<table>
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>ADAP</td>
<td>Adolescent Development and Participation</td>
<td>HACT</td>
<td>Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer</td>
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<td>ADB</td>
<td>Asian Development Bank</td>
<td>HLM</td>
<td>High-Level Meeting</td>
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<td>AEHIN</td>
<td>Asia eHealth Information Network</td>
<td>HYLF</td>
<td>HIV Young Leaders Fund</td>
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<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</td>
<td>IMEP</td>
<td>Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
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<td>ANC</td>
<td>Antenatal Care</td>
<td>KPI</td>
<td>Key Performance Indicator</td>
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<tr>
<td>APCOM</td>
<td>Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health</td>
<td>LSIS</td>
<td>Lao PDR Social Indicators Survey</td>
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<td>APN+</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific Network of People Living with HIV</td>
<td>MCTT</td>
<td>Modified Conditional Cash Transfer</td>
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<td>ADB</td>
<td>Asian Development Bank</td>
<td>MICS</td>
<td>Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey</td>
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<td>ART</td>
<td>Anti-Retroviral Therapy</td>
<td>MICs</td>
<td>Middle Income Countries</td>
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<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>Association of South East Asian Nations</td>
<td>MNCH</td>
<td>Maternal, Newborn and Child Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>BAT</td>
<td>Bottleneck Analysis Tool</td>
<td>MoRES</td>
<td>Monitoring Results for Equity</td>
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<td>BCP</td>
<td>Business Continuity Plan</td>
<td>MOSS</td>
<td>Minimum Operational Security Standards</td>
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<td>CABA</td>
<td>Children Affected by AIDS</td>
<td>MP4R</td>
<td>Managing People for Results</td>
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<td>CBI</td>
<td>Competency-Based Interview</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>Management Response</td>
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<td>CCA</td>
<td>Climate Change Adaptation</td>
<td>MTR</td>
<td>Mid-Term Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</td>
<td>NDOH</td>
<td>National Department of Health</td>
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<td>C4D</td>
<td>Communication for Development</td>
<td>ODA</td>
<td>Official Development Assistance</td>
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<td>CLTS</td>
<td>Community-Led Total Sanitation</td>
<td>OOSCI</td>
<td>Out-of-School Children Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPD</td>
<td>Country Programme Document</td>
<td>PIFS</td>
<td>Pacific Island Forum Secretariat</td>
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<td>CPWG</td>
<td>Child Protection Working Group</td>
<td>PAS</td>
<td>Performance Appraisal System</td>
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<td>CRVS</td>
<td>Civil Registration and Vital Statistics</td>
<td>PLHIV</td>
<td>People living with HIV</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organization</td>
<td>QCPR</td>
<td>Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review</td>
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<td>CSR</td>
<td>Corporate Social Responsibility</td>
<td>RAM</td>
<td>Results Assessment Module</td>
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<td>DaO</td>
<td>Delivering-as-One</td>
<td>RLC</td>
<td>Regional Logistics Centre</td>
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<td>DCT</td>
<td>Direct Cash Transfer</td>
<td>RMT</td>
<td>Regional Management Team</td>
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<td>DHS</td>
<td>Demographic and Health Survey</td>
<td>RCM</td>
<td>Regional Coordination Mechanism</td>
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<td>DPRK</td>
<td>Democratic Peoples’ Republic of Korea</td>
<td>RCSA</td>
<td>Risk and Control Self-Assessment</td>
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<td>DRR</td>
<td>Disaster Risk Reduction</td>
<td>RDS</td>
<td>Respondent Driven Sampling</td>
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<td>DTP</td>
<td>Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis Vaccine</td>
<td>RRM</td>
<td>Rapid Response Mechanism</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECCE</td>
<td>Early Childhood Care and Education</td>
<td>RSC</td>
<td>Regional Support Centre</td>
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<td>ECD</td>
<td>Early Childhood Development</td>
<td>SRGBV</td>
<td>School-Related Gender Based Violence</td>
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<td>EFA</td>
<td>Education for All</td>
<td>SEAMEO</td>
<td>South East Asian Ministers of Education Organization</td>
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<td>EID</td>
<td>Early Infant Diagnosis</td>
<td>SEAMEO</td>
<td>South East Asian Ministers of Education Organization</td>
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<td>EIU</td>
<td>Economist Intelligence Unit</td>
<td>SMR</td>
<td>Strategic Moment of Reflection</td>
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<td>EPI</td>
<td>Expanded Programme on Immunization</td>
<td>SMS</td>
<td>Short Message Service</td>
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<td>GER</td>
<td>Gross Enrolment Rate</td>
<td>SOPs</td>
<td>Standard Operating Procedures</td>
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<td>GPI</td>
<td>Gender Parity Index</td>
<td>UNGEI</td>
<td>UN Girls’ Education Initiative</td>
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<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
<td>UNDAF</td>
<td>United Nations Development Assistance Framework</td>
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<td>GNI</td>
<td>Gross National Income</td>
<td>UNDG</td>
<td>United Nations Development Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>GAP</td>
<td>Gender Action Plan</td>
<td>UNMIT</td>
<td>UN Integrated Mission in Timor Leste</td>
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<tr>
<td>GAPPD</td>
<td>Global Action Plan for the Prevention of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea</td>
<td>VSO</td>
<td>Voluntary Services Overseas</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEROS</td>
<td>Global Evaluation Reports Oversight System</td>
<td>VAC</td>
<td>Violence Against Children</td>
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<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immunodeficiency Virus</td>
<td>YVC</td>
<td>Youth Volunteer Corps</td>
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<td>Human Rights-Based Approach</td>
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1. Executive summary

Two factors shaped UNICEF’s work in the East Asia and the Pacific region in 2013 – the economic growth experienced over recent years, which has meant that most countries in the region are now middle-income countries, and the prevalence of natural disasters in a region that is the most disaster prone in the world.

Regional economic growth rates were, on average, above 6 per cent in 2013 according to ESCAP. Sustained growth meant governments had far greater financial capacity, but many were still struggling to create governance mechanisms and infrastructure capable of protecting and promoting the rights of vulnerable children, and disparities and inequities remained high and, in some cases, increased. Regional growth levels, while enviable by global standards, represented a decrease in average growth for many EAP countries, and this led to fiscal tightening. At the same time, traditional international donors reacted to higher overall national incomes by withdrawing or reducing their assistance. UNICEF’s attention in 2013 was largely focused on leveraging countries’ national wealth to encourage investment in social sectors that benefit children, and on promoting national policies and programmes that reduce the disadvantage of vulnerable children.

The most significant and damaging of the natural disasters that struck the region in 2013 -- super-Typhoon Haiyan -- devastated the central Philippines in November, leaving some 6,000 dead, 4.1 million people displaced (including 1.7 million children) and 14.1 million affected. The UNICEF Executive Director activated the Corporate Level 3 Emergency Procedure, mobilizing a global response that continues to help the Government meet the needs of Filipino children and families. EAPRO worked closely with HQ to leverage global and regional surge support and mount an effective response. Other emergency responses supported by UNICEF RO in 2013 included successive volcanic eruptions in Indonesia, cyclones (3 countries), floods (2 countries), earthquakes (2 countries) and a drought (one country). In addition, conflict flared in Myanmar and the Philippines and political tensions increased in Thailand, Cambodia and DPRK, hampering programme coverage and scale. In many instances, disasters and crises required repositioning of UNICEF country programmes in the medium term.

The RO helped COs strengthen emergency preparedness and response through training and quality assurance of Early Warning Early Action preparedness plans. It facilitated learning about risk-informed programming and contributed to timely and quality response to disasters by ensuring adequate surge capacity and planning.

Overall, in East Asia and the Pacific, there has been considerable progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with most countries in the region on track to achieve at least some targets by 2015, but progress has been uneven. The region is an early achiever of MDG 1 (poverty reduction) and 7 (with respect to access to safe water), and it has achieved gender parity in primary education and is on track to reach the primary school enrolment and completion targets. Slower progress has been made in reducing malnutrition and under-five deaths, and significant effort is still needed to improve basic standards of sanitation, maternal health and women’s participation in leadership.

In the second year of the 2012-2013 Regional Office Management Plan (ROMP) the RO focused on providing technical support and strengthening the capacity of UNICEF Country Offices to sharpen their equity focus and to develop innovative approaches that inspire nationally-managed and funded solutions. Seven Country Offices undertook a Mid-Term Review (MTR), providing an opportunity to strengthen strategic programming. EAPRO helped Country Offices focus on equity-based results monitoring, address decentralization and resource mobilization challenges, and align country programmes to the new Strategic Plan. The RO also supported Country Office advocacy by generating evidence and providing technical advice that addressed key bottlenecks and barriers and helped accelerate scale-up of high-impact interventions for disadvantaged and vulnerable communities.

High profile events, including the second High-Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights held in Delhi and the High-Level ECCE Policy Forum in Seoul, provided opportunities for governments to share knowledge and experience on critical issues for children. EAPRO also
strengthened its partnerships with ASEAN and other regional entities and initiatives, serving as a resource in key meetings on issues related to child rights.

Summary of results achieved in 2013:

- Enhanced strategic information and data to support advocacy, including groundbreaking child maltreatment and violence evidence and cross-sectoral investment briefs on malnutrition and maternal and neo-natal health;
- Improved visibility of children’s rights and UNICEF, through high-profile events and vastly improved digital outreach (a result of comprehensive training provided to all Country Offices);
- Strategic planning and technical and operations support for seven COs undergoing Mid-Term Reviews and one new CO UNDAF and Country Programme Document;
- Significantly strengthened private sector partnerships and increased corporate social responsibility engagement;
- Significantly increased private sector fundraising, contributing US$7.5 million to global RR, up from US$6.3 million in 2012; and
- Strengthened partnerships with centres of excellence and regional development organizations (ADB, ASEAN, EU, PIFS and SPC) to advance children’s rights.

Specific areas of shortfall were:

- Significant constraints on UNICEF’s human and financial capacities, due to higher operating costs and reductions in SB and RR, coinciding with donor reductions and withdrawals, all resulting from increased national incomes;
- Reduced RO capacity to provide consistent support for regular country programme activities at optimum levels, as a result of need to provide emergency support (including surge staff) required to bolster country responses to frequent emergencies;
- Negative impacts on programme delivery and advocacy, resulting from increased political tensions in Thailand and Cambodia, ethnic conflict and human rights concerns in Myanmar, and access limitations as well as funding issues for DPRK;
- Reduction in strategic focus resulting from frequent adjustments of regional priorities to ensure implementation of results monitoring, ‘A Promise Renewed’ and other global initiatives.

Risk management practices
As in previous years, a review of risks to programmes and operations was conducted in 2013, with focus on medium and high risks as indicated below:

<table>
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<th>Medium Risks</th>
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<td>Knowledge management &amp; information sharing</td>
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<td>Supply and logistics management</td>
<td>Disasters and epidemics</td>
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<td>Ethics and compliance, safety and security</td>
<td>Aid environment</td>
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2. Trends and progress in the region as affecting children and women

While economic growth continued at rates that are healthy by global standards, the countries of East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) actually experienced a slowdown in economic growth in 2013. According to estimates from ESCAP, the real GDP for the entire region shows a downward trend from 8.3 per cent in 2011 to about 6 per cent in in 2013. Most significant declines were recorded for China, Mongolia and Papua New Guinea. These declines, and continuing fluctuations in global financial markets, meant countries implemented tightened fiscal policies, which impacted on governments’ capacity to implement new policies and programmes that would improve the circumstances and prospects of children and their families.
Despite this tightening, as a result of economic growth and economic and social policies, the region is on track to meet the MDG 1 target of halving the proportion of people living under US$1.25/day, with the poverty headcount ratio declining from 51.6 per cent in 1990 to 18.9 per cent in 2010. The proportion of people living on less than $2 a day declined from 76.7 per cent in 1990 to 41.9 per cent in 2010. Despite these significant gains, two-fifth of the region’s population live on less than $2 a day, with figures showing that over half the population of Cambodia (53 per cent), Lao PDR (66 per cent), and Timor-Leste (73 per cent) live on less than $2/day, with high rates also in the Philippines (42 per cent), Indonesia (46 per cent), Viet Nam (43 per cent) and China (30 per cent); China reduced the proportion of people living on less than $2/day from 85 per cent in 1990 to 30 per cent in 2012. However income inequality also continued to increase, according to ESCAP and the World Bank, notably in China, Indonesia and Lao PDR. A study of household survey data across EAP confirmed that children in the poorest income quintile are still far more likely to be excluded from essential services, such as health care, water, sanitation and social protection, than those in higher quintiles. Children with disabilities are also often excluded from social services; in the Pacific Islands, they are ten times less likely to enrol in schools than other children.

Child malnutrition remains a significant issue in the region. Regional prevalence of stunting among children under five years of age (12 per cent) is relatively low, but this is largely due to low prevalence in China. Nine EAP countries have stunting prevalence above 30 per cent, including Timor-Leste (52 per cent), Lao PDR (48 per cent), PNG (43 per cent), Cambodia (40 per cent), Indonesia (36 per cent), Myanmar (35 per cent) and Philippines (32 per cent). Furthermore, large disparities persist: underweight status is five times more prevalent in rural than urban areas and 2.5 times more likely to occur in the poorest quintile when compared to the wealthiest; in Viet Nam, poor children are 7.5 times more likely to be underweight than those from the top quintile. The double burden of malnutrition (where both over- and undernutrition co-exist) is a critical emerging issue. On average 5 per cent of all children less than five years old were overweight, with Indonesia and Mongolia showing the highest prevalence of overweight among the under-fives at 14 per cent. The projected incidence of non-communicable diseases and related health care costs from this growing "double burden" are alarming.

