Photo Caption: On 26 May 2016 in Viet Nam, a child is screened for malnutrition at the Phuoc Thanh Commune Health Centre in Ninh Thuan Province. The measurement, using a mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) band, is taken to determine nutrition status during emergencies. The red section of the armband indicates that the child is severely malnourished. Many children visiting the health centre show signs of nutrient deficiencies, a result of food scarcity and an incomplete diet. The centre provides basic community health care. © UNICEF/UN020215/Quan
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Overview .................................................................................................................................... 5
   1.1. Executive Summary .................................................................................................................. 5
   1.2. Trends and progress affecting women and children in the region ............................................. 7
   1.3. Humanitarian Assistance .......................................................................................................... 11
   1.4. Strategic Plan .......................................................................................................................... 13

2. Development Effectiveness ........................................................................................................... 14
   2.1. Assessing Perceptions of UNICEF’s Development Effectiveness ............................................. 14
   2.2. Support for Country Programme Design .................................................................................. 14
   2.3. Programme Planning and Monitoring ...................................................................................... 15
   2.4. Development Effectiveness for Strategic Plan Outcome Areas ............................................... 16
       2.4.1. Health ................................................................................................................................. 16
       2.4.2. HIV/AIDS ......................................................................................................................... 17
       2.4.3. Nutrition .......................................................................................................................... 18
       2.4.4. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene ......................................................................................... 19
       2.4.5. Education ........................................................................................................................ 20
       2.4.6. Child Protection ................................................................................................................ 21
       2.4.7. Social Policy and Economic Analysis .............................................................................. 21
   2.5. EAPRO Cross-sectoral Programme Areas: ............................................................................. 22
       2.5.1. Early Learning and Early Childhood Development (ECD): .............................................. 22
       2.5.2. Children with Disabilities (CWD): .................................................................................... 23
       2.5.3. Adolescent Development and Participation: ................................................................. 24
       2.5.4. Humanitarian Action ........................................................................................................ 24

3. Global and Regional Programmes ................................................................................................. 26
   3.1. Influencing global/regional discourse and policy ...................................................................... 26
       3.1.1. Horizontal Cooperation: Third High-Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights (HLM3) ........................................................................................................ 26
       3.1.2. Horizontal Cooperation: Global Programme Partnerships .............................................. 27
       3.1.3. Horizontal Cooperation: Regional Organisations ............................................................. 28
       3.1.4. Corporate Engagement ................................................................................................... 29
       3.1.5. Market Shaping ............................................................................................................... 29
   3.2. Data, Research, Evaluation ...................................................................................................... 30
   3.3. Implementation Strategies ........................................................................................................ 30
       3.3.1. Research, data/evidence gathering .................................................................................. 30
       3.3.2. Evaluation ....................................................................................................................... 31
   3.4. Normative Principles ................................................................................................................ 32
       3.4.1. Human Rights-based Approach to Programming and Cooperation (HRBP) .................... 33
       3.4.2. Gender Equality ............................................................................................................. 33
       3.4.3. Environmental Sustainability ......................................................................................... 34

4. Management and Operations Results ............................................................................................ 35
   4.1. Operations ............................................................................................................................... 35
   4.2. Human Resources ................................................................................................................... 36
   4.3. Regional ICT .......................................................................................................................... 36
   4.4. Common Services Unit ............................................................................................................ 37
   4.5. Global Staff Survey .................................................................................................................. 37
   4.6. Regional Management ........................................................................................................... 37
## ACRONYMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADB</td>
<td>Asian Development Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>AeHIN</td>
<td>Asia eHealth Information Network</td>
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<td>AICHR-ASEAN</td>
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<td>ARNEC</td>
<td>Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood</td>
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<td>Association of South East Asian Nations</td>
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<td>C4D</td>
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<td>Lao People’s Democratic Republic</td>
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<td>Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey</td>
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<td>MoRES</td>
<td>Monitoring of Results for Equity System</td>
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<td>OCHA</td>
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<td>Out of School Children Initiative</td>
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<td>OPM</td>
<td>Oxford Policy Management</td>
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<td>Acronym</td>
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<td>PBR</td>
<td>Programme Budget Review</td>
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<td>Public Finance for Children</td>
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<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
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<td>Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission</td>
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<td>RAM</td>
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<td>Regional Office Management Plan</td>
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<td>Regular Resources</td>
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<td>Severe Acute Malnutrition</td>
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<td>Sustainable Development Goal</td>
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<td>South East Asia Primary Learning Metrics</td>
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<td>SMR</td>
<td>Strategic Moment of Reflection</td>
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<td>SP</td>
<td>Strategic Plan</td>
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<td>School-Related Gender-Based Violence</td>
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<td>SUN</td>
<td>Scaling Up Nutrition</td>
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<td>Universal Health Coverage</td>
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<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<td>UNGEI</td>
<td>United Nations Girl’s Education Initiative</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
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<td>VAC</td>
<td>Violence Against Children</td>
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<td>WASH</td>
<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</td>
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<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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<td>WHO Western Pacific Regional Office</td>
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1. Overview

1.1. Executive Summary

This Regional Office (RO) Annual Report 2016 covers the third year of implementation of the East Asia and Pacific Regional Office Management Plan (ROMP) 2014-2017 and the first year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which provides a challenge to all countries’ to reorient their social, economic and environmental development policies to seek more inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth.

During this year, EAPRO achieved significant results across all sectors, including responding to the evolving humanitarian needs, as well as in management and operations. Some of the highlights include:

- Five new Country Programmes were finalised, presented the Executive Board and evaluated with satisfactory ratings through the global quality review, while four Country Offices (COs) began the process of elaborating new Country Programmes through Strategy Notes;
- Over 345 staff in EAP became more knowledgeable about Results-based Management (RBM) and can now apply the principles of RBM to improve programme design;
- Four countries completed or reviewed first drafts of their Situation Analyses on the status of women and children and ten countries completed a Child Centred Disaster Risk Assessment with the support of EAPRO. Thirteen out of 14 also participated in a mapping of climate change related programming.
- UNICEF EAPRO also facilitated the development of Situation Analyses specially focused on Children with Disabilities in three target countries and on Adolescents in four countries;
- A regional Situation Analysis of Gender Responsive Adolescent Health was launched, with regional and global strategies under development in coordination with WHO/UNFPA/UN Women;
- Thailand was certified the first country in Asia-Pacific (and the first country with an entrenched epidemic in the world), to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Syphilis. EAPRO co-organized the validation mission and various processes with WHO SEARO and UNICEF Thailand to obtain certification;
- Up-to-date management protocols and strategies for management of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were endorsed and/or applied in almost all the 10 countries with treatment programmes and EAPRO launched the first ever joint Nutrition-WASH Toolkit – A Practical Guide for Country Offices;
- The South East Asia Primary Learning Metrics programme was launched; representing the first regional learning assessment that UNICEF has taken leadership on - enabling countries in the region to monitor learning outcomes in primary schools;
- Some 160 national counterparts and partners from 17 countries in East and South Asia united at the 5th WASH in Schools International Learning Exchange, providing a unique opportunity for south-south networking. EAPRO also supported the first “Enabling Environment in WASH” face-to-face training workshop in Bangkok, which enabled staff to employ a more structured approach to addressing barriers and bottlenecks related to legislation, policy, public finance management;
- Early learning is now a part of all 14 Country Programmes in EAP and a Holistic Regional Data Portal on key Impact/outcome indicators is now launched on the Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC) portal;
- An innovative step-by-step approach to public expenditure tracking for children was launched and piloted in the Pacific Islands of Fiji and Solomon, making use of WB's Open Budgets Portal BOOST database initiative;
- EAPRO also played instrumental role in supporting disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action though the region, including through resource mobilization for Viet Nam (post Typhoon Sarika and El Niño), Mongolia (for the Dzud response), Papua New Guinea (El Niño-related drought), DPRK (Typhoon Lionrock) and the Pacific (Tropical Cyclone Winston);
- In terms of Operations: 18 formal CO submissions to the Programme Budget Review were reviewed and approximately 1,030 Fixed-Term and Temporary Appointments were processed in the region in 2016. The Common Services Unit continued to support the Thailand CO, EAPRO and other COs by ensuring a smooth transition to Global Shared Services Centre and processing of over 1,053 transactions, 462 Travel Authorisations, 374 new visa applications, 290 resident permits and 27 UN Laissez Passer. Administration and Support Services also managed the space allocation for all of EAPRO (116 work stations) and rolled out several greening projects related to the renovation of the building.

2016 was also particularly significant in terms of higher-level advocacy, as the joint EAPRO-ROSA third High Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights (HLM 3) was hosted by the Government of Malaysia in early November. Under the title “A BILLION BRAINS: Smarter Children, Healthier Economies”, government representatives at the Ministerial level from 29 countries attended, along with regional organizations such as the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Pacific Community (PC); and major development partners such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Union (EU). The meeting generated constructive dialogue, provided a platform for youth innovation and creative expression and engendered high level commitments from the participating governments around the three key themes: Cognitive Capital: Investing in children to generate their development and sustainable growth; Accelerating Universal Health Coverage; Prevention of violence against children and how this contributes to building stronger economies. The themes were reinforced through the development of thematic conference papers in collaboration with technical experts and prominent academic partners. The event was made possible with strong financial and technical assistance from the Government of Malaysia as well as UNICEF EAPRO, The Region of South Asia (ROSA), NY Headquarters (HQ), the Malaysia CO and COs across the larger Asia Pacific region.

National commitments and regional discourse were also influenced in 2016 through close collaboration with regional organisations. Under the UNICEF-ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2014 a UNICEF-ASEAN workplan has been developed across all sectors (integrating new focus areas such as WASH and humanitarian action) - resulting in the release of new publications supported by UNICEF (ASEAN Nutrition Report and a Regional Synthesis on Out of School Initiatives); new declarations in key areas of advocacy (such as committing to address Out-Of-School Children); use of new standards and metrics (Early Childhood Development standards, the Youth Development Index and Primary Learning Metrics). There were also new agreements for joint actions to advance child-sensitive social protection.

To ensure that the RO was on track in fulfilling its key functions related to oversight, quality assurance and technical assistance - EAPRO conducted its first ever “Staff Survey on EAPRO Positioning and Performance”. Fifty per cent of the staff invited participated and responded to questions related to their interaction with the RO; EAPRO’s contribution to results; and perceptions of overall performance including strengths and weaknesses. Generally, the perceptions of EAPRO’s performance were positive – but they also underlined the importance of adjusting communication and support to different types of staff categories in Country Offices (COs) and to better addressing emerging areas of interest such as climate change.

To better gauge the perceptions of UNICEF’s effectiveness in the region as a whole, EAPRO also conducted a Stakeholder Survey in the last quarter. Perceptions of 444 regional and country level stakeholders on UNICEF’s positioning and effectiveness in the region were captured and analysed, with the support of private-sector firm Globescan. Responses came from governments, bilateral agencies, and International Financing Institutions (IFIs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Private Sector and media organizations. The results by Stakeholder Type and CO indicate that overall, UNICEF has a good reputation and is perceived to have importance, effectiveness and
influence across the region. However, findings also suggest there is room for improvement in some countries and in some areas such as response to violation of children’s rights, Disaster Risk Reduction and response, among others. There were also some perceptions of UNICEF as being bureaucratic and slow in terms of partnership processes.

2016 was significant as it represented a year of looking forward at some of the more influential “mega-trends” affecting children and women in the region. To prepare for the development of the new ROMP, one regional and eight country-specific analyses were completed, with the support of the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). The findings of the analysis have been presented in various regional forums, including Strategic Moments of Reflection (SMRs) and have been used to inform the development of a Regional Stakeholder survey, the Regional Headlines which will be integrated into ROMP planning, as well as the design of new Country Programme Documents (CPDs) and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF) in the Pacific and Myanmar. This analysis has also helped EAPRO to provide strategic regional inputs into global processes, including the development of the new UNICEF Strategic Plan.

While 2016 represented a positive year of forward looking analysis – there were also challenges relating to supporting country offices and creating regional and global public goods. A capacity of the RO to effectively meet the requests of offices for technical assistance, particularly in the area of improving data availability and quality and managing the impacts of “emerging areas of interest” such as climate change, urbanisation and migration on children and programming. Crosscutting issues such as these require both subject matter experts and adaptation of strategies within traditional programme sectors – but technical capacity in EAPRO for integrating diverse agendas remained constrained during the calendar year. A particularly severe capacity gap related to RO support to developing data strategies, understanding that UNICEF’s key role in furthering national efforts to localise the SDGs includes support to national stakeholders (including national statistics offices) to improve data collection, management and use – particularly for those child-related indicators for which UNICEF is a custodian. Due to technical capacity gaps at the RO level, HQ provided direct assistance to Country Offices for implementation of national surveys such as MICS, advising on capacity development actions with national authorities. A further challenge to capacity gaps was managing the impact of changing aid policies and the completion of several significant multi-country programmes with bilateral development partners. While an enormous amount of work has been completed within these programmes, the readjustment (particularly in Education with the completion of the Netherlands-supported programme for Peace-building Education and Advocacy and the completion of the EU-supported Maternal and Young Child Nutrition Security Initiative in Asia) resulted in some loss of technical capacities at the regional level, which in turn created challenges to sustaining technical support to countries. In addition, a new EU funding stream for nutrition was cancelled.

