy initiatives to which interventions can be linked.

The capacity of village-level service providers is often weak, and can be improved by systematic county level visits and support, which UNICEF helped organise. In addition, UNICEF supported secondments from high to low capacity areas, which have proven to be effective for sharing knowledge, building capacity and overcoming human resource constraints.

Government policies in China are often fragmented, and the development of a comprehensive effective intervention package is constrained by this. To improve institutional learning and help overcome policy fragmentation, UNICEF supported – and will continue to support - joint annual partner meetings.

**Way forward:**
UNICEF will continue supporting NHFPC by helping to specify local targets for universal health insurance; birth registration; stunting; hygiene and sanitation; maternal, child and adolescent health; EPI; CIP; ECD and prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV. Implementing the child survival strategy in four UNICEF-supported provinces provides a strategic opportunity to demonstrate how pockets of inequity can be reached. UNICEF will continue to align with and inform government initiatives and investments in child survival and development.

**OUTPUT 1** Increased evidence and policymakers’ capacity to (a) formulate and revise policies, guidelines and tools for high impact interventions for MCH, PPTCT, child development and adolescents, (b) support equitable delivery of quality MCH services and (c) strengthen MCH surveys and surveillance systems.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The development of a National Child Survival Strategy, jointly by NHFPC and UNICEF China, helped identify and promote 24 cost-effective interventions that if scaled up could prevent over 4,200 maternal deaths and 263,000 under five deaths in the period 2016–2020. Other initiatives include the development of an advocacy plan on health financing of cost-effective interventions and the move towards a single health care financing mechanism for
MCH: the translation and adaptation of global guidelines and tools to support national PMTCT validation; and a stakeholder analysis on adolescent health that informed the development of the National Adolescent Health and Development Strategy.

This was a transitional year to generate lessons learned from the previous programme cycle (2011–2015) and use the findings to inform and design projects for the new cycle (2016–2020). Major developments are listed below:

- Plans were developed for six joint UNICEF and NHFPC MCH projects with interventions to reduce newborn preventable deaths, promote adolescent health, integrate services for left-behind children and pilot the triple validation of elimination of mother-to-child transmission (HIV, syphilis and hepatitis).

- An endline survey (IMCH), mid-term survey (ECD) and baseline survey (IMCHD) were conducted in 42 counties to provide information on achievements and constraints. UNICEF supported NHFPC’s national survey on the health situation of left-behind children in 27 counties of 12 provinces.

- Best practices in MCH policy development, service provision, capacity building and community mobilisation were generated and used. Advocacy, including community mobilisation via religious leaders and women cadres was used to improve hospital delivery of newborns and child nutrition.

- UNICEF and CDRF supported the launch of the Lancet ECD series, which in the presence of Vice Ministers helped promote ECD and advocate for the scale-up of ECD approaches.

- An entry point into South-South cooperation between China and Africa on MCH was created though a dialogue on child health development cooperation, co-hosted by UNICEF, MoFCOM and NHFPC.

Constraints and actions taken:
Late signing of workplans created implementation challenges and necessitated careful replanning with partners to ensure maximum progress and rollover of activities to 2017. Together with the broad scope of the programme, this required careful management to maintain a balance in coordinating with partners on health care financing, ECD, PMTCT and adolescent health and development.

Way forward:
UNICEF and partners will implement the draft plans for the six UNICEF/NHFPC sub-projects targeting newborn preventable deaths, adolescent health, left-behind children as well as triple validation of PMTCT in selected demonstration sites in 2017. Studies will be completed on monitoring and evaluation of national public health services and on improving the quality of data on preterm birth/low birth weight in the Government’s MCH Annual Report. UNICEF and partners will complete drafts on multi-domain development benchmarks for children aged 0–3 years as well as national guidelines defining comprehensive, evidence-based, adolescent-responsive health services.

OUTPUT 2 Increased evidence and policymakers’ capacity to (a) formulate and revise policies, guidelines and tools for high impact interventions to address stunting, breastfeeding, micronutrient deficiencies, diet and lifestyles; (b) support equitable delivery of quality nutrition services; (c) strengthen nutrition surveillance systems, data collection and reporting, and (d) undertake international exchange of relevant policies, guidelines and tools.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
Guidelines, tools and policies were developed and used by UNICEF China in different areas. UNICEF worked with NHFPC to develop a national Nutrition Action Plan, emphasising nutrition in the first 1000 days, child overweight/obesity control and meeting the needs of pregnant and lactating women. This was endorsed in the context of the Healthy China 2030 strategy and will be used in UNICEF demonstration sites and guide nutrition programmes in China.

Standards were developed for multiple micronutrient supplementation for pregnant and lactating women, and producers were encouraged to apply these standards so that multiple micronutrient supplementation products are available for use in demonstration sites and beyond.

To strengthen the evidence-base for policy and programmes, a coalition was brought together to support a national birth cohort to be followed in a longitudinal analysis that will explore links between lifestyle and diet changes and non-communicable diseases. Standardised questionnaires on breastfeeding and complementary feeding were applied in national and subnational surveys including the National Health and Nutrition Survey; and a report on the nutritional status of Chinese children was finalised. Healthy lifestyle to prevent childhood overweight and obesity was piloted in seven project counties in seven provinces.

Other programme-related analyses included a mapping of the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and a draft report on the costs of not breastfeeding. Follow-up surveys on the effectiveness of the YYB supplement among children aged 6–23 months conducted in Ledi and Huzhu counties (Qinghai province) reconfirmed its effects on reducing the prevalence of anaemia (from 54.3 per cent to 24.6 per cent) and stunting (from 10.3 per cent to 8.3 per cent) after seven years of high-level compliance.

A UNICEF-supported international meeting on iodine deficiency disease prevention and control helped facilitate consensus amongst experts on maintaining universal salt iodisation. This culminated in a joint letter from UNICEF, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, WHO and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition recommending maintenance of China’s universal salt iodisation policy, which is under threat in the context of proposed policy reforms.

Constraints and actions taken:
While high quality support for improving nutrition is available from national and provincial institutions, what is lacking is a grass-roots level programmatic component. To address this, UNICEF supported nutrition training for county and township health workers.

Way forward:
In collaboration with NHFPC, analyses of national surveys assessing the nutritional status of children under two years of age will be finalised and their findings used to inform policy and programme changes.

OUTPUT 3 Increased evidence and policymakers’ capacity to (a) formulate and revise policies, guidelines and tools for new vaccines, effective vaccine management and child injury prevention, (b) support equitable delivery of quality interventions and (c) strengthen immunisation and child injury surveillance systems, data collection and reporting.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF continued work with partners to strengthen the national immunisation programme, focusing on reaching children in migrant, remote, rural and poor urban communities. UNICEF with WHO supported the establishment of a National Immunisation Technical Advisory Group; and the Government switch of polio vaccination from tOPV to IPV and bOPV, in line with global standards. UNICEF continued to promote the inclusion of Hib and PCV into the national immunisation programme; barriers to this were identified in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF Supply Division and steps taken to discuss and overcome them with high-level policymakers.

In continuation of efforts to improve routine immunisation access for communities in western China and reduce equity gaps nationwide, UNICEF helped develop a strategy for strengthening capacity among county service providers. This included the introduction of effective vaccine management, and a mobile app for tracking and reporting vulnerable children's immunisation status in remote areas.

UNICEF helped generate evidence for and supported the development of guidelines and tools on child injury prevention as part of the National Child Survival Strategy, so that more funding will be allocated nationally to improve infrastructure and injury prevention. To strengthen child injury surveillance and data, UNICEF worked with the Government to institutionalise an annual forum to identify trends in child injury and solutions for road safety and child injury prevention. UNICEF also supported the dissemination and adoption of demonstration site tools such as 'Little Safeguard' and the 'Child Safe Home Checklist' into the child injury prevention national guideline. Over 5,000 copies of these tools were distributed in 31 provinces, and include guidance for communities, schools and families. As a result of these efforts, the Government and UNICEF child injury prevention models were reviewed and standardised throughout China.

**Constraints and actions taken:**
It has been challenging to mobilise funding for comprehensive, large-scale programmes such as child injury prevention in the context of limited national attention to this issue, despite the large burden it causes. UNICEF continued to advocate for the prioritisation of child injury prevention and sought to identify sources of funding, while aiming to ensure that programmes are not driven by funding or lack thereof, but rather by results for children.

The signing of workplans was delayed due to lack of clarity on health sector responsibilities for child injury prevention. UNICEF maintained communication with partners, and effective replanning enabled activities to be carried out.

**Way forward:**
UNICEF will continue to support the development of a sound evidence-base to underpin effective vaccination policies and their implementation. Ongoing successful cooperation will be maintained with UNICEF Supply Division, WHO, China CDC and other agencies to promote the introduction of Hib and PCV vaccines in China. A vaccine confidence survey protocol is being developed in collaboration with WHO, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and China CDC.

In 2017, UNICEF will support a child injury prevention baseline survey in demonstration sites and conduct training related to demonstration site tools.

**OUTPUT 4** Increased evidence and policymakers' capacity to (a) formulate and revise policies, guidelines and tools for pro-poor sanitation and institutionalisation of sanitation, (b) promote public private partnerships for sanitation and hygiene, (c) support equitable delivery
of quality sanitation services and (d) strengthen monitoring and evaluation of sanitation and hygiene.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2016, UNICEF engaged with a number of new Government counterparts for WASH. This included the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development to include sanitation in their routine mandate; the Primary Health Department of NHFPC to strengthen WASH in local health care facilities; and the Ministry of Environmental Protection for child environment and health. UNICEF also partnered with several universities, the National Administration of Tourism and non-governmental organisations, providing technical support to their sanitation-related programmes or leveraging their initiatives in promotion of sanitation.

To demonstrate the delivery of quality sanitation services, UNICEF supported the conceptualisation and development of a Model Township of Total Sanitation initiative. This included the development of an implementation guideline and training of counterparts from national to county levels.

In order to involve a broad range of partners more actively on sanitation issues, UNICEF, together with the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, organised a seminar on toilet revolution and rural wastewater management, in which various ministries and research institutions participated. This was complemented by toilet revolution campaigns that included health education, and a photography and painting competition in project counties that was publicised nationally by media. UNICEF also participated in a seminar on toilet revolution for tourism development, which was organised by the China National Tourism Administration. A media interview on World Toilet Day and continued advocacy to underscore the importance of holistic WASH improvements in households, schools and health care facilities continued in partnership with media, research institutions and universities.

UNICEF engaged with private sector partners in conceptualising toilets and products that encourage water saving, waste volume reduction, urine separation and easy installation, resulting in the production of an easy-to-install water saving squatting pan.

Constraints and actions taken:
WASH encompasses several sectors and requires engagement with a broad spectrum of partners and linkages with other sectors like nutrition and health. Engaging with new counterparts was especially important as scope and standards have changed in the SDGs. These constraints are gradually addressed through more frequent and higher level engagement and strengthened guidance and partnerships.

Way forward:
UNICEF will work closely with Government counterparts, technical institutions and private partners to review toilet options and wastewater management models in rural China; develop the WASH standards in township hospitals; and contribute to the draft Child Environment and Health Action Plan. UNICEF will support field testing of the newly designed squatting pan, which will enable work with partners and communities to better understand ideal toilet solutions at community level. Revision of the People-Satisfied Township Indicator Framework will be completed, to enable monitoring of progress nationwide related to WASH in township hospitals.

OUTPUT 5 Establishment of an integrated and innovative health management information system for improved decision making for child survival, and ECD, with improved data quality in line with national and international priorities and standards.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF worked with the Government to improve the efficiency of the national maternal and child health management information system (MCH-MIS). With the aim to increase newborns’ timely access to a birth certificate and birth registration (hukou), a protocol for policy research on an electronic birth certificate system was drafted. Field investigations using this protocol were conducted in two pilot counties, and research continued in three other provinces. By December, 16 per cent of the demonstration sites were using a single e-card for identification, birth registration and MCH service access.

UNICEF continued to support the introduction of a unique identification number for all newborns as a backbone of the MCH-MIS. This will help deliver electronic birth certificates, improve access to child health information across fragmented systems, and facilitate improved sharing of information with the Ministry of Public Security.

A UNICEF-supported Health Family App is being designed. It will help increase access to and uptake of quality health information and high impact interventions; generate evidence to inform decision-making for pregnant women, caregivers, health providers and programme managers; and improve the quality of maternal and children health care in 40 demonstration counties. A proposal for the Health Family App modules was developed and refined based on several consultations.

Progress was also made on health surveillance of adolescents in UNICEF project sites, an area not included in the existing information system. Working with NHFPC, the development of adolescent health and development surveillance indicators and survey modules in the National Health Service Survey was initiated.

To align national and international priorities, UNICEF supported the drafting of a proposal to update and align national survey, surveillance and reporting system indicators and definitions with the SDGs, including identifying data gaps and feasible mechanisms to strengthen real-time data collection, transmission and analysis.