The region remains on track to meet the MDG 2 target on universal primary education. Primary school net enrolment across the region was estimated at 93 per cent in 2008-2012 with sustained efforts made by the majority of countries. Only Philippines has a primary school net enrolment rate less than 90 per cent. While ECCE net enrolment data are not available for Malaysia, Myanmar, PNG and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, pre-primary education is increasing across the region, with 60 per cent of boys and 61 per cent of girls attending early childhood education in 2008-2012. Completion of primary school remains a challenge, however; only 61 per cent of students reached the last grade of primary education in Cambodia, 68 per cent in Lao PDR, 75 per cent in Myanmar and 76 per cent in the Philippines. Additionally, significant disparities based on economic status and between rural and urban children persist in enrolment and completion of basic education. Enabling access to primary education for all children, including the hardest-to-reach children from the most disadvantaged contexts, continues to be a priority. Quality pre- and post-primary education, expansion of partnerships to promote quality basic education for all, and gender equity and equality also continue to be priorities for the region.

The 2013 UNESCO Global Monitoring Report suggests that the number of children out of school in EAP has been reduced by half, from 10.2 million children in 1999 to 5.1 million children in 2011. UNICEF-supported research on out-of-school children that commenced in 2013 will be published in 2014. Malaysia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea and Philippines are also preparing alternative basic education programmes to include and integrate out-of-school children into education systems.

The region is on track to reach MDG 3 targets on gender parity in primary education. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) for Gross-Enrolment Rates (GER) at the primary level is about 1.02 in East Asia, and 0.97 in the Pacific, while at the secondary level the GPI for GER for East Asia is 1.03 and for the Pacific 0.96. In Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam, the GPI for GER continues to favour boys, while in China and the Cook Islands it favours girls.
Significant challenges remain in terms of inclusion, overall performance and quality in secondary education. In Lao PDR and Solomon Islands, girls are disadvantaged in enrolment in secondary education (GPI lower than 0.90) while boys are disadvantaged in Mongolia (1.06), Philippines (1.08), Thailand (1.08), Malaysia (1.07), Myanmar (1.06), and many Pacific Islands states. Updated data are currently not available to provide conclusive evidence on key bottlenecks and determinants, but possible factors that perpetuate gender inequality and hamper enrolment and retention in secondary education include violence and maltreatment; persistent gaps in education and health; migration and trafficking; and a widening gender gap in adolescence.

Continuous efforts made by all countries in the region have resulted in a reduction of the under-five mortality rate from 58 deaths per 1000 live births in 1990 to 20 deaths per 1000 live births in 2012. The region is on track to reach MDG 4 targets on under-five mortality by 2015. Disparities persist, however, with half of all the under-five deaths due to neonatal causes and about one third attributable to preventable causes such as pneumonia and diarrhoea. Children living in poor, remote, ethnic minority and rural households are disproportionately affected. Neonatal mortality remains a challenge, requiring greater attention particularly through community action and improved delivery practices. Across the region, immunization coverage against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP3) and measles is high, at 92 per cent and 94 per cent respectively in 2012. Lower rates are seen in PNG (63 per cent-62 per cent), Indonesia (64 per cent-80 per cent), Timor-Leste (67 per cent-62 per cent) Lao PDR (79 per cent-72 per cent), Myanmar (85 per cent-84 per cent) and the Philippines (86 per cent-85 per cent).

MDG 5 indicators of the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) and skilled birth attendance show slow progress. There were 730 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in PNG, 560 in Timor-Leste, 360 in Indonesia and Lao PDR, 320 in Myanmar and 210 in Cambodia. More worryingly, there are reports that some EAP countries, such as Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, have registered recent increases in maternal mortality. Those countries with high maternal mortality have not made significant progress in skilled birth attendance, with the exception of Myanmar. Once again regional figures (92 per cent of births were attended by a skilled professional in 2008-2012) hide significant disparities between countries with only 29 per cent of births attended in Timor-Leste, 42 per cent in Lao PDR and 53 per cent in PNG. Geography and poverty remain strong determinants of a woman’s access to quality health services.

As more children survive the first decade of life, a growing challenge for the region will be in addressing the diverse range of health concerns associated with the region’s growing adolescent population (10-19 years) which comprises 16 per cent of the region’s population. Access to reproductive health services for adolescents is limited across the region.

With a prevalence of 0.2 per cent in 2012, the region overall is mostly on track to reach MDG 6 on halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS. Myanmar, PNG and Thailand have halved the number of new infections since 2001 and are on target to achieve MDG 6. Across the region, new infections among new-borns are declining, but the pace of the decline - at 9 per cent between 2010 and 2012 - is not fast enough to reach the 2015 target of a 90 per cent reduction. Adolescents made up 17 per cent of new infections in the region in 2012. New HIV infections are increasing in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, where injecting drug use contributed significantly to the rise. In Timor-Leste, the prevalence among pregnant women is 1 per cent- higher than the national average of 0.68 per cent - raising fears that the country is on the brink of a generalized epidemic. Around 780,000 people are currently living with the disease in China, some 600,000 in Indonesia, 450,000 in Thailand and 200,000 in Myanmar. A growing trend in the region is infection amongst men who have sex with men (MSM). HIV prevalence among MSM populations is particularly high (15 per cent to nearly 25 per cent) in major cities, including Bangkok, Hanoi and Jakarta. Many MSM are becoming infected at a young age. While AIDS-related death is declining in the region, nearly a quarter (24 per cent) of those deaths occur among adolescents. Treatment for children still lags behind that of adults; according to the most recent (2012) figures, only 43 per cent of children in all of Asia and the Pacific who needed antiretroviral treatment were receiving it.

The specific target on water supply is likely to be the only MDG 7 target to be met in the region. Ninety-one per cent of people have access to improved water, including 97 per cent in urban areas and 84 per
cent in rural areas. While the region as a whole is on track, four countries -- Cambodia, Lao PDR, PNG, and Timor-Leste -- are unlikely to meet the water target. Only 67 per cent of people in the EAP region (76 per cent urban, 58 per cent rural) use improved sanitation and the water and sanitation profile of the Pacific sub-region (consisting of 14 Pacific Island countries and PNG), shows that only 30 per cent of Pacific islanders have access to improved sanitation. Two other countries remain under the 50 per cent line for sanitation coverage - Cambodia (33 per cent) and Timor-Leste (39 per cent). There are also striking wealth-based and area-based disparities. In Cambodia, only 22 per cent of the rural population are using improved sanitation facilities compared to 76 per cent of the urban population. Across the region, the poorest households have much lower access to improved drinking water and sanitation facilities. Only 11 per cent of poorest quintile households in Lao PDR have access to improved sanitation facilities compared to 96 per cent in the richest. Eliminating open defecation remains a challenge for six EAP countries (Cambodia, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Lao PDR, Timor-Leste, and Indonesia) where the proportion of the population practicing open defecation is above the developing world average of 18 per cent. Only a few countries are on track to meet MDG 7 targets on sustainable development. The region has also become a primary emitter of greenhouse gases, and air pollution remains a critical concern, especially for industrializing countries such as China and Viet Nam. According to 2007 World Bank estimates, China loses about 5.8 per cent of its GDP due to air and water pollution, with significant impacts such as premature deaths, climate change and increased disasters.

In relation to MDG 8, official development assistance (ODA) continues to decline as more countries in the region graduate to a middle-income status. Current ODA amounts to about one-thousandth of regional income (GNI). UNICEF is increasingly leveraging national resources for results for children and strengthening partnerships with governments, international financial institutions (including the ADB), regional organizations (such as ASEAN), civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and media to advance policies for children and enhance visibility of child-relevant issues in the region.

As a regional contribution towards global aid for children, UNICEF’s private sector fundraising in the entire Asia region (including India, which is supported by EAPRO) contributed US$51 million in gross proceeds in 2013 –20 per cent more than in 2012. For humanitarian action, UNICEF raised over $2.5 million from the private sector in five programme countries: China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. The most significant support from countries in the region and globally, was provided for the response to Philippines Typhoon Haiyan, for which US$3,504,897 was raised in 2013.

In the area of child rights, UNICEF has continued to advocate with and provide technical support for adherence by governments to the obligations of the CRC, and the adoption of regional standards and guidelines for child rights promotion and protection. Significant gains were achieved with the accession of two Optional Protocols on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the promotion of the 3rd Optional Protocol on Communications. Increased attention to issues of disability continued and a high level meeting on statistics (CRVS) was held in preparation for an intergovernmental Asia-Pacific CRVS meeting scheduled for November 2014. The Regional Office is collaborating with UN agencies to strengthen the developments on the promotion of human rights through collaboration with the ASEAN Committee for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children among other ASEAN bodies. It is planned that an ASEAN/UNICEF framework of cooperation will be signed in the second quarter of 2014.

Despite rapid economic growth and transition to middle-income status, there are major challenges to realizing commitments to address child protection and child welfare issues of violence, abuse and exploitation. Because of the inter-relationship and complexity of child protection issues, UNICEF in EAP advocates for the development of national child protection systems grounded in data generation and analysis, and bolstered by professional capacity to deliver social welfare services. EAPRO partnered with the US CDC to assist an additional five countries to establish national prevalence data on sexual, physical and emotional violence against children. Country Offices are strengthening and building national child protection systems using evidence to inform programme approaches and services, and working with governments to adopt strategies which are cost-effective and provide better
outcomes for children. Further, given increased evidence of the economic consequences of child maltreatment and the emerging science on brain development, in particular during adolescence, Countries Offices are working with governments to establish more appropriate approaches and preventive actions for children in contact with justice system. UNICEF continues to support children released from armed forces in Myanmar and the Philippines with further progress expected following the implementation of signed Action Plans. At the regional level, the capacity of COs to monitor and report grave violations of children's rights in situations of armed conflict was strengthened through technical advice with support from UNICEF NYHQ.

Key challenges and opportunities

1. Adjusting to the opportunities and demands of middle income countries
UNICEF continues to adjust programme approaches to address the situations and needs of children in Middle Income Countries (MICs) through increased use of evidence to promote policy change and leverage national resources. More and more governments have the economic and administrative capacity to implement programmes for children. They engage with UNICEF to jointly develop innovative models on the ground. If UNICEF is to fulfil its role as a strategic partner, it needs to continue strengthening its capacity to advocate, to generate and share its knowledge, and to provide social policy analysis and support.

The high degree of diversity within and across MICs means that there is no 'blueprint' for UNICEF programming in the region. While the Regional Office is supporting Country Offices to better respond to the needs of MIC environments, for example through staff re-profiling and capacity development, further effort is needed to ensure that UNICEF is best positioned to address the complexities of the region. This includes strengthening capacities within the Regional Office to be able to provide technical and policy level advice as well as enhanced management oversight to Country Offices across a range of country settings.

2. Rising income and social inequalities
Inequality has increased significantly across the region over the last decade, with particularly large increases in China and Indonesia. A growing challenge for the region is in addressing increasing disparities and inequities and human rights and child protection issues in middle income environments. Advocacy has become a critical element in UNICEF's work, and so it has become even more critical that programme and communications combine to ensure that results and actions are effectively communicated to those with the capacity to make change.

3. Emergencies, natural disasters and social unrest
Violence and social unrest continued in several countries, with substantial impact on children. Hundreds of thousands of people in the region, especially in Myanmar and the Philippines, continue to be displaced within or across borders due to internal conflicts, ethnic violence and natural disasters. In Myanmar, the first ever “Aid Accord” was agreed between Government and the international community, providing new opportunities for collaboration, while conflicts in Rakhine and Kachin states persist with significant impact on children. Political tensions escalated in DPRK, Cambodia and Thailand, and more governments are restricting public demonstrations and online activism.

Political change in the region, notably in Myanmar, has provided new opportunities for UNICEF to strategically engage with government and national partners to prioritize social investment and policies and programmes that advance child rights. In the Philippines, successive emergencies and significant funding for the Typhoon Haiyan response has allowed for increased focus on national and regional capacity to prepare and respond to emergencies and for stronger linkages between humanitarian action and development programmes.

4. Challenges associated with demographic change
Children and youth under the age of 24 comprise a large portion of the region's population (38 per cent), with higher rates (over 60 per cent) in Lao PDR and Cambodia. Across the region, young people face a number of common challenges including high drop-out rates and poor educational achievement; high levels of unemployment; high fertility rates amongst adolescents; engagement in risky behaviours; social
dislocation and discrimination. Youth unemployment is a continuing concern despite continued economic growth, with unemployment at 13.4 per cent in South-East Asia and the Pacific in 2011 (ESCAP, 2012). The CRC stipulates a number of rights with regards to youth participation and engagement in decision-making processes yet this is lacking in many countries. At the same time, the region is ageing rapidly with the number of elderly persons (65 years and older) expected to increase threefold by 2050, comprising one quarter of the total regional population. An ageing population will have significant social and economic implications, particularly with increasing dependency ratios linked to demands for health care and retirement benefits.

5. Children living with disabilities
There are estimated to be about 650 million people with disabilities in the Asia Pacific region. People with disabilities are amongst the most marginalized populations in society. A large proportion of this population are children, with limited access to basic services, educational opportunities, protection, and facing social exclusion, discrimination and stigma in mainstream society. Children living with disabilities are also more likely to experience violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, than their peers, with higher rates of institutionalization, compounding their vulnerability to other child rights violations and deficits. UNICEF can play an important role in ensuring that programmes are sensitive to the rights and needs of children with disabilities, and help to end the discrimination faced, and promote policies that ensure all children, including those with disabilities, are enabled to realize their full potential.

6. Cross-Border Child Protection Issues
The Rohingya issue which effects Myanmar, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand remains a major human rights challenge. While solutions depend on resolving citizenship rights in Myanmar, Bangladesh and elsewhere, the ongoing discrimination and conflict in Myanmar and across the region will continue to require high-level political engagement by the United Nations. UNICEF COs in Myanmar, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand continue to monitor the situation of children and the EAPRO has had several policy dialogues on the problem with UNHCR and OHCHR. UNICEF continues to work closely with UN and national partners to prevent child trafficking in the region – a key issue in many countries.

3. Analysis of Programme Strategies and Results in the Region

3.1 Overview of programme strategies
A. Evidence-based policy advocacy for achieving the MDGs
EAPRO continues to support Country Offices’ advocacy efforts through the generation and consolidation of evidence relevant to policy and action for children. For instance in child protection, the RO coordinated the process to build a package of evidence on national child protection systems, particularly focusing on the cost of inaction and integrating child protection in governance frameworks.

