

UNICEF
East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

2015 Annual Report

February 2016

LIST OF ACRONYMS

| | |
|----------------|--|
| ABU | Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union |
| ACWC | ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and the Protection of the Rights of Women and Children |
| ADB | Asian Development Bank |
| AeHIN | Asia eHealth Information Network |
| AICHR | ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights |
| ARNEC | Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood |
| ASEAN | Association of South East Asian Nations |
| C4D | Communication for Development |
| CEDAW | Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women |
| CLTS | Community Led Total Sanitation |
| CPAP | Country Programme Action Plan |
| CRC | Convention on the Rights of the Child |
| CPD | Country Programme Document |
| CWD | Children with Disabilities |
| DHS | Demographic and Health Survey |
| DFAT | Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| DFID | Department for International Development |
| DPRK | Democratic People’s Republic of Korea |
| DRR | Disaster Risk Reduction |
| EAP | East Asia and the Pacific |
| EAPRO | East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office |
| ECCD | Early Childhood Care and Development |
| ECD | Early Childhood Development |
| EENC | Early Essential Newborn Care |
| EMTCT | Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission |
| EPI | Expanded Programme on Immunization |
| EPRI | Economic Policy Research Institute |
| EPR | Emergency Preparedness and Response |
| ERM | Enterprise Risk Management |
| EVM | Effective Vaccine Management |
| EWEA | Early Warning Early Action |
| GAVI | The Vaccine Alliance |
| GBV | Gender-Based Violence |
| GSSC | Global Shared Service Centre |
| HAC | Humanitarian Action for Children |
| HACT | Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer |
| IASC | Inter-Agency Standing Committee |
| IATT | Inter-Agency Task Team |
| ICDF | International Code Development Centre |
| ICT | Information Communication Technology |
| ID | Identification |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| IPV | Inactivated Polio Vaccine |
| IYCF | Infant and Young Child Feeding |
| Lao PDR | Lao People’s Democratic Republic |
| LTA | Long Term Agreement |
| M4R | Management for Results |
| MDG | Millennium Development Goals |
| MICS | Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey |
| MNH | Maternal Newborn Health |
| MoRES | Monitoring of Results for Equity System |
| MPI | Master Person Index |

| | |
|----------------|--|
| MTR | Mid-Term Review |
| OCHA | Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs |
| ODA | Official Development Assistance |
| ODF | Open Defecation Free |
| OOSCI | Out of School Children Initiative |
| OPM | Oxford Policy Management |
| PBR | Programme Budget Review |
| PICs | Pacific Island Countries |
| PF4C | Public Finance for Children |
| PM | particulate matter |
| PNG | Papua New Guinea |
| PPTCT | Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission |
| PSFR | private sector fundraising |
| RAM | Results Assessment Module |
| RBM | Results-Based Management |
| RMT | Regional Management Team |
| ROMP | Regional Office Management Plan |
| ROSA | Regional Office for South Asia |
| RR | Regular Resources |
| RTF | Regional Thematic Funds |
| SAM | Severe Acute Malnutrition |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| SEAMEO | Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization |
| SEA-PLM | South East Asia Primary Learning Metrics |
| SMR | Strategic Moment of Reflection |
| SP | Strategic Plan |
| SRGBV | School-Related Gender-Based Violence |
| SUN | Scaling Up Nutrition |
| UHC | Universal Health Coverage |
| UNDAF | United Nations Partnership Development Framework |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNEDAP | United Nations Evaluation Development Group for Asia and the Pacific |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNGEI | United Nations Girl's Education Initiative |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| USI | Universal Salt Iodization |
| VAC | Violence Against Children |
| WASH | Water, Sanitation and Hygiene |
| WFP | World Food Programme |
| WHO | World Health Organization |
| WPRO | WHO Western Pacific Regional Office |

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Part 1: OVERVIEW | 5 |
| 1.1. Executive Summary | 5 |
| 1.2. Trends and Progress in the Region, as Affecting Children and Women..... | 6 |
| 1.3. Humanitarian Assistance..... | 9 |
| 1.4. Mid-Term Review of the Strategic Plan | 10 |
| Part 2: Analysis of programme strategies and results: Development Effectiveness..... | 11 |
| Part 3: Analysis of programme strategies and results: Global and Regional Programme...15 | |
| 3.1. Influencing global/regional discourse and policy..... | 15 |
| 3.2. Evidence generation: Research, Data, and Evaluation | 17 |
| 3.3. Implementation Strategies..... | 18 |
| 3.4. Normative principles..... | 20 |
| Part 4: Management | 21 |
| 4.1. Management and Operations | 21 |

2015 Regional Office Annual Report

Part 1: OVERVIEW

1.1. Executive Summary

The East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region experienced significant economic growth and transition during 2015, notably the continued rise of China as an economic power, bringing both opportunities and challenges for UNICEF and its partners in engagement around the issues affecting children and women. The rapid regional growth was uneven, however, with income inequality and inequities present both within and among countries. In general, significant strides continued to be made in human development across the region with South-East Asia meeting 14 of the 21 Millennium Development Goals (MDG) targets. Some countries continued to struggle with access to education, basic sanitation, and broad income and wealth disparities. A key challenge in the region was the re-emergence of polio in Lao PDR and Myanmar after nearly 15 years of being polio-free. This, combined with other outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases, necessitated an intensified vaccination strategy and coordinated action by multiple partners. Finally, continued irregular migration, the rise of urbanization, and dangerous levels of air pollution continued to be the cause for serious concern, with numerous issues emerging, among them, access to basic human rights and services, protection of the vulnerable, and exposure to environmental risks causing serious illness and death.

In 2015, UNICEF's East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) strategically contributed to the achievement of results at the country level by providing programmatic guidance and responding to over 400 requests for technical assistance, including quality assurance of evidence generation; advice for the development of national frameworks, policies and programmes; capacity development of partners; surge response to emergencies and health crises; fundraising and recruitment support; and strategic advice on change management and communication. EAPRO assisted and quality assured the finalization of four Country Programme Documents (CPDs) and Country Programme Action Plans (CPAPs), supported the analyses of the situation of children, and the development of five other new country programmes, emphasizing results-based management, equity, and risk-informed programming.

The Regional Office undertook and finalised various studies and research projects that have contributed to increasing the body of evidence for in-country and regional policy advocacy. Two of these studies were noted as among the best of UNICEF research in 2015. One study focused on the legal protection of children from violence through an analysis of domestic laws related to violence against children (VAC) in the Association of South East Asian Nations' (ASEAN) member states. As a result, the November 2015 ASEAN summit adopted and approved a Plan of Action to address VAC in ASEAN member countries. The other study of note, validated a measurement tool that assesses children between the ages of three and five on seven domains of early childhood development (ECD). To date, the governments of Myanmar and East Timor have expressed interest and requested support in adopting the scales and using them for the establishment of ECD baselines. A research paper entitled 'Adolescents: Under the Radar in the Asia-Pacific AIDS Response' generated significant media coverage and highlighted various issues, including the extent to which mobile applications are contributing to increasing levels of infection among young males in particular.

EAPRO advocacy efforts contributed to raising global awareness around the issues of: ensuring the integration of key child-related indicators in the Sustainability Development Goals' (SDG) monitoring framework; coordination of the response to issues related to irregular migration; adolescents and HIV and increased commitments to key issues including ECD, management of severe acute malnutrition, and the use of innovative approaches, such as eHealth/mHealth. The Regional Office generated evidence in support to country programming, including on disparities in birth registration, results-based management for social policy, costing of specific interventions, and learning outcomes for children. EAPRO continued to work in close collaboration with ASEAN in promoting child rights frameworks in the sub-region. An ECD conference in Beijing was key to promoting South-South cooperation in the region. Strong regional office

support to private sector fundraising within EAP resulted in a total of US\$58.4 million in gross revenue (10 per cent increase over 2014 revenue), of which US\$18.2 million was Regular Resources (RR).

In 2015, EAPRO also undertook a Mid-Term (MTR) Review of the Regional Office Management Plan (ROMP), which led to the refinement of the result structure to ensure that it effectively and realistically reflected the Regional Office roles, functions and accountabilities. EAPRO also reviewed the balance of resource allocation across outcomes and the integration of emerging roles including support for the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. The MTR reinforced the importance of the Development Effectiveness component. A total of eight new staff positions were proposed in areas such as children with disabilities (CWD), the expanded programme on immunization (EPI), sanitation and hygiene, and data analysis for education.

