Executive Summary

Despite its vast physical size and abundant natural resources, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 176th out of 188 countries and territories in the 2015 Human Development Index. Child poverty is widespread and particularly concentrated in conflict-affected and hard-to-reach areas. According to a recent UNICEF study, 80 per cent of children under 15 years old experience at least two major deprivations.

Despite sustained growth in recent years, DRC’s economy is still struggling and can’t provide the Government the revenue required to meet the basic needs of the population, including children. In 2016, political instability, the persistence of conflicts in the East and the sharp fall in global commodity prices were aggravating factors.

The situation in the East and South of DRC remained extremely volatile, with over 70 armed groups active in North and South Kivu alone. In 2016, the UNICEF-coordinated rapid response to movements of populations (RRMP) programme was activated over 100 times, providing multi-sectoral assistance to 2.3 million conflict-affected people and complemented by multi-purpose cash assistance.

Under the co-leadership of UNICEF DRC and United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), grave violations of children's rights in situations of armed conflict were monitored and reported. Over 100,000 affected children and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) were provided with medical, psychosocial, economic and legal support. UNICEF assistance reached almost 90 per cent of unaccompanied and separated children as well as children exiting armed forces and groups. Over 100,000 children in conflict with the law were provided access to juvenile justice services.

With UNICEF DRC support, 1,037,469 children were registered by a drive to massively increase birth registration (BR) in 2016, a 30 per cent increase from 2015.

Severe acute malnutrition (SAM) is a silent emergency that threatens the lives of an estimated two million Congolese children. In 2016, 205,293 severely malnourished children (68 per cent of the target) were treated with therapeutic food, resulting in a cure rate of 84 per cent. To help prevent malnutrition, more than 1.7 million mothers and caregivers were sensitized on infant and young child feeding practices; Vitamin A supplements and deworming tablets were provided to seven million children.

Partnerships were built upon to improve decentralized health governance and boost coverage of high-impact interventions for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) in the 26 provinces. In provinces with high child mortality, UNICEF DRC helped scale-up family kits and community case management of child illnesses, reaching one million children under five. With support from UNICEF and partners, and the effort to strengthen immunization services, DRC sustained its polio-free status and reduced the number of health zones (HZ) that experienced measles outbreaks from 77 in 2013 to 24 in 2016. Polio campaigns reached 19 million children, and 11 million children
were reached during measles campaigns.

In 2016, three million more people and over 410,000 more children gained access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services compared to the 2013 baseline due to the Healthy Schools and Villages National Programme supported by UNICEF and partners. The programme is on track to achieve its five-year targets. WASH services were also provided to 1,865,374 children and their families living in conflict-affected areas.

In the education sector, UNICEF DRC facilitated access to basic education for 1,536,200 school-age children through distribution of school kits/materials and provision of social protection measures (i.e. grants to schools for vulnerable children that reduce financial barriers and school dropout). Back-to-school (BTS) and door-to-door (DTD) campaigns and data collection contributed to the 56 per cent rise in children who enrolled in first grade since 2015. UNICEF also supported early warning systems to reduce absenteeism; tutoring activities for children with learning difficulties; school club activities for the promotion of life skills; and peace education.

With UNICEF support, recently available disaggregated data on child deprivations supported more child-sensitive national development and social protection plans as well as Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) prioritization. Due to communication for development (C4D), 71 per cent of targeted parents and caregivers reported having adopted at least three key family care practices (KFCP).

In DRC, UNICEF enjoys the trust of resource-mobilization partners including: the Governments of Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Norway, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and USA; the European Union (EU); private foundations such as Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Global Alliances Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), The Micronutrient Initiative, Qatar Foundation for Educate a Child, Rotary International, Common Humanitarian Fund; and UNICEF National Committees.

### Humanitarian Assistance

For over two decades the DRC has been plagued by a cycle of multiple, complex conflicts with grave humanitarian consequences. DRC is often referred to as a “chronic crisis” country, but the term does not capture the critical acute nature of each new situation in eastern DRC’s ever-shifting landscape of insecurity, violence, and precarious stability. OCHA estimated that in 2016, 2,000 additional people were displaced every day. Movements of thousands of families – both newly displaced and newly returned – were reported every week.

Within this context, communities, children, women and families in the DRC were confronted with grave protection issues including sexual violence, recruitment into armed groups, family separation, psychosocial trauma, and destruction or loss of homes and belongings. Population movement in DRC is complex and dynamic: attacks on people and gross violations of human rights continue, with zones of violence and displacement constantly shifting. In 2016, DRC registered more than 1.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), including 1.14 million children, and hosted 436,874 refugees.

In addition to humanitarian emergencies created by protracted cycles of violence, displacement and return, emergency levels of acute malnutrition, morbidity and mortality caused by entrenched structural problems of a fragile state continue. Outbreaks of cholera, measles, and yellow fever threaten children’s survival. In 2016, DRC reported over 25,000 cholera cases, the largest number of cases since 2012, representing almost 90 per cent of all cases in West and Central Africa. The number of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition in the DRC exceeds that of all countries of the Sahel.
In 2016, UNICEF appealed for US$130 million for humanitarian response programming and coordination. As of 25 November 2016, UNICEF had received 41 per cent (US$54 million) of the US$130 million 2016 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal, in addition to US$1.4 million carried forward from 2015. Compared to 2015, the overall funding of the 2016 humanitarian response plan was significantly lower.

Despite the significant gap, UNICEF DRC allocated other regular emergency (ORE) resources to support the emergency response in 2016 with a total of US$45,506,883 (plus US$3,724,000 from donor-funded regular programming, primarily in protection, and US$5,391,000 from UNICEF regular resources (RR)). UNICEF continued to earn donor confidence and investment, however, with consistently high levels of funding for RRMP: US$24 million was raised out of US$30 million requested. In addition, UNICEF raised almost US$10 million to scale up a large scale unconditional cash transfer programme.

In 2016, UNICEF DRC reached 2.3 million people in need of emergency assistance. The rapid response to movements of populations programme (RRMP) was still the single largest humanitarian response programme in DRC, assisting over 1.2 million people in multiple sectors. Through the programme, 55,885 conflict-affected people were provided with medical assistance in the provinces of Tanganyika and Haut Katanga.

UNICEF DRC played a critical role in the response and coordination of a cholera outbreak, supporting over 1.6 million cholera-affected people. The alternative responses for communities in crisis (ARCC) cash transfer programme, set up in October 2016, was the largest humanitarian cash intervention ever implemented in DRC: over US$2 million was delivered to almost 13,000 families in the Lubero territory. More than 200,000 children with severe acute malnutrition received quality treatment through UNICEF-supported nutrition programmes.

UNICEF-supported programmes provided assistance to 90 per cent of children who exited armed forces and groups, and to 80 per cent of unaccompanied and separated children. UNICEF exceeded its target of 60,000 displaced and refugee children receiving psychosocial support (PSS) through child-friendly spaces. Due to 2016 funding gaps for the treatment, care and return to the community of the survivors of sexual violence, only an estimated 32 per cent of survivors (3,332 persons) received UNICEF-supported assistance. A total of 250,190 children gained access to quality education and psychosocial support in a protective environment.

UNICEF DRC was a key player in humanitarian coordination as a leader of four out of eight active clusters in the country (non-food items (NFI), shelter, nutrition, education and WASH). UNICEF was a leading agency in the cash transfer programming (a co-leader with the World Food Programme on a cash working group in North-Kivu) and an active player in the creation of the national cash transfer working group.

**Emerging Areas of Importance**

**Refugee and migrant children.** The Country Office (CO) has worked on this issue since the current country programme (CP) commenced. The CO specifically works with refugee children, jointly with UNHCR, as an integrated part of UNICEF’s humanitarian response. The rights of migrant children, especially in urban settings, will need to be further addressed in the process of development of a new country programme.

**Climate change and children.** The CO participated in the global discussions on UNICEF’s position on climate change and children, organized in Mumbai, India, and contributed to the enrichment of the event’s preparatory documents (“Road to Mumbai”). Inputs and
suggestions were provided to the conference final documents and to UNICEF WCARO’s presentation on the outcomes of the event.

**Urbanization and children.** The CO participated in the global discussions of UNICEF on urbanization, organized in Mumbai, India in October 2016 and contributed to the enrichment of the event’s preparatory documents (“Road to Mumbai”). In addition, inputs and suggestions were provided to the draft of Strategic Note on Children in Urban Settings, emphasizing the need to take in account children from the peri-urban areas and not to limit response to children from slums. The CO initiated the process of defining UNICEF’s niche and added value in working on the issue of urbanization, considering particularly social protection response and children’s participation and consultation in urban planning and development.

**Accelerate integrated early childhood development (ECD).** The first 1,000 days of life is an essential period to promote early childhood development (ECD), and as well as reduce stunting. With more than six million children stunted in the DRC, there is a high impact on the cognitive development of young children. Uniting efforts to improve appropriate feeding, nutrition and health in a child’s early stages is essential to ensure childhood development.

As a ‘Strategic Moment of Reflection’ outcome, nutrition and education sections considered incorporating a package of ECD interventions (strengthening values, knowledge-base and commitment) through nutrition services in the community, but also through specific nutrition activities at health centres, such as pre-school consultations (0-23 months) where growth, nutrition, health and family practices are promoted and monitored. The goal is to ensure parents’ interaction with children as well as early stimulation, and preparation for pre-schooling period. To find pragmatic solutions to overcome the pre-schooling challenges (only four per cent of pre-schooling, compared to 20 per cent in neighbouring countries) that coincide with high demographic pressure, and to reduce disparities in access to pre-school, UNICEF assisted the DRC Government to launch an innovative pre-primary classroom programme. This initiative led to the enrolment of 3,954 children in 100 pre-primary classes, opened in January 2016, to prepare for entry into first primary school during the school year 2016-2017. In September 2016, the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year, a second cohort of 2,596 children were enrolled in the 100 pre-primary classes. The ministry in charge of preschool is supporting 900 other pre-primary classes to broaden the pilot coverage area.

### Summary Notes and Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMP</td>
<td>Annual Management Plan</td>
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<td>ARCC</td>
<td>Alternative Responses to Communities in Crisis</td>
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<td>BCP</td>
<td>Business Continuity Plan</td>
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<td>BCV</td>
<td>VISION Business Centre</td>
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<td>BMA</td>
<td>Budget Management Allocation</td>
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<td>BTS</td>
<td>Back to School</td>
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<td>C4D</td>
<td>Communication for Development</td>
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<td>CERF</td>
<td>Central Emergency Response Fund</td>
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<td>CMT</td>
<td>Country Management Team</td>
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<td>CNAEHA</td>
<td>National Committee for Action on Water, Hygiene and Sanitation</td>
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<td>CO</td>
<td>Country Office</td>
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<td>COMIT</td>
<td>Country Office Management and Innovation Team</td>
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<td>CPD</td>
<td>Country Programme Document</td>
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<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
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<td>DHIS2</td>
<td>District Health Information System</td>
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<td>DPS</td>
<td>Provincial Health District</td>
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<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
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<td>DTD</td>
<td>Door-to-Door</td>
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<td>ERM</td>
<td>Enterprise Risk Management</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>GAVI</td>
<td>Global Alliances Vaccines and Immunization</td>
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<td>GFATM</td>
<td>Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria</td>
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<td>GIBS</td>
<td>Inter-Agency Health Donor Group</td>
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<td>GIEA</td>
<td>Inter–Donor Group on Water and Sanitation</td>
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<td>GPE</td>
<td>Global Partnership for Education</td>
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<td>HAC</td>
<td>Humanitarian Action for Children</td>
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<td>HACT</td>
<td>Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers</td>
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<td>HC</td>
<td>Health Centre</td>
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<td>HRP</td>
<td>Humanitarian Response Plan</td>
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<td>HVS</td>
<td>Healthy Villages and Schools</td>
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<td>HZ</td>
<td>Health Zone</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and Communications Technology</td>
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<td>IDP</td>
<td>Internally Displaced Person</td>
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<td>IYFP</td>
<td>Infant and Young Child Feeding</td>
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<td>KAP</td>
<td>Knowledge, Attitude and Practice</td>
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<td>KFP</td>
<td>Key Family Practices</td>
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<td>KPI</td>
<td>Key Performance Indicator</td>
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<td>LLIN</td>
<td>Long Lasting Insecticide -Treated Net</td>
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<td>MAA</td>
<td>Improved Monitoring for Action</td>
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<td>MICS</td>
<td>Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey</td>
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<td>MNT</td>
<td>Maternal Neonatal Tetanus</td>
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<td>MoE</td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
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<td>MoH</td>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
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<td>MONUSCO</td>
<td>United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
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<td>MOSS</td>
<td>Minimum Operating Security Standards</td>
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<td>MRM</td>
<td>Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism</td>
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<td>N-MODA</td>
<td>Multiple Analysis of Child Deprivation</td>
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<td>NFI</td>
<td>Non–food Item</td>
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<td>ORE</td>
<td>Other Resources Emergency</td>
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<td>ORR</td>
<td>Other Regular Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>PESS</td>
<td>Project of Health Services Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>PMSEC</td>
<td>Multi–sectoral Plan for the Elimination of Cholera</td>
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<tr>
<td>RMNCH</td>
<td>Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>RR</td>
<td>Regular Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>RRMP</td>
<td>Rapid Response to Movements of Populations</td>
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<td>SAM</td>
<td>Severe Acute Malnutrition</td>
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<td>SDG</td>
<td>Strategic Development Goal</td>
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<td>SGBV</td>
<td>Sexual and Gender Based Violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>SNSAP</td>
<td>The Nutritional Surveillance and Early Warning System</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDAF</td>
<td>UN Development Assistance Framework</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</td>
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UNICEF contributed to improve the capacity of the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) for the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 6 (MICS6), providing technical expertise and guidance and sending seven NIS staff to a regional workshop in Dakar.

In Kasai, Kasai Central and Equateur, UNICEF assisted the Government to strengthen its educational information management system (EMIS). A database for out-of-school children and beneficiaries of the social protection scheme was developed and an accountability system put in place to empower beneficiaries to share their feedback.

UNICEF worked with partner Réseau des Educateurs des Enfants et Jeunes de la Rue en RDC to prepare a prevention and contingency plan to minimize the risk of use of children during the electoral period in Kinshasa. Religious leaders, members of youth association, teachers and others were trained to support sensitization activities. The plan resulted in a child protection working group draft advocacy strategy for the protection of children in political events (2016-2020). UNICEF and partners, including the Government and MONUSCO, supported the adoption of standard operating procedures on the age assessment of persons formerly associated with armed forces and groups.

For the healthy villages and schools programme, 1,326 local facilitation teams, composed of health workers and community members were trained as "sentinels". Healthy environment school brigades were trained to support the implementation of the school activities component.

UNICEF supported the Government in its health sector reform through the improvement of the national monitoring system in the Provincial Health District (DPS). Improved monitoring for action (MAA) was applied to strengthen the capacity at provincial level to plan evidence-based programmes that address bottlenecks.

A radio drama was broadcast throughout the year to promote positive social norms related to health, protection, education, etc. A monitoring study confirmed an increase in the rate of listeners; nearly one third of the respondents reported that they had listened to the radio drama, four times higher than in December 2015. Of those interviewed, 16 per cent said they were motivated by the drama to seek health services, especially for family planning.

In 2016, UNICEF completed several studies and research work that contributed to the generation of new data and analysis at country and provincial levels. For example, for the first time in DRC, Multiple Analysis of Child Deprivation (N-MODA) was used to assess child deprivations and included as a key input to the National Strategic Plan for Development. The gender review process undertaken in the second half of 2016 allowed the CO to identify four priority programmatic areas for the next UNICEF DRC Country Programme (CP), based on internal and external consultations. The Health Atlas used recent data and maps to highlight age, gender, geographic and other disparities at the national and provincial levels. The provincial profiles produced by the Ministry of Plan and the National Institute of Statistics, with support from UNICEF, were distributed to policy makers at advocacy events across the country and contributed to building sub-national capacity in statistics and evidence-based decision making.

Further research included a learning paper published in partnership with the American Institutes of Research on UNICEF’s Alternative Responses to Communities in Crisis programme (ARCC), which uses cash-based assistance in the DRC; and the publication of a scientific paper on cash transfers and the reduction of malnutrition based on a pilot project in
Kasai Oriental Province.

The evidence generated was used for policy dialogue and advocacy. Namely, N-MODA informed DRC’s development agenda for the next five to 15 years, with Congolese children now clearly mentioned in the country’s strategic agenda, and influences programming and activity targeting in the development of next Country Programme Document (CPD).

### External Communication and Public Advocacy

Based on the public communication and public advocacy strategy adopted in 2015, UNICEF DRC focused communication efforts in 2016 on the reduction of child mortality, the quality of education, the fight against child marriage and the celebration of the 70th anniversary of UNICEF.

A photo exhibition “UNICEF@70” illustrating the work of the organization in DRC was held in Kinshasa and 12 other major cities and is available online. An active member of the UN Communications Group, UNICEF DRC in 2016 regularly contributed to the weekly One UN press meetings. UNICEF’s collaboration with the network of child friendly journalists, at national level and in the provinces, was strengthened throughout 2016.

In 2016, over 3,000 media products were created and an improved monitoring system was put in place, together with the National Council for Communication and independent communication partners. The aim was to improve analysis of the qualitative and quantitative impact of the media work on children in DRC and the level of appreciation towards UNICEF by its main partners.

Digital communication was reinforced with an improved connection between UNICEF’s global website and the UNICEF DRC blog and with greater presence of UNICEF on the United Nation’s website in DRC. UNICEF DRC reached 4,824,183 people on social media, websites and blogs this year, and obtained 108,779 acts of engagement. UNICEF DRC currently has 38,089 digital followers and subscribers.

Throughout 2016, UNICEF DRC strengthened its network of youth reporters as well as the involvement of children and young people in programmatic interventions and advocacy work. This year, 7,200 children from in the provinces of Kinshasa and Haut-Lomami participated as advocates in a pilot programme on birth registration (BR), contributing to the provision of birth certificates to 13,500 children.

### South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

In 2016, UNICEF promoted and facilitated South-South cooperation through technical cooperation, and exchange of experiences and good practices towards the realization of child rights.

The Capoeira for Peace project (launched in 2014 with UNICEF, the Government of Brazil, AMADE-Mondiale, the Congolese Capoeira Association and the Haitian NGO Viva Rio) was integrated into UNICEF activities that support children formerly associated with armed forces and groups. The innovative approach successfully used Capoeira as a psycho-social tool to help children overcome conflict-related trauma and to develop their own identity. In 2016, 2,350 children (479 girls and 1871 boys) had access to Capoeira lessons in the east of the country. In 2016, the Government of Canada joined the Capoeira initiative that was and will be a platform to mobilise assistance to children involved in conflict.