1.2. Trends and progress affecting women and children in the region

The year 2016 marked the first year of implementation in the 2030 Development Agenda. Underlining the importance of inter-related and integrated goals and targets, countries in East Asia and Pacific wrestled with a myriad of demographic, economic, social and environmental trends including: the impact of aging populations on fiscal sustainability; rapidly rising prevalence of overweight and non communicable diseases; regional economic integration and growth combined with growing socio-economic inequality, rapid urbanization and migration; and the impact of air pollution on child health. Given the interdependence of economies and environments, current trends in the Asia-Pacific region are likely to continue, or advance even more rapidly than in other regions of the world, over the next 20 years.

Demographic Trends – Aging Populations: The EAP region continues to host one-third of the world’s population and one-quarter of the world’s children, with 30 million children born in the region every year. Although
populations continue to grow, the Economic and Social Commission Asia Pacific (ESCAP)’s 2016 Economic Update notes that EAP countries are experiencing population ageing at an unprecedented pace, due to rapidly falling fertility rates and improvements in life expectancy. The speed of aging (defined as the years taken for the percentage of persons aged 65 and older to change from 7 per cent to 14 per cent of total population) is particularly pronounced in Vietnam (17 years), Thailand (20 years), China (23 years), and Fiji (27 years).1

As populations age, the proportion of women in the population increases and the ratio of people of working age to older persons decreases, having profound implications for fiscal stability. In East and North-East Asia, there were 15 working age persons to every older person in 1970 – but this dropped to just 7 in 2015 and forecasts predict that the elderly could account for up to one third of the sub-region’s total population by 2035.2 In South-East Asia and the Pacific the ratio decreased from 15 to 12 and 11 to 8 respectively, over the same period.3 Aging populations increase the state’s fiscal burden (through delivery of old age pension and health care services), and usually constrain economic growth (since the workforce and tax base shrink), which can have an impact on the quality and availability of social services for all age groups including children. Notably - less than a third of the working age population in the larger Asia Pacific region contributes to a pension scheme.

**Macro-Economic Trends – Growth, Integration and Risks:** The EAP region includes some of the fastest-growing economies in the world, as well as ten of the least developed countries, of which six are located in the Pacific and four in East Asia. Positively, the World Bank’s October 2016 Economic Update suggests that economic growth in East Asia and Pacific was “stable” in 2016 and will remain “resilient” over the next three years in the face of external uncertainties and risks. Developing countries in EAP continue to perform well relative to other developing regions - and have been notably resilient in their recovery to the global financial crisis. Overall, weak external demand was largely offset by increasingly robust domestic demand, supported by accommodative monetary and fiscal policies. Inflation remained “muted” across the region while budget deficits increased, largely reflecting increased public expenditures.4

Notably, countries in South-East Asia 2016 moved closer towards regional integration with the launch of the ASEAN Economic Community, which will eventually establish a single market and production base, with a free flow of goods, services, labour, investments and capital across the 10 member states. According to a study by ILO and ADB, the Economic Community could boost the region’s growth by 7.1% between now and 2025 and create an additional 14 million jobs5 - however, development partners (including UNICEF) have advocated that shared prosperity will require ASEAN member states to place greater emphasis on social protection, gender equality and respect for the rights of migrant workers.

Risks/negative trends in 2016 included the uncertain outlook for the Chinese economy (deceleration of growth had wide ranging impacts across the region and world) within the context of the fragile global economic recovery; weak consumption and investment trends in major developing economies in the region; volatility in exchange rates, including that due to low oil prices; growing private household and corporate debt.

These negative trends affected different countries in different ways during 2016. For example, volatile commodity prices impacted economies dependent on extractive industries for growth particularly severely – with Mongolia sliding from upper-middle income to lower middle-income country in the span of one year. In addition, the South Pacific sub-region, buoyed by the elevated production of liquefied natural gas in Papua New

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2 Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2016, ESCAP http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Executive-Summary_Survey2016_0.pdf
Guinea, (which accounted for 60% of output in Pacific island developing economies in 2015), also experienced a severe economic downturn. PNG’s economic losses led to a 23% drop in in the national budget and a 16% drop in expenditures – having an immediate impact on the delivery of social services, particularly health and education7.

**Socio-Economic Trends –Increasing Inequality and Rapid Urbanisation:** As macro-economic growth in Asia shows resilience in the face of external uncertainties – the situation for vulnerable children and families has not necessarily shown improvement. Of the two billion people who live in the region, 379 million continue to live in poverty. In fact, income and social inequalities have actually increased in the EAP region over the past several decades, with the consequence that children from the poorest households are more than twice as likely to die before their fifth birthday as compared to children from the wealthiest households8. Further, these children are nearly five times more likely to be out of school. It is also noted that stunting prevalence is still of “public health significance” (>20%) in 13 EAPR countries. In assessing progress towards the SDG stunting target, seven out of 13 countries with trend data were rated as off-course. The picture is even worse for wasting, with nine out of 13 countries off course, and treatment coverage for severe acute malnutrition remaining extremely low at less than two per cent.

Over the last years, the dangerous impacts of both rapid urbanization and rising social inequality were made clear in terms of outbreaks of infectious diseases in mega-cities. In 2014, Viet Nam reported over 150 deaths due to measles in Hanoi. In 2015, over 105 cases of diphtheria were reported in the Philippines, with one third of cases reporting in Metro-Manila. In 2016, Mongolia experienced a national measles outbreak, with most cases reported in Ulaanbaatar City. These outbreaks (and others such as Polio in Lao PDR and Myanmar) have underlined the importance of updating national immunization management models and implementation capacities, particularly to suit the unique challenges of delivery in the densely populated urban context. Public Health Risks overall are increasing due to rapid inter-country and rural to urban migration and high concentrations of the very poor in urban and peri-urban slum areas.

Further analysis of the situation of urban communities and their access to services is needed across sectors, to shape recommendations for UNICEF measures to address their needs. It is noted that a high burden of deprivation is concentrated in urban areas due to the large population size: for example, 40% of severely wasted children (around 90,000) live in the two large cities in Vietnam, and yet services to treat them are not provided. Analysis of MICS nutrition data in Thailand shows no differences between prevalence of wasting among urban and rural children and also between the lowest and highest economic quintiles. It also shows that wasting prevalence among the youngest cohort of children – less than 6 months – is startling across all groups at around 14 per cent. This phenomenon, coupled with its determinants of very poor breastfeeding and young child feeding and care, has major implications for the health and development of children, particularly in terms of cognitive losses and later chronic disease.

**Migration Trends – Reduction in refugee flows:** Managing the impacts of migration on children and vulnerable families remained an issue of concern in 2016, as highlighted by UNICEF’s global report “Uprooted: The Growing Crisis for Refugee and Migrant Children”. According to ILO’s International Labour Migration Statistics database, the larger Asia Pacific region hosts 17.2 per cent of migrant workers worldwide (25.8 million persons9). ASEAN nations alone host almost 9.5 million migrants (primarily from Myanmar, Indonesia and Malaysia) and send 18.8 million nationals abroad (primarily to the USA, Thailand and Malaysia)10. China and the Philippines were

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7 PNG Situation Analysis 2016
8 UNICEF, Unequal at Birth: Disparities in Birth Registration in East Asia and the Pacific (2014)
amongst the top five remittance receiving countries in the world in 2015\textsuperscript{11}.

Positively, UNHCR reported that in the first half of 2016, mixed maritime movements of refugees and migrants through the Bay of Bengal in South-East Asia were limited to isolated attempts by several hundred people trying to reach Malaysia and Australia, fewer than during the first six months of any year since 2011. By comparison, over 31,000 people attempted such movements in the first half of 2015, with a fatality rate three times higher than that in the Mediterranean\textsuperscript{12}. While this may appear positive, the downward trend is not a result of addressing the root causes in Myanmar– but rather the outcome of more intensified border control–including in Thailand– and greater awareness of the risks of the journey. Following a crackdown, a series of attacks on border guard police posts, a new humanitarian unfolded in northern Myanmar in October and led to the migration of an estimated 70,000, including children into Bangladesh.

The March 2016 Sixth Ministerial Conference of the Bali process on people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime noted the progress achieved following a series of special meetings in 2015 and early 2016\textsuperscript{13} and the importance of including this progress in the UN Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugee and Migrants (held by the General Assembly in September). Ministers also noted the importance of civil registration in border management including efforts to strengthen systems for registering births and deaths – a key point of advocacy/interest for UNICEF (UNICEF EAPRO is an active member of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Regional Partnership and supports the CRVS Regional Action Framework to realise the shared vision that, by 2024, all people in Asia and the Pacific will benefit from universal and responsive CRVS systems).

**Environmental Trends – Increasing awareness of impact of Air Pollution:** While the East Asia and Pacific region faces a myriad of environmental threats that impact the health and safety of children, the impact of air pollution is being increasingly recognized as much more dangerous for public health than previously imagined. A WHO global study ranks air pollution as one of the top 10 killers in the world, contributing to over 2 million premature deaths worldwide each year. Significantly, some 65 percent of all air pollution deaths occur in the larger Asia region. In 2010 alone, particulate matter pollution was the fourth-leading risk factor for deaths in China, behind high blood pressure and smoking. WHO estimates that by 2050, urban air pollution may cause up to 3.6 million premature deaths worldwide each year, mostly in China and India.

In January 2016, the Mongolia Country Office supported the Government to host an international Expert Consultation, where scientific evidence was presented to make a case for urgent actions to mitigate the effects of air pollution on children. Ulaanbaatar is among the ten most polluted cities in the world with record high per capita carbon emissions and the calculated exposure of the population to particulate matter is on average 7 times higher than WHO minimum standards (in early December 2015 this level reached 25 times WHO standards). This exposure reduces fetal growth and increases preterm birth, pneumonia, and reduced lung functioning leading to acute respiratory disease. The Ulaanbaatar conference provided evidence and lessons for other countries in the region, particularly China and Indonesia, where current exposures of children to air pollution are severe and have not been experienced by previous generations.

**Climate Change Trends – Most severe El Niño event on record:** Higher temperatures, rising sea levels, and extreme weather events linked to climate change continued to have a major impact on countries in the East Asia Pacific region in 2016. The impact of El Niño was one of the most significant on record, and the severe drought followed by floods resulted in devastating consequences for children and their families across the region, with

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\textsuperscript{12} According to UNHCR, roughly 10 percent of those abandoned in May 2015 remain detained or in confined shelters, but the vast majority are either residing in refugee communities or have returned home. Of the two-thirds who were migrants, almost all have been repatriated. More than 600 of the refugees have been or are in the process of being resettled, including 47 particularly vulnerable individuals who departed for resettlement countries in the first half of 2016.

\textsuperscript{13} These included: Special Meetings on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean (29 May and 4 December 2015); the Special Retreat on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean (1 February 2016, Bangkok); the Emergency ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime: Irregular Movement of Persons in the Southeast Asia Region (2 July 2015); and the Jakarta Declaration Roundtable Meeting on Addressing the Root Causes of Irregular Movement of Persons (27-28 November 2015).
millions facing shortages in water and food. Impacts and losses were compounded by vulnerabilities related to poverty, food and energy security and inequities in the uneven coverage of basic social services, especially the most marginalized. UNESCAP predicts that both slow and sudden onset impacts of climate change could force more than 100 million people in the larger Asia Pacific region into extreme poverty by 2030.\textsuperscript{14}

**Trends in the 2030 Development Agenda:** Despite these challenges, there were several significant regional achievements in 2016 that further the 2030 Development Agenda. The South-East Asia Region became the second among six WHO Regions to achieve elimination of Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus, after the European Region. Thailand became the first country in the Asia-Pacific region and second in the world to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis – and Myanmar swore in its first elected civilian leader in more than 50 years.

The Sustainable Development Goals are also placing a marked emphasis on the interconnectedness of sustainable development, climate change, and resilience to disasters, which is particularly critical for the region. The Asia Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR), which took place in November 2016 hosted by the Government of India, transformed the commitments of Governments and stakeholders within the Sendai Framework into more specific regional, national and local actions. Nations released a political declaration and the “Asia Regional Plan”, which makes specific goals and targets required for implementation of the Sendai Framework in the region. Governments and stakeholders also committed to encourage more meaningful participation and support representation of women, children and youth, and persons with disabilities in leadership roles for disaster risk reduction.

**Trend Analysis and Re-Positioning:** In order to better consider impact of these trends, and others that are shaping the programming environment and the situation affecting children and women in EAP, the RO commissioned one Regional and eight Country-specific Analysis of “mega-trends” impacting children to 2030, with the support of the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU). The findings of the analysis were then presented in various regional forums, including Strategic Moments of Reflections. The findings were also used to inform the development of the Regional Stakeholder survey, the Regional Headlines (which will feed into ROMP planning for the next cycle) and as well as the design of new CPDs and UNDAFs in the Pacific and Myanmar. Notably, developing a Vision 2030 is now a mandatory step in the preparation of new UNDAFs. This kind of formal regional trend analysis therefore – has been particularly useful for the formation of the “strategic intent” within the Myanmar UNDAF – as the regional and country-specific studies for Myanmar were presented to the UNCT and became a valuable input into the discussions on implications of trends beyond children and UNICEF. Overall, it was recognised through this process that while the magnitude, severity and criticality of the impact of each mega-trend is hard to predict – risk management will require strategic and specific reorientations of positioning, partnerships and strategies on the part of UNICEF in the region. These reorientations for the Regional Office will be considered through the ROMP 2018-2022 planning.