Across the region, UNICEF faces resource limitations which have impacted both upstream and downstream interventions. EAPRO, in close collaboration with the Regional Management Team (RMT), led efforts to explore alternative ways of working, including the establishment of shared functions, cross-country support, and reconsideration of establishment of posts where consultancies could support specific needs. The overall decrease in resources has also resulted in an increase in requests for regional office support. One of the innovative measures taken by the Regional Office to increase the capacity, timeliness and quality of support was the establishment of eight Long Term Agreements (LTAs) with specialised institutions. The Regional Office is also grappling with the challenge of working cross-sectorally to provide integrated support to country offices that are increasingly adopting cross sectoral outcomes such as ECD, adolescents, children with disability, and resilience and to respond to relatively new and emerging issues in the region such as air pollution, on-line child abuse, and over-nutrition/obesity.

1.2. Trends and Progress in the Region, as Affecting Children and Women

Economic growth.¹ Over the last decade, the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region has been home to some of the world's fastest growing economies; the regional growth was estimated to be 6.5 per cent in 2015, down slightly from 6.8 per cent 2014. Growth in the developing economies of EAP is expected to continue gradually declining to 6.3 per cent by 2016–17 (World Bank 2015). The fact that the world is on track to meet Target 1A of the MDGs (reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day) is due in part to the consistent economic growth in the region. However, the strong overall performance conceals a high degree of heterogeneity both within and among countries. In the coming years, it is expected that some economies—such as China, Viet Nam, Myanmar and Cambodia— will have strong rates of growth, of over 6 per cent per year, while countries like Thailand, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Samoa, will grow by less than 3 percent.

Income inequalities. While high rates of economic growth helped reduced the extreme poverty rate from 46 per cent in 1990 to seven per cent in 2015 across South-East Asia, the gains associated with this growth were not felt equitably. As a result, a mixed picture emerges when considering income inequality in the region. The latest Asian Development Bank data reveals that the Gini coefficient has fallen in some countries—Cambodia, Thailand and Timor-Leste in particular—reflecting a decline in inequality. In Indonesia and China, however, the Gini coefficient has risen. A recent report from UNDP on the state of human development in the Pacific Island countries also highlighted growing levels of inequality.

China's influence in the region and the world. The global balance of economic power is changing. While the United States, Japan, and South Korea remain important sources of investment, China is pursuing a more active foreign economic policy. By 2030 it is predicted that China will be the leading global economic power. China is increasingly well positioned to use its economic strength for diplomatic ends in the EAP region. From a relatively small base at present, China's foreign, direct investment in the EAP region is

¹ From: Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)/UNICEF: *Study of the Macro-Landscape of the East Asia and Pacific (January 2016)*

expected to grow rapidly over the next 15 years. China is already assuming the role of provider of public goods to facilitate trade and investment in the region, setting up and providing the largest share of funds for multilateral institutions such as the US\$100 billion Asia International Infrastructure Bank, the US\$100 billion New Development ('BRICS') Bank, and the US\$40 billion Silk Road Fund. China has also been working to internationalize the Renminbi, and has introduced financial infrastructure to reduce the cost of international transfers.

Political transition. Key political changes in the region in 2015 include Myanmar's election which was an important milestone in the country's nascent democratization process. Despite this encouraging progress, many challenges remain. Thailand is still under military rule and there is a growing sentiment that some civil and political liberties are gradually being eroded and that political stability is set to remain elusive for the next few years. The form that government in Thailand will ultimately take is unclear.

Achievement of the MDGs. Over the past 15 years, the Asia-Pacific region has made dramatic strides in human development with South-East Asia met 14 of the 21 MDG targets. Between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people living on US\$1.25 a day or less fell by more than two-thirds – largely due to progress in China -- as did the proportion of those without access to safe drinking water. Maternal mortality and under-five mortality rates fell by more than half – along with declines in the incidence and prevalence of tuberculosis. Nearly all primary-aged children now complete school and students at all levels of education benefit from gender parity. At the end of 2015, targets for reduction in the proportion of underweight children and the target for access to basic sanitation and antenatal care were met.

Tracking progress in the Pacific Island countries was hampered by a lack of data. As a result, only 17 targets were tracked, of which the Pacific was estimated to meet eight. The sub-region had not been able to achieve universal completion of primary school, gender parity at the tertiary school level, increase its forest cover, or ensure access to safe drinking water. The Pacific had also not made progress in reducing the proportion of under-five children who are underweight. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel had fallen from 63 per cent in 1990 to 61 per cent in 2011 and was expected to be at 60 per cent by the end of 2015.

Unfinished agenda. Despite significant achievements, much remains to be done. In the Asia-Pacific region at large, the number of people living on between US\$1.25 and US\$2.00 increased from 764 to 872 million in 2015. As well, despite progress in access to education, some countries in Asia-Pacific have the highest numbers of out-of-school children in the world. Between 1990 and 2013, the number of people living with HIV rose from 2 to 7.1 million, with the highest prevalence seen in South-East Asia. In Asia-Pacific, the number of rural dwellers without access to basic sanitation fell between 1990 and 2012, while the number in urban areas rose. A major concern across the region are the income and wealth disparities. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals offers an opportunity to renew commitments and learn from the implementation of the MDGs.

Resurgence of traditional childhood diseases. Despite being declared polio-free since 2000, the region experienced a resurgence in 2015 caused by vaccine-derived poliovirus in Lao PDR and Myanmar. Outbreaks of other vaccine preventable diseases in several EAP countries, including measles (Lao PDR, Mongolia, Philippines), and Diphtheria and Pertussis (Lao PDR, Indonesia) challenged the health systems and the UN's support capacity. The existence of gaps in achieving high and equitable routine immunization coverage served as a common root cause for those events. Affected countries, with support from UNICEF, WHO and other partners, developed and implemented intensified vaccination strategies for hard-to-reach communities and children (geographically and/or socially) through vaccination campaigns as an immediate action. Commitments have been made to further improve routine immunization services as a long-term solution through Health Systems Strengthening.

Increasing irregular migration. In recent years, EAP has seen an increase in irregular migration. In 2014, UNHCR estimated that 62,000 people had travelled by boat in an irregular and dangerous way in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea. Another 25,000 joined them in the first quarter of 2015. These groups are part of a complex, mixed migratory movement composed of refugees, stateless people and economic migrants.

Unregulated and, until recently, inconspicuous, the scale of the movement has tripled since 2012 and the level and scale of abuse suffered by voyagers are unprecedented. The migration is facilitated by middlemen and has become an avenue for kidnapping and extortion. Travelers are detained, sequestered and held for ransom, both in-transit and once on shore, with non-payment potentially resulting in death. The scale of deaths is unknown but the recent discovery of mass graves in smugglers' camps in Thailand and Malaysia could indicate a higher percentage of loss of life than the current UNHCR estimate of 1.2 per cent.

Rapid urbanisation. The scale and rapid pace of urbanization in the region have been significant due to rapid economic growth, industrialization, and the sheer size of the population affected. For example, urbanization in China has increased from 26 per cent in 1990 to 56 per cent today. In middle-income EAP countries, accelerated rates of urbanisation in recent decades mean that more than half of the EAP population now live in urban environments. In Thailand and Indonesia, for example, levels of urbanisation have climbed from only 30 per cent in 1990 to more than 50 per cent today. According to the UN Population Division classification, this trend is expected to continue. By 2030, urbanisation levels in South-East Asia will reach 56 per cent while the levels in East Asia are expected to reach 72 per cent. A significant number of Pacific Island nations are expected to become more than 60 per cent urban. Urbanization has been a positive trend – it has also been as a major factor in lifting millions out of poverty, reaching MDG child-related goals, and moving countries towards middle or upper middle income status. Rural development is proving a major equity challenge, with public revenues focused on roads and transport rather than infrastructure for quality social services. In informal urban settlements, children and young people tend to be particularly exposed to environmental risks such as air pollution and floods as well as to social hazards such as violence, injuries, and economic exploitation. Particularly in China, urban migration has resulted in significant numbers of children being 'left behind'. In some countries, administrative regulation aimed at preventing and/or keeping migration temporary by refusing basic services to "squatters", adds to the problems by effectively excluding a significant number of children.