Constraints and actions taken:
China’s health information system is fragmented. UNICEF played a convening role in bringing Government counterparts together to agree to the development of a single plan for UNICEF project sites. In view of the complexities involved in supporting China’s MCH-MIS, birth registration systems and ensuring complementarity with the emerging Health Family App, continued support from the Global Innovation Centre and Regional Office is required. A joint meeting in support of the above initiatives is planned.

Way forward:
Field research in three provinces on MCH-MIS, birth registration and linkages with the Health Family App will be completed and evaluated. The percentage of demonstration sites using a single e-card for identification, birth registration and MCH service access is expected to steadily increase. The development of the prototype of the Health Family App will be completed and tested in 2017 in collaboration with UNICEF Global Innovation Centre. In addition, the protocol for policy research drafted in 2016 will be implemented. UNICEF is committed to working with various partners and stakeholders to see this system become operational.

OUTCOME 2 By 2020, pregnant women, children and their caretakers, particularly the most disadvantaged in UNICEF demonstration counties, have increased demand for and access to high impact and quality interventions for survival and development.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
Information, knowledge and awareness, combined with community engagement and ownership, are crucial to increasing the demand for and use of child survival and development services. UNICEF supported initiatives to engage with communities to raise awareness on care-seeking behaviours and practices related to health, nutrition, immunisation, child injury prevention and WASH, and also to learn from communities what their needs are, towards designing quality and responsive services.

Examples of initiatives taken to catalyse awareness and generate demand included the development of a Healthy Family App to disseminate integrated culturally appropriate health, nutrition and sanitation messages along with Government-promoted health standards to improve access to and use of services by households; and the ‘10m² of love’ social media campaign on breastfeeding and appropriate nutrition. Through this campaign, the public and health care workers were engaged and informed of evidence and knowledge on breastfeeding and appropriate nutrition for infants.

Community engagement helped inform the development of draft child injury prevention implementation guidelines at the community, school and family levels. UNICEF also supported the implementation of child injury prevention programmes focused on safe communities, schools, kindergartens and homes in Beijing, Jiangsu and Jiangxi.

To increase the provision of quality basic social services, UNICEF with partners helped strengthen the skills and capacities of health workers at county and township hospitals and village clinics in demonstration sites. Health professionals with higher capacity were temporarily seconded to areas with lower capacity. In addition, UNICEF and NHFPC developed a plan to establish centres of excellence in demonstration sites, which will build capacity of local health providers and emphasise highly cost-effective interventions, PMTCT and ECD. This year the focus was on developing the role of the centres of excellence, including outlining their responsibilities and standards for monitoring and performance evaluation.

Training and resources for health providers also helped increase their ability to mobilise leaders in the community to become advocates and enable improvements in maternal and child health services and resources. Multi-disciplinary management and training packages for paediatricians, obstetricians and health workers for child survival and development were developed and tested, including assessment of developmental status and 'care for development' interventions. User-friendly MCH programme management toolkits were developed in UNICEF demonstration areas to improve the capacity of local governors and MCH programme officials to implement and complement child survival and development strategies and mobilise resources for disadvantaged women and children. The Poverty Stoplight, a tool for community public health diagnosis and empowerment, was adapted for further use in health and sanitation projects.

In recognition of the importance of sanitation for child survival, growth and development outcomes as well as for healthy villages and townships, the Model Township of Total Sanitation project was launched with all provincial, prefectural and county level officials in all four demonstration counties. It is expected that total sanitation will be further integrated into local sustainable development planning.

UNICEF’s DRR expertise was shared through the launch of a community-based project, which together with the involvement of local officials is expected to advance disaster management and better integrate risk reduction into development planning.

Progress towards this outcome was supported by a number of initiatives described earlier, in
terms of foundational research, policy and planning initiatives at the national level.

**Constraints and actions taken:**
Collaboration across specific health, nutrition and WASH areas is critical for improved child survival and development outcomes. Moving from fragmentation to integration is necessary but also difficult and time-consuming. To generate increased collaboration, UNICEF invested efforts in engaging with interested stakeholders across MCH, nutrition, immunisation, child injury prevention and WASH portfolios. UNICEF will continue to play a convening role in bringing partners from different portfolios together to facilitate dialogue and enhance mutual learning.

In a context of high demand for training and other capacity-building activities, UNICEF has maintained priority and funding in this area and will continue to balance capacity-building across the various national and subnational levels.

Sustainable systemic changes only occur when implementing partners or local partners take ownership of programmes and projects. While UNICEF will continue its direct engagement in demonstration projects, ongoing focus is given to national and local ownership.

**Way forward:**
UNICEF will continue its support to the implementation of high quality, effective interventions to improve MCH outcomes. Going forward, centres of excellence will be established in purposeful locations specifically aimed at improving MCH outcomes in the community. MCH Programme Management Toolkits will be scaled up and used in more communities across China, thus increasing leaders’ capacity and improving management of interventions and their outcomes for women and children. Total sanitation will remain a priority for children’s survival, growth and development.

**OUTPUT 1** Increased skills and capacity of health providers at national and subnational level to (a) deliver evidence-based, standardised, high impact health interventions, and (b) mobilise village leaders and heads of health and education facilities to improve health, nutrition and sanitation status of the most disadvantaged pregnant women, children, and adolescents.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Capacities, information and resources available to health care workers were strengthened through several activities, including:

- Provincial level staff in Xinjiang, Guizhou, Qinghai, Tibet, Gansu, Yunnan, Guangdong and Zhejiang were trained in EPI to improve health outcomes for infants and children;
- Two training programmes covering 31 provinces on near-miss maternal deaths and neonatal audit were organised, to strengthen skills of obstetric, paediatric and health care service providers;
- Improvements were made in training and resources available to health providers to enable them to mobilise community leaders to become advocates for MCH services;
- Two nutrition workshops on MCH were organised for staff at provincial and prefecture levels.

Together with NHFPC, two guidelines for paediatricians, obstetricians and health workers were developed in line with global recommendations: the standard on Early Essential
Newborn Care; and obstetric, neonatal and paediatric emergency triage, assessment and treatment (ETAT). These guidelines promoted and standardised cost-effective interventions and helped streamline ETAT referral procedures.

UNICEF also supported the development of provincial and county-based centres of excellence. This was undertaken to improve the capacity and skills of health providers at county, township and village level regarding cost-effective interventions such as early essential newborn care, PMTCT and ECD. Four centres of excellence focusing on early essential newborn care were initiated in Ningxia, Qinghai, Sichuan and Guizhou provinces.

Conceptualisation and development of the Model Township of Total Sanitation project was launched in four project counties in four provinces in 2016. During this process, 50 government officials from Sichuan, Qinghai, Henan and Shandong were mobilised and learned from counties with previous experience in community total sanitation. Capacity was built through provision of project implementation guidelines; and ownership, commitment and a change in attitude observed amongst government officials involved in implementing this project.

To demonstrate integrated and equitable delivery of services, UNICEF piloted a model of integrated nutrition and WASH interventions in Min County, Gansu Province. To eliminate the practice of open defecation, 456 sanitary latrines were constructed benefitting more than 2,000 villages. This project was expanded to local schools and township hospitals and accompanied by communication activities to improve breastfeeding, complementary feeding and YYB supplement intake rates.

Constraints and actions taken:
Strengthened planning sessions are needed in all counties implementing the CATS approach in demonstration sites, which will be addressed in 2017. The various capacity development initiatives will require continued funding and UNICEF is committed to ensuring this funding is raised and made available.

Way forward:
UNICEF will continue to help improve MCH outcomes through strengthening the capacities of service providers. In the next five years, centres of excellence will be established in 15 UNICEF/NHFPC MCH demonstration provinces and counties. Following completion of the assessment and mapping of paediatric infrastructure and human resources, efforts will be invested in applying ETAT procedures initially in a pilot area and ultimately nationwide. UNICEF looks forward to sharing its successes and lessons learned through national and international opportunities.

OUTPUT 2 Increased engagement of households, community leaders and heads of health and education facilities, and improved skills and capacity of the most disadvantaged pregnant women, children, adolescents and their caretakers to adopt and use evidence-based, high impact health interventions.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Recognising the importance of community mobilisation and ownership in adopting and using high impact health interventions, UNICEF worked with NHFPC to broaden the tasks of family planning workers to include mobilisation of community leaders and families to utilise maternal, newborn, child and adolescent services.

The outcomes of community engagement were used to inform a wide range of initiatives. Consultations with community leaders helped draft the Healthy Family App proposal. UNICEF and NHFPC mobilised officials, health facilities, family and media to raise
awareness around prematurity and low birth weight and advocate for cost-effective, proven interventions to address preterm birth complications; and consultations with communities and partners assisted the drafting of child injury prevention implementation guidelines. Furthermore, community public health diagnosis and evaluation tools were designed with NHFPC to assess a person’s level of poverty and opportunities to access optimal nutrition and sanitation.

Through facilitator training workshops in two counties, 150 village heads, health care workers, women leaders and schoolteachers were trained on CATS. In turn, they trained household representatives in six villages (17,000 residents). On World Toilet Day, activities were organised in four counties, including a ‘Toilet Revolution’ campaign event that included a street parade, photography and painting competitions, dissemination of sanitation and health information, and a display of technological models. Community involvement and awareness were central to the campaign’s success.

In nutrition, a ‘10m² of love’ social media campaign engaged different stakeholders to spread awareness on breastfeeding and appropriate nutrition in view of declining rates of exclusive breastfeeding. In 2016, 232 applications for breastfeeding rooms were verified and deemed qualified as meeting standards. UNICEF-supported research found that only a small percentage of children aged 6–23 months in demonstration sites received a minimum acceptable diet. To address this and promote micronutrient supplementation, UNICEF plans to train health workers and households on the importance of meal frequency and dietary diversity.

Constraints and actions taken:
One constraint was that county and township level officials needed to be convinced and encouraged to engage with communities, for example to improve sanitation. In addition, community members needed to be reached at their residence rather than at their workplace to benefit from the full range of sanitation interventions offered. Looking ahead, UNICEF will work with counterparts at all levels to improve the ability to reach people wherever they are through strategic communication and targeted interventions.

Way forward:
The Healthy Family App prototype will be tested to improve national MCH health information access and systems. Capacity development will also continue through training on child injury prevention implementation guidelines and training of community members and partners on how to improve health outcomes for women and children. A key initiative will be the scaling up of widening the tasks of current family planning workers in demonstration counties to include community mobilisation, and organising cascade training to improve the capacity of family planning workers in this area.

OUTCOME 3 By 2020, children in China aged 6 to 18 years, particularly the most vulnerable, have improved equitable access to and complete child-friendly learning and "suzhi jiaoyu" oriented education.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF’s education programme seeks to increase the number of vulnerable children who can attend child-friendly, equitable, and quality basic education. This outcome has two distinct focus groups – children aged 6–16 years enrolled in basic education and in-school and out-of-school adolescents up to age 18. The overarching approach of going from pilots to policy and finally scale up informs programme strategies.

On basic quality education, work focused on scaling up while further refining the Child Friendly School (CFS) model, and related innovative teaching and learning models, such as
WASH in schools and social and emotional learning. The CFS model encompasses four dimensions: (1) inclusion and equality, (2) effective teaching and learning, (3) safe, healthy and protective environment, and (4) participation and harmonisation. In the last decade, UNICEF CFS pilots have informed MoE 2014 national compulsory school standards, and through the current pilot programmes models are being further refined so as to inform replication in more disadvantaged communities. Two successes in 2016 were plans for replication of the WASH in schools model as well as the SEL model.

To inform UNICEF advocacy for replication of the CFS model so that more vulnerable children access high quality child-friendly schools, robust evidence is required to demonstrate the extent to which implementing the child-friendly 2014 national compulsory school standards bring about improved learning outcomes. This data will also inform parents, who are very concerned about learning outcomes in light of the pressures in China to perform well in the end of secondary school (gaokao) examinations, taken by 9.45 million children in 2015. The four-year CFS impact study, to be completed by 2019, will provide this evidence: phase two of this study was started in 2016.

Accurate data and statistics are critical to improving education equity and quality, and to inform effective planning. MoE requested UNICEF support to improve education statisticians’ capacity and in implementing a monitoring system. This led to the development of a national online education statisticians’ training platform, launched via a website and WeChat in August 2016. Over 5,000 statisticians have already completed this course online.

Considerable progress was made in the joint work with MoE to promote life skills-based education for adolescents. New modules for students and teachers accompanied by manuals were introduced for use in the vocational education curriculum. Life skills modules for out-of-school adolescents were disseminated and used in project counties. Due to limitations in UNICEF funding, the activities were taken forward under Government funding, a clear expression of national support. A strong gender focus underscored the emphasis given to meeting the needs of adolescent girls in and out of school.

Strong advocacy efforts in both focus areas ensured the above work was promoted amongst decision-makers and partners. This included presentations at nine prominent global and national conferences and workshops, and successful media campaigns on adolescents, youth and the SDGs with 80 million social media hits to date.