1.3. **Humanitarian Assistance**

EAP remains one of the most hazard-prone regions in the world - over 40 million people affected by natural disasters in 2015\textsuperscript{15} - with significant human casualties and economic losses. Population growth, rapid urbanization, environmental degradation and other factors continue to accelerate and exacerbate trends, while hazards associated with climate change (including rising temperatures; increasing occurrence of floods and drought)\textsuperscript{16} appear more frequent and severe.

\textsuperscript{14} The Economics of Climate Change in the Asia Pacific Region – UNESCAP – November 2016
\textsuperscript{15} 2016 IFRC Disaster Report (adding up affected population of the countries in the region).
\textsuperscript{16} The impact of climate change on children, UNICEF publication, 2015
Through 2016 EAPRO and UNICEF country offices worked closely with national authorities to deliver assistance to affected children and their families in line with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action. Based on child-centered risk assessments and vulnerability analyses, EAPRO continues to invest in strengthening government capacities and systems, and contributes to national policy and strategy setting on preparedness and DRR to mitigate future impact on vulnerable children and communities.

In 2015 and 2016, El Niño caused irregular rainfall patterns, resulting in severe drought and flooding, particularly in Indonesia, Mongolia, Cambodia, the Pacific sub-region, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam, affecting over 10 million people. In these countries, EAPRO technical assistance and supplemental funding was instrumental in supporting necessary and appropriate in-country responses. EAPRO also consolidated inputs from COs and prepared the regional overview on El Niño to ensure internal and external partners were informed of the current situation, and timely preparedness and response activities were delivered. It is expected that La Niña will affect many of the same countries but with the opposite weather effects in 2017, though the scale of the effects are yet to be seen.

Some of these disasters hit suddenly, as experienced early in 2015 when Category 5 Cyclone Pam affected more than 60 per cent of the population in Vanuatu, including 82,000 children, damaging 68 per cent of rainwater collection systems and contaminating water supplies across the country.

In addition to El Niño related events EAP countries also wrestled with the impact of severe weather events. Tropical Cyclone Winston, the strongest storm in recorded history to make landfall in the South Pacific Basin, hit Fiji in February 2016, affecting 350,000 people (40 per cent of Fiji’s population) and leading to over US$ 250 million in damages. The humanitarian appeal totaled US$38 million for all partners and 7.1 million for UNICEF. UNICEF’s humanitarian assistance enabled some 68,967 persons to access safe water and 29,456 to access hygiene and sanitation supplies. Support also included the provision of tents for Temporary Learning Centers and distribution of materials to promote psychosocial support (including Early Childhood Development kits) to affected communities. Development projects such as WASH for communities and in Schools; Nutrition programmes and “Just Play” were swiftly modified to accommodate emergency needs.

In August, Typhoon Lionrock resulted in widespread flooding and the destruction of infrastructure, livestock and crops, affecting more than 600,000 people in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK). CERF funding covered approximately US$ 13 million, including US$ 9.8 million for actions to be implemented by UNICEF. With this support UNICEF DPRK and its partners distributed pre-positioned emergency relief stock, established temporary health clinics and provided interagency emergency health kits for the restoration of primary health care services. Multi-micronutrient supplements and Vitamin A tablets were provided to 100,000 pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6-23 months, and about 6,000 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were treated in the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition sites in the flood affected areas, representing around 10% of the total caseload of SAM treated in DPRK with UNICEF support. In October, still recovering from the impact of El Niño-induced drought, Viet Nam was hit by Typhoon Sarika, causing severe flooding. Therapeutic foods and micronutrients were distributed to 47,703 pregnant and lactating women and over 47,482 children aged 6 to 23 months, and critical WASH supplies were delivered to more than 8,800 affected families. Throughout 2016, UNICEF worked closely with the Government of Viet Nam to support drought and flood responses, which has led to increased attention on the importance of preparedness among key government officials and departments.

Internal armed conflict and ethnic strife, specifically in Myanmar and the Philippines, continue to lead to internal and/or cross-border displacement and mass migration. Compounding the protracted crises are issues related to
religious and/or ethnic discrimination, exploitation, chronic poverty, vulnerability to natural disasters, statelessness, trafficking and humanitarian access challenges, which continue to severely impact the survival and wellbeing of vulnerable populations, especially children. In Myanmar, over 262,000 children are in need of lifesaving humanitarian support in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states. In the Philippines, clashes between the Philippine Armed Forces with the Abu Sayyaf group in Basilan and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters in Maguindanao continue to drive conflict-related displacement, with mounting concerns on grave violations of child rights.

1.4. Strategic Plan

EAPRO participated in the consultation process to review the draft Strategic Framework in advance of the September GMT and also discussed the draft through the Regional Management Team meeting in November 2016. Several participants to the regional consultation process suggested that the new SP/SF should place a stronger emphasis on the cross-sectoral dimension, describing and illustrating the linkages across Goal Areas. The Strategic Priority Areas identified in the SP draft were therefore much appreciated – not only because they reinforce the strong interdependence of new SDG goals and targets, but also the experience of a child, through different phases in the life cycle.

Regional discussions are ongoing – and are contributing to the development of new Regional Headlines for East Asia and Pacific, which will inspire and shape the Regional Office Management Plan results and strategies for 2018-2021. At present, each proposed Headline corresponds/aligns to one of the SP “Strategic Cross-cutting Priorities”. This will allow EAPRO to provide a unifying framework for our work – one which places a strong focus on the inter-sectorial nature of early childhood development; the services required to thrive in second decade and the best means to foster safe and sustainable environments for children in the context of urbanization and a changing climate.

The draft Regional Headlines are:

1. **“A Fair Start in Life Matters”:** Governments at the High Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation (HLM3) agreed that Asia’s most successful countries will be those whose decision makers recognize that achieving the equitable and sustained growth envisioned in SDG 8, will require investments to nurture and protect children’s cognitive abilities and the socio-emotional and functional skills that stimulate creativity, flexibility and collaborative attitudes in children, from early childhood through adolescence. Optimizing children’s capabilities requires supporting mothers and caregivers through the prenatal period and ensuring that children survive and receive the care and services they need during the first 1,000 days and indeed over the child’s first decade of life to thrive. UNICEF can make a significant contribution to efforts to ending preventable new-born deaths and malnutrition; engendering positive parenting and care practices; ensuring that every child is positively stimulated with early learning or in-school and expanding social protection to ensure the poorest and most vulnerable children get a fair start in life.

2. **“Children grow in a safe and sustainable environment”:** Girls and boys in the EAP region are constantly confronted with shocks and stresses that threaten their development. EAP is the most disaster-affected region in the world and the impacts of climate change are taking an added toll on livelihoods of vulnerable families. Rapid rates of urbanization are exacerbating these vulnerabilities, posing new health risks and challenges for delivering adequate infrastructure and basic services; mitigating congestion and air pollution, and promoting social cohesion. UNICEF will contribute to efforts to: reduce inequities and vulnerabilities to shocks and stresses; enhance emergency preparedness and response; expand sustainable access to improved water & sanitation; reduce the impacts of indoor and ambient pollution on children and adolescents; increase children and adolescent participation in climate change action.
3. “Adolescents Potential Unleashed”: With over 60% of the world’s youth living in the larger Asia Pacific region, supporting this age group to interact with and adapt to a rapidly changing world, develop creative and critical thinking skills and fostering ideals of responsible global citizenship are all critical to unleashing their potential. UNICEF will contribute to efforts to improve adolescent learning outcomes; foster positive health, nutrition and life-skills; end child pregnancies and child marriage; prevent and protect adolescents from all forms of violence; ensure universal access to adolescent responsive sexual, reproductive and mental health services; enable menstrual hygiene management in schools; create and facilitate opportunities and safe spaces for participation, creativity and self-determination; facilitate adolescents’ access to and use of safe and responsible use of ICT.

2. Development Effectiveness

2.1. Assessing Perceptions of UNICEF’s Development Effectiveness

**EAP Stakeholder survey:** Perceptions of 450 regional and country level stakeholders on UNICEF’s positioning and effectiveness of the region were captured and analysed, with the support of private-sector firm Globescan in the last quarter of 2016. Surveys were sent to over 1,400 stakeholders including governments, bilateral agencies, and IFIs, CSO, Private Sector and media organizations. Positively, the results by Stakeholder Type and CO indicate that overall, UNICEF has a good reputation and is perceived to have importance, effectiveness and influence across the region. However, findings also suggested there is room for improvement in some countries and in some areas such as response to violations of children’s rights, DRR and emergency preparedness and response, among others. The Stakeholder Survey in EAP was a pilot for UNICEF globally – and a replication package which includes lessons learned has been developed to support other regions to roll out similar initiatives.

**EAP Staff Survey:** EAPRO also has a better understanding of its effectiveness in supporting Country Offices as 616 staff were invited to participate in the Staff Survey on EAPRO Positioning and Performance - and responses were received from 313 persons. The analysis measured perceptions of EAPRO Performance, broken down by the position occupied by the Respondent. Questions related to Level of Interaction with the RO; EAPRO’s contribution to results; and perceptions of overall performance including strengths and weaknesses. Generally, results were positive – but also underlined the importance of adjusting communication and support to different types of staff categories.

2.2. Support for Country Programme Design

The year 2016 marked a significant shift in country programmes in the region as eight Country Programmes (half of all Country Programmes in the region) were either finalised or in the process of elaboration. Five were finalized in Q1 & Q2 of 2016\(^{17}\), and three\(^{18}\) are currently under development, with the elaboration of Strategy Notes. EAPRO Regional Advisors prioritised technical assistance and other support to Country Offices through the strategic planning process by prioritising RBM-training in these countries (see below); guiding Situation Analyses (see below), attending and inputting into Stakeholder Consultations and the Strategic Moments of Reflection; providing technical assistance for the development of Theories of Change and Strategy Notes and supporting with quality assurance for the process of CPD and CPMP elaboration. The RO also supported the consultation with and presentation to Executive Board members.

\(^{17}\) DPRK, Laos PDR, Viet Nam, Mongolia and Thailand

\(^{18}\) Papua New Guinea, Myanmar and the Pacific Island Countries and Territories
Despite the close quality assurance process for Strategy Note and CPD development, the external global quality review of the 2016 CPDs show that even with the introduction of SNs, the 2015 EAP CPDs were generally of better quality (overall score of 76 in 2016 compared to 79 in 2015), thus casting doubt on the effectiveness of the Strategy Note to influence CPD quality. It could also be because the 2015 CPDs were not accompanied by SNs, which were introduced in 2016, and therefore the level of coherence between the SN and CPD was not scrutinised. A further challenge in 2016 was the late issuance of the SN and CPD guidance and the pressure that this put on the RO in supporting COs to conduct a rapid adaptation of Strategy Notes to ensure adherence to updated guidance, disseminated only in December.

2.3. Programme Planning and Monitoring

Promoting UN coherence through Theories of Change Workshops: Some 50 UN staff, including directors and representatives from UN agencies, improved their knowledge and skills in RBM to develop Theories of Change to improve UNDAF and CPD designs. A Theory of Change workshop facilitated by EAPRO in Bangkok aimed to improve the skills of the UN Development Group and the Peer Support Group to undertake and provide quality assurance on ToCs of UNDAFs – and a two-day workshop in PNG supported UNCT and Task Team members to make more specific collaborative commitments under the UNDAF to realise national-level outcome areas with the Government. A similar “TOC workshop” is planned with the Myanmar UNCT in 2017.

Results Based Management Roll-Out: Over 345 staff in EAP at regional and country level are now more knowledgeable about, and can apply the principles of RBM to improve programme design and management. This is 66 (24%) in excess of the 2016 target of 280 people set for this region for 2016. Two regional and 11 in country trainings were held with participants from all the countries in the region. The effects of the training have been immediately visible in the changes in attitudes of many COs where there are now deliberate efforts by the COs to address the quality of their programmes, including in non-CPD countries.

The RO trainings were aimed at identifying and forming regional champions who could replicate the trainings and provide technical support to country teams. The training has been successfully replicated in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu for UNICEF staff and government counterparts. However, this good progress is attributable to the personal commitment of the ‘champions’ in the Pacific since the RBM programme design is inadequate in this regard, lacking in a training of trainers approach. This is clear as the first RBM training failed to produce the Regional RBM Champions it was intended to. The design and approach taken needs to be adapted to ensure that the participants - some of whom are already adept at RBM - can replicate the training and provide technical support to their country teams and across the region.

Support for Situation Analysis: EAPRO provided technical assistance and quality assurance to DPRK, PNG, Thailand and Vietnam to manage, review and finalize their Situation Analyses. Two of the CO’s used an EAPRO-managed LTAS holder to elaborate the meta-analysis. EAPRO also supported the Philippines with a one-day workshop to develop a Sitan Roadmap for both national and sub-national SitAns to be launched in 2017. In addition, WASH supported the regional roll-out of a “training package” in analysing the Enabling Environment for WASH by hosting and co-facilitating a regional workshop19. Although the LTAS mechanism is proving useful for some COs, sourcing external technical assistance skilled at application of UNICEF’s conceptual frameworks (HRBP, causality, barrier and bottlenecks) has been challenging – leading to delays in the finalisation of documents in multiple countries (Pacific, Thailand and Vietnam in particular).