Climate change and resilience. The impact of El Niño is one of the most significant on record with severe implications for many countries, particularly in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the Pacific Island countries, triggering drought, floods, and possible stronger cyclones. These changes bring catastrophic consequences for children and their families with millions of people facing shortages in water and food. As the situation continues to deteriorate, there is a risk of major and catastrophic drought well into 2016. Other notable natural hazards in the region included the level II emergency caused by Tropical Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu; the impacts of heavy floods and landslides across 12 of 14 districts in Myanmar; the effects of extreme temperatures experienced in Mongolia; and concern with a prolonged dry spell in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Significant shifts in the international and regional aid architecture placed a stronger emphasis on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), particularly with the 'Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030' and in the run up to 2016's Asia Ministerial Conference for DRR in India. In addition, the transition to the SDGs placed greater emphasis on the interconnectedness of sustainable development, climate change, and resilience to disasters.

Air pollution. Air pollution is a consistent environmental concern in EAP countries, many of whom have very high levels of exposure to PM_{2.5}, the classification of particulate matter (PM) that is believed to pose the greatest health risks. Large proportions of the populations of Thailand, Viet Nam, Mongolia, and Laos – and nearly 100 per cent of China's population – have levels of exposure greater than what is deemed "safe" by the WHO. Scientists in Germany, Cyprus and Saudi Arabia, joined Harvard University to publish a study in 2015 in which they calculated that there are currently 3.3 million deaths per year from air pollution, including an estimated 1.4 million in China alone. The study also projects that if trends do not change, the yearly death total will double to about 6.6 million a year by 2050.

Increasing connectivity. From a low base in the early 2000s, countries in the EAP region are experiencing increasing access to, and use of, technology. By 2019, there is expected to be more than 20 broadband subscribers per 100 people in both China and Thailand, while Malaysia and Viet Nam are likely to reach 15 and 17 per 100 people respectively. However, the subscription rates in Indonesia and the Philippines are not expected to increase as quickly and other EAP countries, particularly in the Pacific Islands, are lagging

behind. In the region, the number of Internet users increased from two users per 100 in 2,000 to 42 users per 100 in 2014. Access to mobile phones has also increased dramatically across the EAP region since the early 2000s with many countries exceeding the rate of 100 mobile subscriptions per 100 people. Realising the full potential of these technological advancements represents a human resource and skill development challenge for developing countries.

Changing nature of Official Development Assistance (ODA). ODA into the EAP region has increased substantially over the past three years, mostly flowing into infrastructure and the social sector. During this period, net ODA to the region (in constant US\$ terms and 2012 prices) grew by 24 per cent. However, this funding has been increasingly dedicated to budget support with a significant decrease in funding available to multilateral organizations. For example, the United States increased ODA to the region to US\$810.7 million in 2015, a 9 per cent, overall increase. The increase was intended to expand funding for the region in areas aligned with the country's foreign policy interests around security, economic integration, democratic development, climate change and for '...addressing war legacies in Southeast Asia and the Pacific'.

1.3. Humanitarian Assistance

EAP is one of the most hazard-prone regions in the world and disasters and conflicts have affected the well-being and protection of vulnerable populations, particularly children. The combination of climate change, deforestation, population growth, urbanization, and the unfolding El Niño phenomenon suggests that more frequent and intense disasters are likely to have a greater impact on a growing number of people in the coming years. Some of these disasters hit suddenly, as experienced early in 2015 when Category 5 Cyclone Pam affected more than 60 per cent of the population in Vanuatu, including 82,000 children, damaging 68 per cent of rainwater collection systems and contaminating water supplies across the country.

By the fall of 2015, El Niño started building momentum with irregular rainfall patterns leading to drought and severe flooding, particularly in Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Pacific, Thailand and Viet Nam. This phenomenon is estimated to continue and reach maximum strength in 2016, potentially effecting 4.7 million people, half of whom are children under the age of eighteen, in 10 Pacific Island Countries and Papua New Guinea.

While natural disasters cause the bulk of humanitarian emergencies in EAP, manmade disasters compound them and also require support. Internal armed conflicts and ethnic violence in Myanmar and the Philippines have resulted in the internal and/or cross-border displacement and irregular migration of hundreds of thousands of people, including children. In Myanmar, UN OCHA reported that over 240,000 people remain displaced due to conflicts in Kachin, Shan, and Rakhine States in 2015, and UNICEF estimates that this includes at least 96,000 children. In addition, 460,000 people in Myanmar were severely affected by the devastating floods in mid-2015 and required support. While the impasse between the DPRK and the international community continues, severe drought hit in four provinces in 2015, which affected overall food production in the country. Among children under-five in drought-affected areas of the country, there has been a 72 per cent increase in the incidence of diarrhoea, a leading cause of death and malnutrition. This has had a negative impact on child wellbeing with 28 per cent of the country's children under-five already suffering from chronic malnutrition and four per cent suffering from acute malnutrition.

As recognised at the Sendai Conference on DRR and the World Humanitarian Summit Regional Consultations, with steady economic growth and growing national budgets, the EAP Governments are increasing investment in their national and sub-national preparedness and response capacity. For example, the Indonesian Government integrated disaster risk management into their five-year national development plan for 2015-2019 while the Philippines is strengthening national systems and increasing self-reliance to prepare and respond to repetitive monsoon disasters. UNICEF is reshaping its partnerships with EAP governments in line with their new commitments. With changes in the regional socio-economic context, UNICEF technical support now focuses more intensely on preparedness and capacity building while applying a holistic approach that bridges development and humanitarian efforts. UNICEF also works

closely with its partners to build regional knowledge management capacity as well as advocacy for standard-setting and to introduce innovative approaches that mobilise and benefit children. For example, UNICEF is piloting projects using mobile technology to undertake rapid assessments and provide platforms for exchanges among beneficiaries in the Philippines and Vanuatu. In 2016, UNICEF will continue investing in new and modified approaches that guarantee optimal support in a rapidly changing work environment.

UNICEF aims to strengthen humanitarian partnerships with regional and sub-regional partners, such as ASEAN, the Secretariat for the Pacific Community, and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Regional Network. Each of these influence governments' further action for emergency preparedness and response and help to protect the rights of all children in the region.

In 2015, UNICEF mobilised a total of US\$2.76 million to support efficient and effective response to humanitarian crises and to enhance emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction at the regional level. In collaboration with humanitarian partners, UNICEF assisted governments in Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu for Cyclone Pam response as well as in the Federated States of Micronesia for Typhoon Maysak. Although there was no official request for international assistance in some cases, the Governments of China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, and the Philippines welcomed technical support from UNICEF for emergency response and preparedness capacity building.

1.4. Mid-Term Review of the Strategic Plan

With increasing frequency, UNICEF country offices are proposing broader, integrated outcomes to achieve cross-sectoral linkages and collaboration, and to create synergies that contribute to greater efficiency and effectiveness. These outcomes may reflect life-cycle commitments such as adolescent development or early childhood development; strengthen focus on groups such as Children with Disabilities (CwD); or address issues like child marriage. The current structure of the Strategic Plan (SP) limits its usefulness in support of this more integrated approach.

However, the new SP also facilitated some important new opportunities. For example, separating nutrition and WASH as distinct outcome areas resulted in a stronger focus on each as well as deeper accountability and visibility by the teams who roll-out these programmes.

The overall impression is that while the sectoral aims of UNICEF are important, the SP should also demonstrate how these sectors can converge to achieve broader, integrated outcomes. Beyond how this is reflected in the SP, it is also important that these approaches are modelled in headquarters and the regional offices. Although several countries have included broader outcomes, this has not always translated into cross-sectoral collaboration.

The challenge of aggregation of results is felt at the global level and also at the regional level. While the definition of regional Headline Results has helped, monitoring some of the SP composite indicators (e.g. ECD and nutrition) is difficult due to the complexity of indicators and lack of regional data. Furthermore, the diversity of contexts across EAP makes identifying a limited number of Headline Results challenging. These challenges should inform decisions that are taken at the global level on any new approaches to respond to the need to aggregate results.