China, with UNICEF support, is moving ahead on SDG 4 and recently announced its implementation plan. This plan was lauded during an Asia-Pacific meeting on education development, especially the inclusion of SDG 4 in the national 13th Five Year Plan (2016–2020). UNICEF together with United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is supporting MoE host a major Eastern Asia and Pacific Regional South-South SDG 4 meeting in early 2017, to learn from China’s SDG work on implementation planning, indicators and national policy alignment. To support South-South cooperation, UNICEF is working closely with the Government on organising a meeting between MoE staff from China and select Africa countries to inform China’s engagement in education activities in Africa.

**Constraints and actions taken:**
Work in some emerging areas such as indicators for creative learning, SEL e-tools, and measuring the impact of WASH in schools on learning outcomes are challenging in terms of sourcing appropriate international technical support. UNICEF will invest concerted efforts in developing capacities, forging partnerships and building an evidence-base in these areas.

The focus on the most vulnerable children includes ethnic minorities, children left behind,
and out-of-school adolescents. Given the different stigmas attached to these groups, there is a need for a deeper understanding of their situation and needs.

Improving quality teaching and learning in China’s test-oriented system and especially in rural areas means changing ingrained beliefs about education, which takes time. The Government is, however, focused on improvement, has great openness and a sense of responsibility, which provides a significant opportunity.

**Way forward:**
UNICEF will continue to use technical expertise, evidence from pilots, and its strong relationship with MoE to inform improved national policies and standards, while continuing to support implementation of pilots that will help increase equitable access to quality education for the most vulnerable children under 18 years of age. Critical elements of future work will be continuing the support for SDG 4 implementation in China and South-South cooperation between China and select African countries.

**OUTPUT 1** Models for operationalising national child friendly schools and system developed and tested in disadvantaged counties and used to inform implementation at national level.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In 2016, 100 schools in two new counties were identified and received initial CFS support from UNICEF, and all 250 CFS pilot schools in five disadvantaged counties are developing and testing CFS models.

To inform the implementation of CFS at the national level, work began on developing guidelines for teachers on implementing the 2014 national compulsory school standards. The guidelines are informed by UNICEF CFS standards and will be used to support models in 2017.

Phase two of the four-year CFS impact study began. The study will determine the extent to which interventions improve learning in the 250 pilot schools. With international and national technical partners, assessment tools are being developed and baseline data collected.

Following a request for technical support, work began with MoE towards developing children’s creative and problem-solving abilities. This focuses on developing child-friendly creative learning strategies and assessment indicators for school supervisors. An expert team was convened, and a launch event in Chongqing helped share experiences and gain insights from international and national experts. The completion of a literature review of international research and best practices including recommendations for China, will help further the work on children’s creative learning.

Disaster risk reduction as a component of CFS was also strengthened. Preliminary field survey results highlight the lack of systematic professional technical support to improve schools’ DRR capacity. The findings were disseminated amongst counterparts from three project counties and the development of materials and a training plan has begun. Preliminary planning on piloting child-friendly climate change education in 600 primary and secondary schools in 10 provinces was initiated, focusing on development of materials, linkages with national curriculum, teacher training and advocacy.

**Constraints and actions taken:**
Progress in the DRR project was delayed due to the MoE Planning Department being unable to provide overall coordination. To address this, the MoE National Center for Educational Technology was brought on board in August.
Once work began with MoE on developing child-friendly creative learning and problem solving assessment tools, it was realised that preparatory work needed to first be done in schools to support children’s skill development.

Donor funding for the climate change education project did not materialise, and a new donor will support this work in 2017.

**Way forward:**
UNICEF will continue to develop and test CFS models in 250 schools. The ongoing CFS impact study will be another priority, along with conducting in-depth studies, developing school self-review tools and creating a database on children’s learning and development progress.

Other major areas include finalising schools’ implementation manual based on national school management standards; providing resources, training and on-site guidance to project schools on DRR; define creative learning competencies and teaching strategies for improving creativity; and drafting framework, indicators and tools for assessing creativity.

**OUTPUT 2** Comprehensive model of social and emotional learning and mental health education (SEL-MHE) developed and tested to support the implementation of national standards and guidelines, with focus on disadvantaged populations.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The SEL-mental health education model is currently implemented in 250 schools serving disadvantaged children in five pilot provinces, benefiting 120,000 students and 6,000 teachers. Based on this successful demonstration, 11 new counties will replicate this model in 275 additional schools in 2017, covering approximately 200,000 students and 130,000 teachers.

The technical capacity of national, provincial and county level SEL experts has greatly improved since 2012 when UNICEF introduced SEL in China. Through UNICEF support, about 100 experts now have the capacity to provide ongoing technical support, training, field monitoring, on-site guidance, and to oversee documentation and reporting. Their capacity was further strengthened through exposure at two international conferences, where they presented the China SEL model and learned about the latest global SEL developments.

One national and five provincial inception meetings were held to review progress and challenges and devise 2017 workplans. Other measures to improve project implementation included refining the SEL training manual and textbook series and developing three new resources – a training manual guidebook, and manuals for principals and teachers respectively. National and provincial level training workshops in all five project counties for over 820 experts, teachers and principals were held to introduce the resource package and improve implementation capacity. These resources were packaged and distributed to all project schools.

A major achievement was training that was conducted to promote, extend and replicate the SEL-MHE model in non-project areas and schools. With 84 attendees from 11 non-project counties, including two new provinces, implementation plans were drafted covering 275 schools, with approximately 200,000 students and 130,000 teachers benefitting.

Documentation of best practices and advocacy materials, including five videos, were prepared and disseminated to drive advocacy for the replication of SEL-MHE. Work began on developing a WeChat SEL app for parents and caregivers of rural left-behind children,
with support from international and national institutes and TUGICC.

**Constraints and actions taken:**

Stakeholders, including education officers, principals, teachers and parents are generally not well aware of the importance of SEL, and there is a need to enhance their knowledge and understanding. Academic performance still ranks highest on their agenda, crowding out other important objectives for children. As the project expands, provincial experts and the project management office may face administrative burdens; and to mitigate this UNICEF needs to ensure clear communication.

**Way forward:**

Key activities will include support to improve school self-review tools; support for knowledge sharing on SEL-MHE through seminars and an overseas study trip; research to understand the emerging issues related to SEL in schools and amongst disadvantaged children, including safe schools; and support to 11 new counties that are interested in replication.

**OUTPUT 3** Innovative teaching and learning and teacher training models developed and demonstrated to inform national professional standards and training programmes and implementation of national plans [Government of China’s National Educational Informatisation Plan], especially in the most disadvantaged areas.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Work began on developing three innovative teacher-training models in disadvantaged areas. The first is a training programme on generic teaching and learning strategies through digital video vignettes, using research-based best practices that all teachers, with focus on rural teachers, can use. The second is support to improve the capacity of physical education teachers, with a new focus on soccer and athletics. Training of 350 physical education teachers and teacher trainers in 175 schools across six counties was completed and will impact approximately 20,000 children. The third is the further development of mobile educational training and resource units (METRU) which will pilot the use of the innovative on-site roving resource teacher training model to support child-friendly schools, with a focus on improving teaching and learning in 250 schools in disadvantaged Western provinces.

A partnership with the architect of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and the Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) in Shanghai was developed. Shanghai topped PISA international league tables in 2013 and 2016, and TALIS in 2013. The partnerships will help support METRU, and play a seminal role in improving teacher quality and methodology.

To support national plans, two important interventions took place. A study to assess the situation of ICT education in county schools was conducted and is near completion. This will inform the development of an ICT-supported online learning community for rural teachers, which is included in the National Educational Informatisation Plan 2010–2020. Secondly, to support the MoE national teacher training programme, UNICEF acted as a third independent evaluator of the Government’s special post teacher policy, which has recruited over 500,000 teachers to rural schools since 2006. This will inform continued policy implementation, to impact 15 million children in rural areas.

**Constraints and actions taken:**

Due to internal MoE restructuring, implementation of a further developed METRU to improve teaching and learning and pilot the use of the on-site roving resource teacher training approach in 250 pilot CFS schools was delayed to end 2016. UNICEF continued work to have the counterpart team fully in place (a necessary prerequisite to implementing the
resource teacher system). This also delayed planned work on developing and disseminating game-based learning strategies, which will be taken forward in 2017.

**Way forward:**
The priority is to implement the further-developed METRU utilising Shanghai’s support, as well as to further support MoE in training physical education teachers to support children’s holistic development. To highlight skill gaps, a baseline survey on the physical education situation in four new project counties will be conducted. In the future, support for project counties and schools to organise activities to promote sports and to encourage children’s participation will be developed. The teaching and learning video vignette programme will be completed, launched and shared, and two ICT teacher training pilots will also be devised.

**OUTPUT 4** Models and evidence base developed to promote inclusive and gender sensitive water and sanitation facilities and effective WASH practices in schools, with focus on the most disadvantaged areas/ populations.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Replication began in Chongqing of the UNICEF-supported WASH in schools model piloted in 300 schools in five provinces. Two hundred of these are Child Friendly Schools. The Chongqing Education Commission issued three provincial level policies to scale-up this model in its 40 counties, to strengthen school WASH management and safe drinking water, sanitation and health education.

Work began on an impact study of WASH in 50 pilot schools. This will help investigate and substantiate the benefits of gender-sensitive and inclusive WASH in schools and links with health, nutrition, absenteeism and possibly learning outcomes.

Based on the national WASH in schools standards and guideline, UNICEF supported 35 pilot schools to gain gender-sensitive and inclusive WASH hardware and software, surpassing the original target of 15 schools. UNICEF leveraged the opportunity to integrate inclusive and gender-sensitive WASH in schools into the Government’s Healthy China 2030 concept and development agenda. This was done by drafting an indicator and monitoring plan to inform the final components and standards of MoE/NHFPC’s Healthy School initiative, which is to be issued nationally and replicated in all provinces.

UNICEF promoted gender-sensitive and inclusive WASH in schools by supporting the national level training on health management in schools. Fifty participants from 14 prefecture education administrations were trained and a follow-up training is planned for 2017, benefiting more than 100 counties. The training focused on WASH management in schools, hygiene promotion and school nutrition.

A joint WASH and school nutrition intervention was carried out in Zhong County of Chongqing. This included school drinking water and food safety education, management and maintenance of WASH facilities and canteens, nutritious food provision and handwashing before meals. County-level training helped build capacities of school management and canteen operation teams to standardise schools’ nutrition and food provision; and an assessment of canteen management food provision facilities in 193 schools was conducted.

**Constraints and actions taken:**
WASH in MoE is located in the Department of Health, WASH and Arts, and the focus on WASH is often inadequate to address the needs for WASH in schools (three-quarters of rural schools lack adequate sanitation facilities and one-quarter lack adequate handwashing facilities). UNICEF continued to work with and support the committed WASH team in MoE, including advocating for more investments by seeking a closer relationship with their
Planning Department where budget decisions are made. The WASH impact study will provide much needed evidence to support this advocacy.

Way forward:
Chongqing’s project experiences, best practices and lessons learnt are being documented. Information-sharing and exchange of experience with other project areas is planned to increase replication of WASH in schools in other provinces, with a focus on the gender-sensitive and inclusive aspects of the model. Other priorities will include revising national guidelines on sanitation, latrine construction and management in rural schools, and capacity-building of the MoE Planning Department on school WASH design and development.

OUTPUT 5 Gender-sensitive life skills modules for in-school and out-of-school adolescents developed and implementation package tested for adoption in relevant curricula.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
As part of UNICEF cooperation with the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) for out-of-school adolescents, six gender-sensitive life skills modules were finalised. These are: 1) social emotional learning, 2) financial education, 3) life skills for girls, 4) self-management, 5) communication, and 6) career guide and development. The modules are being scaled up in 24 CAST project counties of the 12 pilot provinces. National level teacher training was organised to orient 60 teachers from 12 provinces on life skills education. In addition, an adolescent girls’ app was developed with CAST that covers topics including gender role models, positive communication, self-protection against harassment and violence, adapting to urban life, career and development, and sexual and reproductive health. It was piloted with approximately 2,000 users.

For vocational education, as part of MoE efforts to incorporate life skills modules into their vocational education curriculum, UNICEF supported the development of two life skills modules on self-awareness and problem solving respectively. The draft modules in student and teacher versions were tested, reviewed and revised by vocational education experts and finalised. A students’ manual was completed, and a teachers’ manual is being developed.

To further promote gender and other closely related issues with adolescents, UNICEF used different opportunities to advocate for children’s rights. This included wide dissemination of the evidence generated through comprehensive case study documentation of the out-of-school adolescent life skills education programme (2011–2015), which was finalised and published in early 2016. Another important advocacy initiative was the sharing of positive experiences of life skills education, including from the perspective of six underprivileged adolescents at a highly publicised Manchester United football tournament in Shanghai in July. The campaign achieved wide media coverage, with the live video broadcast on social media viewed around 8,000 times, and the topic page receiving 1.2 million views.

Constraints and actions taken:
Constraints were encountered, including an unexpected discontinuation of donor support and frequent change of focal points amongst Government counterparts. In response, extra efforts were made to train the new focal points when they were appointed, and UNICEF successfully convinced Government to utilise its own budget to support project implementation.