To innovate and improve the quality of the District Health Information System (DHIS2) online database for the healthy villages and schools programme, UNICEF DRC and Government
counterparts conducted an exchange visit to Zambia to learn from their experiences using DHIS2 and mobile phones for data collection under the national sanitation programme.

As only 47 per cent of the Congolese population has access to drinking water, UNICEF DRC reached out to the Chadian Association for the Promotion of Enterprises Specialized in Low-Cost Drilling, one of the leading experts in manual drilling, a low-cost technique to supply safe drinking water in a more efficient and cost-effective way, to support DRC’s VHS programme through trainings and capacity building.

**Identification and Promotion of Innovation**

In 2016, UNICEF DRC developed 12 innovative projects to advance progress and results for children.

WASH introduced a sustainability approach to ensure that targeted villages and schools of the VHS programme kept their “healthy” status through regular monitoring. Both WASH and C4D tested the use of SMS: WASH implemented a pilot project for the maintenance of hand pumps and communication for development (C4D) supported a project to promote hygiene and the fight against yellow fever (SMS and IVR vocal sms). Both pilot projects will continue in 2017.

Ensuring children’s participation in UNICEF programmes, particularly in birth registration and education, has boosted the registration of children as well as the enrolment of vulnerable children in the first year of primary school. In education, “promo scolaire” is an opportunity for education stakeholders to draw on the lessons learned from the previous school year and plan the following year, by taking in account the strategic axes of the education interim plan. In Bukavu, the “promo scolaire” invited not only the educational sub-division stakeholders but all key provincial stakeholders to be part of the exercise, including the PROVED team, DIPROSEC, the minister's office, socio-economic committees of the provincial assembly, local authorities, territorial administrators, customary chiefs, school coordinators, trade unions, parents’ associations, child parliamentarians and reporters, partner divisions, UN agencies and NGO partners.

The MAA indicators were used to produce sub-division profiles that include broad trends and reinforce results-based programming. A multi-sectorial nutrition conference was also organized in Bukavu where several actors, local leaders, international experts as well as provincial and local authorities were mobilized to reposition nutrition as priority area, using a multi-sectoral approach. The commitments made at the conference were translated into a Charter to be monitored in 2017.

**Support to Integration and Cross-sectoral Linkages**

UNICEF played a key advocacy role in inter-sectoral prioritization exercises with the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior, the World Bank and the Government of Canada. As a result, civil registration and vital statistics were fully included in the DRC’s Investment Case of the “Global Financing Facility” as an important pillar, working jointly to improve maternal and child health as well as child protection. UNICEF’s continued support to the inter-operability between civil registration and health services to boost birth registration rates via new-born registration in maternity resulted in the registration of 1,037,469 births in 2016, up by 238,108 in 2015. About 50 per cent of children registered within the legal period of 90 days were reached thanks to the “power of attorney” system in health facilities. Implanting 27 registration support offices into maternity wards in three provinces diminished the distance between services and beneficiaries, traditionally a key bottleneck.
When WASH and nutrition interventions were combined, the incidence of acute malnutrition was reduced by 12.3 per cent, according to a 2015 pilot of humanitarian interventions in Kasai Occidental province. Consequently, in South Kivu’s Bunyakiri Health Zone (HZ) WASH project cycle was integrated with the Community-Based Nutrition Project cycle. As both approaches target the same communities and stakeholders, are participative and promote community empowerment and behavior change, their integration is expected to be more efficient, effective and result in a higher impact on health for mother and child.

The Education Programme worked closely with C4D to enhance the outcomes of the ECD foundational class initiative. UNICEF expanded its Government partnership beyond the Ministry of Education (MoE) to include the Ministry of Social Affairs as the main stakeholders in the administration of this pilot pre-primary class phase.

Service Delivery

In 2016, UNICEF’s education programme expanded its primary student database to cover 1.4 million out-of-school children and 150,000 vulnerable students. This platform allows stakeholders gather and analyse information on performance related to service delivery. UNICEF collaborated with partners, including the MoE, ACCELERE! Partners (Chemonics, Cambridge Education, USAID and DFID), UNESCO, GPE, and the World Bank to compliment efforts to improve education in DRC. Good practices and innovations were documented, shared and integrated in the 2017 Annual Work Plan. The EduTrack real-time monitoring platform strengthened accountability and school management approaches, bringing UNICEF closer to beneficiaries and providing information to advocate for good governance in Education.

For effective and timely delivery of reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services, a national strategic plan for procurement and supply management of essential drugs was developed and validated in 2016. Agreements were developed with seven drugs distribution centres for the packaging and delivery of family kits on a quarterly basis to ensure availability of essential drugs and commodities at facility and household levels. An emphasis on community involvement promoted demand and encouraged proper use of the distributed drugs. The partnerships built with the centres and communities allowed the direct delivery of basic goods and services, including the distribution of over 1,664,000 mosquito nets, 1,659,672 family kits for treating childhood killer diseases and 112,247 delivery kits.

The healthy villages and schools programme included post-certification monitoring, where schools and villages were monitored by local government structures. Every village and school receives a post-certification visit every six to 12 months, and knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) surveys give an overview of WASH service delivery at village and school level. This information was centralized in the DHIS2 database. Third-party monitoring of the programme, including coordination between partners, quality of implementation and logistical aspects, allowed the CO to adapt the programme to increase performance.

Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

The human rights-based approach to cooperation in the field of education is enshrined in the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2016. By tracking of out-of-school and vulnerable children though the social protection scheme and EduTrack, UNICEF helps ensure that the rights of all children are respected throughout the planning, administration, monitoring and evaluation of education programmes.

UNICEF submitted confidential reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and supported the Government
in preparing written answers to the Committee prior to the 2017 Committee session. After supporting the process for over 13 years, the DRC Family Code was enacted, incorporating key changes including a ban on child marriage, an extension of the period for birth registration and marriage registration from one to three months (in-line with the national Child Protection law), and the recognition that specialised Children’s Courts have exclusive powers in all proceedings involving the determination of the status and capacity of a minor.

UNICEF supported the development of the National Health Development Plan 2016-2020, which included an increase to Universal Healthcare Coverage. For WASH, UNICEF engaged with Government, private sector and civil society to increase access to quality water and sanitation infrastructure for vulnerable populations, and created accountability mechanisms between communities and institutions. WASH empowered communities with knowledge of the health benefits linked to water and sanitation. Reducing time to access water points, allowing individuals to own and maintain their own latrines, and developing hygiene knowledge—rights promoted through The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPRD) and the CRC—were at the heart of the UNICEF programme in DRC. Humanitarian actions focused on providing children with a safe and protected environment. Programmes were designed to prevent cholera outbreaks, and acted when the disease was observed. Where internally displaced persons or refugees are present, the focus is on their wellbeing; water points, sanitation infrastructure and awareness raising activities are implemented according to SPHERE standards. UNICEF DRC supported the Government to develop and reinforce its legal framework to fulfil its obligations and commitments to the population’s rights to water and sanitation.

**Gender Equality**

The gender programme in Kinshasa and Bandundu, started in 2015, continued with promotion of positive masculinity and femininity. Multi-media programmes were developed. A total of 28,400 beneficiaries became members of local saving and credit associations (19,482 women and 8,918 men), and 3,458 (2,653 women and 805 men) took microcredit from the microcredit financial institutions. Gender awareness activities were carried out with 224,400 children; training teachers on equity-based pedagogy promoted gender equality in the two provinces. A total of 1,516 SGBV survivors (four men) received psychosocial support in 2016; medical support was provided to 1,097 (18 men); socio-economic reintegration support reached 289 SGBV survivors (19 men); and finally, legal support was offered to 986 people (34 men) in 2016, almost doubling the number of persons compared to 2015 due to strengthened efforts on impunity in Kinshasa province.

To promote gender-responsiveness for adolescent health, UNICEF supported the development of the five-year National Strategy for Adolescent and Youth Health (2016-2020), with special focus on HIV/AIDS, early marriage and pregnancy, targeting essentially three age groups (10-14, 15-19 and 20-24) representing 23 million of the population (33 per cent). All partners have aligned to the strategy, including academia such as John Hopkins University. Key achievements included partners’ alliance on adolescent issues, and resource mobilization that supported a thorough analysis of the gaps in the knowledge, attitudes and practices of adolescents and youth on HIV, early pregnancy and clandestine abortion (accounting for 25 per cent of the maternal mortality in DRC).

The healthy villages and schools programme promoted the participation of women and men, girls and boys throughout the process. Promotional tools were revised to better integrate gender, and capacity-building activities on gender were conducted at national, provincial and local levels. Further studies that take in account gender specificities, such as menstrual hygiene, were planned for 2017; research was under development with companies doing corporate social responsibility in peri-urban environments.
Environmental Sustainability

UNICEF DRC, with the support of GAVI Alliance, strongly promoted the gradual shift from petrol cold chain to solar power to ensure the quality of vaccines and other heat-sensitive drugs such as oxytocin. In 2016, 2,522 solar refrigerators were installed by UNICEF and significantly improved cold chain coverage to 100 per cent in HZ and 51 per cent in Health Centres (HC). The transition to renewable energy considerably reduces use of fuel that is harmful to the environment. A goal was established that all health centres in the country will be equipped with the new technology by 2019.

In late 2016, the DRC CO completed a feasibility study for the transition to solar panels in the 13 offices located across the country (many currently depend on generator use for continued energy supply) with the expectation to begin the transition in 2017.

Effective Leadership

In 2016, the CO implemented one of the largest UNICEF CPs in the on-going, high-risk context of the DRC. Developing an updated rolling annual management plan (AMP), the country office management and innovation team (COMIT) conducted an Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) exercise over the course of two regular COMIT meetings.

As part of a larger regional initiative, the DRC offices were subjected to an external audit. All recommendations were implemented and closed. The open recommendations from the 2015 internal audit were successively implemented, while the progress and sustainability of implementation was monitored by the monthly COMIT. By year-end, all recommendations were closed except one, on quality assurance to be implemented in collaboration the Regional Office as it addresses ongoing discussion about the quality assurance specialist function and scope of work.

In mid-2016, the COMIT noted a decline of performance indicators related to Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) and decided to intensify the on-site support of implementing partners (IPs) of their financial management capacity. Joint missions of operations and programme staff were deployed on rotation to all provinces, performing HACT assurance activities. The initiative resulted in vastly improved HACT performance; best practices were shared with UNICEF staff and the UN HACT Working Group.

Responding to an audit recommendation from the internal audit, the business continuity plan (BCP) was updated and tested with regional support in Kinshasa. The experience was fed into country-wide practical tests of business continuity plans in all 13 UNICEF DRC offices throughout 2016. Other issues such as programme monitoring, procurement services and decentralization, were regularly discussed in the country management team (CMT) meetings.

Weekly programme meetings were held with operations to keep staff and management well informed of key programme issues and budget implementation. Monthly operations meetings assured close coordination with zone offices.

Financial Resources Management

The SAP-based transaction processing system VISION and the use of the enhanced financial reporting platform InSight allowed various efficiency gains. Centralizing the total of 11,500 VISION transactions of the 13 UNICEF Cost Centres in the CO Kinshasa VISION Business Centre (BCV) continued to improve a faster turn-around time: over 94 per cent of transactions were processed in less than five days in 2016, as opposed to 92 per cent in 2015. The continuously enhanced InSight reports were used in real time to monitor key
performance indicators (KPI) for detailed analysis and presentation at the monthly COMIT.

As at 31 December 2016, the rate of utilization for programme funds stood at 99 per cent, the rate of expenditure was 84 per cent. The value of direct cash transfers (DCT) not liquidated six and nine months after disbursement was US$3.39 million (6 per cent) and 1.16 million (2 per cent), respectively.

The further transition to centralization of business transactions at the Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC) in May 2016 happened without disruption of programme activities and required only a revision of the BCV and Finance workflow, while leaving the rest of the 13 UNICEF offices in DRC unaffected. The new workflow achieved a rejection rate of less than 0.7 per cent from the start. It was the fastest possible turn-around time under the new circumstances and allowed reduction of two general staff out of a total of 21 total staff in the BCV and Finance teams in UNICEF Kinshasa. Gains in efficiency allowed the deployment of BCV and Finance staff on rotation to all provinces, performing HACT Assurance Activities, Spot Checks at partners and financial document sampling at the zone offices.

As part of the bank optimization project, all cash flow of US$180 million was directed towards ECO Bank DRC.

**Fundraising and Donor Relations**

As one of the largest UNICEF country programmes, UNCEF DRC maintained its rank as one of UNICEF’s largest office in terms of fundraising, and a top office for budget utilization, as follows:

- Education: US$28,272,000
- Child protection: US$28,918,667
- Enabling environment (promotion of children’s rights): US$10,641,903
- Emergency/transition: US$58,967,000
- Management: US$9,720,000
- Programme effectiveness: US$5,271,097
- Total: US$302,040,306

Partners included the Governments of Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, and USA, and the EU; foundations such as Bill-Melinda Gates, GAVI, Micronutrient Initiative, Qatar Foundation for Educate a Child, and Rotary, as well as the Common Humanitarian Fund and UNICEF National Committees.

Resource mobilization was successful, though more difficult to mobilize resources for humanitarian action given the many competing demands of multiple complex emergencies worldwide. In 2016, and to complement UNICEF RR (US$63.6 million), UNICEF mobilized more than US$108 million for development activities (exceeding the target of US$108 million/ORR). In addition, US$30,360,000 was mobilized to support humanitarian action in the DRC. For the cycle 2013-2017, UNICEF secured US$210.5 million of emergency resources (ORE).

In 2016, UNICEF submitted 101 reports to donors (100 on time); the reporting quality was on average 83 per cent satisfactory following procedures put in place to ensure high-quality reporting, accountability and timely submission.
Evaluation and Research

In 2016, efforts focused on strengthening the committee for evaluation and research to improve the quality of the internal submission process and evaluation terms of reference (ToR). A review of planned evaluations led to their reclassification as studies; ToRs for two planned evaluations and for a non-planned evaluability study were drafted for 2017. Work sessions were held with DFID consultants regarding the evaluability of the healthy villages and schools programme, and negotiations with DFID were underway to launch the evaluation in 2017. Based on progress made and lessons learned in 2016, a revised office memo about the committee’s mandate, function and way of working will be issued in 2017 to formalize and sustain efforts. This is timely as the current programme cycle is reaching an end, and quality equity-focused evaluations will be required to bring strategic knowledge from all partners.

It was decided to focus on follow up management response to increase the influence of evaluations at the policy level (priority given to the intervention, level of assistance, targeted groups), technical level (strategies and adopted approaches, targeted populations) and managerial level (inter-sectorial coordination, work plan implementation, monitoring and evaluation). It was agreed that all concerned stakeholders will discuss approval of the recommendations, and assure clarity on accountability for timely implementation of recommendations.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

Through implementation of the global UN Bank Rationalization Project and the consolidation of cash flow through one single bank in DRC, the CO reduced bank charges to less than US$ 300,000 (50 per cent less from 2015).

An analysis of transportation was completed to assess the current use of transport assets and to find ways to reduce the workload on the limited number of drivers. As a result, and based on a COMIT recommendation, staff transportation to and from Kinshasa airport was discontinued effective December 1 2016, reducing overtime compensation for office drivers by over 50 per cent.

The upgrade of ASKY Airline and Air Ivoire from category C to B effective February 2016 generated more than 30 per cent cost savings on travel budgets, especially for regional travels.

Several key office processes became possible through fibre optic connectivity. For example, recruitment interviews using Skype for Business or other publicly available VOIP platforms provided a better interview experience for candidates, and afforded multiple interview options for the office. Performance improvements were experienced with e-Banking and VISION transactions and locally conducted webinars.

Using SharePoint, the UNICEF DRC team transformed work and collaboration in the office in areas such as information management and sharing, document co-authoring and programme processes (e.g. project cooperation agreement reviews). Information is better managed and protected, available faster, and accessible using any device with an internet connection. SharePoint usage rate increased from 6 per cent in April to 94 per cent in December.

The set-up of eight fully equipped, alternate workplaces across Kinshasa, Goma and Lubumbashi increased the business continuity posture by providing flexible yet effective work-from-home modalities, and significantly increased the capacity to manage operational risks.
Supply Management

In 2016, the total value of supplies procured amounted to US$ 142,487,248, of which 52 per cent were procurement services (PS) as outlined in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country office DRC 2016</th>
<th>Value of supply input (goods &amp; services) In USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme supplies</td>
<td>US$33,401,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational supplies</td>
<td>US$2,762,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services (excl. construction)</td>
<td>US$18,530,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>US$13,494,657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>US$68,188,402</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country office DRC 2016</th>
<th>Value of supplies channelled via procurement services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Channelled via regular procurement services</td>
<td>US$9,310,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channelled via GAVI</td>
<td>US$64,988,299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>US$74,298,845</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2016, 30 per cent of programme and operational supplies (mainly printed materials, office supplies, fuel and non-food items) and 100 per cent of services were procured locally by the CO.

The value of inventory of programme supplies controlled by UNICEF DRC recorded as physically in the warehouse as of 31 December 2016 was US$8,155,324, of which US$910,295 were supplies pre-positioned for emergencies. The value of programme supplies issued from local warehouses controlled by DRC CO recorded as of 31st December 2016 was US$39,321,945. The rest of the supplies were delivered directly to partners.

In 2016, UNICEF continued its support to the MoH in strengthening the supply chain for vaccines through the implementation of the GAVI RSS2 project. This included: the ongoing construction of a large innovative and high-tech central vaccination hub in Kinshasa ([-2,340 m3 cold stores and 10,000 m3 dry stores valued over US$13 million] and installation of 2,522 solar fridges in 26 provinces; and the conception and design of two additional warehouses in Lubumbashi and Kisangani (estimated US$7 million).

In mid-2016, UNICEF provided valuable support in the fight against a yellow fever outbreak by supplying about two million doses of vaccines, distributing throughout the country and accompanying the Government in vaccination campaigns.

UNICEF DRC provided massive in-country logistics (ICL) support to the MoH for the storage and dispatching of health supplies to end-users (more than US$11 million was spent on ICL, 60 per cent of non-construction related services). Access to remote project sites remained a challenge for in-country logistics given the poor road infrastructure and the number of armed conflicts especially in Ituri Province, North and South Kivu, and Tanganyika Province.