The SP currently does not include operational definitions and strategic actions proposed by UNICEF as an organization, for issues such as integration, universal health coverage (UHC), and health system strengthening. Where there is lack of clarity, country offices have felt the freedom to interpret and innovate. For the same outcomes around these issues, countries have taken different approaches and have proposed different targets and indicators making it difficult to identify the contribution of the broader organization to UHC and health systems strengthening as a whole.

Changes in the broader development context to be reflected in the MTR of the Strategic Plan

The introduction of the SDGs requires that UNICEF fully reflect these goals in the Strategic Plan, but also determine exactly how to work together with other UN agencies to contribute to change at the country level. Even more than the MDGs, the SDGs challenge the UN to come together in supporting governments to make the SDGs a reality for their citizens. In this regard, the Strategic Plan provides a strong framework and platform for UNICEF's engagement. The recommendation to maintain the SP as a framework is a functional approach and will provide the flexibility that country offices need.

Another recommended addition to the SP is the issue of air pollution. Currently, more than 50 per cent of the world's population live in urban areas and by 2050 this share is expected to reach 70 per cent. It is estimated that by 2020, 10 of the world's mega cities (population above 20,000,000) will be in Asia. Globally, indoor air pollution contributes to 4.3 million deaths each year, and 13 per cent, or 534,000, of these are deaths of children under five. More than 50 per cent of deaths among children in this age group are due to pneumonia caused by air particulate matter. This is especially problematic in the crowded, urban slums of China, Mongolia, and Indonesia, which are grappling with air quality concerns and the impact on the health of children and the elderly in particular. The scale and speed of urban development makes air pollution an increasingly important area of concern for children and UNICEF's work.

A final critical addition is linking humanitarian and development to achieve greater integration between UNICEF's work in these two settings. The revision of the SP should provide clear guidance on how to achieve this integration in a coherent way.

Part 2: Analysis of programme strategies and results: Development Effectiveness

In 2015, EAPRO provided a wide range of support to the 14 country offices in the region and responded to over 400 requests for technical assistance. Examples include: technical reviews of country level assessments and studies; advice for the development of national frameworks, policies and programmes; support for capacity development of partners; programmatic guidance; response to emergencies and health crises; help with resource mobilization; participation in recruitment processes; advice on change management; and support to strengthening communication and high-level advocacy. This support was provided through country visits, virtual support, and external support. With the increase in the breadth of expertise required to effectively support country offices, EAPRO established several Long Term Agreements (LTAs) with specialised institutions. These included: LTAs to support budget analysis and costing for child protection; for the "out-of-school children" country study with Oxford Policy Management (OPM) and FH360; for public finance for children (PF4C) with OPM; for social protection and poverty support with the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI), Development Pathways and Maastricht University; and two LTAs for assistance with equity analysis and documentation of good practices. EAPRO also established partnerships with NGOs in nutrition for technical support, which is detailed later in this report.

EAPRO continues to guide the development and review of country programmes in the region. In 2015, the team successfully supported Cambodia, China, Indonesia, and Malaysia with the preparation and finalization of their Country Programme Documents (CPDs), all of which were approved by the Executive Board in the September Regular Session. The Regional Office also provided guidance and quality assurance for the development of the Country Programme Action Plans (CPAP) for the four CPD countries.

EAPRO and HQ supported DPRK, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Thailand, and Viet Nam in the preparation of their CPD road maps, their situation analyses and/or equity profiles, and the conceptualization and the strategic intent of their programmes through participation in the Strategic Moment of Reflections (SMR). EAPRO's support and guidance put particular emphasis on results-based management, including the development of clear theory of change, equity and risk-informed analysis as well as barriers and bottleneck analyses. EAPRO also continues to provide technical expertise on national surveys, especially MICS, as well as on engagement in strengthening national statistical capacity. Systematic guidance and technical assistance on

evaluation was provided to all country offices, with 27 evaluations at different stages of implementation in 2015, including nine completed and seven in the final stages. The Regional Office also supported Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia in their national evaluation capacity development efforts and advised eight country offices in their corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts.

In health, EAPRO contributed to nationwide Effective Vaccine Management (EVM) assessments in five countries and the development of national EVM improvement plans in four countries by providing technical expertise and resource mobilization assistance. Country offices were guided in their efforts to pilot and scale-up innovative approaches to improve quality and access to health services. Support was also provided in eight priority countries for Early Essential Newborn Care (EENC) to improve newborn care in collaboration with WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO). This included Kangaroo Mother Care as a cost-effective approach and is being followed by a scale-up of this innovation by EAPRO and ROSA in both regions via South-South cooperation. For immunization, EAPRO assisted Lao PDR in scaling-up their pilot work toward building a cold chain information system (30-day temperature monitoring device + SMS) and helped Indonesia reach underserved communities in urban slums in Jakarta by applying new technology (Rapid Pro).

The regional office also prioritized efforts for quality improvement/control, equity analysis, application of Monitoring of Results for Equity System (MoRES), and the development of equity-sensitive policies and strategies. In four priority countries, meetings and observational assessments led to quality improvement of Maternal Newborn Health (MNH) services. Toward strengthening an equity focus and routine monitoring and evaluation, the regional office is backing seven countries' MNH equity assessments using MICS/Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) and their bottleneck analyses using MoRES. A regional meeting contributed to building national capacities by encouraging adoption of systematic approaches to address immunization inequity and improve immunization supply chains. EAPRO supported countries in building synergies between Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV), new vaccine introductions, and other immunization areas to optimize use of resources (communications, training, and microplanning). EAPRO also helped countries pilot other innovations such as SMS messaging for pregnancy and childcare in China, Myanmar, and Mongolia and an urban immunization strategy in the Philippines and Indonesia.

In nutrition, EAPRO provided technical expertise and advocacy assistance toward the development and adoption of a national nutrition policy and action plans as well as the establishment of multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms in PNG, Mongolia, Philippines, Myanmar, and Lao PDR. It also assisted all the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) countries and made significant efforts to promote strengthened UN coherence and harmonize the various global initiatives. Regarding Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), ongoing Code development and monitoring support was provided to four countries through the International Code Development Centre (ICDC) under an umbrella partnership agreement, while the joint IYCF initiative with "Alive and Thrive" continued in eight countries. Other EAPRO action bolstered advocacy in national or regional conferences. This included conferences with parliamentarians for Universal Salt Iodization (USI) in China and Indonesia and for programming guidance including sector analysis, theory of change, management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), double burden, code development and partnerships.

In WASH, EAPRO continued to provide guidance for programming, policies, strategies, and monitoring for initiatives linked to the elimination of open defecation, provision of adequate sanitation, sanitation marketing, and hygiene behaviour change. The Regional Office focused on the 12 countries implementing Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS). EAPRO worked on integrating Open Defecation Free (ODF) into national policy in Indonesia and supporting advocacy for high-level commitment to ODF in national plans/strategies in China, Myanmar, Cambodia, Viet Nam and Pacific Island Countries (PICs). Regional reviews indicate that CLTS plays an important role in achieving both reduction in open defecation and uptake of adequate sanitation in the region. Eight of 12 implementing countries now have policies that recognise and promote CLTS compared to three countries previously. EAPRO also provided technical expertise for WASH barrier and bottleneck (situation) analysis, strategy, and results framework development. The Regional Office continued to assist: Myanmar and Cambodia in the implementation and reporting of a DFID grant; PNG, Solomon and Indonesia in strengthening national monitoring systems; WASH sector review and strategy development in Myanmar; Indonesia in scaling up sanitation and hygiene

interventions through evidence generation, innovation, and sharing good practices; joint sector review and WASH in Schools randomized control research in Lao PDR; and knowledge management in Indonesia and Myanmar.

EAPRO supported the country offices with **HIV and AIDS** related advocacy, partnerships, and evidence generation. In 2015, the Regional Office prioritized data collection and strengthening of strategic information systems to drive policy and planning. In the Philippines, the Regional Office supported a rapid assessment on available data on adolescents and HIV—using the MoRES approach—that identified gaps in data and critical services for adolescents. In Myanmar, EAPRO and WHO supported ongoing efforts for health system strengthening, health information exchange, interoperability, and development of a master person index (MPI) using HIV as an entry point to address operational bottlenecks². This effort will contribute to adoption of a durable unique identification (ID) mechanism that addresses loss-to-follow up and provides a tool for active case management/longitudinal tracking for HIV in the country. In Lao PDR, the Regional Office participated in a joint mission with the Asian Development Bank for Unique ID Assessment. The office also supported efforts to strengthen strategic information systems along the Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) cascade to address loss-to-follow up and strengthen referral mechanisms in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar.