Way forward:
For out-of-school adolescents, activities in 2017 will focus on: identifying digital formats and platforms to reach the most vulnerable children, and incorporating science, technology, engineering and mathematics (known as STEM) elements to enhance skills learning in the community centres supported by CAST.
For vocational schools, the focus in 2017 will be on: the development of new modules; exploring the use of digital platforms to share relevant teaching materials, and commencing development of an assessment framework for the life skills modules.

Two international conferences are being planned, on adolescent girl’s education and on adolescent neuroscience.

OUTCOME 4 By 2020, children aged 0-6 years, particularly the most disadvantaged, have improved access to affordable quality early childhood care and development.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
As the major ECD partner for MoE, UNICEF supported increased access to quality early childhood care and development for the most disadvantaged children, with different intervention settings for children aged 0–3 and 3–6 years. The target of 75 per cent gross enrolment ratio in pre-primary education for children aged 3–6 was reached, up from 70 per cent in 2014 and 50 per cent in 2010. The Government has a national target of increasing access to quality ECD to 90 per cent of children aged 3–6 years by 2020. The need to focus on quality and targeting the most disadvantaged will be critical to achieving this, as access in the more disadvantaged western China areas is much lower than average.

UNICEF worked with MoE to develop models and strategies to address equity and quality issues to inform MoE policy and practice. UNICEF piloted programmes in 332 ECD centres to demonstrate models through which quality ECD services cater to the needs for children aged 3-6 years in rural areas, migrant and urban poor children, and ethnic minority children. These projects began with comprehensive baselines to enable ongoing monitoring, and will be finally evaluated in 2019, to provide evidence that can be used to inform policy and advocacy, and in cases where models have proven to be effective, be potentially adopted by MoE for further scale-up.

The Government invests heavily in training of ECD teachers. However, this has not yet resulted in improved quality. To address this, UNICEF continued to support MoE develop high quality teacher training models and strategies for ECD to be used in their national training. In addition, UNICEF supported the development of three national ECD guidelines for the 3–6 years age group to improve access to quality services.

UNICEF worked closely with MoE to shift more attention to children under the age of three. Important work is underway on developing ELDGs for this age group. Combined with two UNICEF community-based IECD pilot models for the 0–3 year age group focusing on early stimulation/education and parental education in 146 centres, this has helped push the agenda forward. One pilot model is led by NHFPC and the other is supported by ACWF; the largest women’s group in the world. Advocacy and policy engagement further complemented this work, with the Lancet ECD launch and the presentation of the two ECD models to the influential State Council’s Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development (LGOP) in September being standout achievements.

Overall advocacy on ECD for the 0–6 year age group, especially for the most disadvantaged children, continued with twin objectives of raising awareness amongst the general public and promoting scientific child-rearing knowledge and skills amongst parents and caregivers. The profile of ECD was raised through social media campaigns throughout the year, the broadcast of parenting knowledge mini-talks (with over 430,000 subscribers and 714,831 views), successful media campaigns receiving at least 38 million hits, the annual ECD advocacy month in May/June and participation and presentations at five prominent global and national conferences.
Constraints and actions taken:
The quality of ECD and changing of mindsets are key constraints. Teachers have little or no training in developmentally appropriate ECD approaches; and many parents still believe that children in ECD centres should be learning how to read and write Chinese characters. UNICEF advocacy campaigns, together with pilot models and strategies, aim to address these constraints and also influence national policies and guidelines. The huge gap in parental knowledge and awareness of the importance of ECD is also an issue the pilots aim to address, through the provision of information and services.

Way forward:
Work will continue to support the development of national guidelines and pilots to improve the quality of ECD services. The focus on integrated ECD for the 0–3 years age group will be further strengthened with the development of a project with ACWF to establish 50 community based ECD 0–3 model centres, with five centres in each of the 10 targeted provinces. Together with trained provincial expert teams, this will facilitate further replication. Ongoing advocacy, which is important for changing mind-sets, will be a strategy for the work on ECD.

OUTPUT 1 National guidelines for ECD 0-3 and 3-6 years developed and tested to inform nationwide adoption and implementation by Government.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
To improve access to quality ECD services for the 3–6 years age group, MoE is currently developing three national guidelines: kindergarten quality assessment guidelines, national early childhood education (ECE) programme supervision guidelines, and teachers' professional competency assessment tools. UNICEF, as MoE’s main technical partner, continued to support this work to ensure that the guidelines are informed by the best international research and expertise. In relation to the three guidelines:

- Progress is on track with drafting the kindergarten quality assessment guidelines. Consultations and regular workshops took place, as did a study tour to the US by the Director of ECD in MoE to learn about kindergarten quality assurance and accreditation;

- Work began through the drafting of a framework and tools for the national ECE programme supervision guidelines. A supervision inception meeting and consultancy workshops were held with participation from China National Institute of Education Research, provincial supervision departments and other experts;

- Progress continued towards developing the ECE professional competency assessment tools and training resources. Based on international experience, tools were drafted through several workshops, and 330 teachers from Shandong province, representing a spectrum of levels, were selected to participate in the validation process with experts interviewing and collecting feedback.

UNICEF also continued to support MoE on ECD for the 0–3 year age group, working with a cross-sectoral team on developing ELDGs. As this is a new initiative, and given the complexities of China and disparities between provinces, this work is being significantly informed by UNICEF and UNICEF-supported national and international technical experts. The desk review report and outline was finalised, and a validation plan will be drafted and supported by an international team.

Constraints and actions taken:
The major constraint was identifying suitable international experts on ECD for the 0–3 year age group to support the development of the ELDGs. With support of the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office and headquarters ECD teams, suitable experts were recruited. The UNICEF work overload was a significant issue, in light of the heavy technical support involved in guideline development with MoE. This was addressed with two additional ECD team members.

Way forward:
To support developing the national ECE supervision guidelines for the 3–6 years age group, technical development of national ECD supervisors is critical. This will be provided through studying international experiences including a study tour, and the provision of training resources and training. The professional competency assessment tools for ECD teachers of the 3–6 year age group are planned to be finalised in 2017. The ELDGs for the 0–3 years age group are expected to be finalised by the end of 2017 or early 2018. Planning on how to support nationwide adoption of ELDGs will also take place in 2017.

OUTPUT 2 Models and strategies developed and piloted to promote quality ECD services for 3-6 years, with a focus on disadvantaged groups.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Models and strategies for quality ECD services were promoted with a focus on rural ECE, specifically teacher-training strategies and materials; and targeted pilots to address the needs of migrant children, urban poor and ethnic minority children.

Rural ECE teacher-training was undertaken for 109 out of the 214 child-friendly kindergartens in 2016, with national ECD experts’ providing technical support to provincial and county level experts in five disadvantaged counties. Some 779 ECD teachers were trained, through several workshops and on-site support, benefiting 20,566 children. A review of the effectiveness of training guidelines and strategies took place and will inform planning for the roll-out of 100 new child-friendly kindergartens in early 2017, which will also include provision of training, learning materials, toys and books. A mid-term review of the project was also initiated to further inform the roll-out.

For migrant children, efforts focused on six ECD centres in Chongqing, with a view to refining strategies to meet their specific needs. An important gap identified was the need to build capacities of the local supervision team and teachers of these ECD centres, and this was addressed through a national training. The national and local supervision teams provided regular support supervision to all ECD centres, in which daily child-centred play-based activities are provided for children aged 0–6 years. These ECD centres are based in child friendly spaces, thereby also providing services for vulnerable older children.

Two new pilot projects were initiated to address the specific needs of migrant and urban poor children (12 large ECD centres in Guizhou province) and ethnic minority children (100 ECD centres). The planning of the ECD project for migrant and urban poor children was finalised, and the pilot for ethnic minority children began late in the year. The ethnic minority project will focus especially on language and culturally sensitive approaches.

Constraints and actions taken:
Rural kindergartens have poor infrastructure and this is exacerbated by inadequate professional competencies of rural teachers, with limited understanding of developmentally appropriate teaching methods. There is a long way to go to improve kindergarten quality and build local capacity in these areas. More training is required to build capacities of local teacher teams, and the strategy will be to focus on one or two kindergartens and develop them as ‘model kindergartens’ for others to learn from. Another constraint was delayed funding to the ECD pilot for ethnic minority children, which resulted in implementation delays.
Way forward:
For the rural teacher-training programme, UNICEF will work with an additional 100 kindergartens in 2017. The mid-term review will be completed in early 2017 and inform the continued project work. The ECD pilot for migrant children project will begin implementation in 12 large ECD centres in Guizhou province, and the pilot targeting ethnic minority children will identify experts, devise workplans, develop materials, and begin implementation.

OUTPUT 3 Models and strategies of community-based integrated ECD 0-3 years for disadvantaged children, including children affected by HIV, piloted and assessed to inform scale-up at national level.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Integrated ECD was promoted through two models in 146 pilot sites across six provinces. Model 1, led by NHFPC with involvement of MCA, focuses on education, health, child protection and social policy in 80 village sites (40 villages with ECD centres and 40 villages using home-based playgroups). Model 2, initiated by ACWF, provides early stimulation and parental education services through ECD volunteers, and leverages health and protection services at community level (66 pilot sites, 26 of which were new in 2016). Both models offered centre-based services to a total of 47,696 children, home-based services through 13,592 home visits and outreach services through MRUs.

In model 1, four MRUs operated for 333 days, providing early stimulation and check-up services to children 8,770 times, follow-up services for children at risk of developmental delay 1,918 times, and social assistance/referral services for 62 children.

In model 2, 24 of the 66 ECD centres commenced outreach services, following an assessment of the quality and capacity of their volunteers. Eighty-four outreach visits reached 1,412 children aged 0–3 years and their parents/caregivers through knowledge-building sessions and practical support for games and reading activities.

The technical capacities of MRU and national and provincial experts were strengthened, and a national level training of trainers and six provincial training activities built capacities of 442 volunteers and women’s cadre/county women’s federation workers. The continuation of 38 rounds of on-site technical support and supervision in all 146 pilot sites helped ensure quality services.

Preliminary results from a cross-sectional IECD survey conducted in both intervention and comparison counties show promising results, particularly on parameters such as communication, gross and fine motor skills, language, and social and emotional skills. Advocacy through visits to ECD sites, a press conference, blog posts and a parenting portal website all helped raise awareness.

Constraints and actions taken:
Lack of human resources has affected programme implementation. The reimbursement policy also affected local level implementation, as there is no revolving fund available at local level, and the delay of payment for volunteers’ subsidies reduced their motivation to stay on as volunteers. This was addressed in October. Planning and timelines will be informed and adjusted accordingly in 2017.

Way forward:
Work will continue on both models, with a specific focus on building capacities. UNICEF plans to invite community health workers and social workers (or trained women’s cadre)
for training, and three international experts will be invited to deliver training on parenting children aged 0–3 years. Looking ahead, UNICEF aims to help ECD centres set up connections with village clinics, social assistance services and other Government services for children and their families.

OUTCOME 5 By 2020, girls and boys in China, especially the most disadvantaged, increasingly benefit from an equitable and integrated child protection system, including in humanitarian situations.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Building on progress achieved in previous years, a more equitable and protective environment for all children, especially the most vulnerable, was further strengthened. UNICEF continued supporting the Government in building an integrated child protection system, with emphasis on improving laws and policies; professionalization and expansion of social workers; and building a robust evidence-base to enable more informed and strategic programming.

The entering into force of the Family Violence Law in 2016 will go a long way to strengthen the protection of women and children against violence in the family. It is a recognition of the fact that family violence is not a private matter, and will help create a conducive environment to address family violence against children. The law also emphasises the importance of prevention, establishes a mandatory reporting system, obliges law enforcement officers to intervene immediately when a report is filed and helps streamline the process for obtaining protection orders from the courts. Together, these create more channels for domestic violence victims to receive assistance.

The issuance of two important policies by the State Council, the Guideline on the Protection of Left-Behind Children and the Opinions on Strengthening Protection for Vulnerable Children, also strengthened the enabling environment for child protection systems building. The Guideline on the Protection of Left-Behind Children focuses on protecting as well as preventing and reducing the number of children left behind. It includes strengthening the legal and institutional framework for children; clarifying responsibilities for the identification, reporting and response to children at risk; establishing a database for assistance and monitoring of a child’s situation; and creating a safer environment for a child’s development that involves communities and schools. The Opinions on Strengthening Protection for Vulnerable Children aim to, amongst other things, improve the service system for vulnerable children, stress the responsibilities of families in the upbringing of their children, and establish and improve a protection system to provide differentiated assistance and care based on different child vulnerabilities.

Maintaining the strong momentum initiated by the legislative and judicial branches to advance justice for children in previous years, UNICEF provided technical inputs to policy development on reforming juvenile justice and protecting child victims. Support was also provided for strengthening the capacities of judicial social workers, to improve the quality of services provided to children in the justice system.

To respond to the high demand for services from the community level, UNICEF supported MCA in the professionalisation and scale-up of services to children and their families and caregivers, as well as improved coordination and collaboration between different actors in the child protection system. UNICEF continued to support MCA’s transformation of street children protection centres into child protection centres, which exemplifies the Government’s shift from an issue-based to a systemic approach to child protection. In addition, UNICEF provided technical support to strengthen the capacity of social workers, including in humanitarian settings through support to the National Social Work Team for Disaster
Response.

