Executive Summary

The programming environment in Comoros received major support from UNICEF, especially in the areas of legislation on child rights. The Comoros Parliament adopted the law on the sale and marketing of breast milk substitutes. This law was ratified by the country's President in June 2014. A new Penal Code and a Code of Criminal Procedures were adopted by the National Assembly, as well as laws on the fight against child labour and the Prevention and Punishment of violence against women. Following its participation in the 2014 Universal Periodic Review, the Union of Comoros signed off on 123 of the 134 recommendations made to the country. To continuously engage the national Parliament on child rights issues, UNICEF supported the Government to set up a Youth Parliament, which during its December 2014 session already drafted three bills: on nutrition, hygiene and violence against children.

UNICEF’s second area of focus in 2014 was to provide support to the Government of Comoros to improve the supply of health, education and protection services, while ensuring their continuity during emergencies. As of November 30, 2014, vaccination coverage was 83 per cent for BCG, 80 per cent for the DTP-HepB-Hib3, 79 per cent for the 3rd dose of vaccine against polio and 80 per cent for the vaccine against measles. The cold chain for vaccines was strengthened and the Ministry of Health was supported in preparations for the introduction of Inactive Polio Vaccine (launched on January 12, 2015, the first in sub-Saharan Africa during this decade). The Education sector benefited from the rehabilitation of 58 classrooms thanks to funding from the Global Partnership for Education. Resources for school construction/rehabilitation work were increased thanks to a new grant secured in late 2014 by UNICEF from Educate a Child. Following heavy rains and landslides in April 2014, about 3,000 people were displaced from Mahale locality to a camp in Bambao Mtsanga, on the island of Anjouan. With funding from USAID, UNICEF supported the Government’s prompt response to this emergency, ensuring access to safe drinking water daily, newly constructed latrines, and temporary classrooms for all children in the camp. UNICEF contributed to the development plan against a possible outbreak of Ebola.

A C4D toolkit on eight essential family practices was made available to the Ministry of Health partners at central and island levels. The toolkit (known locally as “La Boîte à Images”) is being used to reach households in the most vulnerable areas of the three autonomous islands, with a C4D package aimed at inducing behavioural change with respect to child health, nutrition and use of clean water. Major progress was made in the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding through local partnerships with 24 community radios in the three islands, the Federation of Comorian Consumers, the Office of the Grand Mufti (Muftorat), and the Office of Radio and Television of Comoros. Even with positive behaviour change, financial costs of services are a major barrier to the use of services by Comorians, especially the poorest. Two of the milestones achieved in 2014 towards addressing this barrier were the technical validation of the national social protection policy, and the pilot testing of a cash transfer programme in one community each in the three autonomous islands of Anjouan, Grande Comore and Moheli. In addition to supporting these efforts, UNICEF and the World Bank also formed a partnership to support more broadly social safety nets in Comoros, including a component to fight child malnutrition among the poor. UNICEF strengthened its international partnership with WHO, UNFPA, the
French Cooperation, The Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunisation (GAVI) and the Global Fund to Combat HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), providing significant support to the national health system, especially on immunisation and the country’s cold chain.

UNICEF developed a new Country Programme of Cooperation (CP) with the Government of Comoros for 2015-2019, which is fully aligned with the results areas of the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan, the country’s new Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the same period. The new CP includes programme components on child Protection and Social Inclusion, unlike its predecessor. Implementation of new CP will continue to face inadequate local technical and financial resources. Falling immunisation rates will require heightened efforts in coming years. To reinforce progress made in 2014 on mobilising additional resources, UNICEF will have to continue its advocacy efforts to secure commitment and action from the Government of Comoros to translate its debt relief through the HPIC framework into increased budgeting to achieve results for children.

Humanitarian Assistance

Comoros is regularly affected by natural disasters such as floods, cyclones and eruption of the Khartala volcano. On March 31st 2014, following a green earthquake (4.8 on the Richter scale) and heavy rains, wide cracks appeared in several areas in the village of Bandra Le Mahalé, in the northeast of Anjouan. Several buildings were damaged. Given the threats of further earth collapse and landslide that could destabilise the entire region, island authorities decided to evacuate the local populations. As a result, 3,030 people were displaced, including 706 men, 1,686 women (of whom 70 were pregnant), 638 children under five years and 625 students who needed to go back to school.

Priority needs in camps where displaced populations lived were health, protection-education, food items, WASH, and shelter. There were no water supply or hygiene and sanitation facilities around the sites. The population defecated in the open. There were major risks of outbreaks of epidemics of diarrhoeal diseases, malaria and parvoviruses, as well as of child malnutrition and violence against women and girls in the camp.

In a letter dated April 8, 2014 the Government officially requested support from the international community. On this basis, USAID allocated USUS$50,000, through UNICEF, to assist the Government in the organisation of the emergency response. An emergency unit under the leadership of the Government of Comoros (GoC) was set up in the field to respond the emergency. The response team was composed of experts from Government, UN agencies (UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO and UNDP), and the Comoros Red Crescent Society. The team conducted daily assessments in the affected area. The emergency camp was opened with tents provided by the Government from March 30, 2014 to May 2, 2014. It was set up in a field not far from Bambao Mtsanga village, the district administration centre which hosts the town hall, a district hospital and a police station. The chosen site presented the best available environment to respond to the emergency. The camp where the displaced populations settled comprised an abandoned warehouses and offices and enough land for the necessary tents. A small river crosses the camp, a good source water supply (after treatment) for the affected population.

During the response to this crisis, UNICEF undertook the following activities: (1) distribution of 275 WASH kits, (2) construction of 43 latrines, 23 for women and 20 for men; latrines were disinfected daily with solution of chlorine; (3) at the opening of the camp, UNICEF provided 10,000 litres of safe drinking water per day to the camp population. As constant crowding by
women was observed around the six-tap water points, a second water bladder tank and water points were set up on the other side of the camp at some distance from the first unit. The aim was to be in compliance with Sphere norms and to reduce the pressure around the first water point, but also to reduce the distance which the women had to walk from the tents. With the two bladder tanks, 20,000 litres of safe drinking water were provided to the people in the camp; (4) 16 community showers were provided and 10 hand-washing points were installed. As anal washing is a common practice in the country, all the latrines were equipped with a large bucket, cups and soap in line with the camp’s safe hand-washing strategy. A needs assessment was carried out to identify necessary teaching and learning materials and furniture. UNICEF and partners provided the necessary building materials and mobilised local artisans to set up temporary classrooms. Because the affected populations are very poor, one of UNICEF’s priorities was to provide school kits to all children (625 pupils), to facilitate their return to the classroom. Finally, a two-day training session on hygiene awareness was carried out for 47 people, including 30 Red Crescent volunteers.

In terms of partnership, daily maintenance and utilisation of the water treatment unit was supported by a team from the Comorian Red Crescent and the National Civil Security Directorate. Maintenance included cleaning and refuelling of the pump and chlorination.

The country also prepared a national response plan to Ebola. The United Nations System in Comoros also developed a preparedness and response plan to Ebola, with a focus on the protection of staff and dependents. UNICEF Comoros updated 13 key actions of the 20 that make up the early warning/early action system.

**Equity Case Study**

UNICEF Comoros supported the National Directorate of Solidarity and Social Cohesion (NDSSC) in the implementation of its 2014 - 2016 Action Plan, specifically with respect to its commitment to provide cash transfers to the most vulnerable populations. UNICEF’s financial and technical support enabled the NDSSC to implement a small-scale unconditional cash transfer programme in one village in each of the three autonomous islands of Anjouan, Mohéli and Grande Comore. The main objective was to operationalise, at a small scale, the delivery of cash to vulnerable households and provide evidence of feasibility and early/possible impact.

Through geographic targeting, use of agreed eligibility criteria, and validation of targeted households by local committees, 166 households (out of 194 households in the three villages) were selected to receive the cash transfers. These beneficiary households were distributed as follows: 77 households in the village of Jandsa in Anjouan Island, 56 households in the locality of Famaré in island Grande Comore and 33 households in Domoni in Mohéli Island.

Because in some localities there was no decentralised mechanism for disbursing cash to beneficiary households, this transaction was carried out by staff from NDSSC offices at central and island levels. The amount distributed to households was a function of the number of children under 15 living in the household. The smallest amount given to households was 35,000 Comorian francs (USUS$90.4), while the highest amount was 120,000 Comorian Francs (USUS$310). The total amount disbursed to the beneficiary households was 11,510,000 Comorian Francs (approximately USUS$30,000).