In education, EAPRO supported the Out-of-School Children Initiative (OOSCI) in 11 countries. Efforts focused on completing research and ensuring that the new findings influenced work in the countries. The Regional Office offered technical expertise, training, evidence generation, and advocacy support to integrate the findings into national policies, sector plans and programmes. In seven countries, the initiatives have significantly influenced national policies and plans. In partnership with Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) and ACER, EAPRO continues supporting countries with South East Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM), with a prospect of engaging up to seven countries in 2016 in this innovative initiative. SEA-PLM has already been included under national education sector plans (2015/2016) in Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Myanmar. EAPRO also contributed to mainstreaming gender within inclusive education policies and approaches. This includes school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV). In terms of peacebuilding and social cohesion, EAPRO’s direct technical support for policy development and training strengthened national sector plans, key education policies, and teacher training. Finally, eight countries have integrated education in emergencies into policies and sector plans with EAPRO guidance.

In child protection, EAPRO contributed to strengthening child protection systems by establishing a regional “compact” on violence against children; providing technical advice to country interventions; establishing an LTA for budget analysis and costing; and providing advocacy support to catalyse national action for online child protection. EAPRO directly supported Brunei in its Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) reporting obligations, which strengthened the country’s capacity to protect child rights and justice, while lifting some of the leadership’s reservations around these issues. Other examples include support to Viet Nam while the country prepared an independent human rights’ mechanism and co-convened the second Asia Pacific Council on Juvenile Justice. EAPRO also provided technical expertise for the development of child protection policies as well as follow-up support to studies on violence against children. EAPRO strengthened information sharing in response to the Andaman Sea migrant/refugee crisis and supported Thailand, Philippines, and Myanmar in being accountable for the Security Council’s children and armed conflict agenda, including facilitating learning exchange on the monitoring and reporting mechanism.

In terms of **social inclusion**, EAPRO supported 10 country offices with a focus on child poverty, social protection and Public Finance for Children (PF4C). This included technical expertise to Thailand for the design and implementation of the new child grant cash transfer, which has been provided to poor families

² Joint Mission with WHO, AeHIN, ADB, Oslo-DHIS2 in Myanmar for Health Information System Strengthening, Master Patient Index and Unique IDs

with children since October 2015. EAPRO is providing guidance for an impact evaluation, which will confirm positive results and support advocacy for further expansion of the scheme. In Mongolia, the Regional Office technical expertise was instrumental in the approval of an allocation methodology addressing the drawbacks in the current financing of primary health care services. The office proposed a revised formula that brought about a four per cent increase and a more equitable budget allocation for primary health care facilities. EAPRO also provided technical expertise to efforts in Myanmar, Mongolia, PNG, and Viet Nam to strengthen the child-sensitivity and the disaster risk responsiveness of the national social protection systems. In Fiji and the Solomon Islands, EAPRO guided the identification and testing of a methodology for an innovative fiscal monitoring system for public expenditures on children. In China, the Regional Office assisted provincial and district level child poverty analysis and programming. In Malaysia, EAPRO co-facilitated a workshop on public finance management and outcome-based budgeting with key sectoral ministries.

In 2015, EAPRO increased its support to **cross-sectoral programming**, particularly for early childhood development (ECD), adolescents and children with disabilities. For ECD, the regional office provided support for effective cross-sectoral programme management and coordination to deliver integrated ECD services, especially to children aged 0-3 through health and nutrition platforms in Cambodia, China, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Country offices were assisted in translating the neuroscientific evidence into advocacy messages and in organizing upstream ECD policy events. Working closely with country offices, EAPRO engaged in direct advocacy with senior level officials on ECD, particularly during the Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC) Conference in Beijing and during country visits. The Regional Office also provided technical advice to strengthening implementation plans for holistic ECD in 10 countries. This included strengthening access to marginalised communities and overall quality of ECD (Vanuatu and Viet Nam); the implementation of early learning development standards (Timor Leste); strengthening ECD implementation modalities and tools (Myanmar); revision of Early Childhood Care and Development policy and strengthening peacebuilding elements of the ECCE curriculum (PNG); the creation of Early Learning Demonstration Centres (Thailand); and alternative pre-school models (Timor Leste). In addition, EAPRO is actively supporting five country offices in piloting the EAP ECD Scales³ (Pacific, Timor Leste, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Cambodia).

In terms of adolescent programming, the Regional Office guided five country offices conducting situation analyses on adolescents to help prioritize and plan interventions. Other supported studies include one on adolescent pregnancies and an assessment of sexuality education in schools in Thailand. Programming guidance was provided to China, Myanmar, and Viet Nam to promote life skills education in secondary schools and in vocational education systems; to Viet Nam for helmet wearing campaigns to prevent deaths and disability among adolescents; and for piloting a school based suicide prevention programme in Mongolia. In terms of children with disabilities, EAPRO contributed to the development of situation analyses, the prioritization of interventions, and provided programming guidance. The office also successfully negotiated a grant with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Australia, which will increase technical capacity at the regional and country levels.

Across sectors, EAPRO supported country offices in **emergency preparedness and response**. This included sector specific assistance for preparing and updating emergency preparedness plans to address sector specific concerns, particularly for child protection, nutrition, education, and WASH. To build capacity, EAPRO conducted in-country trainings for country offices and partners and provided technical expertise on preparedness, contingency planning, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and resilience building. The Regional Office guided and provided quality assurance to the updating of the Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) system for each sector as well as regular planning and reporting for the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) process. EAPRO guided the country offices as they conducted child centred risk assessments and developed programming on resilience. In terms of emergency response, EAPRO supported the post-disaster needs assessment efforts in the aftermath of landslides and floods, particularly

³ EAP-ECD Scales is a regional instrument for measuring ECD for tracking progress at a national level and for examining inequities within countries as a function of factors such as location or ethnicity, and if desired, for making comparisons among countries.

for WASH, nutrition, and education. Surge support from EAPRO assisted Vanuatu on the nutrition component of their response to Cyclone Pam. EAPRO continued to uphold UNICEF commitments to the cluster system, particularly through active participation in the Global WASH Cluster and provided inputs into the development of the 2016-2020 Global Cluster Strategy. Finally, EAPRO supported the drafting of lessons learned from typhoon Haiyan response and Cyclone Pam.

A number of **factors had a significant impact on programme progress** within countries and the ability of the Regional Office to provide full support. Across the sectors, resources were an issue in terms of external funding as well as government budget allocations toward programmes benefitting children, women, and vulnerable groups. This had an impact on both upstream and downstream work. Effective management and coordination is seen as one of the key issues in effectively harnessing the available government and development partner resources. The proliferation of projects, duplication of efforts and resources, and inadequate or inefficient coordination mechanisms are a key challenge.

Multi-sectoral policy, strategic frameworks and plans exist in many countries, and are costed in a few, but there is an increasing need for practical modalities for operationalization, adequate fiscal space, and decentralized budget allocations and accountability frameworks. In many countries, barriers are now more at the implementation than policy level, although there are still key policy gaps in emergent areas. Coordination at all levels of the system and between different actors remains a significant barrier in terms of actual implementation. Some countries lack effective cross-sectoral monitoring and response mechanisms.

At the regional and country levels, management of a broad range of results across and beyond each sector remains a key challenge, not least as funding has reduced significantly. Further, it is at times difficult to support sub-national activities when staffing is very thin. Human resources capacity remains a significant barrier to progress at all levels. The Regional Office is addressing this in part through the creation of a long-term agreements (LTAs) facilitating easy contracting of external support for specific activities undertaken across the region. The large number of global meetings was also a challenge in terms of funding and staff time, while regional partnership activities also continued to be challenging despite the clear value that they have in this technically demanding region. The Regional Office's need to support multiple cross sectoral areas, which are under-resourced, is a major challenge as is the need to balance country office support with increasing demand for support to regional partnerships.

Part 3: Analysis of programme strategies and results: Global and Regional Programme

3.1. Influencing global/regional discourse and policy

EAPRO continues to play a strategic role in supporting the roll-out of global advocacy initiatives, coordinating actions, and helping to adapt these to the country level. For instance, EAPRO supported: policy dialogue and advocacy in alignment with the Every Newborn Action Plan and Early Essential Newborn Care; strategies for the elimination of preventable maternal mortality; the global vaccine action plan; and the GAVI immunization supply chain strategy.