In health, EAPRO’s ongoing support in bottleneck analysis and equity-focused situation analyses has been strategic in supporting advocacy efforts around acceleration of MDG progress.

EAPRO also supports advocacy efforts at country level through regional level partnerships and networking. For example, in establishing an active partnership with the Public Expenditure Management Network in Asia (PEMNA), a network of high-level Ministry of Finance (MoF) officials, EAPRO support has contributed to successful leveraging of national resources for children, increasing equity, efficiency, and effectiveness of social sector financing, and expanding child-sensitive social protection in line with the region-wide Public Finance for Children Initiative.

Through the organization of high-level meetings, EAPRO effectively provided platforms to promote issues and leverage regional commitments. In 2013, EAPRO jointly organized a number of key regional events. These included: the second High Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in Delhi, India (with ROSA), which gathered 37 governments and concluded with a renewed commitment to adolescents, ECD and children in urban settings; a High-Level ECCE Policy Forum in Seoul, Republic of Korea, where 16 Ministers/Vice-Ministers and senior MOE Officials from 32 Asia-
Pacific countries participated; and the Annual Regional Conference on ECD organised by ARNEC in Singapore.

B. Support to national capacity development
UNICEF Country Offices have engaged with governments and partners in equity-sensitive research and data analysis; supporting national and sub-national dialogues on enhancing social protection and budgets for children; and working with partners to strengthen government capacity to deliver vital social services to those most in need. EAPRO strengthened national capacity through training, support to evidence-based planning and budgeting, and technical advice for system strengthening. In child protection, the Regional Office has supported ten countries to strength justice for children system through capacity building of law enforcers, development of child-friendly police protocols and supported newly established juvenile courts such as those in Mongolia, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea. In WASH, EAPRO contributed to strengthening of national approaches for Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), WASH in Schools. In health, the EAPRO continued to support capacity on infant and young child feeding 'Community Counselling' with a training on supportive supervision in Mongolia, Philippines, and Indonesia. In HIV/AIDS, EAPRO provided technical advice for improved data management for sustainable ICT interventions for mHealth and eHealth.

C. Strengthening the human rights based approach to cooperation
EAPRO reviewed country programming documents and initiatives using an HRBA lens and provided feedback to strengthen rights-based programming, including strategies for developing the evidence base on social and political dimensions of underlying inequities and discrimination. This took place through mid-term reviews and new country programme development. PPP training, which EAPRO supported in several countries, continues to emphasize HRBA as a core component of UNICEF programming, with focus on capacity building and reaching the most disadvantaged. In partnership with the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children, EAPRO supported alignment of regional and national initiatives with ASEAN inter-governmental targets for children. UNICEF is cooperating with ASEAN countries to build national and local capacity for children’s and women’s rights and in relation to the national and regional human rights mechanisms, such as to support national reporting to the CRC and CEDAW Committees, with RO contributions as appropriate. Partnerships with UN agencies have been strengthened through ongoing engagement in inter-agency technical working groups and strategic initiatives. There has also been increased cooperation with research institutes and academia and with the corporate sector on child rights, in a number of countries and regionally, including expanded engagement and training around Child Rights and Business Principles in several countries.

D. Knowledge management
The Regional Office worked to generate regional knowledge and evidence in support to Country Office efforts. In health, EAPRO completed equity-focused situation analyses, country maternal and new-born health (MNH) profiles, bottleneck analyses, documentation of innovations and case studies. The knowledge generated also contributed to shape the implementation strategies of regional action plans on child health and new-born care together with WHO, and planning for improving quality of care in MNCH services with UNFPA. In child protection, EAPRO contributed to strengthening the evidence base on national child protection systems, particularly focusing on the cost of inaction and integrating child protection in governance frameworks. In education, in-depth analyses of key determinants and barriers to quality education in four countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Timor-Leste) through the Out-Of-School Children Initiative (OOSCI) strengthened evidence based advocacy, supporting education equity.

EAPRO has also strengthened knowledge management in and across the region by fostering exchanges among countries of their experience, research and innovations in different sectors. For instance in WASH, the regional event on 'Scaling-up Sanitation and Hygiene in East Asia and Pacific’ provided an opportunity for 60 participants from government, development partners and UNICEF to share country experiences, research, approaches and tools.
E. Strengthening partnerships and levering results for children

Strategic technical partnerships were strengthened with government bodies (e.g. South East Asia Ministers of Education Organization), academia (e.g. University of Gadmajah in Indonesia on training of MoH staff), UN agencies (e.g. UNICEF on gender and ADAP for adolescents), NGOs (ARNEC, Child Protection Working Group, Children in a Changing Climate Coalition), the private sector (e.g. partnership with Cartoon Network and Yahoo), and with donors, notably the European Union in the area of nutrition. EAPRO is also strengthening its partnership with ASEAN, and will sign an MoU in early 2014 to form the basis for a durable engagement to promote child rights in the region. A new MoU with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) was signed in May 2013.

Partnerships with UN agencies have also been strengthened by UNICEF’s active role in the UNDG Asia-Pacific and regional UN thematic working groups. EAPRO participated in and contributed to leadership of a number of regional inter-agency coherence mechanisms including the UNDG Asia-Pacific at Regional Director level and its Peer Support Group (serving as chair); the UN Agencies working group on ASEAN human rights mechanisms; and the Regional Coordination Mechanism and its various thematic working groups and sub-groups including those on urbanization, migration, MICs, South-South Cooperation and Evaluation. Strong coordination has continued on humanitarian issues, particularly with UNHCR, WFP and OCHA.

South-South Cooperation continued to form a key strategy for supporting national capacity development and advocacy. In 2013, EAPRO collaborated with the Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) and COs in following up on the commitments made in the 2010 Beijing Declaration on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights and the organization of a second major inter-governmental meeting. The Beijing follow-up report highlighted the wide range of successful South-South cooperation activities among countries of both regions, learning from others’ good practices and replicating them; establishing regional and sub-regional networks and a coordination platform to address children’s issues, including cross-border priorities such as trafficking. The 2nd High Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights was successfully held in Delhi in October 2013. Government delegations from 37 countries gathered to share experiences on the themes of early childhood development, adolescents, and children in urban settings. The meeting resulted in significant exchange among country delegations and the adoption of the Delhi Declaration for further action. Through this initiative, EAPRO contributed to the reinforcement of national and regional commitments for child rights and the promotion of current and future country exchanges of experience through networking with and among high level officials.

F. Communication for development (C4D)

In 2013, key advances were made towards enhancing capacity amongst government and relevant partners to lead and manage C4D. EAPRO completed formative research for integrated C4D in maternal and new-born child health, WASH and EPI in Mongolia and Timor-Leste, which contributed to better understand and improve demand for services. A review workshop on C4D and newborn care, involving UNICEF and government counterparts, was convened by the Regional Office to strengthen in-country actions.

During the period under review, the RO organized a 5-day training on "Adolescent development and participation" in which there were specific sessions on communicating for behaviour change. Young leaders from 10 countries participated. UNICEF also organized a regional consultation on "Addressing adolescent pregnancies" which had Government counterparts from health/education or social welfare from China, Viet Nam, Thailand and Philippines. The consultation was an opportunity to share examples of successful social and behavioural change. A separate session was devoted to advocacy with policy makers.

G. Environmental sustainability

Environmental sustainability is a continuing priority for the region. Specific attention is given to climate change, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and the wider principles of resilience. Technical support was provided to COs to mainstream environmental awareness, DRR, climate change adaptation (CCA) and resilience in country programmes. Child-centred risk assessments, piloted in Lao PDR, Solomon Islands
and Indonesia, introduced risk-informed and climate-sensitive action. EAPRO organized regionals workshop in April and June that addressed risk-informed planning. Several Country Offices worked at the policy level to advance child-centred approaches to DRR and CCA and to integrate climate change and disaster risk management into local development planning. A number of Country Offices integrated DRR and/or climate change into educational curricula and promoted comprehensive school safety approaches. WASH interventions throughout the region addressed environmental vulnerabilities through behaviour change, policy guidance and increased technical knowledge. EAPRO continues to participate in regional interagency processes towards the Sustainable Development and Post-2015 agendas, promoting the interests of children and future generations.

H. Supporting gender equality, change management and quality assurance
The regional gender strategy was finalized and approved, and steps were advanced for its implementation linked to the global Gender Action Plan. EAPRO supports gender equality through strengthening disaggregated evidence, technical advice for gender-based programming, and enhanced regional partnerships. EAPRO is actively collaborating with UNGEI to generate evidence on Girls, Disabilities and Education in EAP; raising awareness on gender issues, organizing events such as a regional Roundtable on SRGBV or sessions on gender and ECD at a regional high-level meeting on ECD; and supporting capacity building efforts of UNGEI’s members. EAPRO regularly ensures the inclusion of gender issues in regional initiatives such as the regional PPTCT taskforce, EFA end of Decade Note on Gender, Global EFA Action Week, International Worker’s Day, World Day Against Child Labour. Within UNICEF, EAPRO hosted the global technical consultation on the development of the GAP.

The Regional Office continued to lead and guide change management in the region through contributions and support to the Effectiveness and Efficiency Initiative, including participation on numerous steering committees and taskforces. As detailed in later sections, EAPRO support has involved extensive effort on the part of operations, human resources and senior management. Similarly, EAPRO has maintained its quality assurance role with respect to programmes and operations in the region, though capacity limitations make this work difficult. Actions to fulfil this accountability were carried out through the ongoing attention of regional advisers and senior management in the course of country visits, meetings and other interactions, and with special attention to country milestone events. Priority focus was given to quality assurance for the seven countries undertaking MTRs and the one preparing a new CPD. Intensive support has been provided for emergency responses in the Philippines and in other countries. EAPRO conducted several routine PBR, the quadrennial PBR and a special emergency PBR for the Philippines. The Regional Director also serves on the global PBR.

I. Monitoring Results for Equity in EAP
Results monitoring for equity (MoRES) continued to advance in the EAP region, with Country Offices piloting activities and supporting national and subnational authorities to strengthen results-based planning as well as collection and analysis of data. All EAP Country Offices have conducted comprehensive determinant analyses in different forms, identifying key bottlenecks and barriers. Indonesia, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Philippines and Mongolia COs have piloted approaches to strengthen sub-national monitoring in selected sectors. Cross-sectorally, building on the experience of three countries (Indonesia, Lao PDR and Philippines) as part of MoRES work stream 1, EAPRO has worked throughout the region by providing hands-on technical support, facilitation of learning sessions internally and with national partners, sharing good practices and contributing to strengthened programming, particularly for countries undertaking a mid-term review. The RO organized meeting sessions (e.g. DROPS-PME and sectoral networks), webinars and teleconferences with COs, internal learning events and exchanges with colleagues in HQ and other regions to update on progress, share experiences and explore technical developments and good practices. A framework was developed and is regularly updated to monitor implementation of the MoRES approach across the region.

J. Support to global initiatives
The RO is actively engaged in a large number of global initiatives at the regional and country level, particularly those aimed at reducing child and maternal mortality, including A Promise Renewed, Scaling Up Nutrition, Countdown to 2015, Partnership on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children, GAVI, UN Water, Prevention of
Parent to Child Transmission of HIV, and the campaign to combat Violence against Children. For example, with UNICEF’s efforts, four countries (Indonesia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, and Myanmar) have joined the SUN Movement. These initiatives have been useful in mobilizing action around critical issues. They have also occasionally dispersed attention with partners that are engaged in a large number of related and follow-up activities, with risks of compromised quality and dilution of focus. A strategic approach that brings together the efforts on complementary initiatives has been identified as most useful for the region. UNICEF will continue to contribute leadership to policy dialogue through participation in regional and national meetings, including on the Post-2015 development agenda, balancing the various global processes and requirements with the ongoing priorities of country programme implementation and UN Coherence, among others.

K. Assessment of the evaluation function in the region
EAPRO continued its efforts to improve the number, quality and the credibility of evaluations throughout the region. Results include increased capacity to strategically plan evaluations; increased use of evaluations; and enhanced capacity to support country-led evaluations and national evaluation systems. Two major regional evaluations were completed in 2013 i.e. UNICEF’s response to decentralization in EAP; and Mid-Term Evaluation of the MCYNSIA EU- multi-country project.

EAPRO supported the conceptualization and management of major evaluations at the CO level including joint UN Evaluations (Philippines and Cambodia); Child Protection (Thailand); WASH (Indonesia); and HIV/AIDS (Pacific). Strategic planning of evaluations was reinforced through improved IMEP processes. EAPRO and ROSA partnered to increase the reach of two key evaluation products namely, Evaluate and the Regional Evaluation Roster. Internal capacity development including for equity-focused evaluation targeted COs as well as UNCTs.

The RO contributed to the preparation and launch of a national evaluation policy in the Philippines and national evaluation capacity development initiatives for country-led systems (Thailand, Lao PDR, and Cambodia). Implementation of a South-South cooperation strategy to foster horizontal exchanges led to increased demand for national evaluations. EAPRO contributed to the global dialogue on evaluation, including inputs to the new UNICEF’s Evaluation Policy approved by the Executive Board in 2013. Evaluation was included in the agenda of RMTs and DROPS/PME meetings.

Strategic planning of evaluations was enhanced through quality IMEP processes. Thailand, Indonesia, Pacific, Cambodia, Viet Nam and Malaysia conducted or planned major strategic evaluations for 2013-2014. Coverage of evaluations, however, remains a challenge. EAPRO has continued to stress the need to implement the recommendations from evaluation and this has increased. Based on the reports of the Global Evaluation Reports Oversight System (GEROS), all EAP evaluations were followed by management responses (MR) in 2012 and 2013. Implementation of MRs significantly increased if compared to the previous reporting period. In 2013 44 per cent actions were completed and 38 per cent were reported as ongoing. However, the governance of the evaluation function needs to be strengthened across the region. EAPRO will work to ensure that evaluation is positioned as a key function in all COs, with adequate capacity and funding.