Security for Staff and Premises

Tensions were rising in DRC due to many political crises. This, coupled with the depreciation of the Congolese Franc and increased inflation rates, led to a critical socioeconomic situation that raised the risk of security incidences. Incidences of criminality increased in all major
cities across the country and traditional conflicts, motivated by ethnicity, social tension and lack of resources.

Given the context of insecurity, efforts were made to achieve 100 per cent compliance with minimum operating security standards (MOSS) across the country. An overall implementation rate of 95 per cent was reached. The Kindu office did not attain 100 per cent, and a more suitable and MOSS-compliant building was identified for the staff.

The security team was reinforced with the recruitment of a local assistant in Kinshasa and of two security administrators for Goma and Lubumbashi.

In the light of the political, social and economic situation, the attention of the UNICEF CO focused on the implementation of security measures and increasing staff preparedness and awareness.

UNICEF put in place a warden system for all staff (national and international staff) that, after appointing and training wardens, was tested regularly. Staff lists, including consultants and staff dependents, and geo-localization of staff residences were completed and updated regularly.

UNICEF DRC was an active part of the UN Security Management Team, contributing to the development, updating and testing of both internal and UN-wide security plans and emergency procedures.

**Human Resources**

The Country Office adopted a result-based approach in the development of the 2016 Human Resource (HR) WorkPlan with clear targets and key performance indicators in recruitment, performance management and learning. The indicators in recruitment, diversity and performance management were largely met; 70 staff recruitments were completed in 2016. Diversity among IP staff significantly improved (52 per cent female; 48 per cent male).

Regular briefings on the use of ‘ACHIEVE’ were conducted; and in all staff meetings, the importance of periodical performance discussions between supervisors/supervisees was stressed. The effort will be maintained in 2017 to ensure a strict compliance with E-PAS requirements.

The CO continued to implement the action plan from the 2014 Global Staff Survey. Flexible working arrangements were put in place.

Training on the issue of “HIV at the workplace” was part of the induction package for newly recruited staff; an online course was mandatory for all staff. In December 2016, the HIV/AIDs focal point did a presentation for staff on the use of PEP kits, followed by a Q&A session.

A formal training on emergency risk management took place in 2015 and a similar training is scheduled for 2017 taking in account the high turnover of international professional staff. A comprehensive analysis of staffing gaps will be made during the preparation of the country programme management plan for the next country programme. Ongoing discussions took place between section chiefs, the human resources manager and the emergency section to address staffing gaps on an ad hoc basis.

In 2016, certain OR-funded positions were temporarily funded by RR; adjustments were made as OR funds returned. By year-end, the same approach was adopted to avoid a delay in payroll processing during the first semester of 2017, for adjustment in the first quarter of 2017.
Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

The implementation of fibre optic connectivity was on track: 70 per cent of all offices were completed. This was a critical achievement of the overall office strategy to leverage new technologies for office automation, collaboration, communication and reduction of the ICT footprint by adopting agile technologies for ICT service delivery.

A UNICEF DRC team site was developed and fully functional. Its integration into the Office 365 environment enhanced office effectiveness by significantly improving team collaboration, information sharing, office processes and automation. All office vital documents were archived online using a locally developed document management system classification. Document co-authoring, use of workspaces to share documents and collaboration activities (e.g. 2018-2022 CPD process, BCP and Country Office Annual Report 2016) were performed online. SharePoint usage as a business tool grew exponentially from initial usage of nine per cent of the office staff to 94 per cent currently.

UNICEF was the lead of the ICT inter-agency working group and coordinated inter-agency initiatives, including the on-going implementation of a Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) VHF Network inter-connecting Kinshasa and Goma. Support for the set-up of mobile aggregator, for the acquisition of short codes and hosting services provided office infrastructure to deploy solutions using RapidPro and other SMS-based platforms. Emergency preparedness and business continuity were enhanced by setting up 17 alternate work place locations across the country with independent communication and connectivity infrastructure.

State of the art upgrades in the CO conference rooms significantly improved communication and conference room capabilities to support effective programme management across DRC.

UNICEF DRC ran extensive digital communication activities daily via the blog and online tools such as the CO website and social media platforms, reaching more than 4.8 million people and a community of almost 38,000 followers. This enabled positive engagement with key influencers, partners, donors and other stakeholders.

Programme Components from RAM

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 CHILD SURVIVAL: By end 2017, the proportion of children, newborns, families who benefit from high health impact quality interventions, including HIV Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT), nutrition, and WASH increases significantly and fairly, particularly in health sub-divisions and communities.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Child Survival and Development Programme (CSD) aims to reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality rates in DRC, attributable to pneumonia (responsible for 13.4 per cent of child under five death), malaria (14.9 per cent), diarrhoeal diseases (10.3 per cent), malnutrition (45 per cent) and HIV/AIDS (1.4 per cent), according to the Demographic Health Survey 2013, by increasing effective coverage of high impact interventions (HII) proven and quantified as effective to reduce maternal and child deaths.

Four operational strategies were pursued to ensure effective coverage of HII: (i) a systemic approach to gradual scaling up of HII through leveraging strategic partnerships with World Bank, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) and GAVI, (ii) nationwide implementation of campaigns on polio, measles and Long Lasting Insecticide
Nets (LLIN), (iii) timely response to health and nutrition emergencies, and (iv) WASH interventions in villages and schools to reduce diarrheal morbidity. These strategies yielded positive trends in increasing effective coverage for a number of HII as demonstrated by the DRC health sector monitoring system (IMA/MAA) and Health Management Information System (HMIS), which is the primary tool for monitoring of health system performance.

Strategic partnerships (GFTAM, World Bank, European Union, USAID) allowed the programme to expand in operational zones in a convergent manner. The partnerships build on comparative advantages to address key systemic bottlenecks such as limited availability of commodities and financial and geographical inaccessibility, as well as to strengthen regular and local monitoring, community development and health system management. The intensification of mass campaigns contributed significantly to more effective use of long lasting insecticide nets (LLIN) among children under five years from 62 per cent (2014) to 95 per cent (2016) in Sud Ubangi province. Vaccination campaigns enabled DRC to maintain its polio free status since November 2015. Campaigns to vaccinate children against measles significantly reduced the number of HZ experiencing measles outbreaks from 77 in 2015 to 24 in 2016. Campaigns to eliminate MNT lowered the number of HZ with high risk for MNT from 75 in 2013 to six in 2016.

The practice of exclusive breastfeeding for children under six months increased from 62 per cent in 2015 to 74 per cent in 2016 in nine targeted HZs, where the community-based nutrition approach was piloted.

The healthy villages and schools programme, implemented by UNICEF, MoH and MoE, was scaled up in 2016. Thus, 845,986 people in 1,222 newly-certified villages and 123,117 children in 309 newly-certified schools gained access to WASH services during the year, resulting in a reduction of diarrheal morbidity for children under five by 86.4 per cent in targeted villages. To ensure long lasting impact, a post-certification strategy was rolled-out since 2015 and scaled up. Indeed, more than 20 per cent of villages and 30 per cent of schools certified since the inception of the healthy villages and schools programme in 2008 received post-certification visits; following the visits, catch-up plans were implemented to sustain access to WASH services and ultimately foster improved health conditions in communities.

Progress made in 2016 suggested a positive trend in expanding effective coverage of HII, with the potential to address killer diseases affecting children and women.

In 2016, DRC experienced outbreaks (measles, cholera and yellow fever) and a nutrition crisis. UNICEF’s ability to deliver a timely and effective response was enhanced by the development and implementation of contingency plan including the prepositioning of contingency stocks, and standby agreements with NGOs to enable activation of Rapid Response Teams.

In 2017, recurring challenges will be addressed: (i) fragmentation of donor support despite efforts to harmonize and align external assistance to national priorities, (ii) low functionality of the health sector reform, both at national and intermediate levels, (iii) delays in disbursements for purchase of traditional vaccines on the part of national counterparts, (iv) insufficient funds raised for the nutrition sector, (v) weakness of the national procurement and supply management system, and (vi) insufficient national budget allocation to the health sector.

The political transition period in DRC leading up to general elections is a major risk that may compromise programme implementation in 2017 and beyond.

Nevertheless, there are a number of opportunities for engagement in 2017 such as: (i) the
new National Health Development Plan 2016-2020, which prioritizes RMNCAH and WASH interventions, with a focus on the underfunded sectors (nutrition and family planning). The NHDP is particularly promising in that it embeds concepts of effective coverage of key interventions and the bottleneck analysis approach, (ii) DRC’s commitment to universal health coverage, (iii) availability of the RMNCAH standards and guidelines, (iv) emerging funding mechanisms, such as GFATM, Global Financing Facility (for which DRC is one of the frontrunner countries), PEPFAR Country Operational Plan 2017 and (v) continued engagement in partnership and coordination fora, notably the Inter-Agency Health Donor Group (GIJS), nutrition (GIBNUT), WASH (GIB-WASH) and education (GPE).

With a budget of US$164,054,977 million in 2016 (US$105,409,462 million for health, US$58,645,515 million for WASH), the prominence of the CSD Programme budget for UNICEF DRC was a result of partnerships with: the Governments of Belgium, Canada, Japan, Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and USA; EU/ECHO; RMNCAH Trust Fund; GFATM; GAVI; World Bank; UN agencies UNFPA WHO, WFP, FAO, UNHCR; Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Rotary International; Sabin Vaccine Institute; and SANRU and the continued support of UNICEF National Committees.

OUTPUT 1 By 2017, maternal and neo-natal tetanus and polio are eradicated, under-five-y-o children mortality rate due to measles is reduced by 95 per cent, and vaccination coverage for routine antigens is improved and maintained above 90 per cent and the proportion of non or insufficiently- immunized children is reduced from 23 per cent to 5 per cent.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The immunization output has three objectives: poliomyelitis eradication, measles and maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) elimination, and strengthening RI with emphasis on the hardest-to-reach.

DRC was certified polio-free in November 2015, and the implementation of the roadmap developed during the African Regional Certification Commission for Poliomyelitis Eradication workshop, by the Government with support from UNICEF and partners, ensured that DRC maintains its polio-free status. At the end of 2016, the number of MNT high-risk HZ decreased from 75 to six in 2013; the number of HZ that experienced a measles outbreak reduced from 77 to 24; and pentavalent vaccine coverage had been maintained above 90 per cent. In 2016, 19 million children under five were vaccinated during three polio campaigns rounds (two National and one Sub National) and response to the one case of Sabin Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus. The "Reach Every Health Zone" approach in 71 HZ of Kinshasa and Ituri provinces reached 19,387 additional children compared to 2015.

The MNT risk assessment, including case investigations, identified six remaining high-risk HZs down from 12 HZ in 2015. The quality of measles management and routine immunization improved through the development of integrated micro-plans in all the 516 HZ; the inclusion of Intensified Vaccination Activities in HZ of high-risk MNT; and by the deployment of 38 technical experts (technicians, logisticians and C4D experts) by UNICEF. As a result, there was timely availability of supplies, better community awareness and partnerships with key NGOs for timely responses to measles outbreaks. In 2016, around 11 million children were vaccinated in 17 planned provinces during measles campaigns.

To sustain the gains, UNICEF continued to advocate for Government commitment to traditional vaccines procurement and fulfil co-financing for 2015, which was a bottleneck identified in 2015.

The cold chain coverage increased from 23 per cent (2014) to 51 per cent (2016) at the
health facility level due to improved cold chain logistics that included (i) procurement of 80 solar refrigerators and 65 motorcycles, (ii) training 96 health workers on cold chain logistics and vaccine management and (iii) procurement and installation of 2,522 solar refrigerators by UNICEF with funding from GAVI. The three modern warehouses were under construction to reinforce the vaccine supply chain. The mobilization of US$49 million by the Government, with UNICEF and partners, supported the procurement of an additional 6,087 solar refrigerators to increase cold chain coverage to 99 per cent by 2018.

These results were achieved in partnership with WHO, USAID, GAVI, the World Bank, BMGF, KOICA, Sabin Vaccine Institute, Rotary, Red Cross Movement and the EU.

Key challenges were: (i) delays in disbursement of the 2016 Government counterpart fund for traditional vaccines procurement, (ii) low coverage of cold chain equipment at the health facilities and (iii) recurrence of health emergencies (yellow fever and cholera outbreaks) which impact human resource allocation for immunization.

In 2017, UNICEF will focus on: scaling up the Reach Every HZ approach, implementation of activities to maintain polio free status and reinforcement of cold chain system.

**OUTPUT 2** By the end of 2017, coverage of management of the main killer diseases of under-five children (malaria, diarrhoea, respiratory infections, SAM, HIV and neonatal infections) is at least 60 per cent and their impact is reduced.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
To scale-up high impact interventions that address diarrhoea, fever and anaemia among U5, UNICEF distributed 1.7 million “family kits” (ORT+Zinc, Paracetamol and multi-micronutrients) in line with Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) approach to increase the availability of essential drugs in households. Quality of intrapartum and postnatal care was improved with distribution of 112,000 family delivery kits in 37 HZ. Overall, 1 million U5 in the 37 HZ across 12 provinces and pregnant women have improved access to essential health services. In addition, 22 million people’s access to commodities against pneumonia and diarrhoea through integrated community case management (iCCM) was improved with support from Sweden, Global Fund and RMNCAH Trust Fund. In 2016, pneumonia case management was extended from 48 to 129 HZ and treated 143,000 cases of U5 compared to 10,000 cases in 2015.

This result benefitted from networks of community based organizations (CBOs) established by UNICEF to (i) promote essential family practices, (ii) foster demand for services in facilities and iCCM sites and (iii) monitor the use of services at the household level.

As part of the malaria control programme, 1,664,000 long lasting insecticidal nets (LLIN) were distributed to 3.2 million people in South Ubangi Province through a community-based approach with UNICEF support. Treatment of SAM cases among U5 remained a priority. During 2016, 205,293 U5 (68 per cent of 302,487 targeted, similar to 2015) were treated for SAM in 2,850 health facilities with Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), therapeutic milk (F100, F75) and drugs. A Nutrition Strategic and Operational Plan adopted in 2016 focused on prevention strategies due to challenges of SAM treatment.

UNICEF advocacy and technical support on adolescent and youth health resulted in the development of the National Strategic Plan (2016-2020) that focuses on HIV and early pregnancy, key national priorities identified in a national adolescent assessment. UNICEF supported Government to conduct HIV Paediatric Situation Analysis as a basis for elaboration of HIV Paediatric Acceleration Plan 2016-2020.

Accelerated effort towards elimination of new HIV infections in newborn (Option B+) was
scaled up to 400 HZ out of 516 HZ with support from Global Fund and PEPFAR. As a result, (i) 100 per cent of facilities offer testing and counselling to children aged 0-19 years, (ii) 2,194 of the 8,740 facilities in 326 HZ offer PMTCT and ANC services and (iii) 1480/8740 facilities in 316 HZ offer paediatric ART.

In partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, a clinical mentorship programme to enhance capacities of health service providers for delivery of antenatal care, childbirth and postnatal care was developed to improve MHC quality in Kwango and Kwilu provinces. An adaptation of this mentorship programme to urban settings was launched with Mutombo Dikembe Foundation.

Ownership by the Government counterpart and availability of updated data to influence decision-making remain major challenges.

In 2017, the programme will continue to leverage partnerships around comprehensive package of interventions for children, adolescents and pregnant women.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2017, multi-sectoral actions to ensure nutritional security of the most vulnerable groups are undertaken, particularly in malnutrition-affected provinces, and stunting is reduced by at least five per cent.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF efforts to reduce the number of stunted children continued to focus on improving infant and young child feeding (IYFP) practices, ensuring adequate intake of micronutrients among young children and strengthening coordination of nutrition interventions across sectors (including nutrition-sensitive sectors) and at decentralized and community levels.

Regarding IYCF practices for infants and young children (six to 23 months) promotion in 41 per cent of health areas, three delivery platforms were utilized: (i) community-based management of acute malnutrition involving 3,563 health centres that contributed to reaching 1,539,696 mothers and caregivers, (ii) pre-school consultations in 2,418 health centers across 147 HZs, which reached an additional 164,720 mothers and caregivers, and (iii) community-based nutrition approach, which was rolled-out in 95 health areas in ten HZ in four provinces: Kongo central, Kinshasa, Haut Katanga and South Kivu, reaching 52,407 children aged 6-23 months and 44,083 pregnant and lactating women.

To improve Vitamin A supplementation: 7,181,770 children aged 6-59 months (93.4 per cent in targeted areas) received vitamin A supplementation and 6,350,748 children aged 12-59 months (92.5 per cent in targeted areas) were dewormed in 19 provinces.

In view of strengthening nutrition governance at national and decentralized levels, UNICEF contributed through several measures: (i) Engaged in coordination mechanisms such as Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), UN interagency networks and nutrition donors groups (GIBNUT); and organized two nutrition conferences in South Kivu and Central Kasai provinces, which led to the establishment of provincial multi-sector committees for reducing under-nutrition; (ii) A national nutrition strategy and costed operational plan were developed to scale up nutrition interventions in all sectors; (iii) Modelling multi-sectoral approaches to address nutrition were explored, such as embedding WASH interventions in nutrition outpatient facilities in areas affected by nutrition crisis. A joint UN programme on food security, nutrition and WASH interventions was implemented in Bunyakiri HZ in South Kivu province; (iv) Advocacy and technical support helped ensure that stunting is recognized as a priority in the National Health Development Plan and nutrition is integrated in the allocation of Global Financing Facility; (v) To address challenges related to human capacity, health professionals were trained in managerial skills across 13 provinces.
These achievements were made possible with strategic partners including Food for Peace (USAID), DFID, ECHO, Switzerland, Canada and World Bank.

Principal challenges faced to address stunting involved inadequate nutrition care and practices, and insufficiency of funds to ensure appropriate coverage of preventive interventions countrywide given the burden of SAM cases amongst children.

In order to render nutrition-related interventions more effective, UNICEF and partners took measures to improve planning and to raise the profile of such interventions through a resource mobilization strategy focused on improving infant feeding.

In 2017, stakeholders will continue to combine efforts through coordination and advocacy for resource mobilization. UNICEF support will focus on improving coverage of preventive interventions, primarily through community approaches. Technical assistance aimed at policy development, programme implementation and evidence generation will be emphasized.