More than 470 children under 15 benefited directly or indirectly from the cash transfers. Indeed, the payment of fees and school supplies was reported as the second main use of funds received, by 25 per cent of beneficiary households. More than 70 per cent of households
receiving cash transfers used some portion of the money on child-specific expenses, including for obtaining birth certificates. As a result, the proportion of children with a birth certificate or whose birth was registered rose from 79 per cent at baseline to 85 per cent by the end of the end of this first phase of the cash transfer project. Funding has already been secured for the second phase. The most important lessons learned from this pilot cash transfer are: (i) When the rationale is well explained and evidence presented to high-level officials, interest and support of national authorities at the highest level (at the Presidency of the Union of Comoros) can be secured; (ii) the involvement of village structures is critical to the success of cash transfers, village committees played a key role in the successful targeting of beneficiaries; (iii) cash payment to households was made once for the duration of the project. The amount received by the beneficiary households was higher than the average for other cash transfer programmes. Consequently, beneficiaries were able to invest higher share of the funds received on child wellbeing. This suggests that higher levels of cash transfer, with longer payment intervals, may have a strong impact on children.

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

ASCOBEF – Association Comorienne pour le Bien – Etre de la Famille (Comorian Association for Family Well - Being)

BCP – Business Contingency Plan

C4D – Communication for Development

CMAM – Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition

CMT – Country Management Team

CPC – Country Programme of Cooperation

CPU – Child Protection Unit

DCT – Direct Cash Transfer

DHS / MICS - Demographic and Health Survey / Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey

ESARO – Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organisation

FCC – Fédération Comorienne des Consommateurs (Comorian Federation of Consumers)

GAVI – Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunisation

GPE – Global Partnership for Education

HACT – Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers

ICF - ICF Macro International

IMEP – Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

JICA – Japan International Cooperation Agency

LTA – Long Term Agreement

M&E – Monitoring and Evaluation

MoRES – Monitoring of Results for Equity System

NDSSC – National Directorate of Solidarity and Social Cohesion

NGO – Nongovernmental Organisation

OMT – Operations Management Team

PFP – Private Fund Raising and Partnership

PSB – Property Survey Board

RCF – Regional Contingency Fund

SCA2D – Stratégie de Croissance Accélérée et de Développement Durable (Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy)

SUN – Scaling Up Nutrition

T4D – Technology for Development

UN – United Nations

UNCT – United Nations Country Team
Capacity Development

Two models for capacity strengthening of Government partners were implemented in 2014. At the Ministry of Education, one staff member was appointed as the focal point of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) programme and benefited from training and other capacity strengthening sponsored by UNICEF, including participation in the 2014 IIEP summer school. His role is to facilitate the day-to-day implementation of GPE activities. Interviews held with staff of the Ministry of Education in December 2014 suggest that they were not well aware of the role, responsibility and value-added of the GPE focal point. UNICEF will work with the Secretary General of the ministry to ensure that terms of reference and relevant information about this role is shared regularly through partner meetings.

In the second model, an independent full-time consultant was hired by the Ministry of Health, with UNICEF funding, to support the implementation and monitoring of family and child health activities. His performance was well appreciated by his colleagues who credited him for having contributed significantly to the development of the community health strategy and its implementation guidelines, and the establishment of rehabilitation centres for malnourished children care. However, support by the consultant to immunisation activities were rated as weak by his colleagues.

UNICEF Comoros supported the training of community health workers on Anjouan, Mohéli and Grande Comore to enable them to acquire the right skills to provide primary health care to local populations. These community agents’ main role is to identify danger signs in pregnant women and severe cases of malnutrition, and to encourage those concerned to resort to appropriate health facilities. UNICEF Comoros also supported the training of 40 doctors, paediatricians, midwives and nurses on Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM).

In partnership with the Federation of Comorian Consumers, a local NGO, UNICEF supported the training of community-based facilitators to spearhead mass promotion of exclusive breastfeeding for children under six months. Similarly, in partnership with ICF Macro International – which is in charge of the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) programme at the international level – a two-day training workshop for thirty journalists was conducted with the aim of improving their communication skills on issues related to the DHS-MICS results.

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

UNICEF continued its advocacy for the allocation of funds, collected as part of the Operation Riyali campaign, to programmes benefiting child victims of violence. Operation Riyali, supported by UNICEF was launched in Moroni, on 19 November 2011 with the support of the first lady of the Comoros. The aim of this campaign was to raise funds for local NGOs providing assistance to the most vulnerable segments of society, including child victims of violence. Nearly USUS$400,000 has been raised so far. UNICEF worked with partners in this campaign to set up a local entity to manage the funds collected and to establish a transparent mechanism for local NGOs to apply for grants. The first funding proposals were approved in April 2014 by the Riyali
entity to support child protection units for child victims of violence in Grande Comore and Mohéli islands.

On the policy front, UNICEF collaborated with the World Bank in advocacy for the development of a social protection policy. The new policy, funded by the World Bank, was approved in June 2014.

UNICEF Comoros initiated the idea of holding a "Conference of African billionaires" to engage them to take action for the protection of child rights. A technical workshop was held in Dakar in February 2014, bringing together UNICEF staff from ESARO, WCARO, Comoros, and Headquarters (New York and Geneva), as well as staff of the Government of Comoros. The conference themes were identified and selected African billionaires and celebrities who will participate in the conference were identified. ESARO has taken the responsibility of following up with New Africa to establish a partnership to move forward with this initiative.

To promote citizenship and participation among young people in Comoros, UNICEF supported the National Assembly in establishing of a Youth Parliament. The young parliamentarians convened for the first time in December 2014 and, following extensive sessions, adopted bills on nutrition, hygiene and violence in schools.

**Partnerships**

High-level advocacy efforts by UNICEF led to Comoros joining the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement in December 2013 as its 45th member. A mission undertaken in May 2014 by a Renewed Efforts against Child Hunger (REACH) team developed a costed action plan for improved governance of nutrition under Government leadership. UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, WHO, FAO, and WFP adhered to the spirit of this plan, which has not yet been implemented due to lack of financial commitment from the agencies and the Government. UNICEF has notified the national coordination entity of its readiness to mobilise 50 per cent of the budget to be contributed by UN agencies.

The mission also helped mobilise different sectors of the administration – including health, education, agriculture, finance, water and sanitation and civil society – for the establishment of a multi-sectoral platform for nutrition, which is still under development.

UNICEF expanded its partnership with Japan’s International Cooperation Agency to fight child malnutrition; JICA provided, through UNICEF, important equipment and nutrition inputs and announced the imminent arrival of a nutrition expert staff to reside in Comoros and provide continuous support to the Ministry of Health.

In collaboration with the World Bank, UNICEF is supporting the Government of Comoros develop the nutrition component of its national social safety net programme, which is to start in June 2015.

Partnerships with civil society organisations such as the Comoros Red Crescent, Caritas, the Federation of Comorian Consumers (FCC) and the Grand Mufti Office (Muftorat) were established to support the promotion of child nutrition.

In the area of immunisation, UNICEF’s Child Survival and Development program continued its partnership with WHO, UNFPA, the French cooperation, GAVI and the Global Fund to support Government efforts to strengthen the national health system and cold chain.
External Communication and Public Advocacy

This year marked the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with many activities planned and executed nationally, focusing on Child Survival and Development, Basic Education and Child Protection, with active participation by children. A “UNICEF meets the press” event was held with the national media to take stock of the major achievements and challenges in child rights in the Comoros. This was followed by the publication of a press release on CRC@25 in the two main daily newspapers. In addition, a TV documentary on the 25th anniversary of the Convention was broadcast on national television. Short text messages on child health, education and protection were sent to all 260,000 subscribers of the national mobile telephone company. To close the festivities and to educate children, youth and adults on the Convention, UNICEF and the Ministry of Information, in collaboration with a local NGO (Ngo'shawo), organised a public concert in Moroni, featuring children’s choirs from different primary schools and artists working on the rights of children.