UNICEF finalised a series of studies on the prevalence of child maltreatment that will be disseminated to inform policy dialogue and strengthen advocacy. Despite delays in preparations, the Violence against Children Survey (VACS) will be piloted in Zhejiang early 2017, and will establish a strong foundation for an eventual national survey that will fill the major gap in national-level data on violence that can drive law and policy change.

Taken together, these UNICEF-assisted policy shifts, strengthened capacities and legal and policy frameworks are on track to contribute to a comprehensive and integrated child protection system that is better able to realise every child’s right to protection.

Constraints and actions taken:
While the Government has clearly moved from an issue-based to a systemic approach to child protection and MCA is taking on more of a leading role in child protection, some policies are still issue-driven, different parts of the system are being developed but are not always well-connected and there is no primary authority for child protection. MCA’s recent restructuring will provide an opportunity to address some of these challenges. The restructuring included merging of child welfare with child protection, and the creation of a Division for the Protection of Minors, which was established due to the increasing responsibilities as a coordinator for children left-behind (as per the Guideline on the Protection of Left-Behind Children).

Way forward:
In 2017, UNICEF will continue to support Government to strengthen several components of the child protection system, including the reform of laws and policies currently in the pipeline to improve the assistance to child victims and support the implementation of new policies with particular focus on the Family Violence Law and the Guideline on the Protection of Left-Behind Children. UNICEF will also continue to support MCA in professionalisation of the social work workforce. UNICEF will help enhance data and evidence on child protection, particularly through the VACS and other studies on the drivers of violence against children and on justice for children. Work will begin on child online protection (research and capacity development) and technical support to national and subnational counterparts is planned through a variety of activities, including international and in-country study visits and exchanges, conferences and expert consultations.

OUTPUT 1 Enhanced capacity of national and subnational government counterparts to draft, review and revise gender-sensitive child protection and welfare related laws and policies in line with international standards.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
A major achievement was the development and adoption of a series of policies addressing child protection issues. UNICEF helped enhance Government capacity in drafting, reviewing and revising these laws and regulations in a number of ways, including through the following.

Long-term and continuous advocacy with and advice to the Government, including direct inputs to the law, culminated in the Family Violence Law. This demonstrates the increased political will in Government to advance the protection of children and women.

For the Guideline on the Protection of Left-Behind Children, UNICEF supported MCA organise a workshop with child protection experts to ensure that the policy includes short-term responses to the physiological needs of children and addresses root causes of children being left behind by migration. The Guideline includes measures that will contribute to an
integrated child protection system, thereby both preventing and responding to child protection concerns.

The UNICEF-supported Barefoot Social Workers project provided evidence for the Opinions on Strengthening Protection for Vulnerable Children.

Together with national experts, civil society organisations and participating adolescents living with AIDS, UNICEF supported the State Council AIDS Working Committee Office develop a policy proposal on protecting girls and boys from sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS.

For the Law on Assistance to Victims and the Law on Community Rehabilitation that are being developed, UNICEF provided technical inputs to highlight child rights and protection components. A seminar was convened in November for experts and practitioners to discuss how best to incorporate child protection in the draft laws.

The State Council is drafting the Regulation of Child Online Protection and circulated the first draft for public consultations. UNICEF provided comments and recommendations, focusing on a more participatory approach to promote empowerment, education, and holistic prevention and interventions to risks encountered by children online.

**Constraints and actions taken:**
As the two legislations on victim assistance and rehabilitation are not child-specific, further efforts are needed to highlight the child-rights perspective and child protection components, so that protection and treatment of child victims and children in conflict with the law are included in accordance with international standards. The draft Regulation of Child Online Protection lacks a child-rights perspective. UNICEF is seeking opportunities to work with the Cyberspace Administration on strengthening this perspective.

**Way forward:**
UNICEF will continue to work closely with its partners to support drafting the policy proposal on protection of children from sexual transmission of HIV, and to support the development of a regulation on online protection of minors, the Law on Assistance to Victims (in criminal cases) and the Law on Community Rehabilitation. UNICEF will also continue to support MCA and other partners to document current child protection system building developments in China and to learn from other countries on the building and strengthening of an integrated child protection system through study visits and expert consultations.

**OUTPUT 2** Enhanced capacity of Government institutions at national and subnational level to provide equitable, quality and coordinated child protection and welfare services, including child-friendly justice, to girls and boys and their families.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF continued to provide technical support to the development of a skilled, knowledgeable and specialised workforce of justice and social work professionals to ensure quality and coordinated child protection services. In support of the implementation of the Family Violence Law and joint opinions on child sexual abuse and handling family violence criminal cases, UNICEF contributed to increased awareness amongst counterparts at the national level through:

- A workshop organised jointly with the Supreme People’s Court (SPC) for 100 criminal judges across China, which helped improve understanding of the best interests of the child and its application in adjudicating relevant cases;
• Two pilots in Qingdao and Meishan initiated by SPC and supported by UNICEF, which established effective models to prevent and address child sexual abuse and crimes against children left-behind;

• Two workshops targeting prosecutors and judicial social workers respectively, with the Supreme People’s Procuratorate and Capital Normal University, which helped improve protection and treatment of children in the justice system.

Provision of child protection services through the IECD project described previously contributed to positive results, as a mid-term survey found that development delays decreased significantly.

MCA with UNICEF support strengthened capacities to deliver social work services in emergency settings through creation of the National Social Work Team for Disaster Response, including procedures and management policies for this team, improving resource mobilisation when disasters strike.

Two important documents were developed and disseminated by UNICEF and MCA to improve the quality of services provided to vulnerable children without appropriate parental care: Explanatory Handbook for the Social Work for Children Service Guideline, and the Chinese version of the Implementation Handbook of the UN Guidelines on Alternative Care.

Constraints and actions taken:
While MCA commitment and achievement in promoting social work is strong and evident, the development of a professional social work system also needs investment from other ministries. Furthermore, lack of practical guidelines and protocols, such as on the mandatory reporting stipulated in the Family Violence Law, hinders effective implementation of child protection laws and policies. Child-friendly policing is a major gap in terms of justice for children in China. UNICEF will continue to provide technical expertise on these two aspects and advocate for law enforcement authorities to specialise.

Way forward:
UNICEF will continue to support creation of child protection centres by MCA, complemented by development of the social work profession with a focus on children, so that social workers can provide professional support to vulnerable children. This includes children experiencing or at risk of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect and their families, as identified by community-based workers. On justice for children and areas such as child victims, UNICEF will continue to cultivate political will from strategic partners to prioritise child protection in their services, and work with them to improve the quality of such services.

OUTPUT 3 Increased capacity of government in selected areas to collect, compile, analyse and utilise sex- and other disaggregated child protection data for planning, policy, programme and budgetary action.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
As the starting point of generating authoritative national data on violence against children to drive and inform law and policy change, the pilot VACS was fully prepared for implementation by China CDC in early 2017, with technical assistance from UNICEF and US CDC. In addition to consultations between UNICEF and counterparts, UNICEF and the Government of China organised a regional workshop bringing together governments and UNICEF staff from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR and the Philippines, and global and national experts, to discuss lessons learned and good practices in implementing national VACS.
Knowledge, data and evidence was strengthened through the finalisation and dissemination of the following:

Study on the Health-related Economic Burden of Child Maltreatment in China, which found that health-related consequences of child maltreatment cost an estimated 2.1 per cent of China’s GDP (about US$122 billion) in 2010 (with China Agricultural University/NDRC);

Study on the occurrence of child sexual abuse in three provinces, finding that physical contact child sexual abuse prevalence for male students increased significantly from 5 per cent in 2003 to 10.8 per cent in 2015 (with Peking University);

Comparative analysis of social inclusion opportunities and challenges for resident and migrant children in urban areas, which found that children have been negatively affected by their migration (with China Youth University of Political Studies/MCA).

These studies are combined with efforts to implement a more standardised system for collection and use of disaggregated child protection data in UNICEF-supported pilot sites, to inform planning, policy and programme development and budgeting. Database software was developed to help MCA and local government generate data on vulnerable children. The Beijing Normal University and Jinan University conducted data analysis with support from UNICEF.

**Constraints and actions taken:**
Despite the strong commitment of China CDC in leading the coordination and implementation of the VACS, preparation and revision of the questionnaire required more time than was planned. To accelerate the process, UNICEF recruited an experienced international consultant to provide intensive technical assistance to the China VACS team.

The current administrative data collected on children left-behind and vulnerable children contains gaps in identification and measurement of children experiencing abuse, school bullying or trauma. UNICEF will support local authorities to develop risk indicators and undertake assessments to identify and detect risks and take subsequent action.

**Way forward:**
UNICEF will continue to support China CDC in implementing the pilot VACS in Zhejiang early 2017, and MCA with the establishment of a national database and data analysis on children left-behind and vulnerable children. Two studies are planned for 2017 to generate solid evidence on addressing violence against children and establishing child-friendly justice for policy advocacy. These are a study on the drivers of violence against children, and an assessment of the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Chapter of the 2012 Criminal Procedures Law, focusing on diversion and other alternative measures for children in conflict with the law.

**OUTCOME 6** By 2020, girls and boys in China, especially the most disadvantaged, increasingly benefit from a supportive community environment that protects children from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect and promotes their welfare.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In 2016, a more enabling and protective environment for children at the community level was strengthened in targeted areas through the expansion in coverage of three community-based models supported by the Government of China and UNICEF. These models helped the timely identification of highly vulnerable children and their families, and facilitated their
referral to social assistance and basic social and protection services with the aim of creating family and community environments that protect children from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. These models also provide the Government three approaches to consider, and inform policy and implementation of the village level component of the national child protection system. Details of the models follow.

UNICEF supported MCA and ACWF in carrying out a five-year project to further test and improve a multi-sectoral community-based child protection model in 50 villages in five counties (10 villages per county) in Yunnan, Guangxi and Guizhou Provinces.

The successful experience of Child Friendly Spaces following the 2008 Sichuan earthquake led to the inclusion of a goal in China’s NPA to establish by 2020 children’s places in 90 per cent of all urban and rural communities across China. These will provide recreation, non-formal education, psychosocial support and referral services to children and their families. With all 21 UNICEF-piloted Child Friendly Spaces now taken over by local government, UNICEF worked with NWCCW at the national and provincial levels to ensure the quality of the expansion through, among other interventions, the establishment of two provincial-level Technical Support Hubs in Sichuan (DRR-related) and Guangxi province, which provide quality assurance, monitoring and capacity development.

Building on the positive results of the MCA-led BFSW project supported by UNICEF in the 2010–2015 programme cycle to help children access the basic child welfare services they are entitled to, UNICEF continued to directly support the project in 120 villages. Out of the 75,000 children covered by the BFSW in 120 villages, around 16,000 children received financial support from the Government and other organisations. UNICEF also provided technical assistance to a scaling up to a further 890 villages in 89 counties from 31 provinces, where local child welfare system development pilots will be implemented in the next four years.

These three community-based models provide a strong foundation for Government efforts to build a child protection mechanism that is effective and responsive to the needs of children and their families, particularly the most disadvantaged children in remote rural areas. The models demonstrate the essential elements needed for a holistic approach, which combines social work, child and family welfare services, referral and coordination mechanisms, and where sectors, such as health, education and law enforcement collaborate and provide joint responses. The different models and experiences are being documented to increase awareness on the need for child and family protection and welfare services among national and local authorities and policy makers, and to leverage ownership and resources locally.

To complement this, a new element on promoting positive parenting interventions is gaining traction and will be introduced to help influence positive social norms and behaviour change.

The Child Friendly Spaces model was recognised in recent policies, notably the State Council’s Guideline on the Protection of Left-Behind Children (February 2016), Opinions on Strengthening Protection for Vulnerable Children (June 2016), and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council Decision on Winning the Battle against Poverty (December 2015).

**Constraints and actions taken:**
Consolidating integrated case management will be a major challenge, as will be the identification and strengthening of referral pathways from the community level to statutory services provided by professionals, including investment in the quality, capacity and coverage of these services. At the moment, cases are identified at community level, but community workers are not able to refer cases to professionals, who are often not present in
rural areas. Their presence needs to be strengthened, so that children who are in need can receive professional services.

Approaches to prevent violent discipline will be accelerated, through mobilisation of critical actors at all levels, including ACWF, MCA, and NWCCW. UNICEF will continue to advocate for increased national and local commitment to funding for a full package of community-based child protection services.

Way forward:
For the coming years, UNICEF will continue to work with Government counterparts to model community-based child protection mechanisms, including:

- Further defining principles, minimum standards and functions of the proposed community-based child protection mechanisms;
- Increasing the number and the competencies of social workers and para-social workers/volunteers to contribute to the delivery of quality community-based child protection services for the test sites and nationwide;
- Establishing referral pathways between the different community-based child protection mechanisms (i.e. CFS, BFSW and multi-sectoral community-based child protection mechanisms) and statutory Government services;
- Identifying the costs for adding the piloted community-based services to the child protection system.

As a result of UNICEF efforts, more children will have access to standardised community-based child protection services, and be able to be referred to statutory services if and when required.