**OUTPUT 4** By 2017, all 207 developmental HZs of the PNDS plan, implement and follow the minimum and complementary packages of activities as defined in the PNDS and the 308 other HZs plan, implement and follow the minimum high impact package at the clinical and community levels.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In health system strengthening, UNICEF supported the Government to develop health policy and strategy documents to foster minimum and comprehensive package of interventions at a decentralized level. In 2016, UNICEF technical support focused on the enhancement of the Government capacity to coordinate and strengthen partnerships, including resource mobilization. UNICEF proactively worked on effective partnerships in the five sub-committees of the GIBS, involving procurement and supply management of essential drugs and commodities (led by UNICEF), service delivery, governance, human resources and financing. UNICEF advocated for the establishment a single multi-donor contracts system for better alignment of aid to the provincial funding needs.

Sectoral and intervention coverage analyses, supported by UNICEF, contributed to the development of strategic documents to foster minimum and comprehensive package of interventions at all levels. Specific documents developed with UNICEF support included: the National Health Development Plan (NHDP) 2016-2020 which outlines key national investments in the health sector; the strategy and guidelines for community participation aimed at fostering standard approaches at decentralized levels; the revised Strategic Plan on Essential Drug Procurement; the National Plan on Reproductive Health; the National Strategic Plan against HIV; the National Malaria Control Plan and the National Plan for Adolescent Health.

At the provincial level, UNICEF supported the establishment of 26 new DPSs, and maintained six technical assistants in six provinces to support decentralized delivery and monitoring of essential health services. This resulted in an increased coverage of provincial health divisions with improved monitoring KPIs in the provincial health plans from 12 (2015) to 26 (2016).

At the HZ level, UNICEF continued to support the implementation of the Government equipment project for health facilities (PESS). Since the launch of the project (2013), 945 out of 1,200 targeted health facilities have been equipped. The flat rate for preventive accurate care in six HZ was subsidized by UNICEF to remove financial barriers to access health services for 2.7 million people. The experience from the subsidy led to the establishment of
solidarity fund by HZs to increased access to referral care.

UNICEF leveraged partnerships to improve coverage of high-impact interventions at sub-national level. Through an agreement with SANRU (the Global Fund Principal Recipient in DRC), UNICEF contributed towards the availability of essential drugs and commodities for iCCM in 129 HZ out of 516. In addition, UNICEF continued to strengthen collaboration with the 10 Regional Distribution Centres to ensure storage, reconditioning and distribution of drugs and commodities.

Major challenges in health system strengthening remain the fragmentation of available yet limited funding, and the lack of an operational plan to galvanize the manifold actors in the sector.

In 2017, UNICEF will focus on (i) the development of sharpened decentralized annual operational plans, (ii) integration of specialized health programmes at the provincial level, (iii) organization and functionality of new provincial health divisions and (iv) improving quality of care and services at health facilities.

OUTPUT 5 By 2017 all crises (epidemics, disasters, displacement, and nutrition) receive appropriate and timely health and nutrition response in accordance with Core Commitments for Children and a minimum complementary health package is offered in areas with displaced population

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF responded to health emergencies caused by disease outbreak, population displacement and widespread SAM.

UNICEF supported 260 health emergency responses: cholera (149), measles (25), yellow fever (45) and displacement (41). A total of 26,147 cholera cases (741 deaths) were reported (fatality rate: 2.8 per cent, 1 per cent standard rate) in 14 provinces. In collaboration with WASH interventions, CSD provided medicines for the management of 45,520 cases, and mobilized resources through a joint cholera epidemic response plan, in particular for provinces along the Congo River.

Upon the declaration of measles outbreaks in 24 HZs, UNICEF supported case management by distributing medical kits for 10,000 children. 351,029 children were vaccinated against measles in affected HZ. More than 15,147 suspected cases were reported with 212 deaths (fatality rate: 1.4 per cent; 1 per cent standard rate).

The first case of yellow fever imported to DRC from Angola was reported in February 2016, and the epidemic quickly spread to 45 HZ across nine provinces including Kinshasa. UNICEF procured 5.8 million doses of vaccine and provided technical and financial support for epidemiological surveillance, logistics and communication; 78 cases among which 13 autochthones were confirmed with 16 deaths (fatality rate: 20.5 per cent). Immunization response to the yellow fever outbreak involved 62 HZ, reaching more than 14.2 million people.

Through the RRMP mechanism, 136,826 people displaced by conflict received medical assistance in four provinces out of 817,000 affected population (North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika and Haut Katanga).

In emergency context, UNICEF continued to provide life-saving assistance to children diagnosed with SAM, allowing treatment of 51,323 in 713 health centres. Quality of SAM treatment was aligned with international standards, which helped to achieve a cure rate
estimated at 84.1 per cent, a death rate of 1.9 per cent, a default rate of 11.9 per cent and a non-response rate of 2.2 per cent.

Nutritional surveillance and early warning system (SNSAP) supported by UNICEF was functional in 791 sentinel sites. The effectiveness of this system was demonstrated through the identification of 53 HZ facing a nutritional crisis.

To address bottlenecks related to human capacity, UNICEF provided training on SAM management and promotion of IYCF for 7,126 health workers and 17,815 community health workers. The WASH in Nutrition strategy was successfully implemented in six targeted HZ through the Nutrition Crisis Rapid Response Mechanism.

As coordinator of nutrition cluster, UNICEF convened partners including ECHO, EU, UKAID, FFP/USAID, KOIKA, Japan and NGOs.

In 2017, UNICEF will seek to improve the quality of its response to humanitarian emergencies through strict adherence to international quality standards. As only 13 per cent of children with SAM were treated in 2016, emphasis will be placed on resource mobilisation, particularly in areas where the needs of affected people continue to exceed capacity of humanitarian actors.

Another priority is to support preparedness for health emergency response in HZ, build up a stock of emergency health supplies, timely response to disease outbreaks, and effective coordination of contingency stocks between national and provincial levels.

OUTPUT 6 Communities get sustainable access to drinking water and use hygienic sanitation systems, and they adopt improved hygiene practices and undertake to protect and maintain a cleaner environment.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The healthy villages and schools programme, with DFID as a major donor, was implemented by UNICEF with the MoH and MoE, and more than 90 implementing NGOs. The 2016 objectives were to expand the reach of the programme to 2,127,110 people in 3,065 additional Healthy Villages and 201,000 children in 670 additional Healthy Schools with the delivery of clean water, basic sanitation and good hygiene practices.

During 2016, the healthy villages and schools programme reached over 845,986 people in 1,222 newly-certified villages and 109,137 children in 299 newly-certified schools corresponding to 40 per cent of the annual target for Healthy Village certifications and 45 per cent of the Healthy School target. This 2016 result brings to a total of 4,052 villages and 987 schools certified since the beginning of the programme in 2013. Major constraints encountered in 2016 included poor harmonization of the timing of disbursements of funds to implementing partners (NGO and governmental), contracting of enterprises for manual drilling and installation of hand pumps, and logistical challenges.

The year 2016 was prolific with the largest number of villages certified since inception of the phase two of the healthy villages and schools programme in 2013. The 2016 annual targets were not met, however, due to delays accumulated since 2015. Overall, 68 per cent and 81 per cent of five-year plan targets were achieved respectively for villages and schools. With the 2016 implementation rates, there is potential to achieve the five-year planned targets for schools in 2017. Reaching targets for the villages are constrained despite effective planning.

A full rollout and implementation of the post-certification strategy was carried out in 2016, an innovative post-project sustainability assessment of the access of communities to WASH.
services in rural areas. This strategy involves low-cost follow-up of every single village and school certified since the beginning of the programme in 2008. The objective for 2016 was that 40 per cent of both villages and schools, certified since 2008, maintain or recover their healthy status. The first post certification visits indicated that 7 per cent of villages and 45 per cent of schools maintained their healthy status, as they have continued to observe each of the seven norms associated with certification. The exercise included the development of catch-up plans for communities to address the observed sustainability issues and to re-gain their healthy status. In 2017, the number of post-certification visits will be scaled up beyond the current coverage of 1,276 (21 per cent) out of 5,941 certified villages and 519 (31 per cent) out of the 1,672 certified schools to increase the effectiveness of catch-up plans, and to support HZ actors to ensure effective planning at local level.

Several operational research initiatives were initiated to build evidence to inform decision-making. These initiatives focus on post-certification, water safety planning (in collaboration with Tufts University), and implementation of a public-private partnership with Government of DRC and Vergnet to ensure hand-pump functioning and maintenance through real-time monitoring.

**OUTPUT 7** National, provincial and local WASH governance structures can effectively manage and scale-up sustainable WASH results

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF contributed to the evolution of the sector by assuming the chair of the Inter-Donor Group on Water and Sanitation from September 2014 until August 2016. During 2016, UNICEF facilitated the adherence of the Government to the Sanitation and Water for All partnership, and supported data collection on progress in the WASH sector for the UN Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-water to improve national monitoring systems and institutional accountability.

Improving the enabling environment is key to achieving sustainable results in WASH. In this regard, the National Strategic Development Plan (first five-year plan covering 2017-2021) was developed to guide the WASH sector reform with support from UNICEF. The plan included national priorities on universal access to WASH services aligned in SDG 6.1 and 6.2. The Water Act was promulgated under law N° 15/026 and the National Policy of the Public Water Service was finalized and released to clarify the roles and responsibilities of different actors in the sector. The decree establishing the National Committee for Action on Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (CNAEHA, in French) was signed by the Prime Minister (reference N° 15/039), assigning the Committee the responsibility for hygiene and the creation of decentralized structures at the territorial level.

UNICEF provided financial and technical support to state institutions in 2016 at the national and provincial levels, notably the CNAEHA and the Sanitation Directorate of the Ministry of Environment. The support improved coordination mechanisms in the former case, and the established basic sanitation standards in peri-urban and rural areas and the draft National strategy for sanitation 2017-2021 in the latter case, reinforcing the overall institutional framework in the WASH sector.

The healthy villages and schools programme, supported by UNICEF and coordinated by the MoH, is progressively becoming institutionalized through its integration within national strategies. The MoH included two key indicators relating to the healthy villages and schools programme in the monitoring and evaluation framework of the 2016-2020 National Health Development Plan.
To improve the performance of healthy villages and schools programme implementation, while enhancing ownership at provincial and local levels, a Performance Based Financing approach was developed and rolled-out in five provinces in 2016, both with the MoH and the MoE. Under the Performance Based Financing approach, communities raised funds and carried out agreed project activities, and were reimbursed upon verification that project outputs met agreed performance criteria. Having produced positive results, the rolling-out of this approach will be scaled-up in 2017.

**OUTPUT 8** Between 2013 and 2017, children and families in crisis receive WASH humanitarian response which is predictable, prompt, accountable, universal, non-discriminatory, coordinated, and facilitates crisis resolution.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF assisted 1,865,374 children and their families through the provision of a quality emergency WASH package. This represents 82 per cent of the target set in UNICEF 2016 HAC appeal, and 769,770 additional people compared to the past year (70 per cent increase). In total, the WASH cluster (with partners) provided 3,410,581 people with assistance, corresponding to 49 per cent of the target set in the 2016 DRC Humanitarian Action Plan (6.9 million targeted). Humanitarian needs in 2016 were more significant than expected, and as a result the emergency funding gap increased.

Through RRMP and WASH-specific emergency programmes, UNICEF reached 292,918 people affected by conflict; 1,566,056 people affected by cholera epidemics; and 6,400 severely malnourished children and their families, corresponding to 46 per cent, 97 per cent, and 25 per cent of HAC targets respectively with dedicated WASH supplies. Although prevention and preparedness activities contributed to keeping the number of cholera cases within the usual range in most of the endemic provinces, extended and heavy floods facilitated the spread of the disease within the Congo River watershed, also affecting the neighbouring countries. This contributed to raising the number of cholera cases to 25,105 (719 deaths) by the end of October, an increase of 37 per cent in case load compared to the same period in 2015. Cases recorded in DRC during this period constituted more than 90 per cent of cases recorded in all West and Central Africa. In support of the Government, UNICEF delivered WASH supplies to the affected provinces, coordinated the response, advocated for leveraging funding and increased coordination and channelled funding through partnerships with Government and NGOs. Within the framework of the multisectoral plan for the elimination of cholera, UNICEF worked with state institutions on the implementation of provincial operational plans.

In response to the yellow fever outbreak of May 2016, WASH contributed to the development of the sanitation component of the IEC materials for vector control activities. To foster transition from humanitarian response towards durable solutions for populations affected by emergencies, a healthy villages and schools pilot project was implemented in five cholera endemic HZ. The pilot involved the promotion of the use of chlorine products for household water treatment. An evaluation of the pilot is underway to inform scale-up.

UNICEF ensured the effective functioning of the national and provincial WASH clusters. A Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring exercise identified areas for improvement in the cluster action plan for implementation. Two online trainings on WASH in emergencies and Rapid Needs Assessments were launched for cluster members. A smartphone Rapid Needs Assessment application was introduced, and an SMS-based system was deployed to geo-locate cholera cases, water points and Controlled Temperature Chain/UTC.

Restriction of humanitarian access to affected populations hampered implementation of activities, whereas humanitarian needs have increased, due to the resurgence of conflicts and degradation of the situation in the East, South and Central regions, and resurgence of latent tensions in the West, resulting in part from socio-economic and political crises.
In 2017, UNICEF will pursue the implementation of the Multisectoral Plan for the Elimination of Cholera and the design of the successor Plan, with a view to tightening the linkages between humanitarian, transition and development interventions.

OUTCOME 2 UNIVERSAL QUALITY BASIC EDUCATION: By the end of 2017, universal access to education, and a significant and fair increase in completion of quality primary education, supported by a life-cycle approach, will be provided to children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2016, UNICEF renewed its efforts to support increased access to education, improved quality and governance of the education system, peace education and provision of education in emergency situations.

Regarding access to education, UNICEF assisted the MoE to introduce a one-year pre-primary schooling option through the establishment of 100 pre-primary classes in two provinces. In addition to this, Government funded the establishment of 900 additional pre-primary classes, for a total of 1,000 classes. This measure aimed to promote equal access to primary education at age six for children in both urban and rural areas and to ensure school readiness to reduce dropout and repetition rates in two provinces (Haut Katanga and Equateur). This year, a first cohort of 3,954 children from the 100 pre-primary classes entered primary school.

As in previous years, the 2016 Back-To-School (BTS) and Door-To-Door (DTD) campaigns contributed to enrolling Out-of-School Children aged six to seven years old in the first grade. The campaigns included children enrolled by parents before the outset of the school year, and those enrolled following the door-to-door campaign that occurs three weeks after the beginning of courses. The campaigns combine the distribution of school kits and materials and proximity mobilization for the enrolment of children in school, thereby reducing the number of Out-of-School Children.

During 2016, the BTS and DTD campaigns resulted in 3,785,130 children being enrolled during the 2016-2017 school year, compared to 2,926,856 children in the previous reporting year. Among the 3.7 million, 1,080,587 children six years and older were enrolled through the DTD campaign. The success of these campaigns resulted in part from sustained efforts to raise awareness at the community level, particularly in rural households. These two activities constituted a key strategy for community mobilization to achieve effective service delivery in communities, especially by increasing school access for the most excluded children.

This strategy of boosting the demand for primary education should be accompanied by a commensurate increase in the supply of education, particularly an increase in the capacity of primary schools through the rehabilitation and construction of classrooms. To improve learning outcomes through enhancing the quality of education, UNICEF supported the reform of the primary curriculum, including training teachers in the delivery of educational materials on reading, writing, mathematics and life skills, in the four national languages (Lingala, Kikongo, Swahili, and Tshiluba). The introduction of the national languages into the primary curriculum as languages of instruction was an important component of the reform, facilitating children’s understanding and therefore their capacity to quickly acquire expected skills. Henceforth, French will be introduced progressively as a language of instruction from the 3rd grade of primary school onwards. UNICEF supported the translation of primary school textbooks into the four main national languages. In this regard, the programme has technically and financially assisted the MoE to produce the new mathematics and life skills curricula, teacher guides and student textbooks and to disseminate them to schools at a ratio of one book to one child.
In 2016, 95,235 vulnerable children (from 1st to 3rd grade) in 5,000 targeted schools benefited from the Safety Nets Programme that provided grants worth US$1,150 per school to finance tutorial activities for children having demonstrated low levels of performance and to cover other indirect costs that parents cannot afford to cover, especially in remote areas. Globally, UNICEF efforts helped to produce a net intake rate to primary education of 74 per cent, and primary completion rate of 62 per cent. Due to the lack of up-to-date statistical yearbooks produced by the Department of Education Studies and Planning, these rates were calculated based on population estimates of the National Statistics Institute, as well as data from certain provinces on newly enrolled children from six years in the first grade and new entrants into the final grade of primary school.

UNICEF continued its efforts to improve governance of 5,000 schools by training teachers, directors and school management committee members, and started developing a real-time monitoring system (Edutrac) to improve citizen oversight of the school fee abolition policy, promoting accountability at the school level.

Through its leadership in political advocacy for the most disadvantaged children, and as Coordinating Agency of the GPE-funded programmes in DRC, UNICEF has played a key role in coordinating all activities with Government and technical partners and finalizing the Quality of Education Enhancement Project.

Key achievements in the education sector during the reporting year were (i) implementation of the curricular reform in writing and reading, mathematics and life skills through the training of school teachers in the four national languages, (ii) provision of targeted schools with textbooks and development of pedagogical and learning tools for school children in the four national languages and (iii) extension of social protection safety nets to cover 5,000 targeted schools.

Partnerships were instrumental in furthering the objectives of the Education Programme in 2016, allowing for UNICEF to raise and deliver assistance worth US$27 million. Key partners include the Ministry of Primary, Secondary Education and Initiation to New Citizenship, the Qatar Foundation for Educate a Child, USAID, UKAID, the GPE and Caritas, among others.

OUTPUT 1 By the end of 2017, girls and boys, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, have universal access to primary education, with a primary net rate of admission that increase from 50 per cent in 2010 to 75 per cent in 2017

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In line with national priorities, the education programme contributed toward advancing universal primary education for children in DRC. The main results can be grouped into the following categories: a) community mobilization for effective service delivery, b) capacity development and social protection for improved quality and completion and c) support to decentralized management, monitoring and evaluation systems.

UNICEF facilitated access to education for 1,536,200 children aged six and seven years old through the distribution of school kits and materials to reduce financial barriers faced by parents.