The celebrations of International days (e.g., The Day of the African Child, AIDS Day, International Women’s Day etc.) was an opportunity for UNICEF to advocate for progress in child rights in Comoros by engaging decision-makers, local media, parents and children. To reinforce these actions, a memorandum of understanding was signed with 24 community radios on the three islands. UNICEF also maintained its partnership with local media (national radio and TV, community radios) to strengthen public education on issues related to child rights. UNICEF supported the Government to establish one Communication Committee for Child Development on the islands of Moheli and Anjouan. These committees are mandated to coordinate implementation of the national strategy on population for behaviour change. Overall, Communication for Development (C4D) activities in Comoros were strengthened by the adoption and validation of the Eight Essential Family Practices, a C4D package now available to UNICEF partners at the national and island levels.

Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

When developing the UNICEF Comoros Country Programme Document 2015-2019, the different UNICEF programme sections worked with their counterparts to conduct a causal analysis in the relevant sectors. The human rights based approach was used to identify the major components of the Country Programme.

UNICEF supported the Union Government of Comoros’ participation in the 2014 Universal Periodic Review (UPR). According to the summary note presented by the Minister of Justice to the Council of Ministers on 9 July 2014, of 134 recommendations made in this periodic review, only nine were rejected after the final approval of the recommendation on 19 June in Geneva. Accepted recommendations addressed, for example, abolition of the death penalty, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons against Enforced Disappearance, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Government also ratified the Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and capacity building of the National Commission of Human Rights and Freedoms, and intensified its efforts against sexual and domestic violence against women.

UNICEF supported the Government of Comoros in reforming its legislation to incorporate the provisions of international conventions ratified by Comoros, including the Convention on the Right of the Child. A new Penal Code and a new Code of Criminal Procedure were adopted by the National Assembly in June and December 2014. A law on child labour and another on the
prevention and punishment of violence against women were also adopted in 2014.

2014 was a planning year for Government and all UN agencies in Comoros. UNICEF provided technical inputs to ensure that human rights were mainstreamed in the country’s new Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (2015-2019).

**Gender Mainstreaming and Equality**

In 2014 UNICEF continued to chair the Gender and Human Rights thematic Group of United Nations agencies in Comoros. The Office does not have a gender specialist on its staff, but one of its Education Officers serves as the gender focal point. UNICEF supported the celebration of the International Women’s Day. This benefited from inputs from UNICEF’s Social Policy, Advocacy and Communication section, and was implemented in partnership with Government, local authorities and NGOs. Activities included media sensitisation on gender equality, public debates and conferences at central and island levels. UNICEF increased its number of female senior management team members with the recruitment of a female chief of education in 2014. Attention was paid to short-listing competent female candidates for all recruitment conducted in 2014. Of six staff members recruited in 2014, five are women.

**Environmental Sustainability**

Environmental impact on the learning environment in Comoros was addressed by UNICEF’s Education programme through the development of guidelines on school construction. This document, published in 2014 following Government endorsement, includes a chapter on environment-related issues. It covers soil conditions, availability of sanitation and hygiene facilities, water management etc., which all affect the effective functioning of a school and the quality of its environment. The guidelines are based on three principles: comfort (i.e., adaptability of the environment to the user), hygiene (i.e., sanitary and water facilities, lighting, ventilation) and security (i.e., protection from difficult weather condition and natural phenomena).

Development of the guidelines was coordinated by UNICEF’s education engineer, who supported an inter-sectoral team of national and local government officials. The guidelines define standards for all new school construction in the Comoros, including better integration of school buildings with the natural environment in which they are built. UNICEF Comoros has undertaken a number of initiatives to contribute to reducing the environmental footprint. Staff have committed to a number of environmentally friendly good practices (e.g. switching off lights and equipment when not needed); all printers have a default double-side printing function and sharing electronic documents instead of hard copies is expected to reduce the use of paper and printing ink. This also applies to the publication of the CO bulletin, which is shared twice a year electronically. At a more strategic level, the development of the Country Programme Document and Country Programme Management Plan allowed UNICEF to set targets for working with the Government and partners from 2015 onwards to ensure that the national WASH strategy is implemented. Resilience to climate change and disasters was not part of these discussions, but UNICEF Comoros has requested support from ESARO to identify ways to integrate resilience into the new programme. The Office has secured thematic funding to boost both upstream and downstream work on WASH; recruitment of an international WASH staff person is ongoing.
Effective Leadership

As part of capacity building efforts to improve UNICEF staff’s skills in equity-focussed programming during the new CPC (2015-2019), the Regional Office facilitated an intensive workshop on Monitoring of Results for Equity System (MoRES) for UNICEF Comoros. This need was identified by the Country Management Team (CMT) as one of the priorities for 2014. During the workshop participants gained an improved understanding of MoRES and identified sectoral priorities for the first round of a phased rollout of MoRES. The focus of the workshop then shifted to identifying bottlenecks, strategies to remove them and innovative ways of conducting real-time monitoring of progress to inform further programme actions.

The second priority area which the CMT identified as key to improving both operations and programme performance was Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT). UNICEF was tasked in 2014 by the UNCT to lead HACT implementation as part of the preparations for the new UNDAF (2015-2019) within the context of Comoros which is a Delivering as One country. UNICEF led the mobilisation of inter-agency financial resources to conduct the micro-assessment, the macro-assessment and a HACT cascade training workshop for staff from the UN and central and island level government officials. UNICEF will continue to provide leadership for HACT implementation, especially in areas identified by recent audits, such as the need for substantial improvements in developing and implementing an assurance plan.

Management indicators agreed by the CMT continued to be a standing agenda item of all meetings held in 2014. In addition, low performance on these indicators observed between CMT meetings were reported during the all-staff weekly meetings. Such nested monitoring was a critical management tool that helped alert relevant staff on early corrective actions to take. As a result, by mid December 2014, the Office was performing well on the regional dashboard indicators, especially on financial implementation.

To assess the robustness of our Business Continuity Plan (BCP), a simulation was conducted in October 2014, with essential staff working from an alternative BCP site, while other staff were instructed to stay at home. This exercise allowed the staff to operate outside the typical UNICEF office environment and to gauge whether ICT tools and equipment of the Comoros BCP allowed them to deliver routine work outputs effectively. The BCP simulation was a success; the staff carried out teleconferencing using Lync, accessed and used UNICEF’s programme management system (inSight) via Citrix, and email via webmail. Staff were also able to remotely work on relevant documents from the office-based shared drive and from the cloud.

UNICEF Comoros also took a leap into monitoring of written in-coming and out-going communication with partners via a database accessible to all staff. The status of all correspondence scanned into this database is monitored on a weekly basis. This helped not only avoid complaints from partners on delayed responses from UNICEF and at times lost couriers, but it has also helped the Office improve internal transparency and staff awareness of issues raised by stakeholders regarding UNICEF’s programme of cooperation.

Financial Resources Management

In 2014 UNICEF Comoros placed focus on the monitoring of management indicators. Indeed, during each of six CMT meetings held, the Operations Manager presented the situation of management indicators, thus allowing CMT members to decide what actions to take to improve the situation. As a result by year-end, the percentage of outstanding direct cash transfers (DCT) over nine months was reduced to zero, and outstanding DCT between six and nine months fell
to 3.35 per cent, while DCT between three and six months was 22.1 per cent.

UNICEF has also improved performance on other key indicators, namely:
- Number of duty travel authorisations open over 15 days after completion of travel as of December 31: 2;
- All bank reconciliations submitted to HQ before the deadline;
- No reconciling items of more than a month were outstanding at year-end;
- 100 per cent of mid-year review of 2014 PAS completed before the deadline;
- The office Table of Authority (TOA) was updated at least once per quarter.

Available funds were used optimally. RR funds were utilised 93 per cent, and 61.5 per cent of OR- E and 53.6 per cent of ORR were used.

Efficiency gains were also made due to better management of property and equipment. A number of items that had become obsolete were sold with the approval of the Property Survey Board (PSB) committee, generating income of US$3,873.18.

UNICEF led the One UN process of preparedness for rolling out HACT at the beginning of the 2015-2019 programme, in order to support UNDAF implementation. This process aimed to achieve a macro-assessment and a micro-assessment of implementing partners in accordance with new UNDG guidelines. HACT assurance activities were also carried out by both programme and operations staff. Programme monitoring and field spot checks of different partners were carried out.