Furthering Child Centred Risk Assessments (CCRA): To better inform the country programme planning process, ten countries completed a Child Centred Disaster Risk Assessment (Cambodia and nine countries in the Pacific

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19 Pacific Country Office is the first to pilot this analysis, which is influencing CP design.
multi-country office\textsuperscript{20}) with technical assistance from the EAPRO Planning and Monitoring team. Lessons learned on the process were documented and presented in the region and HQ in order to further institutional learning on the process. COs across the region also benefited from creation of an LTAS for climate and disaster risk analysis. This will allow COs access high-quality external technical assistance to perform child-centred climate and disaster risk analysis, particularity as a part of Situation Analyses, in order to ensure risk-informed country planning, sound geographic targeting and appropriate strategy development for risk reduction. The CCRAs have also been used as critical inputs into other risk management processes (such the Enterprise Risk Management system and Early Warning Early Action).

The Programme Planning and Monitoring team recorded at least 34 requests for EAPRO technical assistance in 2016. At least 17 were fully addressed within the calendar year but the remainder require on-going support in 2017. Nine Country Offices received an in-country visit addressing some 12 of these requests.

2.4. Development Effectiveness for Strategic Plan Outcome Areas

2.4.1. Health

The Health team recorded 62 requests for technical assistance from EAPRO in 2016, coming from 13 different Country Offices. Six requests required an in-country visit to address. At least 47 were completed in the calendar year and the remainder require on-going support and/or follow-up in 2017.

Leveraging resources for Universal Health Coverage for children: The EAPRO Health team leveraged the political momentum created around the 3\textsuperscript{rd} High Level Meeting in Kuala Lumpur to increase interest in Universal Health Coverage (UHC) among EAP countries. This involved supporting Country Offices to sustain advocacy efforts with national counterparts to extend essential health services to non-covered populations; increase public health financing; and, ensure key health services for children be included in health packages. Encouraging results are seen in some countries (such as the Philippines model where the Philhealth insurance package now includes antenatal care, normal deliveries and caesarean sections, post-natal care and coverage for premature and small newborns). Funding shortfalls in the EAPRO office posed a major obstacle to extending more substantial support on UHC to Country Offices, making resource mobilisation a priority in 2017.

South-South Cooperation to further New-Born Health: Saving the life of newborns also continues to be a top priority for the EAP region, where more than half of under-five deaths (some 270,000) occur during the first four weeks due to preventable causes. EAPRO and WHO’s Western Pacific Regional Office have thus been working closely to support countries to initiate and scale up essential newborn care, also in coordination with ROSA. Progress in several countries has been positive – including for Viet Nam, where a center of excellence has been established in Da Nang hospital. Pakistani doctors were hosted at Da Nang in May for technical exchanges, with political support by the Ministry of Health. Such training and exchanges, involving several other countries from Asia and beyond, are further evolving to strengthen newborn initiatives and implementation in various regions. For example, a tripartite partnership is under discussion among JICA-The Government of Thailand -EAPRO for South-South and Triangle cooperation for UHC in 2017.

Scaling up Gender Responsive Adolescent Health (GRAH): Adolescent health issues are gaining increasing attention in the region (considering the burden of teenage pregnancy, NCDs, mental health issues, etc.). A regional situational analysis of GRAH started in 2016 – with regional and global strategies under development with WHO/UNFPA/UN Women and others UN agencies (H6) in 2017, with a focus on the priority health topics.

\textsuperscript{20} The child-centered vulnerability and risk assessment in the Pacific particularly advanced the elaboration of the sub-regional WASH strategy focused on fostering resilience and it has strengthened WASH programme design for the 2018-2022 CPD.
among the marginalized population (e.g., urban poor, ethnic minorities, etc.). This will provide a strong basis for an increasing focus on adolescents in the coming years.

2.4.2. HIV/AIDS

The HIV/AIDS team recorded over 113 requests for technical assistance from EAPRO in 2016, coming from nine Country Offices. Some 81 of the requests were fully addressed in 2016 while the remainder have on-going or planned assistance extending into 2017. Six country offices received at least one visit, addressing some 26 of these requests in total. About 89 requests took longer (or are taking longer) than one day to complete.

**Landmark gains in EMTCT:** In 2016, Thailand was certified the first country in Asia-Pacifice (and the first country with a large/entrenched epidemic in the world), to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Syphilis (EMTCT). EAPRO co-organized the validation mission and various processes with WHO SEARO and UNICEF Thailand to obtain certification. EAPRO also guided the design and planning of UNICEF-Government of China’s first national consultation on the Triple Elimination of MTCT of HIV, syphilis and Hepatitis B, thus enabling China to play a key role in developing WHO’s global guidance on EMTCT of Hepatitis B. Concurrently, the government of Vietnam reaffirmed its commitment to EMTCT, and made a strong appeal for UNICEF’s continued support, technically and financially. The challenge will be sustaining technical assistance, considering the limited resources and departure of the Regional Advisor for HIV/AIDS.

**Significant Advances for Adolescents:** Data analysis on adolescents at risk of HIV (15–19 years) improved through EAPRO’s technical assistance to ALL IN priority countries (China, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand). Following national-level advocacy, the Government of China committed to develop a five-year work plan with UNICEF and CSOs to address HIV prevention, treatment and care for adolescents at high risk, including service gaps, capacity building, and the legal, policy and social environments. Improved data analysis in the Philippines also prompted strengthening of sub-national analysis, buy-in and local government’s commitment to adolescent/young population-related interventions in two HIV high burden cities. Some significant progress was also made on removing legal barriers on teenagers’ consent to test in the Philippines and China. The first ever UNITAID grant on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for adolescents at high risk of HIV was also approved: $38 million for UNICEF globally, including $9 million for Thailand Country Office.

**Strengthening Health Management Information Systems (HMIS):** Myanmar is now the first country in Asia-Pacific to have introduced the Master Patient Index (MPI), using HIV as an entry point, in support of interoperability of multiple databases, and strengthening the Health Management Information System (HMIS) for Universal Health Coverage (UHC). MPI initiative for HIV and TB is expected to be operational by March 2017, as part of EAPRO’s collaboration with WHO, ADB and AeHIN. EAPRO also completed a HMIS landscape survey with WHO, ADB and AeHIN in Indonesia, and a costed technical assistance plan toward strengthening HMIS and CRVS. Technical assistance was also provided to support the Lao PDR immunisation registry and the Asia Interoperability Lab.

UNICEF EAPRO is also influencing regional and global discourse through its advocacy and technical assistance in the growing field of “Digital e-Health”. EAPRO spoke at several conferences on the importance of improving electronic health records and overall data management for women and children. EAPRO’s role has been to focus on the technical mechanism to identify individuals and connect vertical systems through digital information.

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21 EAPRO has spoken at: the “Asia Pacific Electronic Health Records Conference and Beyond, Smart Connected HealthCare,” conference in Hong Kong; the “Using Digital Health to Advance the Measurement and Accountability for Health and UHC agenda in Asia-Pacific” conference in Bhutan; the “Better Data for Women and Children: Strengthening CRVS through the Continuum of Care” conference in UNICEF HQ, New York.
exchange platforms, for the expanded management/use of data in health and civil registration. The Master Patient Index/Client Registry (MPI/CR) is the core component of the health information exchange platform that allows users to know who has received health care across multiple systems and sources of data that operate in silos. In this way it is a critical basis for the future rollout of UHC as it lays the ground for capturing demographic information that includes CRVS (birth registration), maternal and child Health (MCH) and childhood immunization. Thus, beyond linking vertical systems for HIV, UNICEF has an important role to play in the scale up of national scope MPI/Client registries, enabling governments to uniquely identify subjects of care for health delivery, reaching every child. Unfortunately this specialized niche area of technical assistance has not yet generated adequate private or public sector donor interest – therefore UNICEF continues to advocate with major development partners to increase investments in health information exchange platforms.

### 2.4.3. Nutrition

The Nutrition team recorded over 145 requests for EAPRO technical assistance in 2016, coming from all 14 Country Offices. At least 107 were addressed fully within the calendar year while the remainder require ongoing support and follow-up in 2017. Twelve Country Offices received at least one visit, addressing some 32 of these requests. Some 30 of the requests took longer than one day to address.

**Strengthening capacities for implementation of nutrition-specific interventions:** Up-to-date management protocols and strategies for management of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) are now endorsed and/or applied in almost all the 10 countries with treatment programmes – and Vietnam and the Philippines are now working on integrating SAM treatment in health insurance packages. These significant results have been accomplished through strong advocacy and strong capacity development, with EAPRO support for development of training materials and facilitation of training of trainers and mentors. In the past, SAM management has been somewhat neglected across the region, inspiring EAPRO to hold the first-ever technical consultation on SAM in 2015 when only one country had an approved up to date treatment protocol (DPRK). Now in addition to the 10 countries with up-to-date management protocols and strategies - five additional countries are starting or reviewing their protocols. Only Thailand and China have no treatment programmes (although between them they host over 1.8 million estimated annual SAM cases out of the total 6 million cases in the region).

EAPRO also supported efforts to build capacities for Infant and Young Child Feeding policy advocacy and systems strengthening. Workshops were held in nine countries in 2016, jointly hosted by EAPRO and Alive and Thrive. New legislation and revitalized commitment for Universal Salt Iodization was also secured in three “backsliding” countries (Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam), with strategic and technical support from COs and EAPRO. Universal salt iodization has been considered one of the “success stories” of the region – however the regional average of coverage is largely affected by China’s positive progress (reaching 97% coverage). This progress is now under threat as China wishes to repeal mandatory iodization legislation. EAPRO is also focused therefore, on advocacy to maintain mandatory legislation.

**Nutrition in Emergencies:** A regional strategy for Nutrition in Emergencies was finalized, along with updated toolkits; three Nutrition in Emergencies trainings (Vietnam, Fiji, Solomon Islands); finalization of preparedness and response plans in five countries (Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Timor Leste), and progress on five more (Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Lao PDR, DPRK).

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22 Fiji, Malaysia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu

23 Cambodia, Indonesia, LaoPDR, Philippines, Thailand, Timor Leste, Vietnam Myanmar and Papua New Guinea
**EAPRO tools for nutrition-sensitive actions:** EAPRO also developed the first-ever joint Nutrition-WASH Toolkit – A Practical Guide for Joint Actions in 2016, which represents the continuation of a positive spirit of collaboration. The toolkit has been widely disseminated including through global inaugural webinar and launch on ICON. The application is ongoing, with several countries keen to use this toolkit for developing joint and concrete programme actions for addressing persisting issues around stunting and sanitation/hygiene. Three Theory of Change workshops with nutrition and WASH staff, counterparts and partners were held in Cambodia, the Philippines and DPRK. Six countries are starting models for joint implementation (Cambodia, DPRK, Indonesia, Lao, Myanmar, Philippines). In addition, an ECD-Nutrition Toolkit was developed and is being used to identify entry points for integrated actions in Vietnam. A Toolkit for “Improving Nutrition among School Age Children/Adolescents” completed and Indonesia is undertaking comprehensive baseline study/analysis to develop adolescent nutrition interventions.

### 2.4.4. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The WASH team recorded 51 separate requests for EAPRO technical assistance in 2016, coming from 12 Country Offices. Some 22 of these were fully addressed within the calendar year, with the remainder requiring some follow-up or on-going support in 2017. Six Country Offices received an in-country visit addressing at least nine of these requests.

**Strengthening Capacities for WASH implementation:** In 2016 EAPRO supported the first “Enabling Environment in WASH” face-to-face training workshop in Bangkok, which enabled staff to employ a more structured approach to addressing barriers and bottlenecks related to legislation, policy, public finance management, etc. Inspired by this training, EAPRO and HQ also facilitated a second WASH Enabling Environment training for the Pacific team to support development of the new WASH Pacific Strategy for the new CPD. EAPRO also helped strengthen country office capacity for emergency preparedness and delivery of humanitarian with support for WASH Cluster Coordination in PNG, Philippines and Fiji and the WASH in Emergencies training for staff and stand-by partners in the larger Asia Pacific region, jointly coordinated by EAPRO and ROSA.

**Strengthening WASH Cross-sectoral Initiatives:** In addition to the first ever joint Nutrition-WASH Toolkit (see Nutrition Section above), EAPRO Gender and WASH teams also collaborated to produce an analysis of WASH interventions from a gender perspective, with a view to document promising case examples and to develop concrete guidelines for ensuring that WASH programme designs and implementation strategies promote gender equality, within the framework of the Gender Action Plan. WASH also coordinated the completion and dissemination of a Regional Assessment of C4D initiatives and Support Needs in EAP – a publication which included country profiles and informed the global C4D evaluation and underlined the importance of having C4D technical capacity at EAPRO. (For details on other joint initiatives by WASH refer to section 3.3.1.)