Additional achievements include: (i) the enrolment in grade 1 of 3,785,130 children through the BTS and DTD campaigns, (ii) the construction/rehabilitation of 45 classrooms with community participation partially funded through Projet de Reconstruction et de Réhabilitation,Infrastructures Scolaires funds to improve children’s learning environment, and (iii) 3,954 children enrolled in 100 pre-primary classes opened in January 2016, to prepare them for entry into the first year of primary school during the school year 2016-2017.
In September 2016, at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year, a second cohort of 2,596 children were enrolled in the 100 pre-primary classes. With strong support from its partners including UNICEF, the Government led the 2016-2017 BTS and DTD campaign across the country. The objective of the campaigns was to raise parents’ awareness of the importance of enrolling their children in the first grade of primary school at the correct age of six. UNICEF supported the MoE in designing visibility materials and guidelines for these campaigns and in producing broadcast materials among others. To improve data quality, UNICEF in collaboration with the MoE developed tools and guidelines that reinforce accuracy of data collected on the BTS and DTD campaign results at the provincial level.

Among the key contributors to the UNICEF education programme are the Qatar Foundation for Educate a Child, USAID and UKAID, contributions that improve access of Out of School Children to school and foster greater participation and learning for vulnerable children.

**OUTPUT 2** By the end of 2017, the learning results in reading and mathematics from first to 3rd grade and in life skills from first to sixth grade improves for at least 70 per cent of pupils and the primary gross rate of completion increases from 56 per cent in 2010 to at least 85 per cent in 2017.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
To improve learning achievements, reduce school drop-out and accelerate curriculum reform implementation in 2016, support was provided to 5,000 schools across the country to enable them to offer social protection measures to the most vulnerable children (approximately 30 targeted per school) in the first three grades. These measures included: (i) distribution of basic school supplies and materials to vulnerable children, (ii) an early warning system to reduce absenteeism, (iii) a tutoring programme for children with learning difficulties and (iv) school club activities for the promotion of life skills.

As part of the roadmap established by the MoE two years ago, UNICEF engaged in the process of implementation of primary curriculum reform through the provision of training to 5,260 teachers (1,653 women) on active and participatory methodologies in reading, writing, mathematics and life skills in the four national languages, which are to be taught across the whole country. Building on a pilot initiative conducted in 2015, such training was extended from 110 to 5,000 schools (10 per cent of the 48,147 primary schools in DRC). According to feedback gathered through reviews of the curriculum reform process at the provincial level, the shift towards education in national languages must be accompanied by an awareness-raising campaign among communities to demonstrate the benefits of this measure. Indeed, there continued to be some resistance to this element of the curriculum reform among parents who prefer that their children be taught exclusively in French.

In addition, the 5,000 targeted schools were provided with textbooks for 73,786 school children of 1st to 3rd grade. These textbooks were adapted to the new primary curriculum. To monitor learning outcomes more closely, UNICEF and its main implementing partner in social protection, CARITAS, set up a database for tracking the performance of children who benefited from social protection measures from grade 1 to 3. The database also monitored the retention rate of Out-of-School Children enrolled through the DTD campaign. Evidence collected from the database on 50,641 vulnerable children from 1,568 schools revealed that only 2.2 per cent of vulnerable children (grades 1 to 3) dropped out of school during 2015-2016 school year, compared to 7.1 per cent of the total number of pupils in grades 1 to 3 of these 1,586 schools. The repetition rate is 5.6 per cent for vulnerable children (grades 1 to 3) versus 10.1 per cent for all pupils (grades 1 to 3).
At the national level, UNICEF support to unit of the MoE tasked with monitoring annual learning achievements (created in 2015) was still not operational due to a lack of funding from the Government and limited human resources.

To meet the ambitions of the 2016-2025 strategy for education and learning, UNICEF continued to support the Government to meet the requirements to be eligible for GPE funds. In this regard, the GPE Program Development Grant was approved and the process of activity planning is underway.

**OUTPUT 3** By end 2017, the governance of the primary education subsector has improved at all levels.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

To improve the accuracy and quality of data collected during BTS and DTD campaigns, in 2016 UNICEF supported the MoE to establish data-collection guidelines and to put the guidelines into practice. This was followed by training the MoE data managers at the provincial and sub-provincial levels on the guidelines.

The limited availability of annual statistical routine data remained a challenge in the education sector. Only two of the former provinces (Equateur and Kasai Occidental) produced 2014-2015 statistical year books because of the support provided through the Projet de Soutien à Education de Base. To address this challenge, during the previous reporting year, UNICEF had provided computers to the education divisions in each of the 11 former provinces to facilitate routine data collection. In 2016, a total of six former provinces, including North Kivu and South Kivu, initiated work with UNESCO to produce routine data. In 2017, UNICEF will continue to pursue its partnership with UNESCO and the MoE central data production unit to ensure availability of up-to-date data in each province and enable improved programming in the education sector.

Taking into account the results of the MAA exercises conducted in five subdivisions in the previous reporting year, operational action plans will be developed for the provinces in question to enable them to address bottlenecks revealed through the MAA exercises. In 2016, UNICEF assisted provincial authorities to develop guidelines for the development of their operational action plans. UNICEF continued to provide support to the provinces to develop provincial action plans with local partners.

UNICEF provided support for training on the governance of 5,000 schools, directed towards headmasters and members of school management committees.

UNICEF is developing a real-time monitoring system (Edutrack) that will assess the extent that Government’s policy on free primary education has been implemented effectively, by monitoring of school fees paid by parents. During its pilot phase, this system will involve two provinces (Equateur, Haut Katanga).

To generate evidence to inform programme design, in 2016 UNICEF conducted and finalized an analytical review of financial transfers to schools for the purpose of creating social safety nets for vulnerable children. The review will help improve targeting of recipient children and governance of funds. In addition, a baseline study is being conducted as part of an impact evaluation of social protection measures on learning and achievements. This will inform the design of a new social protection program funded by Qatar Foundation for Educate a Child and USAID/UKAID.
OUTPUT 4 By the end of 2017, children and adolescents in six conflict-affected provinces benefit from peace education policies and practices in order to accelerate the transition to development.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Given the chronic and complex nature of the humanitarian crisis in DRC, a multi-sectoral approach is required to address the root causes of conflicts in view of securing sustainable peace. ‘Peace building through education’ was merged with the ‘education in emergency’ component of the programme. During 2016, UNICEF supported: (i) the distribution of pedagogical materials on education for peace to 300 primary schools not reached during the previous reporting year, (ii) the integration of risk and conflict awareness into the 2016-2025 sectoral education and training strategy, (iii) the establishment of the education for peace national commission through an inter-ministerial decree, which is expected to lead towards the development of the national education for peace strategy, with expert support from UNICEF. As part of reform of the primary curriculum, UNICEF contributed to developing training modules for teachers, guides on the integration of life-skills promoting peace and social cohesion. A total of 5,260 teachers in 877 targeted schools in DRC benefitted from these materials during the reporting year.

UNICEF supported the distribution of pedagogical materials related to education for peace in 300 additional targeted schools in 2016. These materials reached 99,000 pupils in six former conflict affected provinces (North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema, Equateur, Province Orientale and Katanga), endowing them with life skills related to the promotion of peace and social cohesion. Implementation of peace-building interventions was facilitated by funding from key partners, namely the Government of the Netherlands, as well as the engagement of NGOs such as Search for Common Ground, Caritas Congo, Caritas Manono, Réseau des Associations Congolaises de Jeunes, Observatoire des Droits de l’Homme and Equipe Universelle de la Biodiversité (EUB).

This component of the education programme is on track. All targets were already reached, except for those related to the development of national policies on education in emergencies and education for peace. Although delays were experienced pending the issuance of a ministerial decree in May 2016, which was a pre-requisite for the development of these policies, preparatory work led by the MoE is now well underway with UNICEF support.

OUTPUT 5 In emergency situations, girls and boys have safe access to quality education.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2016, the primary objective of UNICEF’s response in emergencies in the area of education was to guarantee access to quality education for all children affected by crises. Populations targeted for such assistance included children displaced by the activities of non-State armed groups in the East, such as Rai Mutomboki, ADF NALU, FDLR, and Mai-Mai as well as inter-tribal tensions between Luba and pygmy groups in Nyunzu and Manono territories. Further displacements necessitating an emergency education response involved influxes of refugees from Central African Republic, Burundi and South Sudan towards the former provinces of Equateur, South Kivu, and Oriental. In addition, education interventions contributed to the fight against the cholera outbreaks in Maniema, Tanganyika, Katanga, and Equateur provinces.

Interventions conducted under the 2016 DRC Humanitarian Action Plan, including those within the RRMP programme produced the following results: (i) 501,172 children (230,539 girls) had access to quality education and PSS (out of 555,290 targeted), (ii) 2,607 teachers (652 women) received training on education for peace, PSS and conflict/disaster risk reduction (out of 10,096 targeted), (iii) 142 classrooms were built or rehabilitated with
community participation (out of 1,678 targeted) and (iv) 5,796 school-aged refugee children in South Kivu (including 1,000 pre-primary school children) benefitted from school kits, in camps and host communities.

Funding for education in emergencies increased in 2016 to a total of approximately US$ 7.1 million (up from US$4.5 million in 2015), because of contributions from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the DRC Pooled Fund and the Government of Japan. To reach affected populations, UNICEF worked with a number of implementing partners including the MoE as well as NGOs such as AVSI, NRC, RACOJ, COOPI, Caritas Manono, Caritas Congo, Salvation Army, Alpha Ujuvi, AIDES, SOS LEA, LIPEDEM, MEPA, EUB, SAD AFRICA, Save the Children, Caritas Kisangani, Handicap International and World Vision.

The emergency response component of UNICEF DRC’s Education Programme is on track to meet planned targets. Indeed, the education humanitarian clusters at both the national and provincial levels are operational.

In 2016, the education in emergency and peace-building components of the Education Programme were pursued in an integrated manner. This was deemed necessary given the proximity of the programme components in addressing the root causes and drivers of conflict, and in fostering community resilience in view of securing a durable peace.

OUTCOME 3 CHILD PROTECTION By the end of 2017, the prevention and protection against all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation, as well as access to state civil service and legal protection, are significantly and equitably reinforced.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The child protection programme continued to focus on strategic support to social work reform, strengthening the formal protection system while sustaining the implementation of community-based protective communities. Other areas of intervention included the provision of multi-sectoral services to SGBV survivors and further consolidating the interoperability between the health sector and civil registry services, facilitating access to BR and reducing the distance between services and beneficiaries. Playing a leadership role, UNICEF reinforced the justice for children approach, helping to address the needs of victims or witnesses and children in conflict with the law. The sustained need for protection of crisis-affected children was met through appropriate response mechanisms and services, within the limits of available funding, in concerned areas of the country.

In 2016, results achieved included: i) 449,337 vulnerable children accessed multi-sectoral services, ii) 10,057 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence benefited from multi-sectoral support (medical, psycho-social, economic reintegration, legal), reaching over three times more victims than 2015, iii) registration of 1,037,469 children in civil registration offices (79 per cent of 2016 target), iv) 10 of 11 former provinces in the country introduced a justice for children system including child tribunals (adding two tribunals in Beni/Kalemie), mediation committees and police child protection units, ensuring access to improved juvenile justice services for a total of 6,311 children in conflict with the law and 101,151 children accessing justice in civil law cases, v) special assistance and transit care to 3,442 children (478 girls) formerly associated with armed forces and groups (93 per cent of the 2015 target), vi) family reunifications were arranged for 901 unaccompanied and separated children, and over 85,000 children received PSS alongside recreational activities in child friendly spaces. The enactment of the revised Family Code, culminating a 13-year process supported by UNICEF, will improve the protective legal framework for children significantly. A draft National Action Plan on child marriage developed with the Ministry for Women, Family and Children promises Government action to reduce the phenomenon in coming years.
The strengthened collaboration of the civil registration and health sectors was key to improving registration results allowing the registration of 238,108 more children than in 2015. 27 new registration support offices were established. Health agents were trained to assist families to register their children via recourse to power of attorney in maternities, reducing the distance of registration services from beneficiaries, which represents a key bottleneck. Fifteen vaccination campaigns were combined with BR initiatives in five provinces, further helping to register new-borns. 2016 was marked by the preparation of the Global Financing Facility DRC Investment Case with UNICEF in a leadership role in integrating Civil Registration and Vital Statistics as a pillar of the initiative in the DRC. Important steps were made to systematically strengthen the justice for children approach. The introduction of a mandatory module into university curricula for law students across the country marks a key milestone towards creating a legal workforce that is systematically indoctrinated with knowledge and understanding of core child protection concepts instead of relying on ad-hoc trainings.

UNICEF assisted children affected by emergencies despite diminishing funds. Preparedness, coordination and response remained core interventions, reaching slightly over 100,000 children in 2016, representing 121 per cent of planned targets. Support continued vis-à-vis the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration III programme demobilising children associated with armed forces and groups, and reintegrating them into their communities.

Important bottlenecks remained. Adequately resourced and accessible services for vulnerable children were still largely inadequate, partly due to insufficient social budgets and an overall inadequate Government investment in protection of children. Civil registration services were unable to catch up with the continuing rapid population growth leading to an overall declining BR rate (34 per cent of children under five registered in 2001 against 25 per cent in 2014).

Despite UNICEF efforts to support a number of coordination mechanisms active in DRC at national, provincial and local levels, a lesson learned from 2016 was that the sector continued to be characterised by a complex web of actors that remain poorly coordinated, due to the lack of a national child protection strategy. UNICEF DRC worked closely with five key ministries: 1) Ministry of Women, Family and Children on gender issues, 2) Ministry of Social Affairs for strengthening child protection systems, 3) Ministry of Interior and Security for birth registration, 4) Ministry of Justice and Human Rights for justice for children, and 5) Ministry of Defence for child protection in emergencies.

Key interventions were implemented through NGOs partners, both international and national, in collaboration with government entities. Key partners were: EU, Canada, Japan, UKAid, Korea, Sweden and USAID/OFDA. In 2016, UNICEF DRC and MONUSCO continued to demonstrate their leadership as co-chairs of the High-Level MRM Country Task Force, continuing the monitoring and reporting on grave child rights violations as well as commissioning a joint review of the mechanism to take stock of strengths and weaknesses. In 2016, the programme spent US$21,121,169 million (about US$2.5 million more than in 2015). The programme was overall on track.

The child protection-focussed situation analysis scheduled for 2017 will be an important opportunity to analyse where the sector needs to adjust to better protect all children from violence, abuse and exploitation, including children affected by child marriage and violence in non-emergency related settings. Additionally, vital work with relevant government partners lies ahead to fully harness the potential of the sector related SDGs and indicators.
OUTPUT 1 By the end of 2017, 2.5 million vulnerable or at-risk children and at least 50,000 survivors of sexual violence are identified by community structures and have access to holistic and appropriate support.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF continued to foster closer collaboration of social affairs actors with communities to better harness the potential of the grass-roots level protective communities approach. Focus was placed on the rationalization and streamlining of the approach rather than extending it into new geographical areas (currently implemented in 56 per cent of the 239 territories/communes).

Continued support to the 13-year process of reviewing the Family Code resulted in the enactment of a new version aligned with key stipulations of the National Child Protection Law. This new version significantly improves the legal protective framework for children, notably by raising the legal age for marriage to 18 years and by providing clearer definitions of sexual violence. A national action plan to end child marriage was drafted together with the National Ministry of Women, Family and Children for finalization in 2017.

Collaboration between social service providers has been reinforced through the formalization of referral mechanisms, resulting in improved coordination and service delivery to vulnerable children. In Kinshasa, UNICEF facilitated the signature of a protocol between specialized child courts, the provincial Ministries of Interior and Social Affairs, resulting in over 86,700 vulnerable children offered a legal identity through the rendering of judicial verdicts enabling the issuance of birth certificates, over 20,000 already having received their birth certificate. Collaboration between the education and social affairs sectors was also systematized, with social affairs playing a key role in the identification of children at risk of dropping out of school and delivering indigence certificates, to afford them free access to support services. As a result, the number of children identified and referred to basic social services greatly increased during the year, rising from 393,000 in 2015 to 449,000. Despite this progress, the vast majority of vulnerable children remained beyond the reach of support services.

Despite decreasing funds, UNICEF pursued its support to institutional actors and NGO partners providing services to survivors of sexual violence. In areas not affected by humanitarian crises, 1,985 victims of such violence benefitted from medical consultations, 2,927 from PSS, 549 from socio-economic reintegration and 1,017 from legal aid, which represents four times more than in 2015.

The lack of harmonized and reliable data remains a major challenge, particularly at the decentralized level. In light of this, UNICEF supported a review of data collection tools used by social workers and protective communities. A revamped tool was tested in three provinces to improve data collection and enable more efficient case management. It is expected that the 2017 targets related to this output (2.5 million children identified and gain access to services) will be partially reached. Reinforced coordination of actors involved in identifying vulnerable children, referrals and services contributed to results. Yet, the identification of vulnerable children does not yet translate into systematic and effective access to services. To secure the sustainability of results, a review of the protective community approach in 2017 will serve to identify good practices and potential areas for improvement.

OUTPUT 2 By 2017, the birth registration rate of children improves from 28 per cent to at least 50 per cent nationally.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF DRC supported the registration of 1,037,469 children (525,566 girls), accounting for 238,108 more children than 2015, raising the number of children registered since 2013 to 3,655,981 (1,817,478 girls). A total of 39 per cent of new-borns were registered within the
legal period of 90 days. Because of operationalized collaboration of civil registration and health services, 50 per cent of children were reached through recourse to the "power of attorney" bringing civil registration services closer to families and children.

The strengthened collaboration of the civil registration and health sectors at local, provincial and national levels greatly facilitated sustained registration results, which was an important lesson learned. A total of 1,742 registration offices were operational, of which 86 are support offices implanted in maternities; 27 support offices were established, and health agents were trained on the ‘power of attorney’ procedure whereby civil registration officers assist families to register their children directly in the maternity. In addition, 15 vaccination campaigns were combined with BR initiatives in five provinces. At the national level, efforts are underway to enhance the interoperability of the services of the Ministries of Interior and Health, through formalized protocols. This year was also marked by the preparation of the Global Financing Facility DRC Investment Case in relation to which UNICEF played a key role in ensuring the integration of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics as a key pillar.

To improve the quality of services, 4,388 actors (civil registration, health agents and communities) were trained on the ‘power of attorney’ procedure whereby civil registration officers assist families to register their children directly in the maternity. In addition, 15 vaccination campaigns were combined with BR initiatives in five provinces. At the national level, efforts are underway to enhance the interoperability of the services of the Ministries of Interior and Health, through formalized protocols. This year was also marked by the preparation of the Global Financing Facility DRC Investment Case in relation to which UNICEF played a key role in ensuring the integration of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics as a key pillar.

Messages on BR were integrated in standard communication packages to be used by community-based protection mechanisms, fostering greater ownership and engagement of communities. Further, a child-participative approach was tested to raise awareness among parents in Kinshasa.