**Fund-raising and Donor Relations**

In 2014 UNICEF Comoros was awarded a grant of USUS$3,274,045 by "Educate a Child" for the period 2014-2017, to accelerate universal primary education in Comoros. The Office submitted concept notes to: a) the European Delegation, through the Ministry of Education, to partner in the education component of the 11th European Development Fund for Comoros; b) the World Bank, through the Ministry of Health, for a partnership in the area of nutrition; and c) the Global Peace Building Fund, in coordination with two UN agencies. Three generic funding proposals were developed to support resource mobilisation for 2015-2019 programme components on Child Survival and Development, Education, and Protection. With support from ESARO and Private Fund Raising and Partnership (PFP) Geneva Office, UNICEF Comoros also developed a fundraising package for its 2015-2019 Country Programme. This included initial donor, UNICEF National Committee (NatCom) and Public Partnership mapping, a proposal-tracking tool, two finalised concept notes for Education and Child Survival and Development shared with UNICEF Gulf Area Office, and seven draft concept notes.

In 2014 UNICEF Comoros nominated one focal person for coordination of donor reporting and timely submission. The nomination was communicated to the Regional Office. Responsibilities of the donor report focal person include: a) monitoring "Reports due in 3 months" via the Insight Manager’s Dashboard Alerts; b) communicating alert information to relevant head of sections and the representative; c) tracking progress in report drafting by relevant sections; d) coordinating finalisation of documents including final editing, M&E quality review, inclusion of any visual and narrative human interest section; e) submission of reports to all relevant parties; f) liaising with the Regional Office and Headquarters and donor counterparts as appropriate.

The reports due in 2014 were submitted on schedule and over 98 per cent of resources were absorbed.
**Evaluation**

UNICEF Comoros' biennial integrated monitoring and evaluation plan (2013-2014) was updated in early 2014 and uploaded onto the online platform (e-IMEP) during the first quarter of 2014. Some of the studies were not completed before the end of 2014, including analysis of the strategy of renovated Koranic schools and the analysis of vulnerability to malnutrition.

Together with other UN Agencies, UNICEF Comoros supported the final external evaluation of the UNDAF for the period 2008-2014. This evaluation highlighted the contribution of the United Nations System in implementation of the Comoros strategy for growth and poverty reduction. One of the main recommendations of the evaluation was on the need to implement appropriate tools and instruments for the management and monitoring of UNDAF results, and its alignment with the priorities of Comoros’ Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (SCA2D) 2015-2019. A management response to the evaluation is being developed by the UNCT.

The final results of the DHS - MICS survey were published in 2014. This report demonstrates substantial progress in health, nutrition and protection, such as the reduction in child mortality from 122/1,000 in 1990 to 50/1,000 in 2012. The DHS - MICS results were used to develop the UNICEF Comoros CPC 2015-2019.

**Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings**

UNICEF Comoros maintained its contributions to the Common Premises and Common Services with other UN agencies (UNDP, WHO, UNFPA, IMF) as part of ‘Operating as One’. In 2014, UNICEF was an active member of the Operations Management Team (OMT). The shared services are security, running costs and salaries of the doctor and nurse at the dispensary, cleaning and utilities such as electricity and fuel for the backup generator. The services are shared based on number of staff, dependents, offices and equipment. In 2014, the total contribution of UNICEF to common services was US$98,526.98. Of this, US$18,592.89 was paid for security enhancement and access control to the compound premises. The balance (US$79,934.09) was used to pay for UNICEF’s contribution to other shared services. Timely payment of contributions by UN agencies is a constant challenge.

Aside from common services, UNICEF Comoros also achieved some cost savings through several joint UN operations. In 2014 four joint UN activities were funded at a total cost of US$55,362.24.

The first joint activity, 50 per cent financed by UNICEF and 50 per cent by UNDP, concerned dispensary doctor's participation in the 8th Annual Dispensary Meeting in Italy for a total cost of US$4,520 or US$2,260 for each agency.

The second activity funded by three resident agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA) concerned HACT operations (macro-assessment, HACT training for staff and implementing partners, micro-assessment of implementing partners); the total cost was US$109,572.43. UNICEF contributed US$37,331.27, or 34 per cent of total cost.

The Office also contributed financially to the finalisation of the national growth and development plan (PAP/SCA2D) with other UN agencies (UNDP, WHO and UNFPA). UNICEF contributed US$15,000 (30 per cent) of the total US$50,000.
Finally, for the establishment of the Youth Parliament in Comoros, UN agencies disbursed about US$20,000 to the National Assembly of Comoros, of which US$4,999.97 (25 per cent) was the UNICEF contribution.

**Supply Management**

Total value for goods procured was US$1,309,058. Off-shore procurement value represented 30 per cent (US$396,022).

Twenty-seven institutional contracts were issued for US$860,858. Of this amount, US$640,638 (74 per cent) was for five GPE school rehabilitation work contracts. The main order made by the Education Section was for four vehicles (at US$79,912) to be used through loan agreements with Government. The Health section procured communication tools known as "La boîte à Images" for US$40,287.

The main investment made by UNICEF Comoros was the enhancement of premises’ security and refurbishment of the entrance to the office to make them disability friendly, for a total value of US$30,075.

UNICEF Comoros issued two local long-term agreements for engineering services.

Three significant orders were procured through UNICEF Comoros in favour of ASCOBEF, for a value of US$94,914.22.

Also, UNICEF Comoros undertook a benchmarking study among ESARO country offices to perform cost analysis on school textbooks and furniture, to consider using these suppliers as part of the Education Action Plan. Comoros is a small market with low-capacity suppliers, and it may be possible to find elsewhere better quality/prices even after considering shipping costs. Five countries provided the information required.

Logistics is still a challenge for UNICEF Comoros as the country suffers from poor infrastructure, limited shipping services between the islands, weak local forwarders' capacity and expensive airfare and sea freight charges.

Finally, as UNICEF Comoros does not maintain a warehouse, programme supplies are directly delivered to implementing partners. Programme administrators follow up activities after delivery to partners or end-users.

**Security for Staff and Premises**

UNICEF Comoros is part of common premises and has been allocated two buildings in the compound. These building are UNICEF properties. In general the buildings in the common premises are old, requiring continuous maintenance. In 2014, maintenance of building B was completed at a total cost of US$73,044.05.

Moreover, the Regional Office generously provided support in 2014 from regional contingency funds (RCF) with an allocation of US$52,635. Of this, US$18,592.89 was allocated to pay UNICEF’s contribution for security enhancement and access control to the compound premises. Along with other UN agencies located in the compound, it was agreed to allocate money for the security enhancements by extending the security guard house, installing a safety barrier, an ID card machine for UN staff and a Walk-Through Metal Detector. Smoke detectors were also installed in the two UNICEF buildings for US$4,034.27 to enhance MOSS Compliance. The office also used the Regional Office allocation to build ramps in the two buildings to facilitate
access to people with disabilities. After a bidding process, a purchase order of US$9,871.59 for
disability exits was completed.

Regarding staff security and safety, UNICEF appealed to Comoros Red Crescent (the only first-
aid training provider in Comoros) to conduct first-aid training for all staff for a total cost of
US$709.60. The balance of the RCF allocation (US$19,426.65) was used to establish
emergency exit doors for the two buildings and reinforcement of main entrance doors (controlled
security doors).

UNICEF Comoros closely works with UNDSS and other participating agencies for strengthening
MOSS compliance and staff security. MOSS was updated twice in 2014 (last update in 26
December 2014), but the UNICEF office is still not fully compliant, although most of the MOSS
recommendations have been implemented. There is a common Radio system managed by
UNDSS and a weekly radio check each Tuesday morning. A Communication Tree is also in
place. All UNICEF vehicles are equipped with VHF except those not used in the field. When the
vehicles are used in Moroni, staff members have to take VHF radios as part of MOSS
compliance. A building evacuation plan was also established for all UN agencies in the
compound and an evacuation exercise was carried out in June 2014. A training session for the
Warden was also conducted by UNDSS.

Human Resources

In preparation of the implementation of the new program for 2015 – 2019, one post was
abolished in 2014 (monitoring and evaluation officer) and replaced by a new one “Planning,
Monitoring and Evaluation officer”. Three posts (Executive Assistant, Education Officer NOA
and Administrative Assistant) were upgraded and one new temporary post (Partnership and
Fund Raising) was created. UNICEF Comoros spared no effort in identifying and recruiting
suitable candidates by advertising widely in different fora to attract competent staff. The five
positions were all filled within the established time-period.