**Improving Evidence and Knowledge Management:** Considering sanitation challenges in the region, EAPRO supported the 2nd Review of Community Led Total Sanitation programmes in EAP –with nine Sanitation Country Case Studies. This study identified progress and helped to define common country and regional level bottlenecks, supporting the refinement of Global Community Actions to the Total Sanitation approach. EAPRO also shared good practices and lessons learned and promoted cross-country exchanges on key issues related to SDG implementation for WASH and Children through the Brisbane WASH Futures Conference, which hosted close to 200 WASH practitioners. EAPRO made presentation on Menstrual Hygiene management, WA SH-Nutrition Programming, and strengthening of SDG monitoring at institutions (Schools and Health Care facilities).
Promoting South-South Technical Cooperation: The 5th WASH in Schools International Learning Exchange also provided a unique opportunity for south-south networking between 160 national participants from 17 countries in East and South Asia. EAPRO led key discussions on strengthening national M&E systems to collect disaggregated data on the SDGs indicators for WASH in Schools.

2.4.5. Education:

The Education team recorded over 75 requests for EAPRO technical assistance from 13 Country Offices in 2016. Some 21 requests required an in-country visit and at least 26 took longer than one day to address. Some 19 of these requests have on-going assistance in 2017.

Advancing the Quality Learning Agenda through South East Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM): The South East Asia Primary Learning Metrics is a flagship programme for UNICEF and represents the first regional learning assessment that UNICEF has taken leadership on, in close collaboration with the South East Asia Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO). It will enable countries in the region to monitor learning outcomes in primary schools and to diagnose the strengths and weaknesses of education systems, including from an equity perspective. It will also be the first major multi-country survey to measure writing competence across different scripts and aspects of global citizenship. For SEA-PLM to be a regionally valid metrics it is imperative that the majority of countries in the region agree to join. The year 2016 was successful in this regard as four countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar) completed field trials for SEA-PLM in 2016 and three additional countries (Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam) committed to join the initiative in 2017. SEA-PLM was also officially included in the ASEAN Work Plan 2016-2020 as a key intervention, thus greatly mobilizing necessary political commitment and improving capacity of the government institutions to measure progress in education and leverage additional resources.

Integration of Education in Emergencies in National Planning: Following sustained technical assistance, advocacy and support for south-south technical cooperation, at least 10 countries have integrated Education in Emergencies (EiE) into national Sector Plans and Education Policies (Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Philippines, Myanmar, Vietnam, Pacific Islands (Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji), PNG). This work was supported by the Peacebuilding Education and Advocacy Programme, which culminated in three countries developing education and peace-building plans: Philippines, Myanmar, PNG. The Solomon Islands also integrated Conflict and Disaster Risk Reduction into the new National Education Action Plan 2016-20 and is planning to update its 2012 Policy and Guidelines on Disaster Preparedness and EiE to include climate change and social cohesion.

Advances in Multi-Lingual Education: In 2016, with EAPRO support, Malaysia hosted the 2nd Malaysia Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (MIPCE) conference; Cambodia developed a Multilingual Education National Action Plan (MENAP) 2015-2018 which supports education of all ethnic minority children; and Vietnam continues to support and scale-up of mother-tongue based bilingual education programme which is being integrated into national framework.

Regional Coordination for Education 2030: UNICEF and UNESCO continue to co-chair the Education 2030 + Technical Working Group, which reports to UN ESCAP and co-ordinates education policy issues throughout the Asia Pacific region. Asia Pacific is the only region to have had such leadership and it speaks to UNICEF’s strong relationship with UNESCO in promoting the SDG 4-Education 2030 agenda. A major regional meeting was held in November, Asia Pacific Meeting on Education (APMED II) where high-level government officials from the region shared experiences in aligning with SDG 4. UNICEF EAPRO and ROSA supported the meeting and several UNICEF Country Offices supported their delegations.
2.4.6. Child Protection:

The Child Protection team recorded over 149 requests for EAPRO technical assistance in 2016, coming from all 14 Country Offices. Some 108 were fielded in the calendar year and the remainder are either planned or have on-going assistance extending into 2017. At least nine requests included an in-country visit to ensure proper support and over 49 of the requests took longer than one day to complete.

**New push for online protection for children**: This year, EAPRO significantly helped move forward the agenda to prevent sexual exploitation of children online. Gaps were identified in national legislation, policies and programmes addressing child online protection in ASEAN member States and shared in the publication, ‘Child protection in the digital age’. Seven programme countries in East Asia and the Pacific were supported to convene national roundtable discussions to strengthen multi-sectoral efforts between government, industry and civil society to address online child sexual abuse and exploitation.

**Advance in Positive Parenting**: In 2016, EAPRO consolidated learning and programme guidance on Parenting Support Interventions for Violence Prevention. A June 2016 regional conference provided UNICEF staff from various sectors and counterparts from twelve countries with an opportunity to learn from international experts on the design, monitoring and evaluation of parenting support interventions; and to present their own plans and programmes for peer review. Clear recommendations emerged that will form the basis of guidelines for positive parenting programmes. The conference received the support from UNICEF Philippines, CP and ECD teams of EAPRO; UNICEF Innocenti; and the ECD section in NYHQ.

2.4.7. Social Policy and Economic Analysis

The Social Policy team recorded at least 59 requests for EAPRO technical assistance from 13 Country Offices in 2016. Some 31 of these requests were fully addressed in the calendar year, with the remainder requiring on-going support or follow-up in 2017. Six country offices received an in-country visit addressing seven of these requests. Some 30 requests required more than one day to address adequately.

**Cognitive Capital in Asia-Pacific: making the case for children**: Results for children cannot be achieved without high level political commitment. Over the last decades East Asia and the Pacific has posted some of the fastest economic growth rates the world, but in the next 15 years governments face significant challenges to sustain such growth as well as its underlining political stability. Closing demographic window opportunities, threatening middle-income traps and the challenge of climate change all make it imperative to replace out-dated, extensive growth strategies with fresh dynamism that the new 21st Century knowledge-based economy offers. In this context EAPRO SPEA has developed with EAPRI the concept of "Cognitive Capital" to frame the 3rd High Level Meeting in Child Rights in Kuala Lumpur this November. The meeting, “Billion Brains, Smarter Children, Healthier Economies, highlighted the moral importance as well as the economic potential of using an integrated set of investments during the first 1,000 days of life as well as in adolescence, to ensure that children’s cognitive and socio-emotional capacities are developed to their full potential. The idea received significant political buy-in among high-level leaders. In particular if followed up with key government counterparts, such as Ministries of Finance and the prime minister’s office, the concept of cognitive capital has great political potential. As such it may act as backbone to UNICEF’s regional strategy: it could bring together different sector investments in an technically efficient and politically effective way and leverage results for children in the SDGs era.

**Social protection in ASEAN countries - scaling up technical support**: In perfect accord with the Cognitive Capital approach a number of EAP countries – Myanmar, Thailand, Philippines and Vietnam - made significant progress
in focusing political attention on mothers as well as young and excluded children and introduce, scale up and/or initiative new, child-sensitive social protection programmes and initiatives.

**Public Finance for Children- launching innovative initiatives:** Tracking and monitoring of expenditures for children is important, because these expenditures underpin the realization of children’s rights as well as the future prosperity of countries. To support tracking and monitoring of public expenditures for children at central government level, the regional office in collaboration with OPM and the PICs CO developed an innovative step-by-step approach, making use of WB’s Open Budgets Portal BOOST database initiative which provides access to public expenditure data. The approach was successfully piloted in Fiji and Solomon. Both islands are now set for convenient, efficient and effective assessment of expenditures for children in the years to come. The publication "Monitoring Public Expenditure on Children in Fiji Piloting and illustrating a 13 step-by-step methodological approach drawing on World Bank’s BOOST database" can serve as a guideline to carry out a similar exercise in other countries as well. These innovations were shared through intranet as well as at the 2016 DREAM meeting – together with strong internal advocacy – may have played a role in moving Public Finance for Children higher in UNICEF new 2017-21 Global Strategic Framework.

In order to leverage results for children, it is crucial to understand how governments’ decision-making process works along the Public Financial Management cycle: the annual planning, budgeting and implantiing processes around government programmes for children. This helps UNICEF and partners to speak in the right language, at the right time, about key, highly relevant issues that are of interest to our government counterparts. In 2016 UNICEF EAPRO SPEA, in collaboration with OPM, successfully supported the Thai and Philippines country offices in mapping the government planning and budgeting cycle, as well as all stakeholders and their roles in the annual budgeting process. This has already helped enhancing our political and technical dialogue with key partners, such as the Ministries of Planning and/or Finance as well as offering pivotal support to social sectors ministry staff.

The LTAS with excellent partner institutions (signed in 2015) have played an important role in these achievements and have helped a large number of UNICEF Offices also in other regions.

"Grey areas" in RO - CO collaboration: The limited size of EAPRO as well as CO staff who work on social policy UNICEF and the need to inject new dynamism into social policy work in the region has resulted in two major bottlenecks. First, it has not been possible to support all countries – meaning that some countries have not received close technical assistance. For instance, while in 2016 EAPRO has expanded its hands-on support to Myanmar, the Philippines and Solomon Island countries like the Lao PDR and Timor Leste did not receive direct technical support. Second, there is a tendency that new types of technical assistance lands in the desk of social policy officers who find themselves poorly equipped and/or technically unable to offer the support needed. Examples here include initiatives on emerging areas of interest – such as climate change and urbanization – as well as initiatives from the county level, like air pollution in Ulaanbaatar or socialization of services in Vietnam.

**2.5. EAPRO Cross-sectoral Programme Areas:**

**2.5.1. Early Learning and Early Childhood Development (ECD):**

The ECD team recorded five official requests for EAPRO technical assistance from five Country Offices in 2016, one of which required an in-country visit and all of which required more than 1 day of support to complete.
Increasing focus on Early Learning across region: Early learning is now a part of all 14 Country Programmes in EAP, thanks in part to the sustained advocacy and technical assistance of EAPRO with countries across the region. In 2016, early learning/holistic ECD was strengthened in 12 countries through both in-country and remote technical assistance. Support included advising on national standard setting and modelling of ECCE/ECD programmes and centres; development of programmes focused on positive parenting, community-awareness raising, ECD and social and emotional learning (SEL) and ECD and social-cohesion. EAPRO also supported COs to track national commitments for early learning and advocate with national counterparts using the latest evidence of the importance of early learning and stimulation on brain development. Key presentations on the latest in neuroscience and the important inter-sectoral nature of ECD were provided to national counterparts in Mongolia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines. The ECD/Education team also worked closely with HQ and NatComs to mobilise and leverage resources - including for ECD and Peacebuilding (focused on PNG, Vietnam and Cambodia) and for multi-country partnerships with private sector partners including H&M and Mattel.

There were also great efforts to influence countries in the region to localise SDG Target 4.2 for early learning. Ministers and delegates of 36 countries in Asia and the Pacific and major development partners gathered in in Putrajaya, Malaysia in July for the second Asia-Pacific Regional Policy Forum on Early Childhood Care and Education, organized by UNESCO, UNICEF, ARNEC and the Government of Malaysia. Strong influence with the inter-ministerial dialogue and drafting committee participation resulted in a comprehensive document, the Putrajaya Declaration, which outlined specific actions to realise early learning. Engagement in the Regional SDG framework through APMEDII (Asia Pacific Meeting on Education, held 16-18 Nov 2016), also supported ECCE to emerge as a significant priority area.

ECD Dashboard: A regional dashboard has been developed to monitor holistic ECD and is available for adaptation in countries. A Holistic Regional Data Portal on key Impact/outcome indicators was launched on the ARNEC Portal. In collaboration with ARNEC, HKU (University of Hong Kong) and Open Society Foundation (OSF), a short version of the EAP ECD Scales has now been developed and is ready for rollout in 2017. Support for follow up work and strengthened ECD scales utilization continues in several countries.

Guidance and Tools: In the effort to promote holistic ECD through existing health, nutrition, education and social protection initiatives, EAPRO also produced several significant guidance notes. The ECD and Nutrition toolkit was finalized for example, and is now ready for rollout. This is a comprehensive toolkit that provides concrete guidance to countries on how to integrate ECD into on-going nutrition interventions through Health and Preschool/ Community-based platforms. A workshop to promote positive parenting and alternatives to violent discipline was also supported by both Education and Child Protection sections. Development of regional guidelines for Positive Parenting has been identified as next step. Regional guidelines have also been developed for enhancing social-emotional learning in early childhood.

2.5.2. Children with Disabilities (CWD):

The Children with Disabilities team recorded at least 10 official requests for EAPRO technical assistance from six different country offices in 2016. Four requests required an in-country visit and five took longer than one day to complete.

CWD Sitans and new Programme Design: UNICEF EAPRO facilitated the development of CWD-focused SitAns in three target countries included in the Australian Government (DFAT) funded “Rights, Education and Protection” Programme. Based on the findings and recommendations of the SitAns, a programme outline and expected results were identified for Vietnam, Pacific and PNG. With the technical assistance of EAPRO, Myanmar, PNG...
and Pacific COs are developing new disability inclusive CPDs using the findings and recommendations of CWD SitAns.

In addition, technical assistance was provided to Cambodia CO to carry out an assessment of the alternative childcare for children with disabilities, develop a de-institutionalisation plan and a C4D strategy and to review the social policy to ensure that it is disability inclusive. EAPRO also supported the Malaysia CO to finalise the findings and recommendations of the Knowledge Attitudes and Practices (KAP) study on CWD and to develop an Advocacy/C4D strategy; and supported the Philippines Office to plan a CWD SitAn and review the early identification/early intervention tools on CWD and the associated training package.