Three major constraints affected the programme: (i) the creation of 15 new provinces, in addition to the existing 11, where a public administration is not yet operational in sectors related to civil registration for want of personnel, (ii) the non-remuneration of a large number of state personnel in the field and (iii) the unwillingness to create more secondary offices in certain provinces. Whereas it is reasonable to expect that the civil registration system will progressively become operational in the new provinces, and thereby create an opportunity to multiply the number of secondary offices in the long run, under present circumstances, the weak motivation of registration officers was a critical issue and advocacy efforts must continue at the provincial and national levels.

Though the number of children registered has been increasing since 2013, it is likely that the target set for 2017 will not be reached, as more than 1,750,000 children would need to be registered within a single year.

To reduce this gap, the strategies to bring civil registration services closer to the population and to amplify demand for such services will be sustained.

OUTPUT 3 By the end of 2017, a juvenile justice system (including juvenile courts, mediation committees, alternatives to custody and child-centred police units) is functional in all 11 provinces of the DRC.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF renewed its investment toward a holistic justice for children approach addressing the needs of children in conflict with the law, victims, witnesses of crimes and those in contact with the law for other reasons. The establishment of two new specialized children tribunals brings the total number to 18 operational tribunals, covering 10 out of the 11 former provinces. An important step towards building a legal workforce with knowledge and understanding of core child protection concepts was made with the introduction of a mandatory module into university curricula for law students.

In 2016, 6,311 children had effective access to an improved juvenile justice system; 53 per cent of children in conflict with law across the country benefitted from an alternative to detention (non-custodial sentences); and 238 children benefitted from a formal mediated
settlement because of their cases being reviewed by one of the 21 operational mediation committees.

UNICEF has invested in building specific child protection capacities of judiciary staff for years, to strengthen awareness of children’s rights and needs when in contact with the law. As a result of collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education, a dedicated 75-hour child protection course was declared a mandatory component of the academic curricula for all law students as of 2017. Thus, all future judges, lawyers, prosecutors and other legal professionals will have learned vital aspects of child protection, including the justice for children approach. Further optional child protection modules were introduced for students who wished to explore this area in greater depth. Work was underway to refine the existing teaching material and to strengthen capacities of university lecturers to ensure high quality teaching.

Key government partners involved in furthering the justice for children approach included the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Ministry of the Interior and Security and the High Council of the Judiciary. Development partners included EU, UNDP, MONUSCO, Governments of Sweden, France and UK, and the Korean UNICEF National Committee. The number of specialized children’s tribunals rose from 16 to 18, with tribunals created in Kalemie and Beni. This was a welcome trend although the numbers are still insufficient to provide adequate justice for children services across the country.

UNICEF continued to support the formulation of a national justice policy, strongly advocating for specific justice for children aspects to become an integral part thereof, in view of setting key priorities for child protection for the years to come. While noteworthy progress was made in 2016 on systematic aspects, the effective use of children’s tribunals and mediation services as an alternative to judicial proceedings in criminal matters was still insufficient (only three per cent of the total number of children benefitted from a mediated settlement). Progress towards expected results in the area of justice for children was on track except for results relating to mediation services. In this regard, performance-based payments related to mediation will be introduced in 2017 through a pilot project.

OUTPUT 4 In risk areas, local stakeholders’ coordination capacities to prevent shocks associated with humanitarian emergencies are strengthened and at least 50 per cent of children affected by humanitarian emergencies benefit from protection measures and reintegration.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Reaching over 93,000 children in emergency situations in 2016, UNICEF and partners were among the sole actors to provide lifesaving temporary assistance to some 3,300 children associated with armed forces and groups, and contributed to assistance for 6,975 survivors of sexual violence. Enhanced support to facilitate reintegration into their communities for over 2500 children was a key ingredient in preventing and protecting children affected by the conflict from violence, exploitation and abuse, in line with corporate strategy. The emergency component of the child protection programme also invested in strengthening the coordination of child protection actors involved in emergency preparedness and response, and in fostering safe behaviour around landmines and other unexploded devices by training teachers.

As of 30 October 2016, UNICEF and partners had assisted 89 per cent of targeted children exiting armed forces and groups (3,442), 90 per cent of targeted unaccompanied and separated children (901) and exceeded the target of 60,000 displaced and refugee children receiving PSS and recreational activities (87,699). Regarding the provision of comprehensive response to survivors of sexual violence, 69 per cent of those in need were
assisted, due to insufficient funds. The persistence of underlying risk factors exposing children to harm remained a significant cause for concern.

In 2016, the emergency component of the child protection programme met its targets for assisting children in need, except for those relating to survivors of sexual violence due to underfunding. With the support of the Canadian and Swedish Governments, children affected by conflict were provided with capoeira classes as an opportunity to overcome trauma and were provided with support to facilitate reintegration into their communities. In addition, UNICEF supported a national men’s organization to raise men and boys awareness of SGBV with a view to prevent SGBV in armed conflict.

The innovative three-year humanitarian action plan, set to begin in 2017, offers new strategic opportunities to protect children in the protracted crisis that characterizes DRC.

Although the number of persons in need of protection is expected to grow over the next three years due to ongoing and resurgent conflict, financial resources for child protection in emergencies are decreasing. The response capacity of UNICEF and partners, including reintegration support and capacity building, will thus significantly decrease. In 2017, UNICEF will pursue the implementation of its key interventions in line with its Core Commitments for Children in humanitarian action through strengthened prevention, coordination and referral mechanisms, and partnerships with relevant government ministries (Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Social Affairs), the ICRC, MONUSCO, UN agencies and NGOs. UNICEF will continue to support the Government in preventing and stopping grave violations of child rights in conflict through the MRM/Monitoring Analysis and Reporting Arrangements.

UNICEF interventions are on track to reach their targets and to fulfil the promise of the Core Commitments for Children in humanitarian action. Regardless, in 2017 UNICEF will recalibrate its ambitions in relation to its contribution to the humanitarian response for children affected by emergencies, with due regard for its capacity and that of its partners.

OUTCOME 4 CHILDREN RIGHTS ENABLING ENVIRONMENT By the end of 2017, laws, social policies, planning, budgets, expenditures, public opinion and social norms are informed by ongoing analysis of the situation of children, monitoring and evaluation and promote an environment conducive to the full-implementation of children's rights.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The CO supported the Congolese authorities at different levels, as well as communities and NGOs, to foster an enabling environment for the fulfilment of Congolese children's rights, particularly the most disadvantaged, in part through the empowerment of right holders. In 2016, the CO partnerships and advocacy towards national counterparts, contributed to ensuring that the SDG targets and indicators most relevant to the progressive realization of children’s rights were accorded a high level of priority in the National Development Strategic Plan. An analysis of multiple overlapping deprivations (N-MODA) enriched existing analyses on disparities in the situation of children across geographical, social and age-related boundaries. At the provincial level, the statistical profiles, prepared by provincial statistical offices, served as valuable sources of data for public decision-makers and stakeholders, in view of advocating for more substantial allocations within provincial budgets for social sectors. UNICEF provided assistance to the Government to sharpen the child focus within the national social protection policy and strategy and to revise the country’s legal and normative framework for social protection. UNICEF assisted the Government to implement this framework through its contributions to the design and costing of a national social protection action plan, and to developing and piloting country-specific social protection interventions.
The C4D implementation strategy continued to prove effectiveness during the reporting year. C4D interventions empowered communities, promoted essential family practices and addressed negative social norms while encouraging positive social norms. C4D activities reached 40 per cent of the entire population across the 11 former provinces, which represents 32 million people; 71 per cent of parents and caregivers reported having adopted at least three essential family practices that improve child survival, development and protection. The Congolese Government, with the support of the CO, finalized and validated a normative framework on structuring community participation, together with a procedures manual and tools for data collection related to community dynamics. These documents aim to systematize the modalities for fostering community dynamics to ensure a holistic, sustainable and measurable approach to grass-root based and community-centred development.

The updated CO Child Participation and Youth Empowerment Strategy provided a valuable framework for child participation activities around three pillars: (1) children are communicators about their environment and advocates for child rights, (2) children as actors of change in programme sectors, and (3) children as decision makers in governmental structures. The Young Reporters project, a key initiative for child participation in communication and public advocacy, now brings together 675 children leading advocacy initiatives throughout the country.

Changes in the country context, including the ongoing decentralization, and the deteriorating economic and financial situation have necessitated certain adjustments to planned activities. The Government’s decision to cut its 2016 budget by 20-30 per cent at mid-year generated negative consequences for the social sectors. UNICEF advocated for the maintenance of current expenditure levels in the social sectors despite the financial crisis. The conduct of a Gender Review assisted the CO to shift its country programming towards gender programming. Child participation and youth empowerment activities expanded through innovative pilot projects, but their scale remains limited given the country’s size and the need to mainstream child participation in sectoral programmes. The number of children involved in child participation programmes from remote regions and representing the most vulnerable segments of society remained extremely low.

In 2017, there will be focus on the conduct of evaluations to improve programme performance. The completion of the MICS6 will generate up-to-date data on social indicators relating to the situation of children and women to inform development planning on the part of Government and its partners. Analysis and advocacy towards protecting budgets allocated to the social sectors in the context of political and financial crises will be emphasized. UNICEF will engage with Government to support meeting its treaty obligations through reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and implementation of the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee. Stimulating community dynamics for the promotion of positive social norms and the adoption of essential family practices will remain a priority. In view of fostering positive behaviour and social changes, alliances with media consortiums, religious networks and community-based organizations will be renewed while new partnerships will be established with artist networks, academic institutions and evaluation specialists. As regards child participation and youth empowerment, emphasis will be placed on strengthening the Network of Child Chaperones in Kinshasa and the provinces so that more children can be trained in child participation and more vulnerable children can become involved in these activities. The roll out of the children’s committee initiative will be extended to additional provinces as will the involvement of children in sectoral programme activities.
OUTPUT 1 By the end of 2017, the availability of disaggregated data and ongoing analysis of the situation of children and women inform the development of social policies and budgets for the welfare of all children

Analytical Statement of Progress:
During 2016, CO efforts focused on strengthening partnerships at national and provincial levels with national counterparts, including recently created bodies, with mandates related to development planning, data collection, monitoring and analysis. These included the national agency tasked with monitoring progress towards the SDGs, the evidence-based analysis centre under the Prime Ministers Office, the coordination body for Public Finance Management Reform and the National Institute of Statistics. These bodies have an important role in coordinating and overseeing the national development strategy, yet their capacity is limited, especially regarding evidence-based, child-focused and equity-focused analysis, hence the relevance of UNICEF capacity-building support to these bodies.

Among the principal achievements in data and situation analysis was the conduct of the multiple overlapping deprivation analysis (N-MODA) and the validation of its findings by the Ministry of Planning. Support to the provincial National Institute of Statistics offices (under the previous administrative configuration) to produce 11 provincial statistical profiles and their dissemination contributed to advocacy on prioritizing social sectors in provincial planning and resource allocation. In the context of a joint-UN programme, UNICEF supported the Congolese authorities to complete an analysis of the SDGs, prioritizing the SDG targets most relevant to national development priorities. A Gender Review of the UNICEF Country Programme helped to initiate a shift from gender mainstreaming towards gender programming, by identifying entry points for gender issues to inform the formulation of the next Country Programme.

Significant changes in the country context necessitated adjustments to programme planning. The precarious economic and financial situation of the country was exacerbated by uncertainty and tension in the political sphere, which may lead to a reduction in official development assistance to DRC. Because of these changes, UNICEF directed its efforts towards the analysis of the effects of budget cuts in social services at the national level and in certain provinces. The evolving situation in DRC also sharpened the relevance of certain ongoing activities, such as an analysis of disparities in the situation of children across the country, using the N-MODA approach for the first time in DRC, and completing the equity-focused Health Atlas that illustrates disparities. These activities revealed critical knowledge gaps to be addressed in part in 2017 by a child protection situation analysis.

Recurring constraints include weak national financial and technical capacity, lack of impartiality in analyses and forecasts related to economic growth and social development, compounded by the onset of an uncertain electoral period and by incomplete population data (the most recent census having been conducted in 1984). With these constraints, the upcoming MICS6 is expected to provide valuable up-to-date data on social indicators to serve as an important baseline upon which progress under the next Country Programme will be measured. Although preparatory work on MICS6 was slightly deferred pending the dissemination of data collection tools at the global level, the survey is set to begin in early 2017.

OUTPUT 2 By the end of 2017, vulnerable children and women benefit from specific social protection measures and policies to enable them to access basic services.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2016, the CO assisted the Government to place greater emphasis on children in the National Strategic Development Plan (which makes direct reference to the analysis of overlapping deprivations experienced by children drawn from the N-MODA) and in the newly
validated National Social Protection Policy and Strategy. In partnership with the World Bank and International Labour Organisation, UNICEF contributed to the drafting and costing of the national social protection action plan.

UNICEF was instrumental in efforts to revitalize the normative framework around the issuance of ‘certificates of indigence’ which constitute a social protection instrument, allowing poor households to benefit from free access to social services. This framework clearly defines eligibility criteria, social services provided and the funding mechanism for service providers, as well as the monitoring and evaluation system. It is expected that a government decree on ‘certificates of indigence’, will be issued in early 2017, however budgetary constraints and the establishment of a transition government may delay this.

At the operational level, UNICEF sought to build national capacity by printing and distributing 2,000 copies of the manual on non-contributory social protection, and disseminating it among the National Social Workers Institute as well as the 11 former provincial social assistance divisions. Pilot social safety net interventions in 15 communes and territories, led by the provincial social assistance services, are operational. Through these interventions, 2,000 households, jointly selected by provincial gender and social assistance services with UNICEF guidance, benefited from unconditional cash transfers to increase their access to social services through an e-money scheme. As part of the micro-credit initiative 28,460 individuals (19,542 women; 8,918 men) were reached through their membership in local credit and saving associations, surpassing the targeted number of beneficiaries. A key success factor in the interventions were the community social assistants, trained by UNICEF and tasked with identifying and counselling beneficiaries on starting up their own businesses and on the use of the cash transfers for the best interests of their children.

Despite these successful initiatives, the present climate in DRC remained extremely volatile. Particularly, it constitutes a threat to efforts to expand the scale of social protection interventions against a backdrop of tremendous need, given that 63 per cent of 86 million Congolese live below the poverty line. In this context, UNICEF will gather sound evidence of the effectiveness of social protection interventions, in view of advocating for the renewal and deepening of the Government’s commitment to social protection.

In 2017, UNICEF will support the Government to plan, cost, and implement social protection interventions at national and provincial levels. The CO will explore its potential role in areas of social protection beyond those involving cash transfers in crises, namely urbanisation, climate change and corporate social responsibility in the private sector. The CO will assist the Government to catalyse resource mobilization for social protection through its engagement in scaling up pilot gender-sensitive social protection initiatives.

**OUTPUT 3** By the end of 2017, in a favourable social environment, families and communities in targeted intervention areas, adopt essential family practices and promote individual and collective changes necessary for the survival, development and protection of children.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
C4D interventions to raise awareness and promote adoption of key family practices (KFP) reached 32,000,000 people across the 11 former provinces through mass, community and interpersonal channels. The mix of communication interventions contributed to the fact that 71 per cent of parents/caregivers reported having adopted at least three out of five KFPs that improve child survival, development and protection. It also ensured that 93 per cent of parents gained access to the minimum requisite information before the passage of vaccination campaigns, thereby recovering 7 per cent of children not or insufficiently vaccinated through routine
vaccination due to interpersonal communication and door-to-door awareness raising by 36,000 community volunteers.

Communication interventions were laid out in C4D action plans of 2,429 health areas (31 per cent of total) and 258 HZs (50 per cent of total). These plans were designed not only to promote KFPs but also to provide an appropriate response to bottlenecks related to behavioural change and demand for services. Such bottlenecks, which differ from one province to another and within provinces, were identified via qualitative and quantitative studies such as the Knowledge Attitudes and Practices polling carried out with Harvard Opinion Research Program, the socio-anthropological study on resistance to vaccination, MAA and social mapping carried out in the context of immunization campaigns.

Regarding participatory communication, the Government adopted a normative framework of a strategy structuring community participation together with a procedure manual and data collection tools related to community dynamics, with the support of UNICEF. The products systematize modalities for fostering community dynamics to ensure a holistic, sustainable and measurable approach to grassroots-based and community-centred development. Community dynamics were stimulated in 15,600 villages in 2016. Standardized steps included election, community dialogue and implementation of small, feasible development actions at the level of villages and streets. Results included increased dialogue between men and women, youth and elderly people; greater exchange between authorities and citizens; and stronger reliability of community volunteers due to the election process. Even though the approach shows significant positive changes in social cohesion and accountability among both leaders and community workers, accelerating its scaling-up would require greater reflection on the approach to costing and flexibility in terms of programming as UNICEF cannot dictate the contents of communities’ action plans.

Building on accomplishments of 2015, formal workshops were organized to build capacity of key actors and community-based committees to improve the effectiveness of C4D interventions. Thus, training on gender and C4D (focused on data-based, results-oriented and monitored interventions) was delivered to 125 members of the provincial communication task forces in five provinces, 35 community leaders in Kinshasa, 1,200 community workers and 40 trainers of the five most influential religious networks, which were key influencers of social norms, especially regarding gender. These trainings were mostly conducted during fourth quarter, thus concrete results will be monitored in 2017. Overall, the 2016 results were encouraging. An additional Harvard Opinion Research Program study in 2017 or 2018 would measure changes in Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices.

**OUTPUT 4** Policy makers at the national, provincial and community levels are involved in the rights of children, and the children are aware of their rights (survival, development, protection and participation) and promote them in their environment.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF DRC updated its Child Participation and Youth Empowerment Strategy in 2016, focusing on three objectives: (i) child participation in communication and public advocacy, mainly through the Young Reporters project, (ii) child participation in developing, implementing and monitoring programme interventions and (iii) child participation in institutional decision-making structures affecting the interests of children, as foreseen in the Congolese Child Protection Law (2009) and the National Child Participation Strategy (2010). The key activities carried out in 2016 to contribute towards these objectives included educating children on their rights, raising awareness among communities and adults on children’s rights and child participation, and advocating for children's rights and child participation, directed towards decision-makers.
In 2016, UNICEF supported the Congolese Government to train 11,598 children on their rights, child participation and public advocacy. A total of 104 chaperones, forming part of the Child Chaperones Network supported by UNICEF, benefitted from training to assist them to engage children in child participation initiatives. UNICEF and Governmental counterparts initiated 157 pilot information initiatives for adults and communities in relation to the right of children to express their views on issues affecting them, in view of fostering understanding and acceptance on the part of adults, as well as their engagement in promoting the views of children in society.