Four of the newly recruited staff members are females. UNICEF continued to closely monitor
gender ratios and is fully committed to achieving gender parity. Currently, UNICEF Comoros
gender statistics 10 females and 13 males. Recruiting for a new Operations Manager has bene
ongoing since July 2014. UNICEF Comoros benefited from the support of ESARO during this
process.

The learning committee provided guidance for the preparation and implementation of the 2013
staff learning plan. The committee met several times to validate and monitor the implementation
plan. All planned group trainings were executed, including training on MoRES, HACT and
advanced skills in Excel. Nine of 21 planned individual trainings courses were also completed.

UNICEF Comoros continued to strengthen monitoring of the completion of staff PERs. As a
result, 100 per cent of the 2013 PERs and 100 per cent of individual work plans for 2014 were
completed by March, 2014 and updated within the mid-year review schedule. Annual leave
plans were also developed and updated, and the CMT regularly monitored the plan to
encourage work-life balance. Finally, seven of 10 activities planned by the Caring for Us Unit
were completed, including UNICEF staff training on first aid, which was facilitated by Comorian
Red Crescent specialists.
Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

UNICEF Comoros successfully completed the transfer to Office 365. All updates and applications were installed promptly, as per HQ guidelines. Several group and individual training sessions were held to ensure that all staff are fully conversant with these new platforms. The use of Lync and OneDrive, in particular, has helped UNICEF to make significant efficiency gains and financial savings, in addition to achieving greater data security for the staff. These platforms have also facilitated collaboration, communication and exchange with other UN agencies and external partners. It must be noted, however, that the migration to Office 365 implied additional costs due to the need for increased bandwidth for Internet connection.

With respect to Technologies for Development (T4D), UNICEF Comoros has been designing an initiative, TOUNDA, to support the education sector to automate the management of primary school statistics in the three autonomous islands. TOUNDA will be rolled out in 2015, using the open source “RapidPro”. Other sectors, such as health, have been considering the use of T4D tools to address their programme needs.

During 2014 the ICT Assistant developed a software application for inventory management of IT equipment. This application has been very useful in the local management of assets outside InSight. UNICEF has also developed an application to manage incoming and outgoing couriers. This application has had significant impact in reducing loss of correspondence and delays in responding to incoming couriers. Both applications are available to other UNICEF offices.

Programme Components from RAM

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 Through to the end 2014, coordination and management of the health and water sectors are undertaken in an efficient regulatory framework, including in emergencies

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Since 2010, the Ministry of Health has established the health coordination meeting, a forum bringing together senior government officials from the health sector at both central and island levels as well as technical and financial partners. The purpose of the quarterly meetings is to: (a) Promote collaboration and regular exchanges between different stakeholders in the health sector, (b) monitor implementation of the various recommendations and decisions (c) identify constraints and propose solutions. In addition, to improve exchange of information between partners, a monthly coordination meeting of all health partners has been established. This meeting aims primarily to avoid duplication of activities by partners. However, these meetings have not been held regularly. In 2014, UNICEF will help the ministry to play his leadership role to ensure that coordination mechanisms in the health and water sectors are effective.

OUTPUT 2 By the end of 2014, an institutional and strategic framework for implementation is defined and rolled-out through the validation of policy and strategy documents, including for emergency preparedness, national capacity-building, the collection, analysis and dissemination of data relating to child survival

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF contributed to the development of the National Health Policy 2015-2024, the National Plan for Health Development 2015-2019, national health accounts and the national protocol for management of severe acute malnutrition. Thanks to UNICEF's advocacy, the Comoros Parliament adopted a law on the sale and marketing of breast milk substitutes, which was
ratified by the President in June 2014. An action plan to improve the governance of nutrition work was developed, and advocacy is ongoing for the development of a nutrition multi-sectoral plan and ownership of the SUN initiative by national authorities. The country has developed a national strategy for water, sanitation and hygiene for 2015-2030. In preparedness and response to emergencies, UNICEF Comoros contributed to the development plan against a possible outbreak of Ebola. As part of its commitment to partnerships for children, the programme works with GAVI and other partners to introduce new vaccines and strengthen the health system. In December 2014, the World Bank became a partner in the area of nutrition.

The main constraints are related to weak coordination among partners, lack of ownership of certain initiatives by national authorities, the low proportion of the state budget allocated to the sector (under 10 per cent); frequent leadership changes fuel shortages that threaten the conservation of vaccines and other perishable products; and irregular payment of salaries, which is an important source of demotivation of staff.

OUTCOME 2. Through to the end of 2014, in the area of interventions, 70 per cent of children under 5 years, 80 per cent of pregnant women and at least 50 per cent of newborns suffering from breathing difficulties and of low birth weight have an integrated package high-impact interventions.

OUTPUT 1 At the end of 2014, 90 per cent of children less than 1 year (boys and girls) and especially those who reside in the programme’s targeted areas (Nioumachoua, Wanani, Mbéni, Ousioini, Domoni, Mremani, Pomon, Sima, Ouani) are fully vaccinated with 8 antigens and 70 per cent of women of childbearing age received the TT2.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Although EPI is a priority for the Government and its partners, coverage for all antigens is down compared to 2011 levels. This can be traced to several factors, such as low staff morale, frequent power cuts, frequent failure of refrigeration equipment and the lack of a coherent policy for maintaining such equipment. Suspension of the GAVI grant for strengthening the health system and immunisation activities was another major factor affecting the drop in coverage. Since the Government did not provide an external audit report within one year after the allocation of the first tranche, GAVI partners suspended the second tranche. Negotiations are underway for making the necessary funds available to the Government through UNICEF.

UNICEF Comoros supported the update of the comprehensive multi-year plan for 2014-2019. Priorities for 2014 included the implementation plan for the recommendations of the EMV, the implementation of the ‘Reaching Every District’ approach, strengthening the programme through staff training, staffing, computer equipment and strengthening the cold chain. The programme contributed to the country’s preparation for the introduction of IPV by 1 January 2015. As of November 30, 2014, vaccination coverage obtained for the different antigens was at: 83.3 per cent for BCG, 80.1 per cent for DTP-HepB-Hib3, 79.3 per cent for the 3rd dose of polio vaccine and 79.50 per cent for the measles vaccine. National stocks of vaccines are stored at CAMUC, which still has no written agreement with the national EPI programme. UNICEF is advocating with the Ministry of Health to establish such an agreement as it will help define roles and responsibilities for vaccine cold chain.

OUTPUT 2 Through to the end of 2014, at least 80 per cent of targeted children (boys and girls) receive 2 doses of vitamin A, 2 doses of Albendazole and benefit from periodic screening for malnutrition and 90 per cent of detected malnourished children are admitted to public or community health facilities (including emergency)
Analytical Statement of Progress:
Through UNICEF advocacy, Comoros became the 45th member of the Scaling-Up Nutrition movement in 2013. In May 2014, the UN Country Team sought and received technical support from REACH to assess nutrition governance in Comoros. The mission recommended the establishment of a multi-sectoral platform and a coordination structure. Following this mission the first lady was appointed as the SUN movement ambassador in Comoros. Conference calls are held monthly between the temporary platform and SUN coordination bodies. Partnership in the field of nutrition has expanded to JICA, the World Bank and the Comorian Consumer Federation. Government coordination and leadership must be stepped up to better manage nutrition activities at all levels.

With support from UNICEF, 40 health professionals (heads of 16 districts, physicians, paediatricians and midwives were trained in the management of acute malnutrition. The national malnutrition management protocol and programme tools were developed. One of the recommendations after the training was to ensure active routine screening for malnutrition every three months, and passive detection during the utilisation of health services by children aged 6 to 59 months. Given financial, logistical and human resource constraints, one nationwide screening was conducted in September 2014 and 77,078 children (71 per cent) of the targeted children were screened. Screening results revealed that 3,400 children (4.4 per cent) suffer from acute malnutrition (moderate or severe). Four feeding centres at hospitals and four ambulatory feeding centres were set up in 2014 to provide care to malnourished children. The opening of other centres is planned for 2015. So far, funding for nutrition activities has been provided by the partners. To ensure the sustainability of the programme, the Government has to mobilise funds from the state budget to fund some key nutrition activities. Since April 2014, all heads of the 17 districts have been trained on nutrition. A system of active and periodic testing has been established at the community level and passive screening at the level of health facilities has been strengthened. Detected malnourished children are oriented towards the Jordan ambulatory feeding centre for support. Community health workers and service providers have been trained on prevention and support for malnutrition.