In 2015, as part of the *All In* efforts, the Regional Office contributed to regional and global advocacy to advance the response to HIV among adolescents. A research project entitled 'Adolescents: Under the Radar in the Asia-Pacific AIDS Response' was undertaken in collaboration with The Interagency Task Team's (IATT) including UNFPA and WHO and generated significant media attention. The study highlighted the increasing levels of infections among young males in particular. A comprehensive media package generated over 110 media stories on the topic, including 25 write-ups on country/headquarters sites and a story in *The Guardian* on HIV and mobile technology. *The Guardian* story got over 100,000 views and 283 comments. Finally, recognizing the need for age/sex disaggregated data, the government representatives at the EAPRO-

HIV data session – the “WHO-UNAIDS 3rd Global HIV Surveillance Consultation” – committed to strengthening data collection and analysis on adolescents and HIV.

The Regional Office played a key role in advocating for child rights in close collaboration with country offices. Interventions included advice to Brunei on its CRC reporting, which resulted in the removal of some of its CRC reservations. EAPRO co-convened the second Asia-Pacific Council on Juvenile Justice, which concluded with a declaration asking for an increase in the minimum age of criminal responsibility and developing alternatives to detention of children, such as diversion. In partnership with ASEAN, the office provided formal training to regional journalists on the importance of addressing issues affecting children and on child-centred approaches to reporting on children’s issues and child rights violations. In partnership with CASBAA and Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), the UNICEF Asian Child Rights Award for the best television coverage of children’s rights and issues was again awarded to encourage reporting on children’s issues. EAPRO also continues to be actively engaged in advocacy around child rights with the ASEAN Secretariat and key bodies including ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and the Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC). The office also co-convened the Regional Dialogue on the Impact of ASEAN Integration to Child Rights with AICHR and supported adoption of an ASEAN Regional Plan of Action to Eliminate Violence Against Children.

EAPRO continued to advance a regional technical advocacy agenda through regional consultations on areas such as management of severe acute malnutrition, budget analysis for nutrition, understanding linkages between rural sanitation and nutrition, rural sanitation service delivery, and the Post-2015 global agenda. EAPRO particularly promoted innovative approaches to health information management by jointly organizing a conference on Measurement and Accountability for HIV and UHC in Asia and the Pacific with Asia eHealth Information Network (AeHIN), WHO and ADB. Through this platform, UNICEF worked to accelerate progress towards universal health coverage by advocating for scalable and sustainable Health Information Systems; e-Health capacity building; and enterprise architecture, standards, and governance. The conference concluded with a 5-Point Call to Action outlining priority actions and specific targets for health measurement and accountability. This will lead to stronger health information systems, civil registration and vital statistics, and e-Health to monitor national health goals and progress towards UHC. It will also measure progress toward the new health-related SDGs. EAPRO also continued to seek commitments from governments and partners to improve ECD. The Regional Office collaborated with ARNEC to organize a high-level conference on ECD in Beijing, which called for increased political and financial commitment during the early years in a child’s life.

EAPRO collaborates closely with partners to advance key multi-country issues. As irregular migration in the region rose with the large outflows of people – including children and women – from Myanmar and Bangladesh, the office engaged in regional positioning and response planning activities with UNHCR and IOM to ensure children’s rights and needs were met to the greatest extent possible. Guidance to country offices about response planning, advocacy with governments and partners, and partnerships was issued to country offices as were public statements calling for respect for CRC obligations. The Regional Office also contributed to advocacy in prospective host countries and in Australia concerning offshore processing of child asylum seekers and on immigration detention of children.

In 2015, EAPRO coordinated advocacy efforts in the region around the SDGs. It kept country offices informed of advances in negotiations around the SDGs, identifying specific countries where targeted advocacy with counterparts would support global advocacy for children rights. Similarly, EAPRO coordinated advocacy efforts around the SDG indicators. This included participation in regional consultations and technical support to country offices to convince their government’s National Statistics Offices to adopt the indicators prioritized by UNICEF.

3.2. Evidence generation: Research, Data, and Evaluation

EAPRO undertook extensive evidence generation throughout 2015. In **health**, country profiles were developed for countries in the region focusing on equity and supply chain management to facilitate bottleneck analysis and solution development. An assessment was also conducted aimed at better understanding public financing towards universal health coverage with plans to further expand this work in 2016 in partnership with the ADB. This is likely to create an opportunity to explore a framework and action plan for equity in health.

In **nutrition**, a joint WASH-nutrition toolkit was drafted and Theory of Change workshops were held to encourage joint analysis, planning, and implementation. The Regional Office also fostered cross-sectoral linkages through the development of a toolkit linking ECD and nutrition, as well as a toolkit on improving adolescent nutrition. To strengthen preparedness, a toolkit on nutrition in emergencies was completed. EAPRO also conducted regional analysis including a salt iodization legislation review, an article on the “Cost of Not Breastfeeding”, Volume 2 of the ASEAN nutrition report (near-final), and an article for a peer reviewed journal on universal salt iodization (USI).

In **WASH**, the regional analysis of the global Joint Monitoring Plan report highlights progress and critical gaps and was used to help policy dialogue and advocacy for improved and equitable quality WASH services. The “2nd Regional Review of Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)” conducted by EAPRO provides an overview of progress since the first review in 2012 and highlights lessons learned in nine countries. A “Multi-Country Study on Public WASH Financing – allocation and utilization” (Indonesia, Viet Nam and Mongolia), led by the Regional Office, highlights that large parts of public finance through the central government financing of WASH facilities been given away to local governments or their service providers which encourages a build-neglect-rebuild cycle of WASH service delivery and effectively subsidizes providers instead of the most vulnerable people. EAPRO also coordinated a “Regional Assessment of Communication for Development (C4D) Actions and Capacity across all countries in the East Asia and Pacific region” which provides an overview of cross-sectoral C4D programming initiatives and UNICEF capacity and suggests ways to develop an inter-sectoral C4D framework.

In **HIV/AIDS**, the Regional Office undertook initiatives to strengthen data availability and analysis on adolescents and HIV and Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission (EMTCT) across the region. It jointly published (with IATT) the report on “Young Key Population Asia-Pacific: Adolescents and HIV” which significantly contributed to policy advocacy and raising public awareness.

In **Education**, analytical work around the future aid architecture in education was undertaken in partnership with the Education for All Technical Working Group, which UNICEF co-chairs, including a paper given at the Oxford Conference. Significant evidence generation efforts on the South East Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM), included the development of a regional assessment framework, a regional curriculum review, and development of test items, questionnaires, guidelines, and protocols for implementation. EAPRO published three policy documents on language education and social cohesion, resilience and education and a working paper on gender and disabilities in education which promoted improved equity and/or quality education. For adolescents, EAPRO produced a compendium of best evidence and practices from across the world on adolescent mental health, adolescent pregnancies, physical activity, and road traffic accidents. A regional synthesis report on menstrual hygiene is being prepared.

In **Child Protection**, EAPRO published “Unequal at Birth”: Disparities in Birth Registration”; disseminated a popular summary to accompany the academic publication of “The burden of child maltreatment”; published the analysis of domestic laws addressing violence in ASEAN “Legal Protection”; and helped establish a knowledge platform “Learning in East Asia and the Pacific”; all contributing to informing policy, practice, and external advocacy.

In terms of **Social Policy**, EAPRO published “16 Steps to Policy Results - Towards the Meaningful Use and Application of RBM & Theory of Change for Social Inclusion & Policy” which provides guidance and

tools for offices to strengthen their understanding, practices, and programming in results-based management. EAPRO also initiated desk research to explore “Methodologies for Addressing Exclusion Errors in Social Programmes”, which is expected to serve as an awareness raising as well as practical tool for directing social programmes towards needy population groups which, for various reasons, are hard to reach and remain excluded from benefits. The Regional Office initiated new research on public finance management and equity for children, which will be rolled out in 2016.