UNICEF played a leadership role in key inter-UN evaluation activities especially those organized by the United Nations Development Evaluation Group for Asia and the Pacific (UNEDAP). EAPRO led the fourth edition of the course ‘Evaluation in the UN Context” and provided strategic support to the conceptualization of UNDAF and One Plan evaluations.

3.2 Overview of MTSP focus areas

3.2.1. Young Child Survival and Development

A. Major initiatives
With continued epidemiological burden of pneumonia and diarrhoea, efforts in 2013 aimed at gathering country-specific evidence, proposing strategic actions and accelerating the introduction of the new vaccines against these two diseases. Prioritisation of key health interventions in an initial six countries were strengthened through the use of existing framework for the global Action Plan for the Prevention
and control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD). With due recognition of the burden of mortality attributed to the new-born period, EAPRO worked closely with WHO to support bottleneck analysis and capacity building in countries and develop a regional action plan for new-born care. Support also continued to further strengthen cold chain capacity, in advance of the introduction of new vaccines to existing routine services; and develop and pilot a practical strategy to bring essential services to the hard-to-reach populations.

In support of the GAPPD and the Global Strategy for the Elimination of Open Defecation, EAPRO jointly organized a Regional Learning Event on ‘Scaling-up Sanitation and Hygiene in East Asia and Pacific’ with Plan International, WaterAID and World Bank Water and Sanitation Program (WSP). This provided an opportunity for exchanges of country experiences, latest research, approaches and tools around rural sanitation and hygiene, and as such to maintain priority and capacity for scaling-up efforts towards elimination of open defecation and sanitation in disadvantaged communities.

With malnutrition and exclusive breastfeeding remaining priorities in the region, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement is gaining momentum in the region with four countries having joined the movement (Indonesia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, and Myanmar) and three expressing interest (Cambodia, Timor-Leste, and Philippines).

B. Key results registered in 2013
In an effort to better understand and improve service demand, formative research for integrated Communication for Development (C4D) in MNCH, WASH and EPI was completed in Mongolia and Timor-Leste. A baseline ISS survey was also supported in Mongolia in collaboration with Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. Review workshops on C4D and newborn care involving UNICEF as well as government counterparts, was convened by the Regional Office to strengthen in-country actions. Technical as well as financial support provided to countries experiencing communicable disease outbreaks continued and will be needed until overall coverage rates are uniformly high.

Through technical and financial support to seven MTR countries (Lao PDR, DPRK, Cambodia, China, Indonesia and Myanmar), EAPRO contributed to strengthening national approaches at-scale of priority areas as Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), WASH in Schools, monitoring and capacity building, emergency preparedness and response. The Regional Office also completed the regional analysis of the 2012 and 2013 global Joint Monitoring Programme reports titled Sanitation & Hygiene in East Asia and Pacific and Water Supply in in East Asia and Pacific and Regional Review of Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) which highlighted some of the major bottlenecks for equitable and quality WASH services. The reports guided countries and partners on policy dialogue and advocacy for equitable WASH services. Active involvement in the regional Thematic Working Group on Water, Hygiene and Sanitation under East Asia Ministerial Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene guided the alignment of national WASH monitoring systems with global initiatives.

In 2013, EAPRO results included a review of Legislation for Universal Salt Iodization in 22 countries; the mid-term evaluation of the UNICEF/EU partnership Maternal and Young Child Nutrition Security Initiative in Asia (MYCNSIA); production of a series of five advocacy briefs on “Multi-sectoral Approaches to Nutrition” reviewing the evidence linking nutrition to agriculture, education, health/WASH, and social protection and calling leaders to action. A comprehensive Regional Nutrition Strategy was drafted and will be finalized early 2014. The Regional Office also supported a successful regional advocacy workshop on Maternity Protection in Hanoi and a high-level Workshop on Stunting Reduction in Mongolia.

C. Major partnerships
EAPRO partnered with academic institutions (University of Queensland, University of Melbourne and University of Gadjah Madah) to further work on development of an evidence base for improved planning and budgeting at district level. With Mahidol University, UNICEF developed a case study on Thailand documenting its success to reduce the neonatal mortality rate. GAVI continues to be a major partner in support of the strengthening of basic immunization services and the introduction of new vaccines. WHO remains as a key technical partner.
Key WASH regional partners included World Bank Water and Sanitation Program (WSP), Plan International, WaterAID and ADB, particularly to conduct joint reviews, networking events and advocacy for sanitation and hygiene. UNICEF's active involvement in the regional Technical Working Group for Water and Sanitation under East Asia Sanitation Ministerial Conference (EASAN) was maintained to guide alignment of national WASH monitoring systems with global initiatives. With WASH support, PFP unit formalized a MoU with LIXIL Corporation for support to Sanitation and WASH in Schools initiatives.

In nutrition, a partnership with University of Washington on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) facilitated support to bottleneck analyses in the Philippines, and M&E of linkages between nutrition and cash transfer programmes in Indonesia and Nepal. EAPRO moved nutrition ahead on the ASEAN agenda through participation in the ASEAN Maternal Child Health Task Force, with an accepted proposal for a regional nutrition report in 2014-15. Coordination of regional level partners working in nutrition (UN agencies, academia, non-governmental organizations, and donors) continued through two meetings of the Nutrition Security Coordination Committee convened by UNICEF under the MYCNSIA.

D. Common constraints and factors
While the rise of middle income countries in the region reflects increased national wealth, it masks high levels of inequity. Challenges with national and sub-national level planning and budget allocations mean that resources are not necessarily being spent at appropriate levels in areas where the needs are greatest. Adequate service delivery in the areas of maternal, new-born and child health, sanitation and hygiene, and nutrition are goals worthy of pursuit. This requires a thorough understanding of resource flows and local circumstances, highly dependent on data analysis in order to draw meaningful and relevant conclusions. With economic growth and a demographic shift to more women in the workplace and increasingly aggressive marketing tactics of infant formula companies, promoting exclusive breastfeeding remains a tremendous challenge in the region.

Funding at country level remains a major challenge; MNCH, WASH and Nutrition in the region are heavily reliant on OR funding, and declining resources pose challenges at both regional and country levels to maintain expected and high quality in-country technical capacity to support respective government. While the funding requirements to undertake these tasks is not significant, the middle income status of many of the countries means that multi-lateral donor inputs have been significantly reduced and leveraging domestic resources requires proof of concept in each instance. Further, this work is normally multi-year in nature and out of chronological sync with normal donor resource flows. Another common challenge encountered is limited in-country expertise for knowledge management and 'upstream' budgeting and policy work.

E. Validated good practices and lessons learnt
Partnerships with academic institutions and other knowledge-based entities, working collectively at subnational levels for the purpose of evidence gathering has proven to be a model which works well for all parties and providing critical documentation, knowledge transfer and a basis for future actions. Recognizing the complexity and scale of the sanitation and hygiene challenges in the region, it is critical that UNICEF works closely with key sector partners in evidence generation, advocacy and policy support.

F. Value Added
UNICEF's subnational presence remains a critical advantage, permitting the gathering of evidence needed to address the yawning challenges of inequity. A complementary focus on policy refinement is best supported with the ground-level work currently being undertaken for the purpose of improving the delivery of services in the areas of maternal, newborn and child health.

Three countries (Viet Nam, Indonesia and Myanmar) benefitted from their participation in the EAPRO WASH facilitated global WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool (WASH BAT) strategy development workshop, and further guidance helped Viet Nam to implement this tool to undertake an in-depth analysis of persisting bottlenecks to scale-up rural sanitation. This analysis identified some previously-
unrecognized critical bottlenecks and so helped prompt action to resolve issues. This experience will be valuable for expansion of the initiative to other countries in the region. The Mid Term Review again demonstrated the convening power of UNICEF amongst the diversity of stakeholders in the various sectors, requiring UNICEF to maintain high quality technical and strategic support to the Governments and partners for programmes and management. In China, for example, the WASH MTR consultation brought together ministries of Health, Water Resources, Education and Planning which does not happen normally.

The Regional Office continued to support capacity on infant and young child feeding “Community Counselling” with a training on supportive supervision in Mongolia, Philippines, and Indonesia. The Regional Office role in coordinating and managing the MYCNSIA mid-term evaluation enabled common lessons to be drawn from experience across the five programme implementation countries (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, and Philippines) and two Regional Offices (EAPRO and ROSA).

G. Emergencies
EAPRO strengthened the capacity of UNICEF offices in WASH in emergency, with over 90 per cent of WASH staff undergoing WASH in Emergencies (WiE) training. In addition, WASH emergency preparedness and coordination training in Solomon and Suva strengthened capacity and knowledge in this area throughout the Pacific. Emergency surge support in WASH and nutrition for the Typhoon Haiyan response helped UNICEF Philippines, providing additional capacity in the development of response plans and funding proposals.

As EAP is an emergency prone region, efforts to support Country Office capacity on risk-informed gender-sensitive emergency preparedness and response planning will remain a priority. A review of C4D for DRR and disease outbreaks was published and regular online and 2 week surge support was provided to assist the health response in Tacloban.

3.2.2. Basic Education and Gender Equality

A. Major initiatives
Regional efforts to support equity-focused education programmes continued in 2013. Participation in the UN Girls Education Initiative (UNGEI) on strengthening the policy agenda led to significant progress in narrowing the gender gap in education and improving absolute gender parity. However, in many countries girls still receive less years of education than boys, particularly in remote and rural areas and among poor and ethnic and linguistic minority communities. Additionally, some countries are seeing a “reverse gender gap” with the relative underachievement of boys. Many countries are promoting gender equality in education through Child-Friendly Schools. UNGEI also contributed to knowledge generation (a regional roundtable on SRGBV), partnerships and capacity building (establishment of a Technical Working Group on Gender Disparities and Inclusion (TWGGDI) within the education sector working group in Lao PDR).

The Out-of-School Children’s Initiative (six countries) and the School Grants Study (four countries) have helped to highlight key barriers and bottlenecks which prevent children from accessing quality education. Additionally, the region saw increased interest in the development of a regionally relevant metric for assessment of learning outcomes in primary education. In partnership with SEAMEO Secretariat, SEAMEO INNOTECH, UNESCO, and UNESCAP, UNICEF led the development of the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metric, which is designed for children in grade 5 (10 year-old-children), based on regional curricula and includes anchor-items from other global metrics. ECD is increasingly recognized as an important priority in many countries. The region saw the organisation of several high level fora, policy advocacy initiatives and conferences to advocate for high-quality holistic ECD particularly for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. UNICEF contributed to the organisation of three key regional events: a High-Level ECCE Policy Forum in Seoul, Republic of Korea (16 Ministers/Vice-Ministers and senior MOE Officials from 32 Asia-Pacific countries participated); a background policy paper on “Fulfilling Child Rights with Early Childhood
Development" reviewed by regional experts and partners, prepared for the 2nd High Level Meeting (HLM) on South-South Cooperation, in Delhi; the Annual Regional Conference on ECD organised by ARNEC in Singapore. Additionally, UNICEF contributed to the development of quality early childhood assessment through the validation of a regional metric: the EAP Early Childhood Development Scales. These scales will equip regional stakeholders for a common measurement tool that can assess the holistic progress of children 3-5 years of age.

Initiated in 2012, the Peacebuilding in Education and Advocacy (PBEA) programme continued to strengthen its focus on language education and social cohesion within sector-wide approaches; education and peacebuilding, and ECD in Peacebuilding initiatives. Six reports were produced on the topic of education and social cohesion. A side meeting on ECD and peacebuilding organized during the regional ARNEC conference led to a regional desk review being commissioned in partnership with ARNEC, which will form the basis for future national work in a few countries in the region.

Attention to adolescents as a key population is increasingly prioritised by regional partners, highlighting the need to better understand their situation. As a key inter-sectoral initiative, EAPRO completed the first regional situation analysis on adolescent pregnancy and a regional consultation on the topic highlighted the need for increased attention on holistic development and greater youth involvement and participation. In the Philippines, a conflict analysis on adolescence and peacebuilding was initiated and will serve as a basis for future cross-sectoral work.

B. Key results
Results monitoring for equity is advancing in the education sector across the region. All offices are working with development partners and Education Sector Working Group members on identifying key determinants of deprivation, and incorporating results in annual work planning processes. UNICEF contributed to knowledge in education through technical inputs to regional research, studies and reviews in key areas of work including ECD, Peacebuilding, Gender in Education, Education Equity, Education For All (EFA), the Post-2015 discourse, and Adolescence. UNICEF also led the organization of eight key meetings in the region and contributed to three regional high level meetings to promote advocacy on education with equity, and strengthen national education systems. Publications on education for disadvantaged groups and equity have increased in the region. UNICEF also contributed to strengthened equity in education through spotlights on specific, under-researched topics such as School-related Gender Based Violence, Gender and Disabilities in Education, situation analyses on Adolescence, PB, and language and social cohesion. UNICEF's strategy of leveraging partners and resources has strengthened advocacy for the most disadvantaged children. In Timor-Leste, high-level advocacy with the President and the Vice-Prime Minister, has led to increased commitments for holistic ECD and nutrition for young children in the region.

C. Major partnerships
Collaboration continued with inter-governmental bodies, for example South East Asia Ministers Learning Metrics for Primary Age Children, and academia (e.g. HKU and University of Melbourne). The Asia Pacific EFA Thematic Working Group, co-chaired by EAPRO and UNESCO Bangkok, provided coordination support to other networks including the Regional UNGEI Group, the Multi-Lingual Education Working Group and the Regional Education in Emergencies Working Group. In 2013, publication of the six EFA End Decade Notes (one on each of the EFA Goals) with focus on reaching the unreached were completed. A regional Education 2015 review was initiated, which will conclude in 2014. ARNEC continues to be a strong partner in the region, particularly on ECD research, policy advocacy, capacity development and knowledge management. Through research and advocacy, the Regional UNGEI Group was instrumental in advancing understanding on School-Related Gender Based Violence, marginalization (including disabilities and gender in education), and exploring partnerships with regional players including UNiTE, UNFPA, civil society organizations and education sector groups in different countries. The Regional ADAP, led by UNICEF, UNESCO and UNFPA, contributed to results at national and regional level around knowledge generation, capacity building, policy engagement and advocacy.