OUTPUT 3 By the end of 2014, 80 per cent of pregnant women and newborn babies (girls and boys) are seen in the targeted programme areas (Ousioini, Fiumbouni, Mbéni Pomoni, Sima, Wanani, Nioumachoua), to receive the complete package of services (including emergency)

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2013 the Comorian Government launched the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) under the leadership of the Head of State. This translated concretely in 2014 to a review of the roadmap for reducing maternal, new-born and child mortality, the introduction of free emergency obstetric care at all public health facilities, changes to the strategic plan for the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV-AIDS (PMTCT), production and distribution of data collection materials for maternal, neonatal and infant deaths within an a framework agreement between the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Interior.

With support from UNICEF and WHO, an “action plan for each new-born” as recommended at global level, has been adopted and some components of the plan will be implemented by 2015. To improve the quality of new-born care, UNICEF provided 40 resuscitation kits and drugs to the Ministry of Health. Thirty-two health professionals were trained on key actions during and after delivery, to ensure newborn and maternal survival. For the prevention of anaemia and malaria in pregnant women, UNICEF provided folate iron sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine and ITNs
at no cost, which were distributed to pregnant women at antenatal clinics. HIV-AIDS testing kits were provided for the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV-AIDS. Approximately 51 per cent of pregnant women (9,640) benefited from HIV counselling and testing, including three for whom the tests were positive and who are being followed up by caregivers to prevent transmission of the virus. Despite high-level engagement, progress in improving the quality of maternal and new-born services remains weak. This is due to several factors, including the lack of qualified personnel, unequipped health facilities and inadequate budget allocated to the sector. To reduce the incidence of diarrhoea and other diseases transmitted by water, the programme worked with NGOs to promote home treatment water, using chlorine or other techniques such as sunshine, etc.

OUTCOME 3 By the end of 2014, students in 60 per cent of public elementary schools have access to drinking water and sanitation and an additional 20,000 people at the community level have access to water and to sanitation and 30,000 households to private potable water (including in emergency contexts)

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Given its mandate and organisational experience, UNICEF is particularly well-placed to strengthen the sanitation component of the national WASH policy and strategy. In 2014 UNICEF supported the displaced population of Mahale, temporarily installed in the camp at Bambao Mtsanga on Anjouan following an earthquake and landslide. A total of 3,030 people were displaced, including 1,686 women. There were no water supply system or hygiene and sanitation facilities around the site. UNICEF provided to the affected populations WASH kits, 20000 litres of safe drinking water daily, 43 latrines and 10 hand-washing facilities and 16 showers, as well as training 47 people on sanitation and hygiene. Due to the lack of funding the planned activities were conducted partially, one school with 504 students has benefited from the construction of two blocks of latrines thanks to the GPE funds. 30,000 water users received awareness on hygiene and sanitation promotion and are able to treat water at home with chlorine tablets

OUTPUT 3 Through to the end of 2014, 60 per cent of parents/guardians of children less than 5 years old (in the targeted programme areas) are aware of and adopt 7 positive behaviours for improved child survival (vaccination, exclusive breastfeeding, young child feeding, hand-washing, sleeping under mosquito netting impregnated, know the signs of danger, use care)

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Following the adoption of the Community Health Strategy in September 2013, the Government has identified communication as a priority. Communication tools have been developed for eight Essential Family Practices including vaccination, exclusive breastfeeding, young child feeding, hand-washing, sleeping under mosquito nets, knowing danger signs, seeking care and antenatal care. Some 850 package of images were developed and distributed to partners at the national and island levels. Training sessions for trainers and providers were organised on communication skills, dissemination of spots, sensitisation campaign, and a panel discussion on the theme "Breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding" was organised with the FCC and the Muftorat, thanks to advocacy by UNICEF. In addition, UNICEF supported promotion of health by developing an MOU with 24 community radios on the three islands, with the purpose of promoting the eight essential family practices through local communication

OUTCOME 4 By the end of 2014, 65 per cent of children from 3 to 8 years, especially vulnerable children, have access to, and participate in education on an equitable basis,
OUTPUT 3  Annually 100 per cent of the primary schools targeted in the selected educational zones are maintained or rehabilitated following a scheme consistent with official standards.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
47 per cent of schools offering ECR classes (i.e. 68 out of 145 schools) have benefited from minor refurbishment/repair works) with support from UNICEF. These actions have helped to improve the children’s safety and hygiene and increase the number of places available. Repairs were also carried out on play areas in schools. Gradually bringing ECR classrooms and schools in general up to standard will contribute to children’s development and improve learning conditions as a result.

OUTPUT 4  25 per cent of children 3-5 years, including those with disabilities, following the Koranic programme and 40 per cent of children 0-3 years are health care, awareness and parental work the programme of education social protection.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
8,861 children including 4,407 girls were enrolled in the renovated Koranic education programme. These children were provided each five programme manuals. Although there is a programme and curricula for teachers, the training needs improvement. Most of the teachers have not yet mastered active methods that are appropriate and they have no tools for observation and measurement of the quality of learning. Also, the existing data is not disaggregated by relevant criteria (region, sex, education district) making it difficult for the qualitative assessment of the education sector to be conducted. The establishment of an intersectoral Committee has been initiated, but its level of development is still weak, which made it difficult to adequately coordinate all pre-requisite work for the finalisation of the programme on parental education aimed at parents of children 0-3 years. The ongoing situation analysis of the ECD programme will help reinforce and better monitor the ECD program.

OUTPUT 5  90 per cent of children 6-8 years, including those with disabilities, are admitted to schools in education zones

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Improvements in access to education and learning outcomes for the most disadvantaged children remains hampered by the lack of innovation. For example, no specific programme exists for children with disabilities. However, significant efforts were made to strengthen the supply side. With GPE funds, 58 classrooms were rehabilitated in 2014. Also, to further improve access to education and learning outcomes for the most disadvantaged children, a census of out-of-school children and of those living with disability was conducted. The survey collected information on the geographic location of these children and their reasons for being out of school. As part of the 2013-2014 school census, primary school directors reported 647 children with disabilities enrolled in primary school (45 per cent are girls).

OUTPUT 6  100 per cent of the primary schools targeted in selected educational zones each year are maintained or rehabilitated following a scheme consistent with the official standards.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2014, 58 classrooms in nine schools were rehabilitated nationwide. Environmental impact on learning was addressed as part of the education programme through the guidelines for school construction produced in 2014. These guidelines are based on three principles: comfort (i.e.,
adaptability of the environment to the user), hygiene (i.e., sanitation and water facilities, lighting, ventilation) and security (i.e., protection from difficult weather conditions and other natural hazards). This guidelines are meant to define standards for all school construction in the Comoros from now on, with the expectation that they will contribute to a better integration of school buildings to the natural environment in which they are built. For instance, the guidelines cover space management, soil conditions, availability of sanitation and hygiene facilities, drinking vs. grey water management etc., which all affect the effective functioning of a school and the quality of its environment.

**OUTCOME 5** By the end of 2014, 81 per cent of students graduate with basic skills and continue their education after 2014.

**OUTPUT 2** All teachers of the targeted schools and pedagogical leaders of primary schools benefit from continuing training and educational exchanges

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The education reform underway in the country aims to promote a minimum period of schooling of eight years for every child in the Comoros. This means there is a need to develop capacity amongst teachers and supervisory staff, particularly given that in its ECR implementation strategy, the government opted to redeploy primary school teachers in preschools.

190 primary school teachers have been trained in order to pilot the new early learning text books (in 30 public primary schools and two private schools). Thanks to support from UNICEF, all teachers in ECR classes (around 200 people) have benefited from ongoing training on supervising young children and the use of the educational materials made available to them (curriculum, guides and manuals).

In addition, all educational supervisors in primary schools currently in post (around 120) have also been trained on both approaches (ECR and APC) in order to ensure that educational supervision is closely aligned with teachers for better performance in the classroom.

On-going training for teachers and supervisors will continue in 2013.