In 2015, EAPRO developed an **ECD** nutrition toolkit, which identifies the major policies necessary to enable holistic ECD, and the platforms in health, nutrition, and early learning through which ECD services can be integrated. It also identifies the minimum standards for ECD services and activities delivery through each platform. The Regional Office played a leading and coordinating role in conducting the ECD Peacebuilding Perspectives Survey, through which the perspectives of young children, their parents, and teachers were collected through interviews in six countries. These perspectives are being integrated into an advocacy document. Additionally, the Regional Office, in collaboration with ARNEC and ROSA, has supported the development of regional ECD and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) for Peace Building Curriculum Guidelines, which will fill gaps in ECD and Peacebuilding, social emotional learning, and executive functions.

3.3. Implementation Strategies

In 2015, EAPRO continued to implement the key strategic interventions planned as part of the 2014-2017 ROMP, including advocacy at the regional level, generating evidence in support of country programming, evaluation, facilitating knowledge management in the region, promoting South-South cooperation, strengthening capacity, and establishing strategic partnerships. As highlighted in previous sections, the policy advocacy agenda contributed to raising the profile of some issues at the regional and global levels. The Regional Office also generated significant evidence to support country programming, particularly by fostering cross-sectoral dimensions, leveraging resources through the development of costing methodologies, and promoting a better understanding of key issues through regional data analysis.

In terms of knowledge management, EAPRO continues to facilitate learning across countries by organizing exchanges and mapping evidence, lessons learned, and good practices. The Regional Office plans and runs regional consultations and establishes platforms for knowledge sharing. For example, EAPRO facilitated exchanges between country offices on specific issues such as irregular migration and developed country fact sheets and case studies on topics in several sectors, including maternal and newborn health, equity, nutrition, and sanitation. It also compiled databases – one to help gain a regional perspective, track progress and support country exchanges and another to track public expenditure on health, education and social protection. The latter included a regional ECD dashboard to track key outcome and output indicators across sectors. Finally, the office worked to adapt new global evidence to the region – such as new neuroscience of early childhood brain development – and organized several regional or multi-country meetings to provide opportunities for sharing this new evidence as well as lessons learned and good practices. In 2015, all network meetings emphasized results-based management and equity monitoring.

Regional meetings with counterparts in 2015 included, among others: a regional immunization meeting; a pan-Asia workshop on analysing multi-sectoral budgetary commitments to nutrition and making the investment case for nutrition in collaboration with SUN; a consultation on financial tracking of multi-sectoral nutrition budgets with SUN; regional meetings on SAM, USI and the dissemination of findings from the Maternal and Young Child Nutrition Security Initiative in Asia; and a regional Unique ID Workshop. EAPRO also extended knowledge sharing to academia by chairing two symposia and presenting several papers at the Oxford Conference on Education.

The Regional Office developed guidance, tools, and regional strategies to support offices in strengthening implementation. This included guidance on resilience and education, including an advocacy brochure, and guidance on country tools for OOSCI, which later informed the global OOSCI Operational Manual. The development of guidelines on a regional curriculum framework for SEL and peacebuilding strengthened

knowledge around ECD's role in social cohesion. Regional strategies for RBM and MoRES implementation contributed to mapping and coordinating capacity building within country offices. EAPRO also initiated guidance on strengthening WASH and nutrition programming and Theory of Change. A guide on RBM in social policy distributed to all offices, as well as a training in four countries, helped programming in social policy.

EAPRO continues to play a strategic role in strengthening capacities at the regional and country level. Regional network meetings are key opportunities for capacity development and emergency preparedness and response (EPR) trainings are regularly organized to improve humanitarian response. Similarly, EAPRO facilitated six Programme Policy and Procedure trainings as well as trainings on newborn care, Evidence-Based Planning and Budgeting and EENC that included time for experience sharing.

The Regional Office continued to play a pivotal role in facilitating South-South and horizontal cooperation. For example, the team supported ARNEC in organizing the fourth conference on ECD and poverty reduction in Asia and the Pacific, which brought together 500 government leaders, policy experts, and non-governmental organisations from 23 countries to discuss the transformative power of ECD for equitable development. During the meeting, EAPRO hosted three sessions aimed at filling previously identified knowledge gaps in ECD: (1) a session on ECD in the SDGs; (2) new neuroscience evidence of ECD; and (3) ECD and peacebuilding. Evaluations from the sessions indicate that they successfully provided countries with the technical information required to strengthen ECD programming. The regional office also facilitated South-South cooperation meetings between country office teams with shared ECD challenges. Another South-South cooperation event focused on scaling up innovative approaches in health, universal health coverage, and mHealth/eHealth. EAPRO is also preparing for the High-Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights, which will focus on universal health coverage, social protection, and violence against children. This will take place in Kuala Lumpur in November 2016.

EAPRO continued to actively engage with key regional partners. The team undertook joint activities under the umbrella of the new Memorandum of Understanding with ASEAN signed in December 2014 and became a key contributor to the UN-ASEAN partnership action plan. At the technical level, UNICEF continues to actively engage with ASEAN and participate in meetings to advocate for specific child rights issues including nutrition, children with disabilities, and violence against children (VAC). For example, EAPRO provided support resulting in the adoption of an ASEAN Regional Plan of Action to Eliminate VAC. It also prepared Volume 2 of the joint ASEAN nutrition report in collaboration with WHO. The Regional Office co-convened the Regional Dialogue on the Impact of ASEAN Integration to Child Rights with AICHR.

EAPRO remains an active contributor to regional coordination mechanisms, especially with other UN agencies – such as in nutrition with SUN, on birth registration in the Asia-Pacific Steering Group for Civil Rights and Vital Statistics, and on humanitarian action with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. In 2015, EAPRO continued playing a lead role in the United Nations Evaluation Development Group for Asia and the Pacific (UNEDAP) by facilitating a joint training on “Evaluation in the UN context” and performing a peer review of three UNDAF evaluations. Ten training activities were conducted on enhancing the evaluation culture in the region and harmonizing evaluation concepts and methodologies. The Regional Office also promoted and supported regional networks such as ARNEC and AeHIN.

In child protection, EAPRO catalysed networks in online child protection with Microsoft, ECPAT, ICMEC, Child Rights Coalition Asia, UNODC and others. This included support to meetings on information communication technology (ICT) and human trafficking, training for law enforcement, and the Global WePROTECT summit. The Regional Office also partnered with civil society to collect inputs for the new CRC general comments. In education, UNICEF continues to be actively engaged and provides regional leadership for UNGEI, which has helped to broaden the gender focus – especially with regard to gender equality, marginalization and school related gender based violence (SRGBV).

3.4. Normative principles

During 2015, efforts were made to ensure that countries in the region conducted situation analyses that carefully identified key child deprivations. These identified the most vulnerable groups, where they come from, and why they are the most deprived. This is part of a concerted effort to ensure that UNICEF country office programming reflects the organization's commitment to addressing inequities. To build on this, during the RMT the Regional Office discussed the various forms of inequities that are manifested across EAP countries as well as challenges UNICEF and other partners face in addressing them. Also, in collaboration with ROSA, the Regional Office assisted five governments in conducting equity profiling through their National Statistical Offices. This profiling helped government policies and government cooperation with development partners to be better targeted and effectively reach those most in need.

EAPRO completed an analysis of domestic laws, including on child marriage, for the 10 ASEAN Member States. The study provides clear and concrete recommendations based on good practices in the region that can help improve compliance with international standards. The results of the study are being shared in several forums. EAPRO also conducted a mapping exercise of laws and the convention that addresses all forms of violence against women for countries in the EAP region. This provided a snapshot of the specific laws that are in place to address and prevent violence against women in countries that are signatories of the CEDAW and the Protocol. It also identified any reservations countries had with respect to fulfilling these commitments.

EAPRO and ASEAN co-convened the first Regional Consultative Meeting on Religious and Cultural Practices impacting the Rights of Children in 2015. Leaders from the major religions in the region participated in a dialogue with government policy makers, civil society, and children themselves on how to eliminate harmful traditional practices that are carried out in the name of religion and culture as well as how to promote positive values rooted in tradition and culture.