2.5.3. Adolescent Development and Participation:

Seven requests for EAPRO’s assistance on Adolescent participation and development from five country offices were recorded in 2016. All of the requests for support required more than a day to deliver.

**Adolescent SitAns:** The China, Cambodia, Thailand, Mongolia Country Offices completed cross-sectoral Adolescent SitAns with close technical assistance from EAPRO in 2016. Countries used a mix of approaches – some undertaking primary data collection and others focused on desk review. Financial assistance was provided from EAPRO to Cambodia and Mongolia COs. The SitAns have provided a solid evidence base for additional programming, helping to position these COs as knowledge brokers with various stakeholders. In 2016, EAPRO WASH and ADAP teams also collaborated to produce a synthesis of available knowledge on menstrual hygiene management in EAP.

**Adolescent Programme Design:** EAPRO has also provided technical assistance to China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Mynamar, Pacific and DPRK Offices for programme design, strategy development, advocacy with national counterparts in various areas such as adolescent-responsive sexual and reproductive health services, mental health and suicide prevention, road safety and injury prevention. In the case of Indonesia and Thailand, technical assistance was provided to operationalize the Adolescent Country Tracker – a global tool piloted to track ADAP programming efforts. Myanmar also piloted the Emergency Adolescent Kit developed by ADAP HQ, with positive results.

EAP nations have recognized that secondary schools offer the best opportunities to engage with the adolescent age group. EAPRO therefore continues to support countries to find new ways of adapting secondary education going beyond STEM (STEM is a curriculum based approach to educating students in four specific disciplines — science, technology, engineering and mathematics), to integrate mental health promotion, physical activity for prevention of NCDs, promotion of global identities/citizenship, acceptance of diversity and life skills.

**Guidance and tools:** EAPRO ADAP also contributed to development of UNICEF’s Global Adolescent Programme guidance; UNESCO’s guidelines on sexuality education; the ESCAP compilation of evidence for Youth in Asia and Pacific; and two research guidance tools being development by Innocenti. In coordination with UNESCO, a policy framework for promoting safe and effective use of ICT by adolescents and children is also under development.

2.5.4. Humanitarian Action

**Humanitarian Response:** EAPRO Emergencies team provided technical support to COs, recording 13 official requests for EAPRO technical assistance in 2016 from eight country offices. Four of these required an in-country visit to address and the rest could be resolved within a day. The Emergencies team also played an instrumental
role in resource mobilization, which enabled the Viet Nam (Typhoon Sarika and El Niño), Mongolia (Dzud response), Papua New Guinea (El Niño), DPRK (Typhoon Lionrock) and the Pacific (Tropical Cyclone Winston) to deliver timely interventions. Significant humanitarian funding was mobilized through the Central Emergency Relief Fund (US$9.57 million) and the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal (US$8.46 million) for COs in Myanmar, Mongolia, Viet Nam, DPRK, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and the Pacific. In 2016, EAPRO also continued to uphold UNICEF commitments to the cluster system, particularly through leading and co-leading the nutrition, WASH, education and child protection sectors.

**Preparedness and DRR:** Many governments in the region have considerably increased their response capacities. Over the past few years, EAPRO has continued to provide technical support in the areas of preparedness and contingency planning and DRR programming to COs and their governments, encouraging further alignment of service delivery in humanitarian and development programmes. This has in part contributed to the growing awareness and recognition of governments of the necessity to invest in preparedness and DRR. EAPRO enhanced country capacity through organized regional and country level trainings on preparedness, response and DRR, including the annual Humanitarian Action Workshop (all emergency focal points in the region), the Thailand Country Office Emergency Preparedness and Response training and simulation exercise and the Regional Rapid Response Mechanism training. The RRRM now contains more than 70 UNICEF staff members from all programme sections across the region, drawing from valuable resources and experiences, and acting as a cost-effective measure to ensure adequate human resources are available in the event of an emergency.

To enhance cross-sectoral integration in preparedness, response and DRR programming, EAPRO advisors in all sectors regularly communicate and discuss areas for cooperation and collaboration. EAPRO also provided technical support in humanitarian planning, programming and monitoring. This included for Indonesia (MICs in Emergency pilot module in Bandung), and Viet Nam (establishment of Humanitarian Performance Monitoring). To strengthen humanitarian performance monitoring, EAPRO provided quality assurance of the Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) system of the COs, advocated as a mechanism to help ensure preparedness measures are in place, and achieved UNICEF’s corporate compliance standard in 2016 (88 per cent).

Given the significant impacts of El Niño in the region, EAPRO consolidated inputs from COs and prepared the regional overview on El Niño to ensure internal and external partners were informed of the current situation, and timely preparedness and response activities were delivered. EAPRO also contributed to the global Guidance Note on Preparedness, the Guidance Note on Fragile Contexts, and the Guidance on Risk-informed Planning.

**Knowledge Management:** EAPRO used the Humanitarian Action Workshop in March to launch new a regional knowledge management (KM) strategy and adapted tools and services to better highlight and share relevant country experiences, successful approaches, and ongoing challenges in the area of EPR and DRR. Prior to the workshop, 23 Practice Notes were collected from 12 COs, and a paper on best practices in EPR in the East Asia Pacific was drafted. In addition to an improved process and platform for knowledge sharing, EAPRO’s Emergencies team facilitated seven webinars, which reflected on global and regional policy discussions relevant to EPR and DRR.

With the growing ability of countries in East Asia and the Pacific to respond to emergencies, the role of international actors in emergencies in the region is changing. UNICEF conducted a study to assess the changing nature of UNICEF’s role in emergency management in selected countries (Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia), and to make recommendations for a more fit-for-purpose humanitarian strategy in the region. The research paper is currently being finalized and will be shared in 2017. EAPRO is currently exploring ways to strengthen joint knowledge management initiatives with key programme sections, particularly the WASH section.
Regional Partnerships: EAPRO also continued to strengthen regional partnerships through active participation in global and regional policy discussions at the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul and the AMCDRR in New Delhi 2016. Close engagement with key stakeholders and partners including OCHA, ASEAN, and the Children in Changing Climate Coalition, and facilitation of high-level advocacy ensured that EAP country experiences in child-centered DRR were integrated into stakeholder statements and commitments, including for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris.

3. Global and Regional Programmes

3.1. Influencing global/regional discourse and policy

3.1.1. Horizontal Cooperation: Third High-Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights (HLM3)

Since 2010 the High-Level Meetings for South-South Cooperation on Child Rights in Asia Pacific have been the premiere events in the region to further strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation and influence regional discourse and policy. The third High Level Meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur on 7 and 8 November 2016, hosted by the Government of Malaysia, under the title “A BILLION BRAINS Smarter Children, Healthier Economies”. Government representatives at the Ministerial level from 29 countries attended, along with regional organizations (ASEAN, SAARC and PC) and major development partners such as the World Bank, ADB and the EU. The meeting was made possible with strong financial and technical assistance from UNICEF EAPRO, ROSA, NYHQ, the Malaysia Country Office and COs across the larger Asia Pacific region.

The 2016 meeting objectives were to: promote the sharing of best practices, lessons learned and experiences in the realization of child rights in the Asia-Pacific region; support governments and other partners to include the promotion of child rights in international cooperation activities, in line with commitments to realize the SDGs; enhance political commitments and leverage resources for addressing socio-economic disparities and realizing the rights of all Asia-Pacific children; and foster stronger South-South and horizontal cooperation among governments, leveraging the range of technical expertise and experience in the region.

The event focused on three key themes, each of which was reinforced through the development of thematic conference papers in collaboration with technical experts and prominent academic partners. Leveraging these academic partnerships for publication, dissemination and discussion of the themes was key to the conference’s success and in securing and futhering national commitments. The themes were:

1. **Cognitive Capital: Investing in children to generate sustainable growth.** This topic provided an opportunity to discuss growing social inequities in the region, and the importance of child-sensitive social protection as a means to both realise child rights and sustainable economic growth. The paper was written by Dr. Michael Samson, the Director Economic Policy Research Institute with support from UNICEF – and it developed a strong case that cognitive capital cannot be mined or traded but rather must be carefully cultivated by forward-looking policies and investments in children, particularly in the earliest years, in order to achieve economic prosperity characterized by the achievement of human intellectual potential.

2. **Accelerating Progress Towards Universal Health Coverage for Women and Children in South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific.** Written by Allison Beattie from Queen Margaret University, Robert Yates from
Chatham House and Douglas Noble from UNICEF ROSA, this paper suggested that Universal Health Coverage (UHC) indispensable for achievement of individual health security and, therefore, collective health and human security. However, extending coverage of quality health services to all people and protecting them from financial hardship is as much a political process as a technical one. This session reviewed lessons learned from across Asia and the Pacific and presented good practices, challenges and opportunities to further UHC.

3. **Prevention of violence against children and how this contributes to building stronger economies.** This theme provided an opportunity to reflect on the collaborative strategies and entry points to address the entrenched culture of violence against children in EAP. The paper was written by Dr. Deborah Fry of the University of Edinburgh and reviewed the growing body of scientific research that suggests experiencing or witnessing violence in childhood may have long-term consequences on the wellbeing of the individual; and given its scale, in aggregate it significantly undermines the social and economic development of communities and nations. Since the Asia Pacific region bears the greatest global burden of violence against children, this issue is of critical importance to all governments, and should be approached with an “all of government” approach.

The event generated desired specific national commitments and commitments by regional organisations – each of which has been recorded and will be tracked through the process of letters of exchange. It also supported the efforts of ROSA and EAPRO to make clear that the larger Asia Pacific region will be a key driver of change in the 21st century. The fastest economic growth continues to come from this region and the biggest jumps forward in terms of poverty reduction, child survival, etc. have been witnessed. However, as social inequality grows despite a reduction in monetary poverty, the importance of sustaining UNICEF’s presence, programming and advocacy in the region cannot be understated.

For the first time, the HLM also included a Youth Innovation Challenge. From August through September, UNICEF called on young people aged 24 and under to share their ideas to improve the lives of children around the themes of health, violence and social protection. Of 660 entries, 60 shortlisted participants across the region then received online mentoring to develop and iterate ideas in preparation for the “Innovation Bootcamp” held prior to the HLM3 in Kuala Lumpur. The top six ideas from the Innovation Bootcamp were then pitched to the judging panel and HLM3 conference participants. Three winners were chosen and received seed funding and mentoring to help implement ideas in their home countries. The progress of all six finalists will be supported.

3.1.2. **Horizontal Cooperation: Global Programme Partnerships**

EAPRO Nutrition section, in collaboration with Social Policy, co-hosted with the Scale Up Nutrition (SUN) movement secretariat, the pan-Asia workshop on public finance for Nutrition for 18 countries24, which greatly influenced regional discourse and policy-making. Over 150 participants attended including Ministerial-level counterparts form the Ministries of Health and Finance, as well as key stakeholders from Agriculture, Food, Trade, Rural Development and Planning and Economic Development and from major development partners. The conference focused on analysing multi-sectoral nutrition budgets, costing of multi-sectoral plans and public finance management for nutrition at the decentralised level. As a follow-up EAPRO supported Country Offices to sustain their increased engagement with their Ministries of Finance, to conduct financial tracking exercises; to conduct studies on the costs of under nutrition; provide support for costing of national plans; and leveraging of increased budgets for nutrition.

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24 The 18 countries were: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. At the 2015 meeting there were 8 countries: Bangladesh, Maharashtra State (India), Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Tajikistan and Vietnam
Positive work also continued with the United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative (UNGEI) in 2016. A new curriculum tool to address school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) developed with technical assistance from University of Melbourne and supported by UNICEF, UNESCO, UNWomen and PLAN International, was launched and introduced to eight countries. Follow up training sessions have been conducted in five countries through UNICEF and Partner offices: China, Thailand, Vietnam, PNG and Mongolia. Lao PDR and Cambodia have also expressed interest in enhancing their efforts on Positive Discipline and Child Protection in school settings. The regional UNGEI has been invited to sit on the Global SRGBV Partners’ Working Group and provides regional insights into global guidance for policies relating to SRGBV. Recent regional fundraising efforts have focused on sharing information/showcasing regional UNGEI work to potential donors: Several agencies have identified SRGBV as a significant area of work to bring together Education and Child Protection sectors. Donors in the Global Advisory Committee have recommitted their intent to support the UNGEI network, with strong focus on multi-sectoral, strategic work, and to enhance UNGEI’s role in standard setting for efforts on gender equality in education.

3.1.3. Horizontal Cooperation: Regional Organisations

EAPRO maximized several opportunities to influence regional discourse and policies through regional organisations such as ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) and the PC (Pacific Community). With ASEAN, significant developments included:

- **Nutrition:** The ASEAN nutrition report, produced with technical assistance from EAPRO and in collaboration with WHO, received positive media interest, particularly around the issue of the double burden of malnutrition, and inspired a commitment on SAM treatment from the Government of Indonesia – as the report highlighted the need for an updated protocol and strategy in line with WHO recommendations.

- **WASH:** EAPRO provided close technical assistance for development of a work plan under the UNICEF – ASEAN MoU and by providing technical assistance for the development of ASEAN workplans in four clusters, drawing attention to critical challenges in meeting WASH-related SDGs in ASEAN countries.