D. Common constraints and factors
Education is a priority sector for all governments in the region, although with varying attention to quality, learning outcomes and reaching the most excluded groups. A major capacity gap exists in the readiness of governments, academics and international agencies to develop functional monitoring systems at national level, based on the large amounts of education data that are available and focusing on barrier and bottleneck analysis and costing of solutions (Simulation for Equity in Education model). In the area of ECD, gaps remain in policymakers’ understanding and in the development of comprehensive, cross-sectoral approaches. While progress on gender parity in education appears promising, the risk of losing some of these gains remains high, if more gender analyses are not integrated into sectoral planning and implementation. Acknowledgment and ownership of adolescence as a cross-sectoral issue remains a continuing challenge both within and outside the organization. Within UNICEF, funding constraints remain a concern at country level, with programme and staffing implications. Thematic partnerships, such as the Schools for Asia initiative, provide a useful resource mobilization for participating countries.

E. Validated good practices and lessons learned
Countries in the region have demonstrated the value of sound policy environments and strong mechanisms for implementation. At the regional level, the strategy of building platforms through strong collaborations and partner capacity-building appears to have paid off, in terms of increased buy-in for ECD, MLE and education equity. Demonstration of successful outputs (such as the ECD Scales) has led to increased receptivity and requests to UNICEF for more sophisticated and contextually relevant tools and metrics for the region, for other age ranges as well.

F. Value added to progress in this focus area
EAPRO-led multi country initiatives have created a range of options and pooled resources from partners and other regional stakeholders. This has led to a perception of the RO as a team player and technical lead on a wide variety of education equity topics. For example, the School Grants Initiative provided both technical guidance and resources to CO teams, which empowered the Country teams to focus on achieving key results. The ECD Scales initiative was seen as going beyond a mere training exercise for a small project and serving as an impetus for building a cadre of national well-trained researchers, equipped with state of the art, specialized knowledge and capacity. The Schools for Asia initiative has continued to extend RO support to Country Offices in the preparation of quality donor toolkits and in developing human interest stories and innovative communications between schools, Country Offices and National Committees.

G. Education in emergencies
Building on progress made in Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives in previous years, additional risk informed programme approaches were strengthened in 2013. The Comprehensive School Safety Initiative, which was developed and jointly launched with UNESCO, Save the Children, Plan International, World Vision and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre during the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR, continues to be a key partnership in the region. Strengthening inter-sectoral/cluster work in preparedness and response, mainstreaming DRR in policies and education sector plans and programmes, and developing staff capacity on education in emergencies will continue to be a priority. In addition, as part of UNICEF’s global initiative in peacebuilding and education UNICEF developed a regional strategy by carrying out six country studies on the relationship between conflict, education and social cohesion. The studies review the existing Education Sector Plan and planning processes to explore the role of education in general, and UNICEF in particular in supporting social cohesion; and review of existing Education Sector Plan and Planning Processes and examine the link between peacebuilding and social cohesion, as well as education systems.

3.2.3. HIV/AIDS and Children

A. Major initiatives
Countries in Asia-Pacific region reaffirmed their commitment to elimination of new HIV infections in newborn and congenital syphilis at the 9th Asia-Pacific PPTCT Task Force meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal, August 2013. All participating countries agreed that achieving an AIDS-free generation was
feasible, although the timing varied, with most committing to elimination by 2020 instead of 2015. All countries also switched to the recommended PPTCT programme Option B or B+ for early and immediate treatment for HIV positive mothers and children to enhance life expectancy. During the year, EAPRO co-sponsored one symposium, five satellite sessions and one skills building session at the 11th International Congress on AIDS in Asia-Pacific (ICAAP) in Bangkok to advocate greater attention to children and HIV in their first and second decades of life. An emerging issue is the growing percentage of AIDS-related death among adolescents aged 10–19. EAPRO also stepped up advocacy with WHO and CSO partners to draw political attention to ARV treatment for children, which lags behind that of adults, and to a better understanding of the importance of monitoring and early infant diagnosis through strategic information to track PPTCT.

Technical support to countries enhanced capacity and implementation of strategies on ePTCT, paediatric ART, HIV prevention and protection, including improved data management for sustainable ICT interventions for mHealth and eHealth. Four regional studies/assessments, operational guidance and an advocacy report informed knowledge gaps on risk and vulnerabilities among adolescents/young key populations (YKP) highlighting the special needs of adolescents at risk. Cross-sectoral consultations with Child Protection, YCSD, Education/Adolescent Development and Social Policy strengthened joint actions, including the issues of children under 18 who sell sex, inject drugs and are sexually exploited/abused, as well as the use of C4D strategies, and ICT-driven solutions e.g. Smart Registry to support PPTCT follow up, MCH and birth registration.

B. Key results
The Elimination Framework target for PPTCT was adopted by 13 countries in EAP, including seven that adopted the dual goal of eliminating both HIV and congenital syphilis. Rapid-tests for HIV and syphilis were universally available in nearly all ANCs in Cambodia, Fiji, Malaysia and Thailand; China offered an integrated package of HIV, syphilis and Hepatitis-B tests. Point of Care testing was introduced by phase in Myanmar and piloted in three high-HIV prevalence provinces in China.

Regional PPTCT coverage (including sd-NVP) increased from 32 per cent (2010) to 43 per cent (2012) with an overall 9 per cent reduction in new HIV infections among newborn (2010-2012) in Asia-Pacific (the low rate of reduction was partly due to the lack of data from India and the low PPTCT coverage in South Asia). Malaysia and Thailand (MTCT: <2 per cent) were widely deemed ready for validation of ePTCT and eCS. In Lao PDR, the PPTCT costing model provided the basis for a strategic decision-making process on PPTCT. The Chinese government substantially increased domestic investment to US$ 136.3 million in 2012 for PPTCT scale up. In PNG, UNICEF brokered a public-private partnership between NDOH and Digicel Foundation to introduce mHealth to improve health information system as the basis for enhanced PPTCT and paediatric ART monitoring. Early infant diagnosis was strengthened in Cambodia, China, Myanmar and Thailand. An EID study in Thailand led to changes in HIV programmatic guidance to better identify children with HIV and expedite treatment initiation.

Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia and Thailand supported assessments and gained greater understanding of HIV risks/vulnerabilities in A/YKP. Indonesia's National Commission for AIDS pledged to include YKP in the upcoming National Strategic Plan in 2014 as a result of UNICEF's strong advocacy and secondary data analyses of IBBS that revealed a growing HIV prevalence among adolescents and youth. EAPRO and civil society partners (APN+, HYLIF) supported formative assessments and regional consultations to garner greater attention to issues of A/YKP including: the need to control AIDS-related death among adolescents; and issues concerning adolescents under-18 who were selling sex and their access to HIV prevention/ SRH services. A definitive report providing better understanding of HIV risks/vulnerabilities among A/YKP in Asia-Pacific based on available strategic information and special studies is being finalized.

Evidence for inclusion of child-HIV-sensitive social protection into broader national social policy initiatives were gathered through situational analysis of CABA in Myanmar and Thailand; and advocated through the online published assessment of HIV- and child-sensitive social protection programmes in nine countries in Asia-Pacific. The EIU assessment commissioned by EAPRO was presented at a national consultation in Indonesia, and resulted in a detailed workplan to eliminate key
access barriers. Successful advocacy resulted in the Philippine Government’s Modified Conditional Cash Transfer (MCCT) Programme integrating HIV related programmes and services; and capacity building interventions for education managers and teachers in support of PLHIV strengthened in Tanah Papua, Indonesia. China demonstrated systemic integration of CABA into larger social protection measures for all orphans and vulnerable children.

C. Major partnerships
Joint regional advocacy/country support actions with WHO and UNAIDS through the PPTCT Task Force strengthened high-level commitment to ending vertical transmission in Asia-Pacific. EAPRO with UNICEF ROSA, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNDP and CSO partners (Save the Children, YouthLEAD, YVC, APCOM) through the Asia-Pacific IATT on YKP fostered a stronger UN and civil society partnership, resulting in more joint actions, strategic information capacity building as well as greater engagement of A/YKPs in regional/ national level policy and programming processes. EAPRO with WHO WPRO engaged with the Asia eHealth Information Network (AEHIN) and other partners on ICT/Innovation for HIV and Health Systems Strengthening.

D. Common constraints and factors
Limited availability of strategic information (age and sex disaggregated data) on A/YKP, particularly those under 18. Policy/legal issues (ethical constraints of testing children, age of consent to access HIV testing; criminalization of behaviours/stigma and discrimination) hindered access to HIV prevention, treatment and care services. Within UNICEF, challenges (lack of coordination, inadequate integration) were noted in countries where HIV/AIDS programming priorities have been integrated into other programme sectors.

E. Validated good practices and lessons learned
In China, UNICEF-supported family like interventions for CABA was scaled up to 15 provinces, laying a stronger foundation for the formulation of a national policy, and helping to shape a child welfare system as a result of AIDS intervention.. Community care in China has increased the rate of early ANC attendance, including HIV/Hep-B/Syphilis testing from 17 per cent (2012) to 24 per cent (2013) in Xinjiang, and 35 per cent (2012) to 39 per cent (2013) in Yunnan project sites. HIV testing, offered as part of a package of antenatal screening that includes syphilis and hepatitis B was increasingly recognized as a more efficient approach by saving cost, normalizing HIV testing, reducing AIDS stigma and strengthening an integrated MCH approach.

F. Value added
EAPRO provided programme advisory support to Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, PNG, the Pacific Island states, Thailand and Viet Nam; and strengthened capacities of CO HIV focal points through access to regional meetings and trainings. An Asia-Pacific operational guidance followed by a Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS) Skills Building Workshop at 11 ICAAP strengthened capacities of over 50 programme staﬀ to use RDS methodologies for A/YKP data collection and use. Technical advice on ICT was provided to Country Offices including YCSD (Formative assessments – Mongolia, Timor-Leste) and Child Protection (birth registration) sections on eHealth/mHealth platforms that allow for integration with existing systems, and the need for introducing unique identifiers to improve programme monitoring, patients tracking and reduce lost to follow up. EAPRO also provided technical support to Myanmar on proposal preparation to HK National Committee and assisted funding to support positions for PMTCT scale up in China, Indonesia and Cambodia.

3.2.4. Child Protection from Violence, Exploitation and Abuse
A. Major initiatives
In 2013, UNICEF continued to demonstrate results for children through the strengthening of child protection systems at national and local levels. A Regional Meeting on Violence Against Children (VAC) Research was strategic to build a strong package of evidence which included the Regional Costing Model to Estimate the Minimum Lifetime Direct and Indirect Costs of Child Maltreatment (CM); the ASEAN VAC Legislative Review; a six-country pilot of the Governance Indicators Framework; a Regional Inter-agency Review of Child Protection Systems Mapping and a Child
Protection Systems Handbook are all ready for publication and dissemination in 2014. Cambodia and Indonesia completed the National VAC studies while the Lao PDR study in process. Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) is another key regional initiative with strengthened partnerships, participation in the Global Meeting on systems for CRVS, and preparations for the 2014 Asia Pacific High Level Inter-governmental Meeting on CRVS.

B. Key results
With EAPRO technical support, eleven countries reported progress in drafting, adoption or reform of national and local legislation, policies and guidelines on child protection. In the recently amended Constitution of Viet Nam, there was a clear stipulation of State responsibility for child protection. Six countries are piloting the Governance Indicators Framework which have strengthened results-based monitoring for child protection. Five countries continued to support national social work accreditation and inclusion of child protection in the curriculum of social work institutes and universities. Ten countries are strengthening justice for children systems through capacity building of law enforcers, development of child-friendly police protocols and support to newly established juvenile courts such as those in Mongolia, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea. Eight countries are making significant progress in improving the birth registration system focusing on marginalised and excluded populations. Five countries have been active on child protection in emergencies. Seven countries are directly working on influencing social norms while eight countries are improving the child protection data base and analysis of relevant indicators. The Section provided technical inputs to five ASEAN related meetings, to the AVIVA business group during the round table meeting on street children and business and to the UNHCR Consultation with CSOs on children in detention. Three inter-country MOUs and action plans related to human trafficking signed by Thailand, Viet Nam and Malaysia.

C. Major partnerships
Partnerships were strengthened with the ASEAN with UNICEF serving as resource person in the workshops on CRC and CEDAW Concluding Observations with a focus on the girl child, Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour, CSO consultation, and Training on Human Rights. The Regional Office continued to support National VAC Studies with technical support from CDC. UNICEF is part of the Steering Group on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics which also includes UNESCAP, UNHCR, Plan International, ADB, UNFPA, WHO among others. With UNICEF’s technical input, LawAsia, a coalition of lawyers in the Region, adopted the Siem Reap Principles for Child Rights promotion and application. Internally, cross-sectoral partnerships continue with HIV/AIDS, Education and Social Policy sections. UNICEF EAPRO chairs the EAP Regional Child Protection Working Group, comprised of OHCHR, ILO, World Vision, Save the Children, ECPAT International and Plan.

D. Common constraints and factors
Weak systematic collection and management of reliable data, fragmented coordination and lack of leadership on child protection issues, low government investment for child protection and limited capacity for CP work remain a challenge for many countries in the Region. Internally, funding reductions and limitations at the regional and country levels significantly detract from the positive momentum created with governments and other partners. Success in 2014 will be dependent on an effectively funded programme, a full staff complement, and the signing of the ASEAN Framework of Cooperation.

E. Validated good practices and lessons learned
Promising practices relate to the importance of evidence base to promote the regional CP strategy and initiatives, including the development of a package of evidence, the think tank expert group on child maltreatment and rigorous research products to inform CO strategies and advocacy.

F. Value added
The RO continued to develop and implement the 2009 Strategy components with CO consultations undertaken through the CP Network Meeting and a meeting with the COs and the Think Tank expert group to good effect. The RO provided technical support to all COs in advocating for government leadership for national child protection systems. This was achieved via 10 country visits, three regional
meetings, 1 HQ visit, regular correspondence, distance support and advocacy with regional and intergovernmental bodies.