OUTPUT 1 Increased awareness, capacities and commitment of families, communities and government in demonstration areas to address violence against girls and boys, including in humanitarian situations.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
A solid foundation is being built for developing a positive parenting programme, which aims to increase awareness and capacities of families and Government officials to understand that violent disciplinary measures are detrimental to a child’s healthy development. So far, this has included:

- A mapping of existing positive parenting programmes in China and a selection of programmes in other countries. This will inform a draft training manual for community workers to train parents, including migrant parents and caretakers of children left behind. Key concepts include the emphasis on parenting knowledge and skills, especially the understanding of the social and emotional needs of children at different ages, and improving skills in communicating with children;
- Support to the participation of staff member in the Regional Conference on Parenting Support Interventions for Violence against Children in East Asia and the Pacific. The conference provided an opportunity for the specialist to exchange views with international experts on the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and scale-up/dissemination of parenting support interventions for children. The Chinese delegation presented its plans and programmes for peer review, and developed a shared understanding of principles, frameworks and best practices for parenting support interventions;
• Initiation of a baseline survey by UNICEF and ACWF, to determine the starting point for future assessments on the effectiveness of a positive parenting programme. The baseline survey includes indicators on child wellbeing, psychosocial development and project costing, which can then be monitored.

**Constraints and actions taken:**
While the technical preparation work on the positive parenting programme progressed as planned, the identification of pilot villages and the initiation of the baseline survey was delayed. This was due to a shift of the national leadership and coordination role for programmes on left-behind children in rural areas from ACWF to MCA, as well as ACWF’s internal restructuring process. UNICEF has started to work more closely with MCA on children left-behind, and has reached consensus with ACWF to speed up the overall project implementation in the next stage.

**Way forward:**
The finalisation and implementation of the positive parenting training manual and using this to conduct workshops for parents/caregivers in 50 villages will be a focus in 2017; as will completing the baseline survey, along with other research, to better inform project design and implementation.

**OUTPUT 2** Increased coverage and quality of equitable community-based child protection and welfare services particularly for the most disadvantaged, including those affected by disability, HIV/AIDS and migration.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The coverage and quality of preventive and response services provided through three community-based child protection models (Child Friendly Spaces, BFSW Project and a multi-sectoral community-based child protection model) were strengthened during the year. This involved:

• Technical support for scaling up the BFSW project to 1,010 villages in 31 provinces, another 1,000 villages in project counties, and support from China Poverty Relief Fund and other Foundations to an additional 30,000 rural left-behind and vulnerable children in two provinces;

• Development by NWCCW of a preliminary draft of minimum standards for Child Friendly Spaces, in order to strengthen the quality of services provided. Case studies to demonstrate best practices were documented and will serve as a reference document for nationwide replication of Child Friendly Spaces;

• An online platform, with a corresponding Android and iOS app, for long-distance learning and interaction, developed in collaboration with MCA, to help community workers develop social work skills in a more systematic and cost-effective way to increase the quality of services.

UNICEF worked with NWCCW on Child Friendly Spaces from an emergency and DRR perspective, providing quality services for disadvantaged children in disaster-prone areas. The following results were achieved:

• Three emergency CFSs are in operation in the earthquake-affected area of Jinggu, Yunnan, where 1,001 children and 931 caregivers benefitted from recreational
activities, non-formal education, psychosocial support and referral services through community-based outreach;

- In total, 6,496 children and 4,608 community members accessed regular services provided by Child Friendly Spaces and increased awareness of DRR. A baseline survey, new partnerships and recruitment and capacity-building of expert teams and project staff served to further strengthen this programme;

- UNICEF established a formal collaboration with MCA and NDRCC on the DRR pilot. The pilot will benefit from MCA’s strong technical expertise and coordination role in DRR.

Constraints and actions taken:
Although the projects have made progress, more time than expected was needed to communicate and coordinate with the main counterparts on the programme management structure, detailed workplans, financial modalities and coordination mechanisms. These all affected timely implementation of project activities. Once the payment modality was resolved in the third quarter of the year, implementation was able to commence.

Way forward:
UNICEF will continue to work with ACWF, MCA and NWCCW at the national and provincial levels to ensure the quality of the models. Key to this is the establishment of national and subnational expert pools: with the national experts providing support to those at subnational levels to strengthen standardisation. UNICEF and partners will continue to strengthen local capacity by developing training materials and protocols that help reduce and prevent the abuse and neglect of children in the project provinces. UNICEF will identify developed countries that have strong welfare and protection systems, and facilitate learning opportunities for partners.

OUTCOME 7 By 2020, girls and boys, particularly the most disadvantaged and excluded, benefit from more equitable and inclusive poverty reduction and social protection systems, policies and programmes.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
During the first year of the country programme, UNICEF contributed to strengthened national capacity and implementation of policies and programmes for child poverty reduction and social protection, within the framework of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.

Based on evidence and lessons from the pilot child poverty analysis conducted in Hubei Province in the previous country programme, the approach of multiple overlapping deprivation analysis was reviewed to ensure its methodological soundness according to international standards and its accuracy in identifying the groups of children who are most disadvantaged. Local data collection capacity was also reviewed and a range of possible training platforms were identified to enable UNICEF-supported capacity development to be broadly accessible in urban and rural areas, using largely existing national technical resources. The findings from the Hubei child poverty analysis were used to drive overall UNICEF advocacy for equity and child rights, and were incorporated into policy advocacy materials and messaging. This included linking children’s own experiences of poverty to generalised trends in rural child poverty, and supporting advocacy related to deprivations in education at national events on World Poverty Day.

Public concern continued to grow about children left behind in rural areas due to out-migration of parents. In response to this, and to provide enhanced support for implementation of the national poverty alleviation strategy, UNICEF’s focus on child poverty
was extended through a broader range of partnerships. UNICEF further aligned its cooperation with NWCCW to the timetable and findings of the mid-term review of the NPA.

Collaboration with MCA was strengthened around social protection. UNICEF provided technical assistance to ensure that social assistance reforms adequately uphold child rights. The monetary poverty measures used to assess eligibility for coverage under the national minimum living standards (dibao) programme were assessed in terms of their ability to capture the economic vulnerability of children and families living just above the minimum standards or who experience economic shocks. Evidence from this review is now being used by MCA to develop a proposal to pilot the expansion of social assistance coverage, with the inclusion of vulnerability criteria for children in dibao eligibility. Activities were also initiated to strengthen and expand the integration of social assistance services with cash transfers provided through social organisations in urban areas.

UNICEF continued to work with MoFCOM to implement the pilot project on conditional cash transfers (CCT), maintaining levels of beneficiary enrolment, and designing a study to learn lessons from the pilot. A new initiative to test the potential of unconditional child grants is now being designed, with the aim to accelerate child development and reduce inequalities in one county. Based on the results achieved, this approach may be considered for scale-up as a complementary strategy for cash-based social protection.

On behalf of the United Nations Country Team, UNICEF supported an exercise to map the targets and elements of China’s 13th Five Year Plan against the SDG targets and indicators, to identify synergies and potential gaps. The findings highlighted child rights, gender and inequality as particular areas where focused efforts towards the SDGs would crucially support achievement of China’s existing national goals. The report was well received by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Government coordinating agency for the SDGs.

Constraints and actions taken:
Government programmes to address poverty are largely driven by households’ economic status. UNICEF continued to support partners to develop policies and programmes that effectively address the multiple dimensions of poverty. This originally included piloting the adoption of child poverty indicators in systems for household monetary poverty assessment and planning. However, LGOP decided to move ahead with this without UNICEF support, due to issues in procurement processes. In response, UNICEF reached out to activate a broader network of partners engaged in the national poverty alleviation strategy to advocate for child poverty, including engaging a senior advisor to support UNICEF advocacy with LGOP.

Another constraint is the need for sustainable national financing of the CCT model. A costing study will be conducted to complement the lessons learned analysis and inform advocacy. More broadly, implementation of cooperation in support of the NPA was delayed due to the national mid-term review process. Regular dialogue was maintained with partners, and plans are in place to accelerate implementation in 2017.

Way forward:
UNICEF will continue to generate evidence and build alliances for increased focus on child poverty in the context of the SDGs, highlighting the need to measure and take account of multiple dimensions of poverty, and to track poverty for children as a specific group nationally. Further resources will be devoted to child poverty analysis in cooperation with a range of partners, including think tanks, to strengthen UNICEF advocacy for child-friendly universal social protection that effectively addresses poverty and promotes equity. Particular attention will be given to assessing the costs and impact of poverty and social protection.
programmes for children, including addressing the financial sustainability of the CCT approach.

**OUTPUT 1** Strengthened capacity of Government partners to identify, recognise and measure child poverty and use evidence to design, implement, monitor and resource relevant plans.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF continued to work with the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC) of the Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development. The capacity of Government counterparts to use results of child poverty analysis in poverty programming was strengthened through a UNICEF-facilitated exchange between a Latin American civil society organisation and IPRCC. The approach highlighted the relevance and feasibility of community-led poverty assessment as an input to national household poverty planning. IPRCC requested UNICEF to support the development of child poverty indicators for use by local poverty bureau officials to identify poor households.

Government partners’ understanding of child poverty approaches was increased through cooperation with the Training Division of LGOP. Their inclusion of a UNICEF-supported project addressing the education dimension of child poverty in training events on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty ensured a focus on the multi-dimensionality of child poverty with a national audience.

UNICEF support to NWCCW focused on building capacity to use evidence from child poverty assessments to develop results, plans and budgets for children in UNICEF-supported pilot counties. This effort was successful. All pilot county plans for children will now be developed using child poverty analysis, a change from the current practice where plans are developed using sectoral policy priorities without reference to the specific situation of children.

UNICEF and NWCCW have reached consensus on approaches, and are now identifying appropriate tools for baseline/needs assessment and technical resources for capacity development in UNICEF-supported pilot counties.

**Constraints and actions taken:**
Practical constraints arose in efforts to position child poverty in the national poverty debate. For example, the decision to focus the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on domestic experience and participants limited the exposure to international perspectives. However, it was possible to mobilise national partners to highlight multidimensional child poverty and relevant UNICEF-supported models. Implementation of the NWCCW workplan was delayed by the national mid-term review of the NPA. Nevertheless, the MTR creates opportunities to strengthen the incorporation of child poverty within the NPA and enhance its alignment with the SDGs.

**Way forward:**
Events will be organised on child poverty with LGOP and NWCCW, for South-South and national/subnational stakeholders. Capacity development for incorporating and using the results of child poverty analysis will be undertaken with LGOP, and cooperation will continue with IPRCC to consolidate work on child poverty measurement and build links with national plans on poverty alleviation. UNICEF will continue to provide technical assistance to NWCCW in their role as member of the national coordinating body for the SDGs. Networks with experts on poverty and inequality will be further developed, and knowledge products now under development will be completed and disseminated.
OUTPUT 2 Strengthened capacity of Government partners to address child poverty and reach the most disadvantaged children through enhanced and new social protection strategies.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Implementation of the CCT pilot continued to address regional inequality, by improving maternal and child health in 15 rural communities in Gansu, Sichuan and Yunnan. Assessment data indicated that the CCT has resulted in increased utilisation of services: the hospital delivery rate in project sites increased from 79.6 per cent in 2012 to 94.4 per cent in 2015. Provinces and counties achieving below average results have been tasked by national authorities to develop strategies for better management and follow-up with participating families and communities.

Testing was initiated of an unconditional cash transfer designed to increase demand for and use of integrated child development services in Quannan County of Jianxi Province. The capacity for designing and implementing the Quannan Child Development Programme was strengthened through training on child rights and project management for county officials. A needs assessment with local partners collecting routine data for children identified the technical assistance needs.

Research was initiated with MCA to inform the development of policies and systems to expand social assistance coverage and integrate cash support with services. Studies were completed on the potential role of multidimensional poverty indicators to adjust the criteria for dibao eligibility, for better coverage of children at risk of falling into poverty; and on a precise identification of the basic public services that poor children/families are entitled to. Additionally, UNICEF supported the capacity development of social work organisations to assess the needs of vulnerable children and families and provide outreach services.

Partnerships with academic experts, social work organisations and Government were further consolidated through a national symposium on social assistance, and allowed UNICEF to engage with the changing policy landscape and position child rights.

Constraints and actions taken
The high levels of conditionality which beneficiaries need to meet to receive transfers which require intensive screening, along with the long distances that some need to travel to collect cash transfers, constrain the timely disbursement of funds. A qualitative review is underway to identify bottlenecks so that solutions can be designed. Attention is also being given to the long-term financial sustainability of the CCT approach. A needs assessment for the Quannan Child Development Programme led to recommendations for strong technical assistance to design an appropriate model, and steps are underway to source international and national expertise.