- **Education/Out-of-School Children Initiative (OOSCI):** ASEAN member states adopted a Declaration on Strengthening Education for Out-Of-School Children and Youth at the 2016 ASEAN Summit. This will help ensure that countries become more accountable for ensuring that all children and youth participate in education and acquire necessary knowledge, skills and competence for the 21st century. UNICEF will support the operationalization of the Declaration in 2017 onwards in the region with UNESCO Bangkok Office whilst also completing the Regional Synthesis of the Out of School Initiative studies in 11 countries with UNESCO Institute of Statistics in 2017. UNICEF and the Oxford policy Management are currently supporting the finalization of country reports from Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Lao PDR, PNG, Thailand, Malaysia and Myanmar).

- **Education/South-East Asia – Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM):** As mentioned in the Education section, SEA-PLM was also officially included in the ASEAN Work Plan 2016-2020 as a key intervention in partnership with SEAMEO, thus greatly improving capacity to measure progress towards desirable learning outcomes and leverage additional resources.

- **Early Learning:** The shape of ASEAN’s regional workplan was also influenced with work beginning on ECD standards for children aged 0-3 – a victory of sustained advocacy by EAPRO and partners. EAPRO also continues to engage with, and support the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC) with a joint workplan. EAPRO also provided technical support for a feasibility study and a regional consultation for a proposed SEAMEO Center for Early Childhood Care, Education and Parenting
(CECCEP), likely to be established in Indonesia.

- **Social Inclusion:** UNICEF EAPRO has agreed with the ASEAN Secretariat to include clear set of joint actions on child sensitive social protection and ECD over 2017-21 into the implementation plan of the Action Plan on the ASEAN Social Protection Declaration. Good initial progress has been made – together with ILO – towards strengthening social protection as a disaster prevention as well as responsive tool. The lessons UNICEF learnt in 2015 in Nepal as well as in other countries on how cash transfers can be used to help disaster response as well as faster recovery are now embedded in the ASEAN agenda.

- **Adolescents and Youth:** EAPRO has also closely supported the ASEAN member states to share experience, best practices and challenges in implementing adolescent and youth programmes. In 2016, this involved development of the ASEAN Youth Development Index.

- **Humanitarian Action:** EAPRO contributed to the development of the ASEAN-UN Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management (2016-2020), emphasizing the interconnectivity between disaster management and climate change, and the UNICEF-ASEAN Framework of Cooperation, aiming to pursue sustainable growth, full development and the participation and protection of children.

### 3.1.4. Corporate Engagement

EAPRO continued to focus Corporate Engagement in the region using the Child Rights and Business Principles (CRBP). Six out of 14 Country Programmes (Indonesia, Viet Nam, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Mongolia) now have a programme (defined as a specific CPD result area and dedicated staff) focused on changing business practices using CRBP. This reaffirms the positive trend that corporate engagement is becoming more firmly established as an essential programme strategy in the region (as opposed to a fundraising strategy). To further this trend, EAPRO supported the recruitment of five CRB officer posts (in the larger Asia Pacific region) developed guidance on CRB in the CPD planning process, documented good practices (with the support of a volunteer from Proctor and Gamble) and provided technical assistance for programme implementation.

Country Offices initiated a number of new initiatives in 2016 with major national and regional corporations (including education of children of migrant workers, workplace breastfeeding, child online protection). EAPRO supported the implementation of industry specific projects (pilot - policy – scale model on how the respect and support children’s rights within a certain high impact industries), Viet Nam (footwear), Mongolia (extractives), and Indonesia and Malaysia (palm oil). This entails supporting impact studies, engaging with industry bodies (and Governments in some cases), identifying pilot companies, designing pilot programme and liaising with PFP on the engagement of consumer facing brands in NatCom countries.

Notably, for the first time ever, EAPRO organized a regional network meeting for CRB staff in country offices, with eight COs in the larger Asia Pacific region participating. This served to strengthen regional knowledge exchange and peer learning, and was highly appreciated by participants. EAPRO also supported the Asia Global Child Forum, held in Kuala Lumpur – and lead a breakout session on the role of the ICT industry. Plenary speakers included many UNICEF corporate partners from the region, as well as the DRD.

### 3.1.5. Market Shaping

The Vaccine Independence Initiative (VII) continues to be the most influential mechanism for shaping the market for vaccines in EAP and globally. The VII offers four advantages for countries: participation in a pooled procurement mechanism (through UNICEF); benefitting from economies of scale; payment after delivery instead of in advance; and payment in local currency (as permitted by the UNICEF Treasurer). Since it would be
impossible for smaller countries to access affordable vaccines as independent procurers, the VII plays an absolutely critical role in ensuring equity in public health particularly in the Pacific Islands, ensuring governments can sustainably access affordable and high-quality vaccines.

UNICEF Supply Division leads market shaping activities in this area, but that the RO level, EAPRO supports the decision-making process to introduce new vaccines or switch to a new formulation of vaccines based on evidence available; supports countries to choose the right formulation/presentation of vaccines based on population needs and country capacities; supports countries to procure vaccines through UNICEF of other modalities; offers other types of support to strengthen the supply chain.

In 2016, EAPRO supported the Pacific Multi-Country Office to further vaccine security through the VII – and the Pacific CO is currently leveraging ADB’s financial support (US$ 21.25 million grant and US$ 3.75 million loan over a 5-year period for the VII) to introduce the new Pneumococcal, Rotavirus and Human Papilloma Virus vaccines. Also positively, two additional Pacific Islands are considering joining the VII. In addition, Vietnam is signing and MoU with UNICEF to supply the Pentavalent vaccine (Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis B and Hib). Myanmar has also just committed to self-financing their transitional EPI vaccines, using UNICEF as the procurer, in order to take advantage of advantageous pricing and regulation through VII. The Philippines, who has been procuring independently, is also considering using UNICEF as the procurement agency. As additional countries join the VII, the group benefits from economies of scale and improved vaccine security.

3.2. Data, Research, Evaluation

Please see the Data, Research and Evaluation database for a list of 2016 publications from EAPRO.

3.3. Implementation Strategies:

3.3.1. Research, data/evidence gathering

Several notable studies, assessments and research projects were conducted in 2016 with technical and financial support of EAPRO. In addition to the three HLM3 Conference Thematic Papers and the Adolescent and CWD Situation Analyses mentioned earlier, the following projects were most notable:

- **Mega-Trend Analysis with EIU**: One Regional and eight country-specific analysis of “mega-trends” impacting children to 2030 were completed in 2016 with the support of the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU). The findings of the analysis have been presented in various regional forums, including SMRs and so far have been used to inform the development of a Regional Stakeholder survey, the Regional Headlines and as well as the design of new CPDs and UNDAFs in the Pacific and Myanmar. Developing a Vision 2030 is now a mandatory step in the preparation of new UNDAFs. The study done in Myanmar was presented to the UNCT and is the main input into the discussions on implications of trends beyond children and UNICEF.

- **Health (public health risks in urban areas)**: As the twin trends of rapid urbanisation and widening social inequalities become more pronounced in EAP countries, concern is mounting for public health risks in urban and peri-urban areas (see Trends section for update on outbreaks of vaccine preventable disease in EAP mega-cities). In response, the YCSD immunisation team conducted the first ever study on urban immunization gaps in EAP countries, which includes many new findings and lessons for mapping out a coherent policy for urban health issues. The study notes that mounting public health risks are related to both inter-country and rapid rural to urban migration (which is concentrating communities of extreme poor in urban and peri-urban slums), and stresses that an overall strategy for enabling local government
leadership and accountability for immunization programming is required. Without a coherent strategy, programmes will remain reliant on external project financing, and on an antiquated national programme management model that favours rural command and control structures that are ill-suited for the urban context. In 2017, the key findings of this study will be summarized as a “Policy Brief” for concerned countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Vietnam), and coordinated support will be provided to develop regional and national guidelines on reaching every community in urban areas (US$ 1 million has been mobilized to date for this purpose.)

- **WASH (Gender and PFM):** The WASH-Gender and Education initiative produced one of the most comprehensive studies on MHM in EAP: The Regional Assessment of Menstrual Hygiene Management in EAP – Realities, Progress and Opportunities. The assessment was coordinated by WASH with inputs from Gender and ADAP teams and been finalized and widely disseminated, including through presentations in regional and global WASH events. This, as well as a Regional Guidance note on MHM helped country offices in developing priority actions within their WinS/Education programming; it is also being used in the development of a global Theory of Change/strategy on MHM. A three-country study on “Equity in Public Financing of WASH” was conducted in Vietnam, Mongolia and Indonesia helped to further in-country advocacy work with national partners including Ministry of Finance and Planning in sector financing and inform both the Global WASH strategy and WASH specific elements in the PF4C course (planned roll-out in 2017).

- **Child Protection (children in conflict with the law):** EAPRO successfully promoted diversion and other alternative measures for children in conflict with the law through a large-scale regional study and experience exchange between countries. The study supported juvenile justice professionals in their efforts to implement, replicate and scale-up alternative measures and to harmonize their practices with international juvenile justice standards. A Regional Workshop participated by 150 justice professionals from twelve programme countries was held in August 2016 where the results of the study were presented and good practices shared. For example, Vietnam and Cambodia sent 10 to 11 delegates each as their Juvenile Justice and Family Court laws were just enacted and they would like to be guided on the implementation of these law.

3.3.2. Evaluation

A regional evaluation strategy incorporating the 2030 Development Agenda; a review of the evaluation function; and the current evaluation practices in the EAP region, was developed in 2016. The strategy will enable senior management in the regional and country offices (COs) to better implement the UNICEF evaluation policy and will be validated in the first 2017 RMT meeting.

The number of planned evaluations in EAP increased in 2016, although implementation and completion still require close monitoring. Based on the most recent data from the global evaluation dashboard, in 2016 EAP region spent proportionally more on evaluation than any other UNICEF region. The RO completed two bi-regional evaluations together with ROSA and the multi-country/EAPRO/ROSA evaluation of the EU-funded MYCNSIA project. Meanwhile seven EAP Country Offices completed 10 evaluation reports in 2016, ranging from project-level evaluations to evaluations of core components of their respective CPDs. Most evaluations were formative, using methodological approaches ranging from utilisation-focused approaches to quasi-experimental design.

Project-level evaluations were generally completed to fulfill accountabilities to donors while programme-level evaluations were done both for accountability and for the purposes of identifying lessons learned. Learning-oriented evaluations helped validate or reorient/shape the CPD’s core components in Cambodia, DPRK,
Myanmar, PNG and the Philippines. Findings, conclusions and recommendations contributed to measuring performance and shaping strategic decision making specially when COs were engaged in drafting their new CPDs.

UNICEF DPRK, Myanmar and PNG CO, which had not carried out evaluations in the last three years, showed that in complex settings, even when limited data is available, learning-oriented evaluations can contribute to results for children. Those evaluations that used a utilization-focused approach (e.g. DPRK WASH evaluation on Child Friendly Schools) triggered strong national ownership. When well planned, completed and properly disseminated, evaluations in the region contributed to reinforcing evidence-based decision-making and prioritization of elements in the new country programmes. At times this enabled or laid the ground for future evaluations. Generally, in the EAP region, the quality of CO evaluations improved especially when the CO established some standard operational procedures and a formal steering group or peer review mechanism both in country and with the support of the regional office.

EAPRO also provided quality assurance to UNDAF evaluations conducted in Fiji, PNG and Vietnam. Despite the numerous challenges encountered, two good practices emerged, namely: that the evaluability assessment completed during the inception phase of the Vietnam evaluation and following the PNG UNDAF evaluation enabled participating Agencies to better focus the results of the new UNDAF framework through a results based management workshop. Based on lessons learned from previous joint evaluations, UNICEF and UN Women ROs also helped scope the forthcoming 2017 UNDAF evaluation in Cambodia.

UNICEF also contributed to multiple National Evaluation Capacity Development Initiatives together with multiple partners such other UN sister agencies (UNDP and UN Women) and the Asian Development Bank, directly with bilateral governments (e.g. Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines) as well as civil society organizations such as the Asian Pacific Evaluation Association. As a result, a joint UNDP - UNICEF (RO-level) project was developed in 2017 to identify emerging good National Evaluation capacities in terms of policies and systems.

In 2016, Country Offices requested RO support to improve the quality and use of evaluations and to reinforce partner’s evaluation capacities. Requests ranged from technical assistance, facilitation of training and workshops, in-country visits for transfer of knowledge and mentoring. There were 90 different requests made for RO support from CPD and non CPD CO for capacity development (13), knowledge management (9), Quality Assurance (31), for comments (23), staff related issues (4) and technical assistance (10). While the majority of these requests were from UNICEF others emanated from Governments as well as other UN agencies (e.g. 3 UNDAF evaluations Cambodia, Fiji, PNG and Vietnam as well as UNEDAP and UNEG working groups). Among these requests 80 per cent were successfully completed.