The above activities contributed to expanding the abilities of a pool of 675 active Young Reporters. These youth were active during the reporting year, producing stories and messages on child rights-related issues, which were posted on the blog of UNICEF DRC and on social media, reaching 40,000 followers. The Young Reporters were also instrumental in obtaining 165 commitments from national authorities following public advocacy activities throughout the country.

UNICEF and the Congolese Government set up 41 children’s committees at the municipal, territorial and provincial levels in 2016. Both parties collaborated closely with the Child Chaperones Network to further promote child participation and youth empowerment. This allowed for 7,200 children to participate in a pilot project on BR. Another pilot project in 2016 involved 280 children and youth in gender awareness-raising activities. These pilot projects have added new experience to the existing knowledge base on the significance of child participation in relation to sustainable development, complementing the knowledge gathered through such interventions as the Healthy Schools and Villages programme.

The Child Participation and Youth Empowerment programme is on track and targets will be expected to be reached by the end of the Country Programme cycle. Nevertheless, the programme continues to face the challenge of reaching a critical mass of children, particularly in remote areas and among the most vulnerable segments of the population. To reach maturity, the programme must strive to expand beyond pilot initiatives by mainstreaming child and youth participation in sectorial programmes.

OUTCOME 5 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS By the end of 2017, the most vulnerable children and their families in crisis situations have received timely and effective assistance; those in post-crisis situations have benefited from improved and equitable access to social services and peaceful conflict mediation.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The emergency response preparedness and transition programme aims to provide vulnerable children and their families in crisis situations with effective multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance. During 2016, UNICEF surpassed its target of covering more than 35 per cent of the population affected by conflict since the outset of the Country Programme, reaching 43 per cent of the total affected population in targeted areas.

The CO also targeted post-crisis areas to improve access to basic services while pursuing peace-building objectives. In this regard, the CO focused on finalizing the second phase of its resilience and peace building programme and laying the foundation of the third phase which will take the form of a four-year programme.

Beyond emergency response, UNICEF is strongly engaged in fostering preparedness, local capacity building and humanitarian coordination to contribute to improving the quality of humanitarian response. This year was an opportunity to initiate a new partnership with the Humanitarian Action Department of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action. The ensuing pilot programme was implemented in six provinces and gave rise to lessons
learned and recommendations that will inform the consolidation phase of the programme in 2017.

UNICEF scaled-up its multipurpose cash programming to reach approximately 33,000 households (surpassing the target of 21,100 households). The ARCC programme was recognized as an innovative approach in DRC as limited research for this form of programming has thus attracted limited investment. Nevertheless, ARCC has proved highly successful in generating new opportunities to better respond to the diverse needs of affected populations (host communities, IDPs, returnees). The programme crafted partnerships with the private sector (involving mobile money, banking system), which, though they give rise challenges, remain essential to conveying assistance in the form of cash to affected populations.

The situation in the East and South of the country remained extremely volatile. The postponement of elections creates uncertainty for 2017 and rising tensions were apparent towards the end of the year. Economic crisis increased the risk of civil unrest in the main cities. Inter-ethnic conflicts intensified, especially in Tanganyika and Kasai provinces, where humanitarian capacity remains extremely limited in comparison with capacity in Eastern Congo. Nevertheless, UNICEF remains the main actor in responding to humanitarian needs in these provinces, in accordance with its Core Commitments for Children, despite limited funding. According to the latest HAC financial report (as at 31 October 2016), UNICEF had raised 56 per cent of funding requirements under HAC, whereas the HRP was funded at 60 per cent of requirements (source: OCHA). It is thus apparent that UNICEF’s performance in terms of fundraising matches that of the HRP, which demonstrates the continued trust of donors in UNICEF’s emergency response capacity.

The situation in neighbouring countries such as South Sudan is likely to have a negative impact on DRC, as UNHCR estimates that an additional 45,000 refugees will flee to DRC in 2017, whereas the humanitarian response to existing South Sudanese refugees in DRC (60,000 people) is currently underfunded.

In order to effectively respond to this chronic situation, the CO’s strategy involves aligning short term humanitarian relief aid, such as that provided through the RRMP mechanism, with transition and stabilization programmes such as ARCC, and the Participatory and Empowering community-based Approaches for Resilience (PEAR+) programme, which constitutes UNICEF’s programmatic contribution to the Return, Rehabilitation & Reintegration pillar of the International Security and Stabilization Support Strategy.

UNICEF remained a key player in the emergency response, in part because of its continuous efforts to improve quality. These efforts involved not only working on gender, accountability to affected populations and rapidity, but also questioning its own way of doing business and investing in analysis and research to design more efficient and adapted ways to reach the most affected populations (e.g. utilization of multiple cash transfer modalities, NFI scorecard tool to better analyse the needs of affected populations). In addition to emergency response, joining emergency to development, UNICEF strengthened its commitment to improve preparedness and local capacity building through engagement with local NGOs and the Government. Due to the reduced presence of international organizations in DRC, there is a need to keep an active humanitarian watch in non-conflict areas. In response to this need, UNICEF has implemented two pilot projects in six provinces.

In addition to leading the education, nutrition, and WASH clusters, and the Child Protection Working Group, UNICEF leads the NFI and shelter cluster and facilitates the Cash Working Group in Goma, Eastern DRC. At the national level, UNICEF contributed to setting up the national Cash Working Group in collaboration with OCHA, elevating cash transfer programming to a more strategic, upstream level. UNICEF strongly contributed, jointly with
WFP and its INGOs partners, to the development and dissemination of monitoring and evaluation tools adapted to cash transfer programmes.

The results of this programme were achieved through the generous support of partners, including the Governments of USA, UK, Canada, Japan and Sweden, as well as ECHO and the DRC Humanitarian Fund. UNICEF also relied on the continued engagement of its eight main INGO partners and new local partnerships with the CARITAS Network.

UNICEF further developed its strategy by linking emergency to transition with a strong focus on resilience, to place greater emphasis on risk-informed programme design and contribute to delivering coherent programming in 2017.

OUTPUT 1 By the end of 2015, a strategy is developed and validated by governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, and the UNICEF ability to respond to new emergencies in an efficient, responsive, and tailored way is strengthened in order to strengthen national capacities in risk reduction and emergency management.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2016, UNICEF implemented and evaluated a nine-month capacity building pilot project to develop adequate local capacity in early warning and preparedness to respond to emergencies related to conflicts and natural disasters. During this pilot phase, the six provinces targeted were affected by conflict and natural disaster, and characterized by a low presence of humanitarian actors and lack of coordination mechanisms.

Activities focused on capacity building in early warning, and humanitarian coordination mechanisms were developed with Caritas and the local NGO Association pour le Dévelopement Social et la Sauvegarde de l’Environnement/Red Cross in the provinces of Mongala, North and South Ubangi, Equateur and Tshuapa. In the province of Ituri, Solidarité International in partnership with Caritas Bunia developed local capacity in the conduct of multi-sector needs assessments and NFI interventions for low magnitude crises (less than 250 households/1,250 people)). This partnership contributed to building capacity in relation to post-intervention evaluations with quality standards comparable to those of the RRMP, under the guidance of Solidarité International, which is a participant in the RRMP.

The number of direct beneficiaries of these interventions in the provinces of Mongala, North and South Ubangi, Equateur and Tshuapa was estimated at 12,500 Red Cross volunteers, 50 Red Cross focal points, 42 staff and members of local NGO, 6,500 communities involved in early warning and 151 focal points from the Caritas Network. In Ituri province, with Solidarité International, the project reached 5,000 community leader focal points, 93 humanitarian alerts focal points and 25 staff from Caritas Bunia. The pilot project was carried out from January through September 2016. In addition, UNICEF developed its first formal partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action, in view of bringing together all relevant stakeholders at all levels (national, provincial and local) to ensure effective capacity in humanitarian alerts and coordination at the national and provincial levels. This collaboration will lead to a more strategic partnership in 2017 through an agreed work plan.

A strategy for preparedness, emergency response and transition was developed by the CO at the draft stage. Once finalized, the strategy will be translated into preparedness activities in 2017. An effective early warning system is in place in Eastern DRC in conflict-affected areas, but is not applied across the whole country.
With regards to capacity building in Emergency Preparedness and Response and the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, trainings in both subjects were delivered in every targeted province in 2016. The participants in these training activities were the same as those who were involved in different projects in Ituri, Mongala, North and South Ubangi, Equateur, Tshuapa and Mai-Ndombe provinces.

In general, this component of the emergency response preparedness and transition programme is on-track for achievement of expected results through the implementation of the above activities.

**OUTPUT 2** A quick and appropriate response to the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable is achieved through UNICEF coordination and assistance in order to cover at least 35 per cent of the needs of displaced and returnee populations as identified in the Humanitarian Action Plan.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The rapid response to movements of populations (RRMP) mechanism continued to address humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable populations affected by conflict. Through partnership with Norwegian Refugee Council, Solidarité International, Save the Children, International Rescue Committee and Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI), UNICEF rapidly conducted needs assessments, providing multi-sectoral humanitarian response to IDPs. This partnership, under the umbrella of RRMP, allowed for 1.2 million people to be reached across five target provinces, including North Kivu (41 per cent of beneficiaries), South Kivu (27 per cent), Ituri (16 per cent), Tanganyika and Haut Katanga (14 per cent), with some exceptional interventions in Maniema province (2 per cent). Altogether, this represents 43 per cent of the people displaced during 2016, as reported by the Commission pour les mouvements de population in September 2016. In these provinces, UNICEF addressed the needs of 402,926 people in the NFI sector, 560,685 in WASH, 136,826 in Health and 103,266 in Education. While rapidity remains a challenge, there was significant improvement in this regard compared with the previous year. The average lead-time between alert and the beginning of an intervention dropped from 45 days in 2015 to 36 days in 2016.

Through the alternative responses to communities in crisis (ARCC) programme, UNICEF continued issuing unconditional cash transfers in a humanitarian context. In partnership with Mercy Corps, AVSI and Catholic Relief Services, the programme reached 33,281 households across North Kivu (60 per cent of beneficiaries), South Kivu (17 per cent), Tanganyika (16 per cent) and Kasai (8 per cent). The programme incorporated a research component, building evidence of the effectiveness of the cash transfer approach in the context of emergencies in DRC. A paper was produced and finalised, drawing from experiences of ARCC. As a next step, in 2017 ARCC will be fully integrated into the RRMP, as well as in resilience programming under Output 3.

To ensure accountability to affected populations, and in line with Core Humanitarian Standards, a standard set of tools was developed and incorporated into the RRMP and ARCC programmes across all seven implementing partners, allowing for two-way interactions between beneficiaries and humanitarian actors. The feedback mechanisms put in place, including suggestion boxes and temporary offices at project sites, contributed to strengthening the transparency and quality of programmes, while reducing the risk of violations of the code of conduct by humanitarian workers.

UNICEF continued to serve as the coordinator of the NFI cluster and the Cash Working Group in close collaboration with OCHA. One of the major achievements through the Cash Working Group in 2016 was the establishment of the minimum expenditure basket in Goma,
which defined a standard cash amount by sector. This tool is expected to allow all humanitarian actors to apply a harmonised approach with respect to cash transfers, thereby rendering joint interventions more feasible. UNICEF and WFP already carried out two joint cash interventions in 2016 to respond to the needs of people affected by large-scale displacements.

OUTPUT 3 Community resilience and social actors in the transitional areas is increased through sustainable increase in access to basic social services and capacity-building of community structures to manage conflict-related risks.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The principal objective of Phase III of the PEAR+ III programme is to increase the resilience of communities in transitional zones through the sustainable improvement of access to basic social services and the strengthened capacity of community structures to manage conflict-related risks. Specifically, the programme seeks to empower communities in selected International Security and Stabilization Support Strategy priority zones in view of fostering their increased participation in strengthening their resilience and social cohesion.

One year into the PEAR+ III programme, the significant effort put into a design and review process has laid a strong foundation upon which the programme can be launched. Implementation of Phase III will first focus on 100 villages in the HZ of Rwanguba, Rutshuru Territory, North Kivu Province. Reaching an estimated 100,000 of the targeted 300,000 beneficiaries, the programme will leverage opportunities to build on past investments, a tangible interest of targeted communities to assume an active role in the programme, and the potential for complementarity with other humanitarian, stabilization and development actions in the zone.

In addition to the selection of the first implementation zone, the programme identified specific areas of programmatic focus for Phase III through a process of review, analysis and consultation. Visits to both the current implementation zone as well as to the previous implementation zone provided an opportunity to engage directly with beneficiaries. As a result, the programme is seeking to include: a more focused consideration of and impact on gender dynamics, a focus on reinforcing vertical cohesion between local, provincial and national institutions, and a tighter adherence to resilience-based programming through deepened understanding of community dynamics, capacity and risk-informed analysis.

Concrete progress launching activities in the intervention zone was made during the reporting period. A situational analysis was launched by UNICEF and a national research office, BEGIS, in August 2016, collecting both qualitative and quantitative data required to inform the programme roll-out and provide a baseline upon which to measure progress objectively.

The first year was not without challenges. One of the most significant of these was the management of the programme during the transition period between the departure of the PEAR+II Emergency Specialist in April and the arrival of the PEAR+III Emergency Specialist at the end of August. In addition, the security context in Rutshuru Territory continued to deteriorate over the year, with a notable increase in kidnappings and reduction in humanitarian space. The launch of offensives by the FARDC against the FDLR and other armed groups, and uncertainty around the electoral calendar, contributed to a notable increase in volatility in the zone. The programme’s conflict analysis, flexible approach and engagement with the community and government all served as means to mitigate the impact of the unpredictable context on programme plans.
OUTCOME 6 Programme management and operations in support of an effective and efficient country-programme.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF DRC is one of the largest UNICEF Country Programmes in the world. In 2016, the total budget allocated to management and programme activities amounted to US$285 million including BMA, ORR, ORE and RR. However, the country faced enormous challenges posed by geography and logistical constraints with the absence of appropriate infrastructure. A comprehensive risk analysis was conducted by the DRC team in the second quarter 2016 as part of the Risk and Control Self-Assessment (RCSA 2016) exercise. The 2016 Annual Management Plan incorporated the outcome of this exercise and identified major risks that could hamper the achievement of Country Programme goals. Three areas were classified as high risks: (i) fraud and misuse of funds, (ii) safety and security and (iii) natural disasters and epidemics. An action plan was set up to implement the mitigation measures identified. The follow up of the action plan implementation is a standing item on the agenda of the COMIT. The implementation of audit recommendations remained a management priority in 2016. The recommendations of the CO audit that took place in 2015 were being implemented and gradually closed. Implementation progress is assessed via bi-monthly meetings and reported to the COMIT.

As a UNICEF core priority, HACT implementation was a top priority for DRC. As was done in 2015, this year UNICEF continued to organize capacity building sessions and trainings, HACT assessments and verification missions, all with the aim of improving financial accountability.

Several measures to improve efficiency and effectiveness, and to generate savings, were pursued with noticeable results. An upgrade of the ICT infrastructure and the investment in fibre optic significantly improved the overall connectivity of the different offices at the provincial and zonal levels. The extensive use of SharePoint contributed to strengthen information exchange through a common platform accessible from anywhere. The bank rationalization project reduced bank charges by 50 per cent compared to 2015. The upgrade of ASKY airline and Air Ivoire from category C to B effective February 2016 generated more than 30 per cent cost savings on travel budgets especially for regional travel. The human resources strategy for 2016 focused notably on improving gender diversity among staff in the National Officer and General Services categories. However, high staff turnover combined with the difficulty of attracting qualified candidates with the appropriate profile for some technical positions continued to pose problems for the CO. A total of 85 recruitments were completed as at 01 December 2016.

Measures to rationalize transport services were being implemented to reduce the heavy workload placed on the existing pool of office drivers. In this regard, certain transport services, such as airport transfers in Kinshasa, were discontinued, generating a reduction of more than 50 per cent of the amount of overtime compensation and improving the work/life balance for drivers.

The social and political unrest of the last quarter of the year was an opportunity to activate the office Business Continuity Plan and to measure the robustness of the communication system. Measures were put in place to enhance business continuity preparedness by making robust and independent communication systems available in key off-site locations. Key emergency communication equipment was regularly tested and the computing equipment of the office’s critical staff was updated and tested.
OUTPUT 1 Governance and Systems to support the Direction of Country Operations.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2016, the office statutory committees, including COMIT, met monthly as indicated in the annual management plan. In addition to the virtual monthly meetings, the full COMIT (heads of sub-offices, and operations and programme managers) held three-day workshops on a biannual basis. Several topics were standing items on the agenda of the COMIT including consideration of management indicators and scorecards, follow up of audit recommendations and quality assurance, follow up of high risks areas as recorded in the Enterprise Risk Management portal, security updates as well as the status of the programme budget implementation.

The migration of in-scope HR and financial transactions in 2016 provided an opportunity to redesign various work processes to ensure a smooth transition to GSSC. Internal procedures and systems were also re-assessed and adjusted to cope with the new business model. Efficiency gains and cost savings are expected as a result of simplification of existing processes and procedures.

In 2016, the total value of supplies procured amounted US$142,487,248, of which 52 per cent were Procurement Services. In a context where 20 per cent of programme and operational supplies were procured locally by the CO, extensive use was made of existing Long Term Agreements from other UN agencies and/or neighbouring COs, which brought significant gain in time and costs. The 2016 Supply Plan exercise also generated time and cost savings by placing consolidated orders for so called 'strategic supplies'.

Key ongoing challenges of the CO in supply chain management relate to the vast size of the country, the lack of infrastructure and lack of accessibility of implementation areas. Nevertheless, the CO has pursued its efforts to reduce inland transportation costs by systematically using road transportation when available, and even boat transportation when feasible. A tender managed nationwide led to the set-up of 19 Long Term Agreements for goods transportation, which helped improve efficiency and cost effectiveness.

In terms of ICT, the CO established partnerships with local service providers to implement fibre optic technology for internet access which is currently 55 per cent completed. Office email is now updated in real-time as opposed to delays of up to 48 hours previously experienced. Internet access was than three times faster and staff were able to utilize communication and collaboration tools, e-learning resources, and perform financial transactions more efficiently.

The office created a CO team site using the new platform SharePoint 2013 to enhance and support team collaboration activities and provide real-time information sharing across 13 office locations. A trip report repository was developed in SharePoint to help track recommendations of official field missions by staff thus enhancing transparency and accountability towards achievement of results.