G. Child protection in emergencies (CPiE)

Efforts in CPiE at country level includes the establishment of a mechanism for CPiE in Indonesia, the inclusion of child protection messages into the Fiji Get Ready emergency preparedness IEC materials, the development of an action plan on the prevention and stopping of under-age recruitment in the Myanmar armed forces, ten workshops on Mine Risk Education conducted with partners reaching over 450 persons (one third of which were women) from national and local government departments and civil society organizations in Myanmar and systematic gathering of disaggregated data for better reporting on children affected by the violence in the southernmost provinces of Thailand. In the Philippines, technical support for emergencies was also provided to the Department of Social Welfare through co-leadership of the Child Protection Working Group and an on-going capacity building of partners. Emphasis of UNICEF support was on identifying separated and unaccompanied children, facilitating family reunification, psychosocial support to children and caregivers, addressing gender-based violence, and strengthening referral networks including activation and support of local councils for the protection of children to ensure that children are safe from any harm, exploitation, abuse and trafficking during emergencies.

With limited resources, the Regional Office provided knowledge management support to COs through facilitating a community of practice. In coordination with Global Child Protection Working Group (CPWG), regional capacity of CPWG coordination was enhanced through training of 28 staff, both NGO and UNICEF, at Regional CPiE Coordination Training in Bangkok in October. In the context of typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, 38 staff, both the Government, NGO and UN agencies at the national level, were equipped with basic tools and information on CPiE through orientation on emergency response co-facilitated by EAPRO a week following the Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda. EAPRO also supported UNICEF Philippines for emergency response planning, including strategic response plan as well as staffing for CPWG coordination at national and sub-national level.

3.2.5 Policy Advocacy and Partnerships for Children

A. Major initiatives

UNICEF in East Asia and the Pacific strengthened advocacy for children’s issues in budgeting and leveraged domestic resources for children through the region-wide Public Finance for Children Initiative. At country level, UNICEF has been working closely with partners in Ministries of Finance, Ministries of Planning, and Social Sector Ministries to strengthen efficiency and effectiveness of social sector planning and budgeting to improve outcomes for children. Activities included social sector budget reviews, costing of interventions, supporting evidence-based budgeting, and joint UNICEF and MoF trainings for sub-national governments and social sectors on child-friendly budgeting. At the regional level, outreach to a network of MoF officials and development partners served to raise children’s issues in the regional public finance policy dialogue.

B. Key results

UNICEF support to data collection and analysis continued in several countries. Profiles on the situation of children (Situation Analysis, Children’s Atlas etc.) were compiled and published together with governments in China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Pacific Islands, and Timor-Leste. The use of child-specific indicators for monitoring and evaluation of national and sub-national development plans was strengthened in Cambodia, Thailand, and Viet Nam. In Indonesia, a methodology for equity-focused situation analyses was integrated into local development planning. MICS 4 roll-out and MICS 5 preparations were supported in Mongolia, Thailand, and Viet Nam. In Lao PDR, the government published the Lao PDR Social Indicator Survey (LSIS), a hybrid MICS/DHS that for the first time provides provincial-level data on children's situation.

Research and policy analysis concentrated on public finance issues and contributed to improving the evidence base for advocacy in the Public Finance for Children Initiative. An RO-led multi-country
study on mobilising revenues from extractive industries for children is on-going in Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, and Philippines and RO research on sub-national resource allocation helped to build Country Office capacities. Social sector budget reviews with a focus on expenditure on children were undertaken in collaboration with national researchers and Ministries of Finance in Cambodia, Mongolia, and Myanmar as a basis for advocacy for strengthened effectiveness, equity, and adequacy of social sector spending to improve outcomes for children. In China, results of the 2012 study on access to education for migrant children were disseminated and a joint study on child protection services for street children undertaken with the Ministry of Finance.

EAPRO continued to provide technical support and advice to ongoing research on child poverty in several countries. In Lao PDR, UNICEF is collaborating with the National Economic Research Institute in a child poverty study based on a multiple overlapping deprivation analysis and in the Pacific Islands and Viet Nam child poverty studies were completed. A joint UNICEF-UNDP-Economic Planning Unit (Government think tank) study on the situation of the Orang Asli minority in Malaysia was completed. In the area of social protection, UNICEF Malaysia completed and disseminated a mapping of social protection systems and a study on child vulnerability, resilience and child-sensitive social protection was completed for the Pacific Island countries.

UNICEF policy advocacy, dialogue, and leveraging contributed to results in the Public Finance for Children Initiative as well as child-sensitive social protection. Regional advocacy and dialogue focused on outreach to a regional network of MoF officials to strengthen national partnerships between UNICEF and MoFs and raise children’s issues in the regional debate on public finance. A key result was the increase of operating budgets for small, remote schools in Cambodia based on joint advocacy by UNICEF and development partners on equity in the education budget in Cambodia. These efforts were supported by a UNICEF social budgeting study disseminated jointly with the Ministry of Economy and Finance. UNICEF provided input to budgetary discussions and engaged in dialogue on public finance issues with MoF and other government partners in Cambodia, China, the Pacific Islands, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam. Joint UNICEF and MoF workshops on social budgeting built government capacity on child-friendly budgeting and leveraged resources for children in Cambodia, Mongolia, and Timor-Leste. In Mongolia, workshops for sub-national government officials built capacity on child-friendly budgeting and led to a resolution by the sub-national assembly in support of using a local development fund for child-friendly investments.

In the area of child-sensitive social protection, UNICEF Myanmar is taking a lead role in supporting the drafting of a national social protection strategy and with UNICEF support ASEAN drafted a regional social protection framework under the lead of Cambodia. In China, UNICEF launched China’s first large-scale conditional cash transfer pilot for maternal and child health and advocacy of the UN country team continues to push for a child support grant in Thailand. Indonesia’s regional Child Poverty and Social Protection conference facilitated dialogue and south-south sharing of experiences between researchers, policy makers, and practitioners that will provide inputs for Indonesia’s national development plan.

Child and youth participation initiatives are underway in several countries in the region (e.g. Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, the Pacific islands). In Mongolia, child-friendly community and child-friendly schools programmes rolled out in two focus areas are offering new opportunities for participation, for instance through children’s councils. Another example are children’s forums at national and sub-national levels that UNICEF is supporting in Viet Nam. In collaboration with regional partners (UNESCO, PLAN, Save VSO and others) a series of country level consultations were held with adolescents and youth to seek their perceptions and recommendations for the post 2015 development agenda, specifically related to Education. These recommendations were fed into the Global process on EFA and Post 2015 priorities at the meeting held in Dakar.

C. Major partnerships
Strategic partnerships were advanced with Ministries of Finance, Ministries of Planning, and Social Sector Ministries at both national and sub-national level, national women and children’s councils, as
well as national research institutes and think tanks linked to government. As part of the region-wide Public Finance for Children Initiative, the partnership with MoFs was strengthened through regional outreach to the Public Expenditure Management Network in Asia, a network of MoF officials from countries in the region. At the country level, UNICEF organised exchanges with MoFs in the entire region and several countries are drafting joint work plans for the coming year and are undertaking joint national and sub-national activities. Strategic partnerships with national research institutes and government-linked think tanks have been strengthened to build national capacity for research and policy analysis and influence national research and policy agendas in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Pacific Islands, Philippines, and Thailand.

D. Common constraints and factors
Common constraints faced at the regional and country level include a challenging fundraising environment for Social Policy and Public Finance for Children activities, new demands for staff capacity on public financial management, and insufficient inter-sectoral cooperation. In 2013, the RO conducted a successful training workshop to strengthen advocacy and technical skills in the area of public finance where MoF officials participated as trainers. Fundraising efforts have been started and are continuing under the new strategic plan. In 2014, the RO will continue its efforts in filling capacity gaps, including facilitating capacity sharing between different Country Offices and drawing on HQ support, and strengthen inter-sectoral collaboration at the regional level through joint work on social inclusion.

E. Validated good practices and lessons learned
To build Social Policy advocacy and technical capacity, the partnership with Communications colleagues in the RO and inviting MoF officials as trainers represent promising practices. Communications colleagues shared a strategic approach to developing advocacy messages relevant for all engagement with government and the presence of MoF officials as trainers and enabled training participants to practice their messaging and advocacy skills in a very realistic setting. In addition, it served to strengthen the partnership with these officials who provided direct input into strategic discussions on UNICEF positioning vis-à-vis MoFs as new counterpart. A further useful practice was facilitating horizontal support between different Country Offices to utilise Country Office expertise, for instance in social protection.

F. Value added
Technical support and quality assurance was provided by the Regional Office to all countries in the region. The on-going regional outreach to MoFs, building on the 2012 Public Finance Conference, provided an entry point for increased engagement with MoFs at national level that enables leveraging of national resources for children. Notably, the RO provided in-country and remote support on advocacy and fundraising for Public Finance for Children that contributed to four Country Offices successfully raising funds for social protection and sub-national programming. Technical support missions were conducted to Viet Nam for a rapid assessment of sub-national planning and budgeting that provided an entry point for discussions on how to strengthen child-friendly budgeting with the provincial government; to Mongolia in support of capacity development on child-friendly budgeting for sub-national governments that led to a local assembly resolution in support of child-friendly investments from the local development fund; and to Myanmar for a child-sensitive social protection workshop that contributed to UNICEF’s lead role in drafting the social protection strategy in 2014.

4. Management and operations

4.1. Overview of achievements during 2013

4.2.1 Summary of RO results against ROMP benchmarks

A. Representation and advancement of core mandate
During 2013, EAPRO catalysed, facilitated and participated in a number of high profile regional events including the 2nd High Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in Delhi; the 11th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok; the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum
on Early Childhood Care and Education in Seoul, Korea; the High-level Consultation on Food Losses and Food Wastes in Bangkok; the 3rd M&E Network Forum; and the WHO Regional Consultation on Post 2015 Development Agenda, among others. These events provided an opportunity to advance priority themes for the equity agenda in the region, and secure government buy-in on equity-focused approaches. Several Country Offices are now engaging government on issues of child poverty and budgeting as a result. Data generated from studies and evaluations undertaken at the regional level were used strategically to advance the equity agenda. UNICEF continues to actively engage in UN processes, including regional post-2015 thematic consultations where UNICEF co-chaired discussions on Inequalities, education, health and WASH.

B. Programme guidance, management and oversight
EAPRO undertook country support missions and facilitated a series of teleconferences and discussions in support to seven Mid-Term Reviews (Cambodia, China, DPRK, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, and Myanmar) and the development of the Timor-Leste Country Programme Document for submission in 2013. In its support, EAPRO provided advice on alignment of country programmes with the new Strategic Plan, focus on equity results monitoring, strategic repositioning, and cross-cutting challenges including decentralization strategies and resource mobilization. This included reviews of the application of programme strategies and normative principles including human rights and gender equality.

EAPRO facilitated the exchange of knowledge, experiences and innovations within the region, contributing to strengthened capacity and quality of country programmes. This included information exchange, regular updates on the implementation of the MoRES approach, identification of opportunities for South-South cooperation and mapping of innovations. The RO provided remote and on-site support to situation monitoring (e.g., MICS and StAnS), results monitoring (MoRES/RAM), and data management (DevInfo), contributing to better understanding of the situation of children and women in the region.

Management oversight forms a key responsibility of the Regional Director and Operations Chief, and this function continues to be exercised via various mechanisms throughout the year. At the beginning of 2013, a 3-day Annual Reports Review and work planning exercise examined reports from all Country Offices to extract highlights, challenges and priorities and identify priority areas for technical support for individual countries, as well as for the region as a whole. The outcomes of these reviews were summarized in letters sent by the Regional Director to each Representative. Follow-up was undertaken by the Regional Director during country visits or during PER/PAS discussions in the side-lines of the RMT meeting.

A primary tool for monitoring operations performance is the quarterly EAP Performance Management Report which contains an agreed set of Key Performance Indicators, which have subsequently been incorporated in the global Regional Dashboard. Data from 2013 show steady progress despite continued challenges to monitor the status of ORR implementation.

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<tr>
<th>KPI</th>
<th>Results for 2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KPI 1</td>
<td>Donor reports: met the standard of &quot;zero&quot; overdue report for Q2/13 &amp; Q4/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>KPI 2</td>
<td>RR utilization 2011 - 96 %per cent; 2012 – 93 per cent; 2013 – 96 per cent</td>
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<tr>
<td>KPI 3</td>
<td>OR utilization 2011 - 94 per cent (corrected for 2010 using ProMS allotment); 2012 - 57 per cent - due to new CP for seven countries, and year 2 of CP for six countries; 2013 – 62 per cent of Outcome Planned after roll forward to 2014 ( 2013 ORR allocations were multi-years hence to monitor 2013 performance).</td>
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<tr>
<td>KPI 4</td>
<td>ORE utilization 2011 - 92 per cent (corrected for 2010 using ProMS allotment); 2012 - 73 per cent; 2013 – 101 per cent after roll forward to 2014; one per cent excess related to Philippines emergency.</td>
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</table>
HR Management indicators provide status on workforce count, gender balance, recruitment, learning initiatives, PAS, rapid response mechanism (emergency deployment – see graph below), L&D budget utilization & Learning Initiatives (Coaching Culture, Managing Change and CBI). 88 per cent of the L&D budget was utilized. Phase 2 PAS completion ranges from 78 per cent-100 per cent in the region.

Outstanding DCT: was beyond the global target for the 6-9 months category at 12 per cent compared to nine per cent in 2012 and two per cent in 2011; for greater than 9 months 2012 met target at one per cent (US$547,830); 2013 at 0.6 per cent (US$213,103)

Reporting on BCP testing was removed from the Management Performance Report in 2013 and included in the COAR.

Among the four audits in 2012, only one audit (PNG) remains open awaiting HQ response for closure.