Way forward
Findings from the CCT study will be used to develop a second pilot phase with emphasis on adaptations to the implementation model to increase effectiveness and efficiency, development of guidelines for scale-up, and research on costing and financing. Opportunities with MCA will be taken forward, including strengthening the links between dibao and national poverty alleviation and sectoral programmes, and new pilot work in urban areas covering all children regardless of household registration status. UNICEF China will commission a report on ‘cognitive capital’ in China, following on from the High Level Meeting.
OUTCOME 8 By 2020, girls and boys, particularly the most disadvantaged and excluded, have increased access and utilisation of effective, efficient and equitable essential social services.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF worked with a wide range of Government and academic partners to build knowledge, promote evidence-based policy dialogue towards increased access to quality and equitable essential social services for all children, and raise awareness among policymakers about barriers in the public financial management (PFM) system that hinder equitable and effective service delivery.

An important issue in the social sectors is the scope and content of officially defined essential services, including for children. An initiative was launched with NDRC to identify the services that are most important for equitable development in the context of the SDGs and the current development setting in China. A research project with NDRC is examining the national list of essential social services, including for girls and boys, with the aim to clarify Government roles and responsibilities for the financing and implementation of various categories of these services. These include newly endorsed responsibilities, such as care for left behind children and protection of children at risk. Further supporting this process, UNICEF opened an internal cross-sectoral dialogue on an 'ideal list' of key services for children and their status in relation to current Government commitments and priorities.

An initial costing analysis was carried out for the UNICEF/Government of China pilot on IECD, using a value-for-money framework to better understand the resource implications and financial sustainability of this project. The lessons from the exercise were used to identify technical assistance needs for strengthening relevant PFM capacity and systems in support of the next phase of pilot engagement in 2017.

2016 saw continued implementation of the Government’s programme of major system reforms affecting the availability and provision of public services in China. These reforms include increasing reliance on market mechanisms in an effort to reduce costs to Government and users. Examples include pricing of pharmaceuticals and promotion of public-private partnerships (PPP) in the delivery of essential services. Delivery of public services also continued in the context of devolution of budgetary responsibilities to sectors and subnational governments; and consolidation of fiscal grant programmes in social sectors such as health, nutrition and sanitation.

UNICEF China worked with Government agencies and other technical partners to assess the impact of these reforms on access to services for children and identify possible measures to ensure equity and maximise outcomes for children. A review of the implementation of ECE services through public-private partnerships examined the extent to which PPPs increase access to and enrolment in kindergarten education, and recommended ways in which the effectiveness of Government financing could be further enhanced.

The results of research initiated in 2015 and completed this year demonstrated how pharmaceutical price liberalisation has affected affordable access to essential drugs for children. The study identified certain risks, and recommended possible policy responses. In the light of this experience and promising new research partnerships, attention is now being focused on financing reforms in the health sector, particularly for primary health care. This aims to identify areas for increased prioritisation of children, and effectiveness and efficiency improvements that will contribute to the promotion of child rights to health and sustainable future financing.

Constraints and actions taken:
Evidence is confirming that, particularly in the health sector, implementation of the Government’s 13th Five Year Plan (2016–2020) prioritises effectiveness and efficiency gains over new investment. In response, UNICEF is focusing on reviewing existing policy commitments for children to promote improvements in effectiveness and efficiency, while highlighting equity and identifying areas where investment may be redirected or increased to reach underserved groups.

There has been a lack of consensus between sectors/departments on the scope of a minimum essential universal package of quality services. This has limited the scope to review the adequacy and effectiveness of investment, and equity of access. In response, work was undertaken jointly with NDRC to draw up a listing of essential social services. UNICEF engagement will draw on international experience and expertise to help ensure that services important for delivering results for China’s most disadvantaged children and addressing inequalities are included and prioritised.

**Way forward:**
UNICEF will identify and contract international expertise in PFM to capitalise on the experience of pilots, to identify issues in China’s public financial management that hinder the delivery of equitable services at subnational level, assess financing gaps and analyse the feasibility of scaling up services. The range of UNICEF national partners will be increased to ensure ongoing generation of knowledge and build capacities of think tanks and other institutes to promote effective and efficient spending for children.

In support of Government policy reforms, UNICEF cooperation will continue to help determine practical ways to promote equitable services in the specific context of fiscal decentralisation, urbanisation and *hukou* reform. Building on work begun in 2016, specific research and advocacy attention will be given to promoting equitable access to early childhood education services, and to demonstrate how out-of-pocket expenditure in health and education, including for ECE, drives poverty and inequality.

**OUTPUT 1** Strengthened national Government capacity to plan and budget for new and expanded policies for children.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Working with two key partners – MoF and NDRC – in the context of the new five-year plan and associated policy reforms, UNICEF effectively used evidence generated through research to make the case for essential social services and strengthened national polices, with a particular focus on ECD.

UNICEF cooperated with MoF to assess the implementation of PPPs for pre-school education/ECE nationwide. Drawing on international experience emphasising the importance of equity as well as effectiveness and efficiency, UNICEF supported research provided MoF with evidence on how well different models of PPPs can deliver policy results for improved service coverage and quality in the poorer regions. The research findings will be used by the Government of China to inform financing decisions for the next stage of the action plan of achieving universal ECE (2017–2020). In addition, a new partnership was established with the China Institute for Education Finance Research (CIEFR), an independent think tank funded by MoE and MoF. The partnership will enable UNICEF to build capacity of a wide range of partners to evaluate costs and access to quality kindergartens by disadvantaged children and families.

A UNICEF-supported review by NDRC of family policies promoting ECD in China (covering the age group 0–6 years), was completed in 2016. It identified an ambitious medium-term vision for a comprehensive family policy framework for ECD, including economic
incentives/allowance/transfer programmes supporting public services and gender-equitable parenting policies. The study drew on experiences of the Organisation on Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and developed countries to address the social and economic transition process in China, providing the Government an internationally-grounded vision and framework for policy development, and generating significant new knowledge to support the ECD agenda.

Constraints and actions taken
In response to a reduction in the scope of the UNICEF joint research programme with the Education Finance Department of MoF, due to factors beyond UNICEF control, a new partnership was established with CIEFR, a leading education sector think tank institute, with initial focus on ECD and preschool (ECE) financing to inform and advocate for new and expanded policies for children.

Respecting capacity limitations, cooperation in sectoral financing work was initiated in education, and will be expanded to other sectors in the coming years.

Way forward
UNICEF will utilise the partnership with CIEFR, along with other actors, to develop a new research programme on ECD and ECE financing. Knowledge exchange platforms will be identified and supported to share global experience and best practices and build national capacity to apply economic tools to advance child rights to education. Financing initiatives currently in the planning stages for child protection and health will be formally launched.

OUTPUT 2 Increased national Government capacity to implement existing policy commitments for children and families, through effective, efficient and equitable public investment.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF supported research on options for increasing the impact of China’s increased public investment in health and on promoting equitable health outcomes, with special attention to access and out-of-pocket expenditures. The findings of this research proved highly relevant in the context of the ongoing review of health system reforms. A study commissioned by MoF to assess the impact of drug price liberalisation on children’s access to essential drugs concluded that although price liberalisation has not on average affected the availability and affordability of essential drugs, the WHO-recommended child drug list is still not widely used in China. It also found that the prices of some drugs are a financial barrier for poor families. Building on this, UNICEF continued to work with MoF to conduct policy research on containing costs while improving health outcomes.

UNICEF social policy and inclusion, health, nutrition and WASH teams worked together to strengthen synergies in future work on child rights and health financing, so that PFM analyses dovetail with technical policy recommendations. This integrated approach is intended to support effective recommendations for a fully funded child survival strategy for China.

UNICEF worked closely with NDRC to support the operationalisation of policy commitments for equitable access to essential social services by migrants and prioritising children and families in the context of urbanisation. This included support to an expert panel event on policy priorities and implementation strategies related to essential social services for children and families, in which child rights and equity were the main themes. NDRC subsequently requested that the approach of creating platforms to mainstream child rights in national policy discussions be expanded, with inclusion of international experience.
Constraints and actions taken:
Government policy concerns remain broad, and key debates are not always directly related to children or informed by child rights. UNICEF has continued to deepen partnerships with MoF and NDRC in areas where child rights promotion can advance existing policy goals and/or highlight potential policy consequences if children are not considered. In practice, this has meant that cooperation for PFM has been increasingly embedded in wider support to policy development emphasising equitable access to essential social services for children. UNICEF programme strategies are being broadened, with strengthened linkages between social policy and health, nutrition and WASH, focused on child survival.

Way forward:
Work across sectors will increasingly coalesce in multisectoral UNICEF support to national policy reform, including the work described elsewhere on the definition of essential social services. Linkages will be expanded between PFM reform and governance for equitable access to essential social services, moving beyond child survival into other priority areas for children, such as social protection, IECD and child protection. Evidence generated will continue to contribute to PFM methods and tools that can be applied in pilot projects, and to wider policy advocacy and support to national planning processes.

OUTPUT 3 Increased national Government capacity to achieve and expand equitable access to services for all children and improved accountability.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Research provided evidence to MoF on the cost of delivering a set of essential social services to all residents in urban areas, regardless of their hukou registration status. Estimates were developed on nationwide per capita financing requirements. This was supported by recommendations to meet the funding needs through innovative PFM reforms and means such as increased cross-regional reallocation of central Government funds and restoring subsidies to rural areas with declining populations. The findings provided MoF and local urban governments with evidence and potential tools for financing equitable access to services in the implementation of the National New-Type Urbanisation Plan (2014–2020).

UNICEF assisted NDRC in the preparation of a conceptual framework for inclusive and human-centred urban development under the New-Type Urbanisation Plan. UNICEF engagement led to the inclusion of elements of child-friendly cities, including child-friendly public spaces and urban infrastructure. This strengthened the conceptual underpinning and provided international best practice for NDRC’s prospective work on promoting inclusive urbanisation.

Activities supporting implementation of the NPA in cooperation with NWCCW in 15 counties were delayed due to an extensive Government-led MTR process. A positive result of the delay was that the decentralised NPA pilots will be better positioned to respond to current needs as identified in the MTR, including increased focus on poverty and equity. The conclusions also strengthened the programme’s support to the SDGs, particularly Goals 1 and 10.

A review of lessons learned was completed on the registration of migrant children in urban areas.

Based on ongoing dialogue with NDRC, policy research began with a focus on reducing inequality of access to social services for children and families, between the poorest rural areas and national averages and between rural and urban household registration holders wherever they live and work.
Constraints and actions taken:
Implementation of activities with NWCCW and county level authorities on the NPA was delayed due to the unanticipated length of the MTR process. This has led to a positive repositioning for increased focus on poverty and equity and linkages to the SDGs. The planned county level budget review was delayed as findings from the child poverty analysis are needed first, in order to develop the plans that will be financed through local budgets.

Way forward:
Cooperation to strengthen capacity to deliver essential services and improve governance will continue with all levels of government, with increasing focus on county level capacity and action. UNICEF will continue to work with MoF to strengthen PFM for social services for children in China’s decentralised fiscal system. The NPA pilots in 15 counties will serve as implementation sites for a range of elements of the country programme, including child poverty analysis as well as costing and related PFM work to be undertaken in cooperation with the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office.

OUTCOME 9 By 2020, country and Government leaders, policymakers and decision-makers and other key stakeholders across society utilise robust knowledge and evidence to inform the development of equitable policies, programmes, public communication and advocacy to improve the situation of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and women.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Government of China has ambitious commitments and targets, together with substantial resources and multi-tier national programmes to deliver essential social services to its 1.37 billion population. UNICEF plays an important role in gathering and analysing evidence to help inform programme and policy design and implementation, while highlighting issues of inequity and amplifying child rights issues through advocacy with the Government and the public.

In 2016, UNICEF employed an increasingly wide range of communication tools and platforms to engage multiple audiences and partners, disseminating information and messages and generating awareness on issues that facilitate and hinder children’s development and wellbeing. Advocacy campaigns, traditional media coverage and social media were employed on issues including child poverty, access to basic services, ECD, breastfeeding and other care-seeking practices; to inform Government partners, community leaders and caregivers and influence the decisions they make and their individual and collective behaviours in the best interests of the child. The cooperation with the Government and partners in different sectors on advocating for specific programme results and policies, reported elsewhere in this document, was undertaken through multiple communication channels to support national policies and plans affecting children.

Given that adolescents make up 11 per cent of China’s population, and in line with increased emphasis globally within UNICEF on the second decade of life; UNICEF China continued to focus on adolescent engagement. This has a special emphasis on adolescents and HIV/AIDS. This stems from the recognition that globally, HIV/AIDS is the second most common cause of death among adolescents; and in China there remain specific issues with regards to a lack of clarity on age of consent for HIV testing and resultant service gaps. Advocacy and outreach initiatives included:

- The organisation of a national forum to discuss the 'hidden epidemic' of HIV among adolescents;
- Community-based pilot projects to enhance access to services; and
- Enhanced adolescent participation and access to information through a web portal to provide information, guidelines, tools and videos;
- A national campaign and community outreach on safe sex;
- The mobilisation of youth volunteer groups, and;
- Life skills education initiatives.