EAPRO partnered with OCHA and UN Women to highlight different needs/gaps linked to gender based violence (GBV) against girls and boys in East Asia and the Pacific through the IASC Regional Working Group on Gender in Humanitarian Action. Despite co-leadership between UNFPA and UNICEF on the GBV Area of Responsibility at the global level, the regional level partnership between the two agencies remains weak. On the other hand, the EAP UN Girl's Education Initiative (UNGEI) continues to be a strong partnership and platform that the East Asia Pacific region uses to move forward on issues related to gender equality in education and specifically girls' secondary education. Two events were hosted - the Regional Gender Forum and the Beijing+20 UNGEI Side-Event on Gender Equality in Education - which led to increased understanding and stronger advocacy for issues related to gender equality in education. Participants included governments from the region, civil society, NGOs, and UN agencies.

The "Environmental Sustainability" module was presented in two regional Programme Policy and Procedures trainings and four country-based trainings (DPRK, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, and Malaysia). Presentations/training modules on environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and disaster risk reduction were also integrated into the week-long Emergency Preparedness and Response Network meeting and into the WASH Network Meeting. The Regional Office developed knowledge management products to share information on environmental sustainability, climate change, and resilience-related issues with EAP country offices - including a webinar on "Children and the Environment" and a "Review of Resilience-Related Resources". The Regional Office also attended and provided technical assistance to sharpen UNICEF's advocacy position at global, regional, and institutional forums on Environmental Sustainability such as the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai), the USAID Conference on Resilience Measurement (Bangkok), and UNICEF's Global Management Team meeting. Similarly, the Regional Office maintained presence in coordination forums that promoted information sharing on good practice and innovative programming around environmental sustainability such as the Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership Forum (Bangkok) and the Children in a Changing Climate network meetings. With respect to the "green project initiative", the EAPRO and Thailand management

teams both endorsed, and aim to achieve, the corporate objective of “carbon neutrality” by 2020. A power savings in EAPRO premises of 11 per cent is expected.

Part 4: Management

4.1. Management and Operations

As highlighted in the Results Assessment Module (RAM), all indicators are on track. EAPRO fulfilled its **oversight functions** effectively, with continuous monitoring of key performance indicators and approval of structural changes in the region through the Programme Budget Review (PBR) process, including for the development of new programmes. In 2015, the Regional Office participated in development of a revised global indicator dashboard and supported country offices in addressing identified red flags. For the five country audits conducted in the region, EAPRO participated in the audit exit meetings, provided inputs, and supported offices through the review and action planning stages. The Regional Office also monitored follow up and reporting exercises and provided guidance and support as required. As part of the establishment of the Global Shared Service Centre (GSSC), EAPRO supported country offices remotely to introduce and implement readiness activities.

The Regional Office continues to lead in the implementation of the **Management for Results (M4R)** agenda. In 2015, the office improved implementation and awareness of the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) principles and accountabilities in the region by establishing a focal point network, sessions in regional meetings and new monitoring and oversight mechanisms. In 2015, all country offices had improved HACT implementation. EAPRO also coordinated the roll-out of the new CSO procedure. For Enterprise Risk Management (ERM), the team developed a risk-informed approach to business management, held sessions on risk in regional meetings, and formed a regional LTA for technical support. Finally, the Regional Office started working on a paper that will identify areas of convergence between strategic risk identification and mitigation approaches.

In terms of **human resources**, the Regional Office completed ethics trainings for all country offices, leading to stronger ethical practices among staff. EAPRO carefully coordinated the change management processes to reduce the impact on staff. The office strengthened the regional roster of surge capacity with 80 pre-selected staff ready to support emergencies. This roster facilitated the deployment of nine staff to emergencies, including for cyclone Pam in the Pacific. With regard to learning, EAPRO identified regional needs and managed/spent the global learning funds. Senior international post recruitment was completed within an average of 67 days.

In **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**, system upgrades enabled further leveraging of Cloud-based computing capabilities and network devices were enhanced to strengthen resilience and improve access while optimizing available resources. ICT Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Plans were reviewed and updated to incorporate functional and design changes with improved capabilities. Efforts were made to support needs assessments and position technology-enabled solutions in partnership with the innovations teams in a number of country offices in EAP. Inputs from these were used to improve the respective governance and management bodies, to improve processes supporting the regional office functions, and to offer for consideration for global systems.

In terms of **private sector fundraising (PSFR)**, the Asia region delivered a total of US\$58.4 million in gross revenue (10 per cent increase over 2014 revenue), of which US\$18.2 million is Regular Resources (RR) and US\$1.4 million is EAP Regional Thematic Funds (RTF). It is noteworthy that the RR contribution to the global programme from country offices in the region grew 37 per cent from 2014. The negative impact of the exchange rate hit hard in the region in 2015. If the same exchange rates were used as the time of the 2015 budget submission, the region would have delivered US\$65.8 million in gross revenue, a 23 per cent increase over 2014. EAPRO plays a key role in coordinating and supporting fundraising activities. The Regional Office is trying to diversify fundraising channels such as SMS fundraising, telemarketing,

corporate fundraising, and major gifts. Significant support was provided to the development of new five-year PSFR strategy in China, Indonesia, and Malaysia. The office also was involved in corporate engagement in the region by organizing a regional corporate engagement workshop and supporting country offices actively engaged in CSR activities.

In terms of **supply**, EAPRO recognized the potential to increase procurement services in the region, particularly in its middle-income countries. The office started a dialogue with UNICEF's Supply Division to explore various options and approaches to expanded procurement services. In terms of supply management in the region, the rapid growth of PSFR activities has led to significant procurement demand which the traditional supply structure has not been able to efficiently meet. As a response, EAPRO established a new supply staff position to strengthen this capacity.

A key challenge in the region is the resource-constrained environment faced both at the regional and country levels. This is resulting in a long-term decline of resource mobilization projections. EAPRO, in close collaboration with the RMT, led efforts to find ways to **work differently** in order to mitigate this trend. This included putting in place a concept of "fit for purpose", which was integrated in the RMT and PBR discussions. This is meant to support the establishment of shared functions across country offices, expand networking and dialogue for informal and formal support across offices, and reallocate the institutional budget throughout the countries in the region. In order to better understand the future programming environment, emerging priorities, and to support discussion on change management across the region, EAPRO contracted the Economist Intelligence Unit to conduct a regional analysis of trends impacting children by 2030.

Other challenges faced in 2015 include the structural changes in headquarters divisions, which delayed responsiveness to the Regional Office and negatively impacted the office's capacity to deliver. The office was also affected by a mismatch between accountabilities and resources. For example, the Efficiency and Effectiveness Initiative led to greater devolution of authority to regional offices but adequate long-term resource commitments did not accompany this shift. With regard to responsiveness and capacity at the regional office and country office levels, workloads, leaner structures, and adoption of new systems affected overall risk and performance. For country offices, workloads, technical expertise/capacities, and/or understanding impacted their ability to strategically take forward strategies/approaches or change initiatives. Furthermore, the introduction of new organizational tools did not always include sufficient investment in roll-out training/communication to ensure optimal use of the tools or adaptation to new working methods. In some cases, the Regional Office could not provide support/oversight to a few country offices when they were unwilling to participate. In other cases, initiatives were not taken up by potential clients. With regard to information technology (IT), there are legal constraints to introducing some IT interventions, such as the requirement in a number of countries that certain types of data to be stored within national boundaries and not in the Cloud.

In 2015, EAPRO undertook a **Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the Regional Office Management Plan (ROMP)**, which included a review of progress with an update of indicators and identification of key achievements and strategic discussion on EAPRO's roles, functions, accountabilities, and "fitness for purpose". Through the discussion, key actions were identified to strengthen EAPRO's "fitness for purpose": (1) strengthen the accountability framework and seek clarification about regional office accountabilities vis-a-vis country offices and headquarters; (2) improve alignment of financial resources with core responsibilities; (3) strengthen existing quality assurance processes, mechanisms, and tools; (4) map required expertise and identify innovative modalities for accessing expertise and restructure for relevance; (5) prioritize strategic partnerships; (6) improve knowledge management practices; and (7) strengthen EAPRO's resource mobilization strategy. The MTR concluded with a revised ROMP results structure to ensure that it: (1) effectively and realistically reflects the Regional Office's roles, functions and accountabilities; (2) reviews the balance of resource allocation between management, Development Effectiveness and Global and Regional Programmes to reflect the reality of the Regional Office's contribution to each; (3) adjusts the ROMP to reflect the Regional Office's contribution to the roll-out, implementation, and monitoring of the SDGs; (4) integrates the regional headline results; (5) reflects compliance with RBM; and (6) adjusts the staffing structure.