EAPRO conducted its annual review of the Risk and Control Self-Assessment (ds) and updated the outcome in the InSight ERM webpage. Based on the revised categories in the Enterprise Risk Management policies, EAPRO has identified the following medium and high risks in the ROMP:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Medium Risk</th>
<th>High Risk</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge management &amp; information sharing</td>
<td>System and IT infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply and logistics management</td>
<td>Disasters and epidemics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics and compliance, safety and security</td>
<td>Aid environment</td>
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C. Emergency management

EAPRO continued to strengthen UNICEF capacity at country level with enhanced emphasis on preparedness, albeit ensuring delivery of emergency response where necessary. EAPRO actively supported countries with technical support on strengthening preparedness within programming, particularly in the countries undergoing a mid-term review as well as other strategic humanitarian country planning exercises, including the IASC Strategic Humanitarian Country Plan in Myanmar.

During 2013, EAPRO supported Country Offices’ capacity in emergency preparedness and response (EPR) and risk-informed programming, including Disaster Risk Reduction, through a regional EPR workshop. A regional risk-informed programming workshop contributed to enhance understanding of child-focused risk analysis and programme planning processes, and strengthen country capacity for risk-informed programming. Cluster accountabilities and the understanding of the Core Commitments for Children were also strengthened in the region through various cluster and CCCs trainings/workshops at regional and country level.

These efforts contributed to the establishment a UNICEF humanitarian network providing a framework for ongoing dialogue, knowledge management, capacity building and partnership. EAPRO also promoted country exchanges through webinars on selected topics. Country capacity on humanitarian performance monitoring was strengthened through orientation, tailored advice and documenting effective practices. The Regional Office also contributed to ensure preparedness in country through support and quality assurance of Early Warning/Early Action. In all of these efforts, EAPRO coordinated regularly at regional level with UN agencies and other partners.

EAPRO contributed to ensure quality response and sufficient resource mobilization in countries faced with emergencies through quality assurance of appeals and fundraising initiatives; ensure adequate surge capacity, through the Regional Rapid Response Roster/standby partner or by deployments from EAPRO staff. EAPRO particularly contributed to support UNICEF response to typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.
Given the proneness of East Asia and the Pacific to natural disasters, as seen notably in the Philippines, EAPRO has actively monitored and expanded its regional roster for emergency deployment, which has proven once again very useful 2013. The emergency deployment under the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) was accessed 13 times in 2013, eight of which occasions were for the Philippines Haiyan surge. Deployments included one for each of the following sectors: WASH, nutrition, child protection, communication, emergency and supply, as well as two for M&E, two for human resources and three for administration.

D. External relationships and partnerships
In 2013, Country Office private sector fundraising in the Asia region as a whole, overseen by EAPRO, is expected to contribute US$51 million in gross proceeds (based on monthly remittances and including India which is covered from the RSC), 20 per cent growth from 2012. The contribution to unrestricted income for international programmes (RR) is expected to reach US$7.2 million. In addition, US$1.3 million was raised for the Regional Thematic Fund which was successfully launched during the year. For humanitarian action, UNICEF raised over US$2.5 million from the private sector in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. EAPRO particularly supported the launch of an emergency appeal for the response to Philippines Typhoon Haiyan.

Progress achieved includes 221,000 active pledge donors reached, with EAPRO's support to the implementation of monthly pledge donor acquisition and retention activities. In terms of donor performance monitoring, four Country Offices (COs) met the regional benchmark of 12-month attrition and a more systematic approach to tackling attrition is being initiated in all countries. EAPRO's contribution includes the regional analysis of monthly pledge programme on quarterly basis.

Efforts in diversifying fundraising acquisition channels include the design of a pilot for alternative Face to Face (F2F) agency in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand to begin in 2014. While little progress was made in SMS mobile fundraising, pilots for SMS fundraising were prepared for 2014 launch in Thailand and India. However, Direct Response TV did not bring the expected result.

EAPRO actively guided corporate engagement in the region, contributing to the development of COs’ strategy with eight COs now actively engaged in CSR, and capacity building of CSR stakeholders. Corporate partnerships are focused on programme delivery, advocating Child Rights and Business Principles and providing technical guidance for businesses on children’s issues. EAPRO also strengthened CO capacity to fundraise and engage with corporate sector through an online resource library, and building peer support function for the database analysis.

E. Internal and external communication: Media and public relations
Growth of digital media engagement across the East Asia and the Pacific region in 2013 continued to increase, and EAP continued to take advantage of this growth. In particular, excellent use of digital platforms was made by Viet Nam Country Office and Regional Office in support of the successful launch of the 2013 SOWC and material was provided for global digital sites around disability, led to a marked increase in global audience. Various campaigns – notably by Indonesia and Malaysia on Violence against Children and by China promoting the provision of breastfeeding spaces in the workplace – were extremely successful.

Communications support by Country and Regional Offices was provided for the High-Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation, and for the International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP), with the latter generating media interest from global sites and traditional media coverage in 7 countries. Media and outreach support from Cambodia, Myanmar and the RO to the Philippines CO in the immediate aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan resulted in an unprecedented UNICEF presence in global coverage (second only to that the Red Cross, and overwhelmingly positive) and contributed to the highly successful private and public fundraising.

Throughout the year the RO provided ongoing support in communication to COs for capacity building, gap-filling, country programme strategy development and implementation, media events, and on the handling of sensitive issues. EAPRO made increased use of digital and social media in 2013, with 24
video interviews and opinion pieces from programme sections on its blog. The Regional Office also live Tweeted from several events, including the State of the World’s Children launch in Viet Nam, where we took over the UNICEF global Twitter account. On the day of the launch, regular updates were sent to over 1.8 million people and had five times the normal amount of user activity, peaking at over 500 retweets/hour. EAPRO also made good use of social media during the Typhoon Haiyan emergency in the Philippines. Maya Igarashi Wood’s “one week on” blog went viral, being picked up by NatComs and celebrities including actor Tom Hiddleston and has now been read over 1,500 times.

F. Information and communications technology management
Country Office systems were maintained and enhanced with efforts directed towards; stabilization of the ERP system, maintenance of the messaging environment, introduction of collaboration tools through SharePoint Team sites, enhanced BCP capabilities through Intra-office remote backups, re-enforced network connectivity, bandwidth upgrades, phasing out of older technologies, introduction of use of user owned devices (Bring Your Own Device policies) and technical training of ICT staff. ICT Support to emergency response was anchored as a vital component of continued programme delivery with significant effort applied within the multi-incident emergencies in the Philippines in particular.

Gains were made in the innovation and experimentation spaces, notably; integration of IP Telephony with Skype solutions, development of e-HPM tools to support emergencies, private sectors and public facing Internet based tools and solutions for fund raising, and a cross-section of data collection and analysis tools for support to partners and programmes applied in multiple locations. Demands arising from the organizational thrusts including UN coherence were attended to, with notable instances being; move to one-UN House in Mongolia and Viet Nam, ICT enabled consolidation of transaction processing centers (country specific: Indonesia, Cambodia, Pacific), preparations for New technology enabled solutions for efficiency and effectiveness under the transformation framework, and introduction of Microsoft Lync as new Web conferencing toolset with focus on enhancing communication.

G. Staff security
Due to ongoing turmoil in Bangkok, the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) was activated in November 2013 with regular meetings of the crisis management team and regular activation of the telephone tree. The BCP was still active in early 2014. EAPRO is in frequent contact with UNDSS officials to ensure an open, collaborative communication channel on staff safety and security issues. Due to the separate location of EAPRO from the main UN complex, special attention is needed to the office's situation and the conditions faced by staff.

EAPRO recognizes staff security as a key office priority, notwithstanding the normally overall safe environment in Bangkok. Compliance with the Minimum Operational Security Standards (MOSS) is maintained in all buildings and premises which was confirmed by UNDSS compliance mission. All staff have completed security briefing sessions and security updates are provided to staff on a routine basis. The office SMS alert system and telephone trees are fully functioning and are updated and tested regularly. Fire drills are conducted and improved security measures at the front gate have been put in place. Identification card readers have been installed and implemented at the front entrance and also the entrances to each of the two buildings on the premises to enhance security.

4.1.2 Summary of RO results based on 2012 RO AWP
High-level results (PCRs) for the 2012-2013 ROMP are:

i. **Management**: Effective and efficient programme and operations support and cost management directly contribute to the strategic delivery of results for girls and boys with a focus on those most disadvantaged

ii. **Development Effectiveness**: Technical support and guidance for coherence with corporate priorities and strategies contribute to high quality, effective development actions for girls and boys with focus on those most disadvantaged

iii. **Programmes (Advocacy, intercountry programmes)**: Regional support and inter-country initiatives contribute to the quality and impact of policy and programmatic actions for the realization of children’s rights in the region with focus on disadvantaged populations.
4.1.3 Summary of the main results achieved: areas of shortfall or achievement

2013 saw advances in policies and programmes aimed to address inequities in the region, with the ongoing shift to upstream advocacy and leveraging in MICs/UMICs, and continuing emergency response requirements. In this context, main results achieved include:

- Enhanced availability of strategic information and data on disadvantaged groups to support regional advocacy through studies and evaluations and regionally-supported data bases;
- Improved visibility of UNICEF in regional media, particularly high-profile events, with extensive media coverage on children’s rights and UNICEF;
- Timely technical and operations inputs provided to 7 COs undergoing Mid-Term Reviews and one CO developing a new UNDAF and Country Programme Document, contributing to high quality strategic planning of cooperation to achieve results for children;
- Significantly strengthened private sector partnerships, Corporate Social Responsibility and leveraging of resources for children;
- Significant increase in private sector fundraising, US$7.5 million contribution to global RR, up from US$6.3 million in 2012; and
- Strengthened partnerships with regional development organizations (ADB, ASEAN, EU, PIFS and SPC) and centres of excellence to advance children’s rights.

Specific areas of shortfall were:

- Shortage of SB and RR resources to COs and to EAPRO is a challenge, particularly for PNG, DPRK and Mongolia. Recent reductions in regular resources for China and Cambodia and shifting donor priorities away from Asia making fundraising for OR a considerable challenge to UNICEF functioning at country level;
- Human resource and funding constraints at the regional and country level remain significant barriers to advancing the equity agenda and for the provision of adequate oversight and financial controls;
- Implementation of results monitoring and A Promise Renewed and other global initiatives has entailed ongoing adjustment of regional priorities;
- Frequent emergencies globally requiring surge staff, including massive typhoon in Philippines;
- Increasing political tensions in Thailand and Cambodia, as well as ethnic conflict and Human Rights concerns in Myanmar and continued access limitations affecting programme-scale in DPRK

2013 was the last year of the previous ROMP and a year with continued efforts to operationalize the equity refocus and strengthen COs implementation of the Monitoring Results for Equity system. Half of the Country Offices in East Asia and the Pacific undertook MTRs, with ongoing and intensive technical support, quality assurance and oversight from EAPRO. The rollout of global advocacy initiatives (e.g. A Promise Renewed) and response to significant natural (Philippines, typhoon Haiyan) and man-made (Myanmar and Philippines) emergencies have also required strong support. Human resource and funding constraints at the regional and national level remain significant barriers. While EAPRO continues to cultivate strong relationships with regional and global partners, including the European Union, Asian Development Bank, ASEAN and the Pacific Island Forum, partnerships have required significant commitments which have competed against other priorities. Political processes in working with key partners have also slowed achievement of results.

4.1.4 Summary of office management practices, systems and structures

The Regional Office organized two Regional Management Team (RMT) meetings which included participation of senior UNICEF HQ staff. The RMTs provided an opportunity to discuss and reach agreement on strategic programme and change management initiatives. RMT working or steering groups facilitated the convening and analytical work of the Regional Office as well as follow-up on Country Management Plans and oversight issues. CO requests for technical support were obtained at the beginning of the year, and used to guide sector work planning, prioritization and follow-up, including with adjustments and additional requests throughout the year. Regular virtual debrief sessions
are held with all Representatives and the Regional Staff Association Chair following Executive Board and GMT meetings.

Internally, the Regional Office utilized advance planning and coordination of travel schedules to facilitate meetings of Regional Office statutory committees, such as the Programme Management Team, the EAPRO Management Team, the CRC and an Emergency Management Team as needed. The weekly ‘What’s Up’ meeting has continued for all interested staff. Multi-day Mid-Year and Annual Review processes were held, bringing together senior management, professional staff and research assistants from EAPRO to review progress against stated objectives. Participation of the Staff Association in regular management meetings and task teams has ensured that staff concerns are addressed and has resulted into high staff morale. The RO maintains a programme focal point on HIV/AIDS and participates in a UN-Cares advisory cluster.

**Human resource actions and achievements in 2013**

The use of the quarterly monitoring system led to progressive improvement in time to recruit for IP posts in the region, with 14 days shorter than in 2012. The clearance of National Professional Posts was also reduced to 1.5 working days. In an effort to maintain high quality recruitments, competency-based interviewing roll-out/delivery continued, with an additional eight regional trainers certified to ensure a wider certification of hiring managers and panel members.

Capacity development, management and leadership development remains a high priority in the region linked to global and regional leadership programmes. Managing People for Results (MP4R) is helping to ensure that more supervisors, managers and supervisees are equipped with necessary skills to manage performance. MP4R and coaching conversations training sessions were carried out in 14 countries and to-date a total of 54 per cent of staff have been trained on MP4R, and 88 per cent of managers are trained on coaching conversation.

A series of training sessions were organized for targeting HR practitioners, line managers, mangers and Staff Association chairs on ‘managing through change’. With the further organizational changes that are foreseen, facilitating and manage through change will continue to be a priority. Strategic capacity strengthening continues to show positive results, with more countries linking their learning strategies to programme and corporate needs and gap analysis. The RHRDT identified 11 common regional learning priorities in 2013 and these were benchmarked with COs learning plans and implementation. 98 per cent of the regional learning budget was utilized for regional learning initiatives (CBI, Coaching, MP4R and managing through change).

Emergency rapid response for Philippine’s Haiyan was the key HR priority in Q4 2013, for which support and guidance were provided on various HR issues, deployments and surge capacity including CPD/PBR. Through the RRM Roster, which is periodically populated and replenished, 13 Staff were deployed, including eight for the Haiyan emergency. The RRM also was utilized for other countries and regions (Marshall Islands, Jordan, Lebanon/Syria and Kenya). Although the roster mainly serves to enable quick deployment of staff in an emergency, it is also seen as a “most welcomed” career development opportunity for staff. Other career development initiatives for staff are also being promoted, such as the staff-exchange/stretch assignment roster.