The communication and policy advocacy for the country programme continued to be driven by UNICEF-supported evidence generation, data and research. UNICEF continued to provide priority technical and operational support to improve the availability and quality of official data on children and women through its cooperation with national statistical bodies, focusing on thematic analysis and strengthening systems for monitoring and reporting on the SDGs. Internally, the design, implementation and assessment of UNICEF-supported demonstration models and pilots in different sectors were supported to ensure regular monitoring of performance and achievement of results. These serve to build a stronger evidence base to fuel UNICEF advocacy with the Government for adoption and scale-up.

**Constraints and actions taken:**
The strategic shifts of the new country programme require a more coherent and consistent approach to advocacy for child rights, so that messaging is focused and leverages the relationships and opportunities for collaboration established with the Government. To address this, UNICEF identified three main advocacy priorities: ECD, child poverty and improved access to social services with a focus on birth registration for the new country programme that are in the process of being operationalised.

**Way forward:**
the operationalisation of the three advocacy strategies and continued efforts to improve the relevance, use and quality of UNICEF-supported research to drive programmes and advocacy will be key priorities in 2017.

**OUTPUT 1** Increased awareness and commitment by key decision makers, informants, opinion leaders and the general public to promote positive social norms, innovative approaches and action in the best interests of the child. Align with SDG agenda and ensure children are high on the policy agenda.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Various information and messaging was generated on children’s issues in partnership with national media organisations, including news and feature coverage on ECD, breastfeeding, child poverty, social protection, climate change and the SDGs. Campaigns and initiatives targeted at Government, media and the public yielded concrete results. For example, field visits by Xinhua News Agency to cover the CCT pilot project (Gansu Province), the climate change event (Qingdao) and ECD (Hubei) led to three major bilingual feature reports that were widely published. Two media training workshops conducted in partnership with China Women’s News resulted in more than 40 media organisations being informed and engaged on breastfeeding, with increased capacity to report. Approximately 14,000 media reports covered UNICEF-supported events and activities in China and beyond.

Digital communication continued to be strengthened through campaigns, and social media provided an increasingly significant platform to engage with the public on children’s issues. Digital initiatives were conducted on climate change and its impact on children, and ECD. UNICEF social media networks expanded with nearly 3.14 million participants (an increase...
of 11 per cent since December 2015) across multiple platforms including Weibo, WeChat, Miaopai, Youku, Toutiao and Himalaya FM. Following the release of a global UNICEF air pollution report, a live questions and answers session, timed with the 22nd Annual Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, was held on Sina Weibo with UNICEF and national experts. Both the global IMAGINE video and its Chinese adaptation were promoted on social media to highlight child rights. The global video reached more than 71.5 million Sina Weibo users and the Chinese adaptation received over 100,000 views.

A documentary of a UNICEF Ambassador visit to an ECD project in Guizhou Province, disseminated for public information and education, received 3.75 million views. Total page views of the UNICEF China website reached 9.53 million.

**Constraints and actions taken:**
Despite the enormous opportunities in China, the potential of digital communication and advocacy has not yet been fully exploited by UNICEF. A more coordinated and forward-looking approach to the use of digital platforms for public advocacy, programme support communication and fundraising will be priorities in 2017, linked particularly to the three advocacy strategies of the country programme.

**Way forward:**
A strategic advocacy plan is being prepared to guide and facilitate focus on a few, prioritised issues and the development of targeted messaging to effectively inform and engage decision makers, influencers and the general public. New capacity will be established to support digital engagement and content production for outreach to promote awareness of and participation on children’s issues. More integrated and structured approaches will be implemented to strengthen collaboration and synergies between UNICEF’s communication and resource mobilisation initiatives.

**OUTPUT 2** Increased capacity of adolescent girls and boys (ages 10-19), particularly the most marginalised, to make sound choices and influence and participate in decisions affecting their lives.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Advocacy for adolescent and youth participation was promoted through a combination of events, initiatives and development of models. A national forum with the Government and community partners was organised to discuss the 'hidden epidemic' of HIV among adolescents, with reference to the global and regional contexts. This contributed to consensus on key barriers to meeting adolescent needs, including age of consent law, and a policy brief for line ministries and various partners in China. A dialogue was held with Government partners on critical data gaps for the 15–19 year age group, to drive the evidence-generation for adolescent HIV advocacy and programming. Following these events, a five-year workplan was developed with the State Council AIDS Working Committee Office and other partners to mainstream adolescents into national HIV response initiatives.

Innovative community-based pilot projects were established on adolescent-friendly models on different issues, including access to services in Guangzhou, adolescent engagement in HIV prevention and control in Nanjing, and psychosocial support to adolescents living with HIV in Tianjin. Results will be used to inform policies and programmes.

Adolescents were mobilised to participate in decision-making, especially on HIV education, testing and counselling. An 'All In' Chinese web portal was developed, providing information, guidelines, tools and videos on adolescents and HIV for youth groups, community-based organisations and local service providers. A national youth safe sex campaign was launched
with a youth-driven survey generating over 30,000 responses, and community outreach activities covering 50,000 adolescents to discuss safe sex and self-protection. Over 120 youth volunteer groups were mobilised in rural summer teaching programmes to reach nearly 25,000 young people in remote areas. Adolescents were also empowered with skills and information through life skills education for juvenile offenders in community rehabilitation centres, developed in partnership with Ministry of Justice and China National Committee for the Care of Children.

**Constraints and actions taken:**
TheGe of consent in policies and guidelines on HIV testing, disclosure and treatment remains unclear. This poses a challenge for local health providers and community-based organisations in serving minors without parental consent, and results in service gaps to adolescents. A lack of age-disaggregated data on gender, risk behaviours, epidemiology and other factors also constrains targeted interventions for the 15–19 year age group. Gaps in the understanding of issues surrounding the life and rights of adolescents has led to weak national policies and programmes, and limited genuine adolescent engagement. UNICEF responded to these constraints in its programming and advocacy, as described above.

**Way forward:**
Priority will be given to maintaining the momentum of advocacy through the 'All In' platform, to address barriers and bottlenecks to adolescents accessing quality services and strengthen the enabling environment. UNICEF will work with the State Council AIDS Working Committee Office to build an adolescent HIV profile for China with data and evidence, and support policy reviews on age of consent.

**OUTPUT 3** Improved production and analysis of disaggregated data, knowledge and evidence to inform policies and programmes for children, and strengthened national systems for strategic monitoring, evaluation and research.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF continued to strengthen national capacities and systems for data generation and analysis, and bring more data to the public domain, through the joint collaboration with United Nations Population Fund/UNFPA and the National Bureau of Statistics. The focus was given to thematic data analysis based on the 2015 1 per cent Population Survey, and for the preparation for the 2020 Population Census. The final draft report of a national survey on children and women with disabilities became available, and will provide critical new evidence to inform programming, targeted service provision and policies. In the context of Agenda 2030, technical and operational support was provided for collection, dissemination and utilisation of disaggregated data to inform policy and support monitoring and reporting on national and international goals, with priority on the NPA and SDGs.

Internally, the office strengthened processes and tools to further increase the quality of research and evidence. SOPs for *Quality assurance of UNICEF-supported Research, Studies and Evaluations* were simplified and streamlined, and an RSE database was developed to facilitate knowledge management. The rigour with which ethical standards are applied in research was enhanced through the development of guidance and templates for RSE managers and teams. Awareness and capacities of UNICEF staff and counterparts in this area are being strengthened through the adaptation of the Agora on-line course into Chinese. Technical support and quality assurance were provided for terms of reference, draft and final reports; and relevant training and an updated RSE guidance booklet were made available to counterparts and research teams. Common baseline modules and questions using the multiple indicator cluster survey and other national/international tools were developed to help fill data gaps in sectoral programmes.
Constraints and actions taken:
Challenges remain in meeting the increasing need for disaggregated and timely data on children and women. While the Data Project helps leverage opportunities to analyse existing national surveys and make more data available, longer-term efforts are required to help strengthen the national statistical system to generate better quality disaggregated data.

Prioritisation of RSEs and adherence to quality assurance procedures remained inconsistent, constraining the return on UNICEF investment in knowledge generation. This is being addressed through the simplified SOPs and the launch of the new RSE database in 2017, along with renewed strategic attention to evaluations.

Way forward:
Cooperation with counterparts will continue for development of data-based publications and the promotion of their use. Two important publications are planned to start in 2017: Women and Men in China (gender statistics) and Children in China - An Atlas of Social Indicators. Support will continue to promote the availability and quality of child-related statistics for monitoring and reporting on the NPA and the SDGs, including through sectoral collaboration with various official statistical bodies to strengthen their systems. Internal procedures and practice will be enhanced to ensure UNICEF-supported RSEs are conducted with improved rigour and quality.

OUTPUT 4 Improved knowledge and capacity of public authorities, service providers and communities in identified disaster-prone and climate-risk areas to prepare for and respond to emergencies, reduce disaster risks, strengthen resilience and mitigate climate change impacts.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Given the Government’s strong capacity and resources to respond to emergencies, UNICEF’s role is to provide humanitarian relief, when needed, mainly through partnerships with local governments in regions with UNICEF-supported projects.

In 2016, UNICEF continued its support that originated from several prior emergencies, outlined below.

The 2015 armed conflict in Myanmar’s Shan State caused an influx of displaced Myanmar residents into China. UNICEF provided technical assistance and capacity building support to strengthen EPI surveillance, deliver immunisation services to high-risk children and strengthened emergency preparedness by training local health staff;

Following the 2014 Jinggu earthquake in Yunnan province, UNICEF continued to support the operation of three emergency Child Friendly Spaces. Over 1,001 children and 931 caregivers benefitted from child welfare and protection services provided through these spaces;

Following the 2013 Dingxi earthquake in Gansu province, UNICEF supported a joint WASH and nutrition intervention that promoted infant and young child feeding to decrease the prevalence of anaemia, community-based total sanitation, and improved WASH conditions in local schools and township hospitals.

In Yuexi County, Sichuan province, UNICEF provided WASH supplies which included disinfection solution and powders, sprayers to administer this, and rain boots to respond to the flooding that occurred in UNICEF-supported DRR project sites.

On preparedness, UNICEF supported strengthened pre-disaster preparedness and
resilience building by laying the ground for implementation of a child centred DRR Model Pilot Programme in Sichuan province. Efforts focused on:

- Establishing a high-level partnership with MCA and NDRCC to inform and improve national DRR policy and standards;
- Setting up an integrated provincial resource centre with a core group of experts who have extensive experience in DRR, child protection, social work, health, and other key sectors. The centre will provide technical support, field monitoring and capacity building on preparedness;
- Specialised baseline surveys that were completed for child protection and health, nutrition and WASH. These provide sound evidence to inform the design of the community-based DRR model and will help to identify weaknesses in the existing coordination mechanism, as well as define cross-sectoral programme activities.

Constraints and actions taken:
Challenges remain in creating stronger cross-sectoral linkages in relation to DRR between line ministries and NWCCW – both operationally and strategically. UNICEF will strengthen its advocacy and technical support on this, including aligning messaging, organising multi-sectoral workshops and a joint DRR awareness-raising month to gain wider understanding of child-centred DRR for both the public and Government counterparts.

Way forward:
UNICEF will continue to work with partners to speed up implementation of cross-sectoral DRR activities. A joint field trip, composed of focal points from health, nutrition and WASH as well as education and child protection sections, is planned to pilot counties for preparation of DRR awareness-raising month. A series of multi-sectoral workshops have been scheduled, which will focus on health, WASH, child protection and education. The integrated provincial resource centre will continue to provide technical support, especially for capacity building of local emergency responders, including on child-centred DRR. Studies for improving DRR policies from a children's perspective will begin.

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Cost-Effectiveness Analysis on Residential and Community-based Care for Orphaned and Abandoned Children

The Occurrence of Child Sexual Abuse in China: Evidence from Four Schools Based Surveys in Three Provinces

Study on the Social Security Costs of Migrant Workers’ “Citizenisation” under the New Urbanisation Strategy

High Prevalence of Developmental Delay among Children under Three Years of Age in Poverty-Stricken Areas of China

Child Feeding and Stunting Prevalence in Left-Behind Children: A Descriptive Analysis of Data from A Central and Western Chinese Population

Comparison of Undernutrition Prevalence of Children under 5 Years in China between 2002 and 2013

Determining Optimal Strategies to Reduce Maternal and Child Mortality in Rural Areas in Western China: an Assessment Using the Live Saved Tool

Legislation Coverage for Child Injury Prevention in China

Low Birthweight in China: Evidence from 441 Health Facilities between 2012 and 2014

Sociodemographic and Obstetric Characteristics of Stillbirths in China: a Census of Nearly Four Million Health Facility Births between 2012 and 2014

Other publications

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<td>Helping Children Heal with Play and Sports (The Story of Qianfo Town Child Friendly Space, Sichuan) (video)</td>
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<td>Door to Door Outreach Promotes Hospital Delivery in Ethnic Minority Regions (video)</td>
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<td>Love is Future – 11.17 World Prematurity Day (video)</td>
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<td>ECD – Giving Rural Children the Best Start in Life (video)</td>
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<td>All In – End Adolescents AIDS Story (a series of 7 short videos)</td>
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<td>Ma Yili Field Visit of ECD Project in Liping, Guizhou (video)</td>
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<td>Education for Adolescents: Why, What and How?</td>
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Programme documents

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