**OUTPUT 4** Each public elementary school benefits from educational materials and textbooks adapted to the official curriculum

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Textbooks on the main disciplines (French, mathematics and awakening) are not available at all schools in Comoros. Main difficulties relate to the edition of Comorian textbooks and the implementation of a system of management for their use. However, in 2014, 100 per cent of public primary schools (320 in total) received educational materials for teachers. Also, the governorate of Ngasidja provided free school supplies to all primary schools on the island. The UNICEF Comoros programme of cooperation provided essential school supplies to all public primary schools of Ndsuani and Mwali islands.

**OUTPUT 5** Each teacher of the targeted schools, principals and pedagogical leaders of primary schools receive ongoing training and educational support which is appropriate and mainly focused on the system of evaluating students’ skills

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Teaching support is gradually improving. The General Inspectorate of Education is now able to strengthen exchanges
and collaboration between headmasters and teachers. On Anjouan Island, a new initiative was launched to introduce the culture of excellence in primary education, by mainly promoting good practices and sharing of experience with a focus on the child-friendly school model.

**OUTCOME 6** Through to the end of 2014, implementation of a sector-wide approach (SWAp) in education will increase

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The sector-wide approach (SWAp) applies to the implementation of the Interim Education Plan 2013-2015 (IEP). Under MoE leadership, approximately US$13 million was mobilised through these projects, representing 43 per cent of IEP funding for the primary school and sectoral management subsectors. Comoros’ admission to the GPE helped reinforce the cooperation between the Government and its Education partners, who have endorsed the IEP. Joint coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms were established to achieve the IEP results.

**OUTPUT 1** Leadership, planning, coordination, control, monitoring and evaluation of the national policy of Education for All (EFA) is established at central and decentralized level

**OUTPUT 2** The management of the education system is strengthened at the central and decentralized levels.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
With strengthening and revitalising of the EMIS, the Ministry of Education (MoE) was able to meet the great challenges of the availability of data and indicators: annual surveys (rapid and exhaustive) 2013-2014 helped to publish the dashboard for 2014, the Statistical Yearbook for 2014 and the school forecasting for 2014/2015 for all three autonomous islands. These actions have improved coordination, control, monitoring and evaluation of the interventions in the sector at all levels. It must be said that since the admission of Comoros to the Global Partnership for Education, the question of data was seen as the key to the success of education partnership, including the framework for implementing and monitoring the 2013-2015 Interim Plan for Education. The wide dissemination of reliable education data will improve joint coordination mechanisms, monitoring and evaluation process.

**OUTPUT 3** Fairness, efficiency and optimization in the use of public resources for the education sector improves in all intervention zones, through the management of the school map.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
After experiencing improvement of school management in selected ECR schools during the 2013/2014 academic year, the process is being mainstreamed into the new "Excellence in Primary Education" initiative in Anjouan. This initiative aims to successfully implement rights-based quality education at primary level. This will serve as a management tool to improve equity and cost-effectiveness of interventions for the benefit of children.

**OUTCOME 7** A protective environment in favour of children is developed so that they are protected by State institutions, non-State institutions against all forms of discrimination, violence, neglect and exploitation so that their rights are promoted and respected
Analytical Statement of Progress:
The protective environment for children was strengthened to protect them against all forms of violence, abuse and neglect, as a result of revisions to the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code to bring them into compliance with international conventions ratified by Comoros. A monitoring group was set up by the Government to ensure that the country’s commitments in the fight against trafficking of persons are implemented.

After the national conference against child labour, participants adopted a number of recommendations, among which was ratification of the Additional Protocol to the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. Another recommendation refers to the implementation of the legislation of the Family Code as well as the compilation, publication and dissemination of texts relating to child labour, exploitation and trafficking.

Listening and protection services for abused children continued their efforts to provide legal and medical assistance to child victims of violence. They organised awareness-raising meetings on the issue of violence against children. The Board of Directors of the Riyali Organisation decided to fund listening services in Moheli and Grande Comore with approximately US$ 98,000 to strengthen their capacities. The capacities of national institutions working on child protection were strengthened to ensure that the rights of children are protected, including in emergency situations.

OUTPUT 2  Child victims of violence have access to and use of appropriate support structures

Analytical Statement of Progress:
771 children who have been victims of violence have used counselling services and all of them have had access to medical treatment and support during their legal proceedings. Coordination and monitoring of counselling and protection services for children who have been victims of violence have been strengthened. Data from the counselling services have been consolidated and advocacy has been carried out to set up a free telephone number. A workshop for the three counselling services to share ideas was organised in Anjouan in September 2012, with the aim of reflecting on possible new directions for the services. By the end of the workshop, the role of the counselling services had been redefined to include violence against women.

The counselling services pursued their counselling and treatment activities for children who had suffered violence. A conference on the subject was organised in March 2012 in light of increasing occurrences of violence. The main recommendations produced at the end of the conference were, in particular, building capacity amongst the key stakeholders responsible for combating violence in terms of human, financial and material resources.

As part of the activities associated with the emergency resulting from the severe weather in 2012, vulnerable children’s committees in the affected prefectures were formed and provided with computer equipment and office furniture.

A fund-raising campaign called “Operation Riyali” to provide assistance for vulnerable children and support for counselling services, launched in November 2011, continued in Grande Comore and on the islands of Anjouan and Mohéli in 2012. A total of almost 150 million Comoran francs was raised. The fund-raising campaign was supported by UNICEF through the Operation Riyali management committee. A community organisation called “Organisation Riyali” was set up in
April 2012. The aim of the organisation is primarily to implement actions to prevent violence against and mistreatment of children and reduce their vulnerability.

In 2013, resources from Operation Riyali will be used to strengthen counselling services at an operational level and provide care for children who have been mistreated.

**OUTPUT 4** State institutions ensure the formulation, acceptance and implementation of the legal framework in compliance with the CRC and CEDAW and embrace the role of guarantor for human rights.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The legal framework was strengthened, especially in the areas of violence, abuse and neglect against children and women. The new Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure were adopted by the National Assembly in June and December 2014, respectively. In addition, a law on the fight against child labour and a law on the Prevention and Punishment of violence against women were also adopted. Four laws were approved, instead of the two initially expected.

UNICEF supported the development of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for Comoros in 2014. It also supported the Comorian delegation that participated in June 2014 in Geneva meeting to defend this Universal Periodic Review. The report highlighted progress made by the country in terms of harmonising its legislation in line with the CRC. Of 134 recommendations made in this periodic review, 123 were accepted and nine rejected by the Comoros Government. The recommendations accepted by Comoros include the abolition of the death penalty; ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; establishment of a national strategic action plan for the prevention of all forms of violence against women, creating specialised centres for support to victims of sexual violence and to women and child victims of sexual assault; and improving the quality of health services and education for the entire population, especially children. Comoros refused to take part in the debate on the decriminalisation of homosexuality and religious proselytising.

The action plan of the national solidarity policy was finalised and covers the period 2014-2018. It takes into account all of the priority programs identified for the short-, medium- and long-term to operationalise the national policy of solidarity and allow the different actors to better prepare for the management of solidarity throughout the country.

**OUTPUT 5** Children who are victims of violence have access to and use of appropriate support structures

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The three child protection units (CPUs), one each in the three autonomous islands, strengthened their mechanisms for coordination and monitoring of abused children. The CPUs continued to provide services to abused children. CPU services for children victims of violence in Njasidja and Mwali islands received funding from the Riyali Operation for an amount of 44 million Comoros Francs (US$110,000). These funding agreements were signed on April 15, 2014.
The three child protection units processed 483 cases (399 girls and 84 boys) in 2014. These cases cover rape, sexual assault, abandonment and abortions. About 263 child victims of violence were identified by the three nationwide child protection units. The CPU of Njasidja Island conducted 51 gynaecological consultations for 51 children during the year. Nineteen child victims of rape resulting in pregnancy received medical assistance. CPU steering committees and the district-level committees for vulnerable children met regularly during the year.

Sensitisation meetings were held in Koranic schools in Anjouan Island because of the high percentage of teachers in these schools involved in violence against children. The CPU of this island participated in the establishment of the Regional Platform against Violence against Women and Girls. The CPU services of Mwali Island reported 40 cases of sexual abuse – nearly 41 per cent of all cases reported by this CPU.