As a leading member of the inter-agency ICT working group, the CO provided significant contribution to the development and approval by the country Security Management Team of a project plan for the migration from analogue to a fully digital VHF network.

OUTPUT 2 Financial Resources and Stewardship to create the conditions to pursue country Operations.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Finance and business management progressed towards more efficiency and integration with the Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC). The handover of in-scope processes related to payments made by the UNICEF DRC offices to the GSSC went without interruption, resulting in instant efficiency and quality gains, utilizing the DRC Vision Business Centre
(BCV) as centralization hub for 13 DRC offices and as central quality assurance and case management facility. The introduction of SharePoint as file-sharing platform across all offices in DRC allowed more transparency and follow up by stakeholders on the status of ongoing transactions. The implementation of the UN-wide global bank rationalization project consolidating all local payments through the selected EcoBank improved the predictability and streamlined processes of payments for salaries and local partners while reducing bank charges by one half compared to prior year costs.

The central function of the BCV, co-located with the Finance and Accounting unit in the CO in Kinshasa, was instrumental in the successful migration of payment related business processes to the GSSC in Budapest. The transition in May left its mark through simplified payment processes and with additional quality control by independent staff in Budapest and more transparent monitoring of payment progress through the GSSC Case Management Software MyCase. About 15,000 payments were processed by the BCV in 2016 with a monetary volume of US$364 million. The processing time from submission by the requesting offices, to the emission of the payment was stable at four days with a sigma of one day at the BCV and a sigma of three days at the GSSC.

The finance team and BCV team increased the number of support missions to the 13 sub-offices in DRC, performing spot checks at partners, document verifications at the sub-offices and capacity building to partners and programme staff in the field. Training support was provided by BCV finance staff who were present during meetings and via WebEx sessions remotely. The finance team provided training to 50 interagency partners in a training session in Kinshasa, 50 participants in Lubumbashi and 50 in Goma. UNICEF finance staff supported the Operations Management Team as HACT task force focal point, leading the monthly working group meetings enhancing the cooperation on Common Operations Strategies for UN Agencies in DRC. A synthesis of the assurance activities were reported in the monthly COMIT and shared with the interagency HACT working group from which they were used to address and improve best practices in the implementation of HACT in DRC. Also in 2016, the DRC finance team and BCV team supported one finance staff on mission to UNICEF Sierra Leone, and during the start up of the GSSC in Budapest with two staff on mission.

The CO progressed towards the closure of the 14 Audit Actions stemming from the 2015 internal audit while monitoring the implementation and sustainability during the monthly COMIT. The office was subject to external audit in 2016.

The target pertaining to financial resources and stewardship was fully met in 2016.

**OUTPUT 3** Human Resources have the capacities, skills, morale and motivation to support Country operations.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016, the CO diversity among IP staff was 52 per cent female, 48 per cent male; with international staff representing 33 countries. Recruitment was the most labour-intensive activity in the CO HR office in 2016. During the reporting year, a total of 70 recruitments of International Professional, National Officer and General Staff staff were completed. The average time to complete a recruitment process in 2016 at all grades stood at 120 days, 20 per cent lower than in 2015. The HR office introduced a new quality control system (checklists, better written tests, reference evaluation and PER review) that brought about significant improvement in the expediency of the approval process at the RO and HQ levels.

The CO focused on improving gender diversity among National Officers (at the end of the reporting year 68 per cent male/32 per cent female) and General Service staff (63 per cent male/37 per cent female). A key challenge for the CO was reaching out to national female
candidates to apply to work for UNICEF. In response to this challenge, an outreach action plan was launched in November 2016 to enhance CO diversity among its national staff. To give opportunities to national staff to gain international exposure and experience, nine staff worked in other UNICEF offices in 2016 on missions, stretch assignments or Temporary Appointment posts.

The CO achieved a 100 per cent completion rate of PERs in 2015 and expects it will repeat this for 2016 on time. The HR section provided training to staff on the use of ACHIEVE, (UNICEF’s newly-launched performance management system) and drafted guidance materials in French (the CO working language) on new performance management processes which were utilized by both HQ and other COs in the region. The HR Development Committee met once per quarter to follow up on the implementation of training and learning activities. Most of the staff members now have individual learning plans in Agora, UNICEF’s online learning portal. Over half of CO staff underwent learning/training activities in 2016. Group training in ethics and integrity was being planned for early 2017.

OUTCOME 7 Country Programmes are efficiently designed, coordinated, managed and supported to meet quality programming standards in achieving results for children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
During the reporting year, the CO invested strategically in cross-cutting areas of expertise, which serviced the full range of programmes and served as bedrock enabling effective programme delivery and amplifying results.

The CO ensured that mechanisms were in place to allow for coordination of UNICEF programmes across sectoral, functional and geographic boundaries. Organizational boundaries too were traversed, as the CO participated actively in UN system coordination structures and donor groups to ensure delivery of external assistance to DRC in a harmonized manner, accounting for comparative advantages. Alignment with national priorities was sought through UNICEF’s contribution to a joint UN programme supporting the Government to mainstream and contextualize the SDGs into national planning. Through this exercise, SDG targets relevant to the mandate of UNICEF were identified as national priorities. These included targets pertaining to child and maternal health, HIV, malaria and other diseases, universal access to quality primary and secondary education, and equitable access to water and hygiene.

As the penultimate year of the CP, a structured process of reflection on the potential contours of the next CP was undertaken by CO management. This involved exploration of new and emerging priority areas of intervention such as adolescence, urbanization and climate change. The process will be enlarged to involve the Government and other stakeholders during the final year of the current CP. In addition, preparatory steps were initiated to design the next UNDAF including the conduct of a Common Country Assessment.

The CO harnessed the full range of media, including digital media, to increase recognition of UNICEF and raise public awareness on issues related to children’s rights, such as ending child marriage. The 70th anniversary of UNICEF was seized as an opportunity to reach a broad range of target groups through a package of activities. Special attention was accorded to engaging youth in communications and advocacy on matters pertaining to their rights, particularly through the expansion of the network of youth reporters.

The CMT systematically assessed CO performance in terms of programme and management, against organization-wide benchmarks, and compared to COs with a similar budget and those located in the same region.
To ensure adherence to the principles of results-based management, the CO invested in thorough annual work planning and biannual reviews of programme results. This was done jointly with Government, both at the provincial and national level, to foster national ownership and demonstrate transparency. Emphasis was placed on a high standard of accountability of organizations contributing voluntarily towards the CP, through the operation of internal quality control mechanisms relating to the preparation of reports addressed to donors. Cognizant of operating in a high-risk environment, the CO ensured oversight of the process by which partnerships are concluded and of the implementation of the ensuing partnership agreements, notably through the enforcement of the HACT framework.

Budget management of the CO was subject to rigorous supervision through a variety of tools, including weekly CO-specific scorecards and a monthly report. As at 31 December 2016, the rate of utilization stood at 99 per cent, the rate of expenditure was 84 per cent and the value of direct cash transfers not liquidated six and nine months after disbursement was US$3.39 million and 1.16 million, respectively.

The operationalization of 15 additional provinces during the reporting year constituted a challenge and gave rise to new risks. In response, the CO conducted an exercise through which the 26 DPSs were categorized into specific profiles according to: the capacity to manage funds and execute activities under the HACT framework, the capacity of the local UNICEF office to accompany and oversee them, and the existence of alternative fiduciary agents. On this basis of this exercise, the CO identified appropriate measures to take with each DPS in terms of capacity building and cash transfer modalities, to ensure that funds transfers produce the expected results for children in compliance with applicable rules and regulations.

Taking in account the peculiarities of the operating environment, including geographic and population size, the decentralized nature of the state, inadequacy of transportation infrastructure and insecurity in a year of rising tensions due to the electoral process, the CO invested in cross-cutting areas considered crucial to operate in DRC. Thus, the CO maintained a network of 12 sub-national offices grouped into three zones. Each was empowered, with appropriate delegation of authority, to extend the CO reach to the most vulnerable through the conclusion of partnership agreements with local institutions and actors and oversight thereof. Procurement and logistics capacity of the CO remained essential to convey critical and life-saving supplies to the most vulnerable and hardest-to-reach children and women. For instance, over US$8 million was dedicated to in-country logistics allowing for storage and dispatching of health supplies to end-users, and over 2,500 solar-powered refrigerators were installed to strengthen the cold chain. Measures were taken to ensure adherence of CO premises and personnel to UN security standards; and awareness-raising activities were carried out regularly to impress upon personnel the actions required to ensure their security and their individual responsibility for doing so. Security remained a standing item on the agenda of the COMIT.

OUTPUT 1 UNICEF staff and partners are provided guidance, tools and resources to effectively design and manage programmes.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The CO continued to ensure coordination of five programme outcomes across the phases of the programme life cycle, from planning, to implementation, to monitoring and evaluation. The characteristics of DRC and of UNICEF’s presence---including size of the country and its population, volume of the CO budget, and the high number of implementing partners (331) engaging with the CO’s network of 13 offices across 26 provinces---increased the risk of loss of coherence in programme delivery, thereby rendering programme coordination particularly
Internal coordination across sectors at the national level was achieved through monthly programme coordination meetings, during which programme managers were afforded the opportunity to signal important initiatives, opportunities and challenges, with a view to fostering coherent and comprehensive office-wide responses spanning across sectoral boundaries. At the decentralized level, offices in charge of the southern and eastern zones of the country ensured the functioning of corresponding coordination structures bringing together heads of provincial offices under their respective authority.

The CO continued to participate actively in UN system coordination fora. As member of the inter-agency Programme Management Team, UNICEF engaged with senior officials of sister UN agencies and those of the peacekeeping mission (MONUSCO) to advise and assist the UN Country Team to address national development challenges and priorities under the umbrella of the UNDAF. As the lead agency with respect to the most resource-intensive outcome of the UNDAF, UNICEF spearheaded UN-wide efforts to ensure the effective delivery of basic social services to the most vulnerable populations. In this penultimate year of the Country Programme cycle, UNICEF contributed towards the implementation of a roadmap leading up to the design of the next UNDAF. This involved notably an exercise to map interventions of the UN system and MONUSCO across the country, to facilitate the smooth and uninterrupted handover of responsibilities from the latter to the former in anticipation of the progressive withdrawal of MONUSCO. Another key step in the roadmap initiated in 2016 was the Common Country Assessment that, upon its conclusion in 2017, will provide an overarching analysis of the situation of DRC with respect to development, humanitarian, and security/stabilization considerations, intended to inform the design of the subsequent UNDAF.

Alongside sister UN agencies, UNICEF engaged in the Government-led process of defining national development ambitions, as encapsulated in the emerging National Strategic Development Plan that lays out benchmarks for the next five, 15 and 35 years. The Plan takes account of the SDGs, particularly those SDG targets that have been prioritized by the Government. Structured ‘reflective exercises’ of the country management team took stock of the Plan and assessed how the next CP might be optimally designed to address deprivations of child rights in alignment with national priorities, in a holistic manner.

UNICEF engaged in donor coordination bodies, ensuring the harmonization of external assistance directed towards DRC. These included the high-level Groupe de Coordination des Partenaires and sector-specific groups.

**OUTPUT 2 Advocacy/Communication:** UNICEF staff and partners are provided tools, guidance and resources for effective advocacy and partnerships on child rights issues with stakeholders.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Based on its public communication and public advocacy strategy adopted in 2015, UNICEF DRC focused its communication work in 2016 on the reduction of child mortality, the quality of education, the fight against child marriage and the 70th anniversary of UNICEF

A communication highlight in 2016 was the presentation of the photo exhibition UNICEF@70 in Kinshasa, 12 other cities throughout the country and online. UNICEF DRC was an active member of the UN Communication Group and contributed in 2016 on a regular basis to the weekly One UN press meetings. UNICEF intensified collaboration with the network of child-friendly journalists at national level and in the provinces. More than 3,000 media products were produced over the period of January to October 2016. UNICEF DRC put in place an
improved system of monitoring with the National Council for Communication and independent communication partners to better analyse the qualitative and quantitative impact of the media work on children in DRC, and the level of appreciation of UNICEF among its main partners in DRC.

Digital communication was strengthened because of an improved connection between the global UNICEF site and the blog of UNICEF DRC, and by an intensified UNICEF presence on the DRC UN website. During the reporting period, UNICEF DRC reached 4,824,183 people through social media, websites and blog and obtained 108,779 acts of engagement, in the form of ‘shares’, ‘likes’ or comments by individuals. UNICEF DRC has 38,089 digital followers and subscribers.

The external communication activities contributed to the advocacy work done by UNICEF DRC on various issues including public funding in health care and education. Implementing its child participation strategy, UNICEF DRC strengthened its network of youth reporters and the involvement of children and young people in programme and advocacy work. In 2016, 7,200 children from in the provinces of Kinshasa and Haut-Lomami participated as advocates in a pilot programme on BR, resulting in 13,500 children obtaining their birth certificate.

OUTPUT 3 Strategies to address cross-cutting issues related to child rights are developed and applied.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
During 2016, the CO invested in measures to enable efficient and effective operations of its presence across DRC, notably in terms of decentralization, supply and logistics and security.

The decentralized structure of the CO continued to prove its worth in expanding the ability of UNICEF to assist the Government to reach the most vulnerable and marginalized populations. Thus, 12 sub-national offices were empowered with requisite human, financial and material capacity to establish partnerships with decentralized provincial governments and local civil society organizations. Provincial offices in the south and east were supervised by zone offices located in Lubumbashi and Goma, respectively, while the western zone was supervised by the national office in Kinshasa.

The proximity of these offices to local actors enabled them to identify weaknesses and to provide targeted support through capacity building. At the same time, the decentralized offices were well positioned to ensure proper oversight of the implementation of partnership agreements, in line with UNICEF risk management procedures. In particular, sub-national offices enforced the implementation of the HACT framework, ensuring that resources transferred to partners were utilized for agreed activities with due regard for economy and efficiency, and in conformity with applicable rules and regulations.

The procurement of goods and services, both for operating the CO and for the delivery of programme activities, and their transportation across the country remained a challenge due to the inadequacy of infrastructure. The management of procurement operations and logistics was led by a team at the national office in Kinshasa, complemented by outposts at the zone offices and supply assistants in provincial offices. The total value of supplies procured during the reporting period amounted to US$142,487,248, of which 52 per cent were Procurement Services. Further, the CO provided massive In Country Logistics (ICL) support to the MoH for the storage and dispatching of health supplies to end-users (more than US$11 million spent in ICL, 60 per cent of non-construction related services). Support delivered to the MoH in 2016 to strengthen the supply chain for vaccines under the GAVI RSS2 project included construction of a huge innovative and high tech central hub in
Kinshasa and the conception and design of two additional warehouses in Lubumbashi and Kisangani.

The implementation of partnership agreements in a multitude of remote locations, coupled with the poor condition of roads, necessitated the maintenance of a fleet of vehicles and specialist drivers across the country.

In addition, high levels of criminality and insecurity, exacerbated by rising tensions related to the political uncertainty and widespread poverty, made the investment in security of UNICEF personnel and premises a top priority. In this regard, measures were taken to ensure compliance with the UN MOSS for premises and Minimum Operational Residential Security Standards for the lodgings of personnel (CO achieved a 95 per cent and 100 per cent rate of compliance, respectively). Personnel were systematically briefed on personal security measures, and emergency communications equipment and procedures were regularly tested and evaluated.

OUTPUT 4 UNICEF staff and partners are provided guidance, tools and resources to effectively plan and monitor programmes.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The CO continued to invest in programme planning and monitoring capacity both at the central and decentralized levels, and emphasis was placed on quality of reporting, risk management and knowledge management.

In view of fostering national ownership, annual work planning was carried out through an inclusive process involving provincial and central governments. Annual work plans for five outcomes were signed with the central Government further to consultation and agreement with provincial authorities, along with monitoring plans to allow for progress to be assessed in an objective manner.

The CO emphasized accountability towards the Government, beneficiaries, donors and Member States of the UN through its investment in biannual reviews of programme results. The reviews allowed the Government and CO to take stock of progress towards expected results, to identify bottlenecks and to design course corrective actions in a participatory and transparent manner. Monitoring programme results was also reinforced through the establishment, dissemination and assessment of guidance and quality standards.

In order to improve the quality and timely submission of funding proposals and reports (99 per cent sent on time) addressed to resource partners, the CO developed and rolled-out a set of tools and Standard Operating Procedures including a quality review checklist (102 reports subject to quality review, 87 per cent average score according to quality checklist).

The CO ensured that partnership agreements concluded with civil society organizations (CSOs) met the highest standards of quality and relevance, through the enforcement of the corporate policy on these partnerships. Emphasis was placed on ensuring that results frameworks were logical and measurable and contributed towards results agreed with the Government. In total, 189 partnership agreements with civil society organizations were concluded during 2016 worth US$ 72,471,158.

Cognizant of the importance of effective risk management, the CO continued its attentiveness to ensuring proper oversight of cash transfers to implementing partners through strict adherence to the HACT framework. Personnel of implementing partners (286) and UNICEF (145) benefitted from training on the implementation of the HACT framework, particularly the conduct of assurance activities to verify achievement of expected results and
compliance with rules and regulations (603 programmatic visits conducted vs. 553 planned, 256 spot checks conducted vs. 352 planned). National partners benefitted from training in results-based management (186 people) and knowledge management (30 people). In view of strengthening CO planning and monitoring capacity, seven Youth UN Volunteers were deployed across field offices. Knowledge sharing within the CO across sectoral, functional, hierarchical and geographical boundaries was furthered by the launching of SharePoint 2013 and organization of 13 ‘strategic moments of reflection’ on a range of topics open to all personnel.

Innovative approaches to performance monitoring were explored during the reporting year. These included a value for money assessment conducted by the WASH programme, which will serve as a basis for expanding such assessments to other programmes in 2017. The fitness of SMS technology (RapidPro) to strengthen performance monitoring was subject to in-depth review during 2016, positioning the CO to roll out RapidPro in 2017.

### Document Center

#### Lessons learned

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<td>Local community ownership of the achievements of the « Healthy Villages » development program can be an engine for sustainable development</td>
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<td>Community ownership to increase the number of children registered</td>
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<td>WASH in nutrition, inter-sectoral added value</td>
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<td>Weeks dedicated to prenatal consultation and prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS</td>
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<td>Contribute to the reduction of maternal, new-born and child mortality by improving the quality of RMNCH through specialist mentors</td>
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#### Programme documents

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