Key HR challenges in the region have included: the E&E initiative, reduced funding and shifts in skills/staff capacities, changes in the aid environment and withdrawal of some traditional donors. All have had impacts on staff, and further reductions of staff and/or changes in staff profiles are foreseen. Attracting talented staff to hardship duty stations is also becoming challenging, as is rapidly meeting HR needs for emergencies and natural disasters. These factors, and leadership changes in six COs due to senior staff rotations, will shape HR management functions and priorities in 2014.

**4.1.5 Summary of procurement services**

Procurement Services in EAPR totalled US$ 67.6 million in 2013 (including GAVI), up from US$ 59 million in 2012. In 2013 Procurement Services provided strategic and essential supplies for immunization, HIV/AIDS, malaria and pharmaceuticals. Vaccines comprise the largest share in the region (over US$ 57.8 million), followed by HIV/AIDS (US$ 5.5 million) and malaria prevention (US$
1.8 million). In 2013, five countries accounted for 86 per cent of EAPR procurement services: Philippines (over US$ 22 million), Viet Nam (over US$ 11 million), Cambodia (US$ 9 million), Papua New Guinea (US$ 8 million) and Myanmar (over US$ 8 million). The major funding sources for procurement in the region were national governments (US$ 34 million) and GAVI (US$ 32 million), the Global Fund and (US$1 million) and UN (US$.5 million).

UNICEF-China continued to support the management of the Regional Logistics Centre (RLC) in Shanghai, where 191,755 educational kits worth US$14.34 million (23 per cent increase compared to 2012) were packed and delivered to Burma, Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa, Chad, Denmark, DPRK, DR Congo, Dubai, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Syria, South Sudan, Uganda and Yemen. On behalf of the Supply Division, UNICEF-China also negotiated with the Government of China to simplify the export process and ultimately enable the RLC to expand to become a regional emergency hub.

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<td><strong>Total (EAPRO)</strong></td>
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4.2. Oversight function and oversight-related accountabilities

4.2.1 Methods and indicators used to assess performance of Country Offices

In light of the continued delay in the launch of the Regional Dashboard, EAPRO continued to prepare the quarterly Performance Management Report as a key oversight tool with Country Offices. Seven programme and operations indicators are monitored on quarterly basis. The indicators consist of: Timeliness of Donor Reporting, Fund Management & Utilization, Human Resource indicators, Direct Cash Transfers (DCTs), Implementing Partner Planned Amount & Risk Assessment and, and Audit Follow-Up. Targets and standards are set and Country Offices falling outside of these parameters are alerted and provide written comments to the Regional Director. In addition, the Performance Overview is provided to gain an overview of Country Office KPIs and response status. The EAP Performance Management Report is also used by the Regional Director during performance discussion with Country Representatives.

In addition to the Performance Management Report, field visits by Regional Advisers and review of Annual Reports and other documents were used to monitor and assess the performance of Country Offices. Performance related findings from field visits by Regional Advisers are captured in trip reports which are also shared with Country Offices.

4.2.2 Quality of the 2013 Country Office Annual Reports

All Annual Reports and Annexes were submitted to UNICEF’s online portal per 2013 Country Office Annual Report guidelines. CO Annual Reports were reviewed by the Regional Office against a range of
criteria including overall content, clarity in terms of results reporting and overall structure, as well as attention to equity issues. The reports were found to be generally well written and informative. The public nature of the document, in some cases limited discussion of sensitive matters. Results reporting varied, with a majority of countries capably reporting on results at output level, although some issues arose in indicator quality and data availability. The Regional Office provided feedback in the form of letters to the Representatives which were used by the Regional Director for discussions with Representatives. Additional follow-up on Annual Report quality and issues raised was carried out on an ongoing basis by RO management and advisers.

4.2.3 Areas of weakness in programme cooperation or operations management
Challenges to implement HACT were prominent in the 2013 audits in several countries, primarily reflecting lack of coordination and collaboration among UN agencies and with governments on micro-assessments and insufficient quality assurance activities. HACT improvement is a high priority in 2014 and all countries will build an action plan in their Annual Management Plan (AMP). Increased national staff salaries, appreciation of currencies against the US dollar, and rising operating cost have resulted in considerable pressure on available funds, at the same time that traditional donors have reduced their support in the region. Emergency prone countries strengthened their emergency management and response plans in line with global policy. BCP testing was not systematically reported under Strategic Risk Management.

Audits revealed that the main weaknesses on programme management were related to HACT implementation, the management of cash transfers to implementing partners, contracting of implementing partners and evaluation. Common observations concerned delay in conducting micro-assessments, lack of an assurance plan and weak/non-implementation of assurance activities; the need to strengthen selection and contracting of implementing partners and the lack of performance evaluation reports; and the lack of multi-year integrated monitoring and evaluation plan. With regards to operations management, audits found that the weaknesses focused on good in transit and processing of transactions. Common observations concerned the need to pay attention to new guidelines with the introduction of VISION and related policy framework. The management of UNICEF websites at country level, particularly if they are linked to private fundraising, would need to be strengthened.

4.2.4 Actions taken to support Country Offices which are in special situations
Countries and sub-regions in special situations such as Myanmar (to respond to political changes and emergencies in country), DPRK (ongoing humanitarian and strategic support), Timor-Leste (withdrawal of UNMIT and development of the new CPD) and PNG (review of sustainability of Office functioning in high cost environment with funding shortfalls) were prioritized for regional support. EAPRO prioritized support to the Philippines following several emergencies, particularly the Typhoon Haiyan, through the deployment of Regional Office staff and support to meeting emergency planning, communication, human resources, fundraising and other technical support.

4.2.5 Actions taken for quality assurance and improvement of donor reporting
Continued monitoring of timely submission of donor reports is accomplished through the quarterly Management Report. There was no overdue donor report from Q3 onwards. The Deputy Regional Director provided oversight on quality assurance for the donor reports being prepared at regional level. EAPRO provided continued follow up on donor reporting particularly regarding the actions identified in the 2012 review of donor reports.

Completing publications as outlined in the IMEP continues to be a challenge, with Country Offices generally planning more studies, surveys and evaluations than can be completed on time and at an adequate level of quality. Regional Advisers will continue to work with Country Offices to develop plans that can be realistically achieved within a given year.

4.2.6 Lessons learned by the RO in undertaking its oversight function
The standard programmatic and operations management indicators used by the Regional Office and RMT to follow up on performance of Country Offices are now harmonized with those required for reporting on the Strategic Plan, eliminating the need for Country Offices to submit specific reports to the Regional Office/RMT. The quarterly Performance Management Report issued by the Regional
Office is reviewed twice yearly in the RMT Operations Working Group. Issues arising, including change initiatives, VISION support, risk management (RCSA), audit performance (recurring observations), Regional Contingency Funds (RCF), HR and ICT, are discussed and action points agreed on as needed in the RMT. The system has functioned well and has contributed to continuing improvement in regional performance, and Country Offices have expressed satisfaction with the oversight approaches followed.

Country Offices are prioritized for oversight visits in the light of (1) identified risk, and (2) key points in the programme cycle including preparation of new CPDs/CPMPs, holding of MTRs/MTMRs, Strategic Moments of Reflection (SMRs) and (3) audit follow-up. On critical matters and decision points a formal exit note is prepared noting agreed status and follows up actions to be performed. This is also submitted as part of the formal documentation for the regional TRT and PBR.

4.2.7 Methods used by the RO to obtain feedback on performance

Several methods are used to solicit feedback on the EAPRO’s overall performance, with focus on the quality and timeliness of support provided to Country Offices. Feedback on the quality of response to RMT and Country Office requests is obtained during RMT meetings and actions taken to improve Regional Office support to Country Offices. RMT action points along with direct requests for support from Country Offices and countries with special needs are prioritized in the provision of support and followed up throughout the year. Other standard methods used by EAPRO for obtaining assessment and feedback include sharing of trip reports for comments and observations, discussions between the Regional Director and Representatives and monitoring of implementation of the follow up action points in the trip reports and Country Office feedback on those by supervisors. EAPRO is conducting a stakeholder satisfaction survey 2014 with the aim to contribute to improve the quality and relevance of the technical support, strategic guidance, quality assurance and oversight services provided by the Regional Office to UNICEF Country Offices in East Asia and the Pacific.

4.2.8 Efficiency gains and cost savings

Significant measures were taken by Country Offices to achieve savings on other operating costs as reported in the Country Office Annual Reports. As part of the global mandate to identify ways to improve efficiency and effectiveness with the new system introduced in 2012, the regional feasibility study in 2012 was pursued by HQ to ascertain ‘global’ shared service centre rather than region-wide, and is in the process of implementation in 2014. EAPRO and COs in the region continue to closely examine and monitor its international travel, with significant efforts made to supplement and substitute for mission travel through solutions such as Skype, video-conferencing and Webex. In addition, the Programme Budget Reviews (PBR) and audit exit meetings were successfully conducted in virtual mode and paperless, as materials were made available on SharePoint. With the centralization of local salary payroll at HQ that started in 2013, savings from local salaries in the region were consolidated and effectively used for IT equipment and office vehicle replacement in 6 COs, which was not previously possible. Other efficiency gains at country level included more effective transactions processing through streamlining of processing and the use of focal points.

5. Evaluations, research, studies, surveys and publications completed in 2013

**Title: End of Decade Notes on Education for All: Universal Primary Education**  
Themes: Education

**Title: End of Decade Notes on Education for All: Life Skills and Lifelong Learning**  
Themes: Education

**Title: UNICEF communication for development support to public health preparedness and disaster risk reduction in Asia Pacific**  
Themes: Health
Title: Making the Case with Strategic Information: Young Key Populations at Higher Risk of HIV in Asia and the Pacific
Year: 2013, Sequence Number: ISBN 978-974-685-142-8
Themes: HIV/AIDS

Title: Community-Led Total Sanitation in East Asia and Pacific
Themes: WASH

Title: Sanitation and Hygiene in Primary Schools in South-East Asian Countries: Realities, Needs and Recommendations
Themes: WASH

Other studies, produced in-house:
- Comprehensive needs assessment of newborn care in selected countries
- Multi-sectoral Approaches to Nutrition, which included the following studies: Nutrition-specific and Nutrition-sensitive Interventions to Accelerate Progress; The Case for Investment by Agriculture; The Case for Investment by Social protection Programmes; The Case for Investment by Public Health, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; The Case for Investment by Education Programmes
- A Snapshot of Sanitation and Hygiene in East Asia and the Pacific – 2013 Update

All are posted on the EAPRO website.

6. Report on UN Reform and Inter-Agency Collaboration

EAPRO, in coordination with ROSA, contributes to the leadership and substantive work of a number of strategically important regional mechanisms including the United Nations Development Group for Asia-Pacific (UNDG-AP) at Regional Director level (including regular meetings, country support and the RC Assessment) and at working level through the Peer Support Group; the UN Agencies working group on ASEAN human rights mechanisms, and thematic working groups and sub-groups of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM - ESCAP) and the UNDG-AP including on urbanization, youth, MICs, evaluation and the Post-2015/SDGs agenda. The RO also participates in relevant regional interagency programmes and in regional inter-governmental meetings convened by the RCM.

The Regional Office supports UN Coherence at country level through providing technical guidance and oversight to COs in relation to UNDAF preparation and implementation, joint programming, common operations and UNCT participation. Through chairing the interagency Peer Support Group EAPRO contributes to quality support and assurance of UNDAFs, UNCT results reporting and other common programming initiatives. UN Coherence is progressing at the country level, with well advanced Delivering as One (DaO) initiatives in Viet Nam and Papua New Guinea, and self-starter DaO arrangements in Indonesia, Lao PDR and other countries that are in place or are being considered. The RO helped to facilitate the introduction of guidance for implementing the DaO SOPs (applying to all countries) and other recommendations made by the QCPR. As Convening Agency on behalf of the UNDG-AP for Timor-Leste, UNICEF EAPRO provided support to the UNDAF preparation process, including a technical mission to facilitate a UNCT strategic retreat, lead UNCT training on results-based management and HRBA and support alignment of the UN results framework with the national development plan.

Substantive achievements of UN Coherence at the country level include joint UN programmes and policy actions through evidence-based advocacy, and supporting aid effectiveness, as outlined in COARs. Shared commitment to advocacy and effort on five DaO UNDAF areas has also resulted in strong exchanges of information and more dynamic advocacy messages. Particular attention during 2013 was given to engagement in Post-2015 processes, including support as co-convenor of regional thematic discussions on Inequalities in cooperation with UN Women and the Millennium Challenge initiative; participation in regional interagency meetings on health, WASH and education; and
contribution to the RCM-UNDG initiative on means of implementation for a side session in the Open Working Group process at the General Assembly.

Funding limitations for UN Coherence remain a challenge in the region in the light of budget uncertainties, donor fatigue and the process at global level to reach agreement on modalities for funding the 10 common functions of the Resident Coordinator at country level. Additional clarity was achieved during the year but UNCT budgets remained unfunded. At the same time, UNCT procedures limit the ability of some Country Offices to approach donors bilaterally for funding for UNICEF programming. UN cooperation and joint programming has often entailed high transaction costs, including significant time commitments at Country Office and Regional Office levels. Progress was made on moves to common UN Houses, notably in Viet Nam. Operational challenges in UN coherence include developing countries’ capacity in national supply and procurement, harmonized approaches to fulfilling IPSAS requirements, standardization of audit definitions and ratings, and full harmonization of cash transfers. Ensuring timely and synchronized implementation of joint UN action remains a challenge as does HACT compliance with full agency buy-in. Progress has been made but some issues remain in the firewall between the Resident Coordinator and UNDP Country Director functions. EAPRO continues to support Country Offices in navigating these issues. In the light of the recommendations of the QCPR, the regional UN coherence process continues to advance with increased support to and strengthening of cooperation among UN partners.