OUTPUT 6 The Ministry of Justice ensures that children have improved access to judicial services and improved conditions in detention.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
A National Observatory of Prisons was set up in January 2014 with a mandate to defend the fundamental rights and freedom of detainees. Its mission are to:
• Communicate up-to-date information on conditions of detention of prisoners, and alert the public, government, and relevant agencies and organisations;
• Inform detainees of their rights and support their efforts to enforce them;
• Promote the adoption of laws, regulations and other measures to ensure the defence and respect of human rights; and also to reduce the number of people detained, limit the recourse to detention, reduce the scale of penalties, develop alternatives to criminal prosecution and to custodial sentences;
• Use its right to sue for safeguarding the essential interests of detainee and the application of laws and regulations;
• Help prisoners’ reintegration into society;

In 2014 the National Observatory of Prisons (NOP), which is supported by UNICEF, sent correspondence to the Minister of Justice to call for better conditions of detention of prisoners. According to the NOP, the conditions of detention in Comoros’ prisons are inhumane and in disrespect of human rights principles. This correspondence stressed poor sanitation and other unhealthy conditions, insecurity, overcrowding of minors mixed with adult prisoners. Due to lack of financial resources, work on the implementation of a legal aid policy, the establishment of health units in prisons, and the training for penitentiary agents was not undertaken.

OUTPUT 7 The relevant Government Ministries ensure the integration of gender and equity issues into national programmes and ensure the a policy of social protection is adopted and implemented.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
A national Social Protection Policy, developed with funding from the World Bank, was approved in June 2014. The strategies proposed in this new policy aim at strengthening the capacity of vulnerable individuals and communities to fulfil their basic rights in a sustainable manner. The main strategic domains of this policy are the reduction of job insecurity in the Comoros, improving accessibility to basic social services and the promotion of natural risk management strategies.
In line with this strategy, the National Directorate of Solidarity, supported by UNICEF, designed and implemented a small-scale unconditional cash transfer in three localities (Jandsa in Anjouan Island, Famare in Ngasidja Island, and Domoni in Mwali Island). About US$30,000 was transferred to 166 households, benefiting 475 children under 18 years of age. More than 70 per cent of households receiving the cash transfers used some of the funds to cover child-specific needs. The most frequent expenditures for children were the purchase of clothing, shoes and school uniforms (30 per cent), payment of fees and school supplies (15 per cent) and obtaining a birth certificate (10 per cent). A report on implementation of this pilot cash transfer project was disseminated during a workshop in December 2014. This report highlighted some impact of this project, such as the percentage of children under five who have their birth certificates or birth registered, which increased from 79 per cent at the beginning of the project to 85 per cent after the transfer of funds to households.

OUTPUT 8
The Directorate General of Civil Security ensures the respect of the rights of children and women in emergency situations.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The capacity of the Directorate of Civil Security was strengthened to ensure that the rights of children are protected in emergencies. A database was set up at the General Directorate of Civil Security. Evaluation forms and registration of claims were printed. Four cameras were made available by UNICEF, one for the central level and the other three to the regional directorates of civil security to better document claims. Awareness raising brochures on the most frequent types of disasters occurring in Comoros (flood, epidemics, volcanos, etc.) were developed and distributed. Training on the prevention against abuse and exploitation of children and women were held on the three islands.

OUTCOME 8
The Comorian administration has sufficient capacity for the collection and update of data on the situation of children for strategic planning, monitoring and assessment based on rights and ensuring the appropriate response in emergency situations.

OUTPUT 1
Integrated management information system

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF Comoros supported the National Institute of Statistics, and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED) in the finalisation of the 2012 DHS - MICS report and the publication of the final results. A UNICEF staff member provided technical assistance to this survey and participated as a member of the country team in the mission of finalising the report at the headquarters of the DHS programme in Washington, D.C.

About 1,000 copies of the final report were printed and sent to INSEED by ICF International as part of the “full assistance” contract that this institution signed with UNICEF Comoros. Two ICF International experts attended the launching ceremony of the final report and facilitated a two-day training workshop for media staff (written and audio/visual) on the dissemination of the results of Comoros DHS - MICS.

Finally, UNICEF Comoros also strengthened the capacities of some partners on the methodology of data collection and analysis. The Office supported the National Directorate of Solidarity to collect household data as part of the pilot cash transfer project, as well as assisting Education NGO partners to carry out the survey of children out of school and/or living with
disability. UNICEF supported a mission of INSEED staff to Gaborone for training on the multiple deprivations analysis tool (CC - MODA and N - MODA) relating to children's rights. Important support was provided by UNICEF to the Ministry of Education for the development of dashboards and the 2014 Statistical Yearbook.

OUTPUT 2 Capacity planning.

The growth and poverty reduction strategy (GPRS) and its priority action plan 2010-2014 and framework for the development of the Comoros ended on December 31, 2014. The Comorian Government, with the support of its development partners including UNICEF, carried out the final evaluation of the implementation of this strategy. The main objective of this assessment was to draw the lessons learned from the implementation of GPRS, in order to inform the new development framework for the period 2015-2019 - the accelerated growth and sustainable development strategy.

The UNICEF/Comoros programme of cooperation 2008-2012 was extended to 2013-2014 to ensure its alignment to the GPRS. UNICEF Comoros, in collaboration with national and regional authorities, developed a new Country Programme for the period 2015-2019. This programme is aligned with the UNICEF Strategic plan 2014-2017, as well as to the UNDAF and to the Government’s SCA2D. UNICEF/Comoros new CPD was approved by the Government of Comoros in February 2014 and by the UNICEF Executive Board in September 2014.

OUTCOME 9 70 per cent of the families with children have adopted practices promoting the survival, development, education and protection of children

OUTPUT 4 Implement an integrated strategy and intersectoral communication based on child development

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF assisted the Government, through the Ministry of Information, in establishing a cross-sectoral communication committee on Moheli and Anjouan islands to support implementation of the C4D strategy, to induce behaviour change among local communities. The mission of the Communication Committee for Child Development is to coordinate the integrated communication strategy. C4D results were strengthened through the adoption and approval of the Eight Essential Family Practices. The toolbox developed was distributed to partners at the national and island levels.

OUTPUT 5 State structures, civil society organizations, development partners and adolescents contribute to advocacy and the respect for the rights of women and children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

This year marked the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with many activities planned and implemented nationally, with a focus on Child Survival and Development, Basic Education and Child Protection, with the active participation of children.

The celebrations engaged decision-makers, local media, parents and children. The visibility of activities supported by UNICEF was ensured through the dissemination of articles and audio-visual images by the press during the celebrations of major international days on child rights. These celebrations were marked by communication campaigns involving NGOs, policymakers,
local media, artists, parents and children. A series of media events (flyers, posters, TV shows, documentaries, songs, drawings) were organised to publicise, inform and raise awareness of various issues relating to child rights.

For the CRC, this event was marked by several actions supported by UNICEF in the area of child survival and development, basic education and equality, and the protection of children's rights. During a meeting with the press, the UNICEF Representative presented achievements in the area of child rights and challenges. His statement was widely reported in the national media. A special issue of the electronic newsletter of UNICEF Comoros (“Habari Sa UNICEF Comoros”) was published. A press release was published in the two main daily newspapers. In addition, a TV documentary on the 25th anniversary of the Convention was broadcast on Comoros radio and television. Short text messages on health, education and child protection were sent to all 260,000 subscribers of the national telecommunication provider. In collaboration with a local NGO, Ngo'shawo, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Information to organise a public concert in Moroni. Children's choirs from different primary schools, as well as artists working for the rights of children, participated in this concert, which was covered by all major media in the country, including the national television (ORTC).

OUTCOME 10 By the end of 2014, 50 per cent of households in the targeted programme intervention zones apply at least 50 per cent favourable behaviours defined in the package of interventions in health, nutrition and use of clean water.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF supported health promotion campaigns through 24 community radios on the three islands. UNICEF continued its collaboration with the Office of Radio and Television of Comoros. Partnerships with local media (national radio and TV, community radios) played an important role in the dissemination of information, the promotion of child-to-child communication and awareness-raising of different audiences (parents, decision-makers, and religious and community leaders) on issues related to child rights. Training, dissemination of spots, sensitisation campaign, and panel discussions on exclusive breastfeeding was organised with the Comoros Federation of Consumers and the Office of the Grand Mufti. In the humanitarian situation in Mahale at Anjouan Island, families received hygiene kits including chlorine tablets, jerry cans and soap. Communication activities and sensitisation for good practices and behaviour change on hygiene and hand-washing were organised in the camps.

Other Publication

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