EAPRO also continued to produce the quarterly newsletter Evaluate to promote knowledge about evaluations from around the world and the Regional Evaluation Advisor presented at the 6th M&E network meeting of the Philippines Government, to support the government operationalize the recently signed National Evaluation Policy; the Indonesia inter-ministerial workshop 2016 on evaluating the SDGs; the Asian Evaluation Week hosted by the Chinese Ministry of Finance and the Asian Development Bank; the joint partner consultation conference sponsored by the Government of Malaysia and the UNCT in Malaysia; the UNDP UNITAR workshop on National Evaluation Capacities in 2016 – as well as supporting the Asia Pacific Evaluation Association first conference titled “SDGs-Making a difference through Evaluation” and the EvalPartners regional stakeholder consultation in Hanoi in 2016.

3.4. Normative Principles
3.4.1. Human Rights-based Approach to Programming and Cooperation (HRBP)

In addition to incorporating the principles of HRBP into relevant guidance and trainings, EAPRO supported countries across the region to advance their commitments to international conventions and treaties addressing the rights of children, women and persons with disabilities. The status of Normative Instruments in EAP at the close of 2016 is as follows:

- **The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC):** All 28 countries in EAP have ratified the CRC but Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand continue to maintain reservations. The Optional Protocol on children and armed conflict (OPAC) was widely ratified in East Asia (except in DPR Korea and Myanmar) but in the Pacific - only Vanuatu, Kiribati, Micronesia have ratified\(^{25}\). As of December 2016, four countries have overdue CRC reports. These are Kiribati (2011), Micronesia (2000), Papua New Guinea (2008) and Tonga (1997) for its initial report. For OPSC, Brunei (2008) and DPR Korea (2016) have overdue reports. Indonesia and Malaysia have overdue reports on the OPAC since 2014.

- **Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW):** The CEDAW has been ratified by 25 out of 28 countries in EAP with the exception of Tonga, Niue and Palau. Nine countries out of 28 made reservations Brunei, China, Indonesia, DPR Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam\(^{26}\). As December 2016, 4 countries reports have overdue reports. These are Cook Islands (2011), Fiji (2014), Kiribati (2005), Malaysia (2008) and PNG (2014)

- **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD):** The CRPD has been ratified by 21 out of 28 countries in the region with DPRK ratifying it in 2016. Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore expressed reservations on the CRPD. Only two countries (Mongolia, Palau) have ratified the Optional Protocol on Communications Procedures. As of December 2016, only four countries submitted their reports on time: China, Cook Island, the Philippines and Thailand.

3.4.2. Gender Equality

Country offices in the EAP region continue to implement the Gender Action Plan (GAP) with efforts on mainstreaming gender into on-going sector-specific programming. In 2016 EAPRO supported COs to identify and showcase promising practices: six examples\(^{27}\) of gender mainstreaming were identified, analysed, and documented in support of cross-country learning, for replication and potential scale up.

EAPRO specifically supported the integration of gender aspects into WASH sector work. This included gathering evidence of gender equality approaches amplifying WASH sector results in both humanitarian and development contexts; conducting field assessments of gender in WASH programming; provision of technical support to develop Field Notes and examples of Best Practices of Gender and WASH for advocacy and donor reporting; development of gendered Theory of Change for WASH; and development of WASH Gender Training modules.

\(^{25}\) Almost all countries that have ratified OPAC have expressed declarations on the text: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, China, Mongolia, Timor-Leste, Kiribati and Micronesia. The declaration is mostly on article 3 (regarding legal age for recruitment into national armed force. The Optional Protocol on sale of children (OPSC) has been ratified by most countries in East Asia (only DPR Korea did not ratify). However in the Pacific islands, almost none of the countries have ratified it (only Vanuatu and Micronesia have). Lao PDR, Malaysia, Vietnam, Korea have expressed reservations on OPSC. Finally, concerning the last protocol on communication procedures, only Thailand and Mongolia in 2012 and 2015 have ratified the protocol and none of these two countries have reservations.

\(^{26}\) Only 8 countries out of 28 have ratified the protocol to CEDAW on communication procedures (2000), these are: Cambodia, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. None of these countries have reservations on the protocol.

\(^{27}\) The cases were: WASH in Vanuatu; WASH in Schools in Mongolia; WASH and MHM in Indonesia; HIV in Myanmar; Health and Sports in Pacific Islands; Nutrition in Vietnam and the Philippines.
The four Targeted Priorities of the Gender Action Plan began to show increasing traction in country programmes in 2016: Child Marriage programming is now considered by five COs; Girls’ Secondary Education in PNG was selected for inclusion into the global 12 focus countries; and a range of Gender-responsive Adolescent Health interventions advance life skills, information on reproductive health and comprehensive sexuality education, menstrual hygiene management.

All 14 COs were provided with detailed “Gender Dashboards”, a tool which provides an overview of the CO’s progress on GAP implementation, and actionable recommendations for accelerating gender equality programming. Based on these, PNG conducted an in-depth Gender Programmatic Review in key sectors to analyse gender inequalities and to strengthen gender integration into country programme planning.

However, country offices in the EAP region are yet to meet GAP institutional obligations and need to accelerate gender programming progress. The five CPDs finalised in 2016 and the three in the process of elaboration show limited integration of gender equality considerations into their Theories of Change and Programme Strategy Notes. Results Frameworks of all 14 COs are not yet clearly and visibly articulating and measuring Gender Results. The Regional Management Team will be key to accelerating gender action through the region in 2017.

In 2016, EAPRO advanced gender capacity and gender architecture across the region. Five COs received gender training tailored to their requirements and an EAPRO Gender Consultant Roster was established for improved access to technical assistance on gender programming. EAPRO also supported the coordination of the joint social media initiative for the #DayoftheGirl 2016; engaged in two inter-agency cross-learning events on Gender priorities (Comprehensive Sexuality Education & Gender and Ending Child Marriage); and represented EAPRO in various regional platforms to promote gender equality.

The Gender team recorded over 73 separate requests for technical assistance from EAPRO, coming from all 14 Country Offices in the region during 2016. Seven Country Offices received an in-country visit, enabling 12 of these requests to be filled in person. Some 37 of the requests took longer than one-day to address, and 10 of them have on-going assistance that extends into 2017.

3.4.3. Environmental Sustainability

EAPRO addressed issues of environmental sustainability through both programmes and operations in 2016. As described in the Trends Section, the impact of environmental pollution (most significantly air pollution) on children became increasingly important over the year - particularly for China, Indonesia and Mongolia - and EAPRO liaised with COs and HQ to mobilise attention and resources to address the issue. Land degradation issues were also in the spotlight, particularly related to the palm oil industry – and EAPRO provided support to Indonesia and Malaysia to liaise and advocate with stakeholders and industry members through a Round Table mechanisms.

At the request of Deputy Representatives at the 2016 DROPS Meeting, EAPRO conducted a special session on Climate Change, with facilitation support from DRP’s Senior Climate and Environment Advisor. As follow-up, EAPRO conducted a mapping of UNICEF-supported Climate Change initiatives and collaborations cross the region. The mapping found that 70% of CO respondents believe that their Situation Analyses and CPDs “somewhat adequately” address the immediate and long-term risks associated with climate change. Nine of 13 CO respondents suggested that their offices needed to reorient their programming (to some extent) to better address the risks and impacts associated with climate change. Most COs felt that they had some (albeit limited) capacity to reorient their programme – but four suggested they had serious capacity gaps. Although many gaps were cited, the most common was a lack of technical resources, including limited knowledge and expertise
amongst existing staff. Nine out of 13 COs reported that they had not yet investigated the potential for mobilising resources from the public sector for climate change and eleven COs suggested they need broad, general technical support across multiple sectors in order to clarify their plans, advocate effectively with government and mobilise resources for this important issue.

Ensuring that analysis of current and future climate change impacts are more coherently integrated into CP design was also a priority, with both planning and emergencies teams cooperating to review Strategy Notes, Theories of Change and CPD drafts to ensure adequate analysis of both slower onset changes and extreme weather related events. Disaster Risk Reduction was also a key COs across the region also benefited from creation of an LTAS for climate and disaster risk analysis which will allow COs access high-quality external technical assistance to perform child-centred climate and disaster risk assessments, particularity as a part of Situation Analyses, in order to ensure risk-informed country planning, sound geographic targeting and appropriate strategy development for risk reduction.

EAPRO also made a strong commitment to “Greening” the office – with a “kick-off” meeting for the development of a new joint EAPRO and Thailand Country Office Greening strategy – to be finalised in 2017. During 2016, showers were installed to encourage staff to use bikes and/or walk to and the RMT members agreed to use some of the Regional Contingency Fund to help offices conduct energy audits and prepare proposals for the UNICEF GrAF (Greening & Accessibility Fund).

The electricity cost savings related to the installation of solar panels in 2015 were also noted. Together, both EAPRO & TCO saved approximately 367,550 Baht for 2016. Based on this rate of savings, the cost of the installation of solar panels break-even in 6 years 2 months.

4. Management and Operations Results

EAPRO Management represented the organization in 2016 and provided oversight, risk management, financial stewardship and management of human resources to maximize efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources for children. The ROMP includes the three globally defined outputs: governance and systems; management and stewardship of financial resources; and management of human capacity; as well as three additional priority issues: information and communications technology (ICT), especially as it relates to innovation; the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT); Communication.

4.1. Operations

The Regional Operations team actively identified issues and provided regional leadership to a range of global management and sectoral policy dialogues in 2016. This included identifying, framing and raising issues; providing regional context, core content and procedural design; and testing, implementation and feeding back to policy owners. The team recorded over 369 separate requests for EAPRO’s technical assistance, coming from all 14 Country Offices and from Supply Division and HQ. At least 267 requests were fully addressed within the calendar year while the remainder are scheduled for follow-up in 2017. The vast majority of requests (278) required (or will require) less than one day but some 78 require more substantial assistance. For example, six Country Offices received an in-country visit addressing at least 12 of these requests.

The Regional Operations team was also involved in the development of TORs, Generic Job Profiles; the assessment of competencies/skills required to achieve organizational results; participation in recruitment exercises, capacity building and oversight/review of performance to promote an effective “fit for purpose”
approach to staffing across the region and globally. There were 18 formal CO submissions to the Programme Budget Review in 2016 and approximately 1,030 Fixed-Term and Temporary Appointments in the region.

The RO successfully transitioned Finance and HR functions to the GSSC in 2016, with a model that was based on having a high level technical expertise at the regional level that had the capacity to problem solve, gather/analyze issues with COs and communicate so as to influence both policy and procedure during the project planning and implementation stages. New approaches to implementation included both specialization and adoption of self-service modalities.

A notable challenge in 2016 included the management of broad organizational reforms including decentralization/ redistribution of authority and accountabilities from HQ Divisions to RO’s and CO’s, without a corresponding transfer of new resources (e.g. the HR International Professional recruitment decisions shifted to RO’s without additional resources for new staff to perform the due diligence processes). The risks associated with these expanding mandates (re prioritization of resources, quality and timeliness of decision-making), will be addressed through the ROMP 2018-21 planning process.

4.2. Human Resources (HR)

The HR team recorded at least 29 requests for assistance from 12 Country Offices in 2016. At least 26 of the 29 were fully addressed in the calendar year. Three requests required an in-country visit and 18 required more than a day to address properly.

**Working Differently:** The “Working Differently” Modality was rolled out across the region through the placement of high-level HR staff resources in key countries with defined sub-regional responsibilities and accountabilities that are designed according to an HR Business Partner approach. The HR Working Differently modality is supported by improved knowledge management and sharing tools (such as Regional HR SharePoint/teamsite). Duplication is reduced and CO’s receive dedicated high level HR strategic and planning support as they go through the HR reform process. The approach is evolving and challenges (which include administration of time, workloads and the quality and regularity of communication with COs) will be addressed in 2017.

**Strategic Learning and Development:** As part of the 3rd pillar of the HR Reform strategy *(Attracting top talent, performance management, and HR Capacity)* to make UNICEF staff Fit for Purpose, Regional HR mapped the regional learning priorities and effectively managed the Regional HR Learning resources. One new initiative was to set up a coaching programme to support senior staff in the areas of effective people management and programmatic results delivery – some 36 Senior Staff have benefitted. The programme will continue in 2017 and the value added will be assessed.

**Promoting Gender and Diversity across the Region** - Achieving workforce parity in gender and diversity continues to be a challenge across the region. It will continue to be a primary focus of Regional HR recruitment oversight and advocacy in 2017.

4.3. Regional ICT

The ICT team recorded 11 requests for technical assistance from seven Country Offices in 2016. At least eight were fully addressed within the calendar year, with the remainder requiring on-going support in 2017. Six Country Offices received an in-country visit to address at least seven of these requests.
Operational Efficiency and Effectiveness Contributions: Upgrades to systems and tools coupled with the strengthening of core platforms and security, enabling Incremental Cloud adaptations, have enhanced access to systems and tools (Increasing Mobility), while the re-enforcing collaboration across the offices in the region, making more efficient use of staff time and adding value through increased inter and intra office team interactions. Meanwhile, increased uptake of use of SharePoint TeamSites are contributing to Info / Knowledge management, and systems support to more streamlined Programme delivery mechanisms.

Programme Effectiveness Contributions: A focused drive to scale up T4D centric solutions at the country office level have been steered by engagements in cross functional activities towards building partnerships, at a global level and delivered through RO/CO anchored activities. This has been supported by an initiative in EAPRO, by the development of a toolkit to support mobile enabled Programming. This has strengthened and supported incremental use of Technology enabled solution (mainly RapidPro and uReport) across offices in EAPR.

Innovative Use of ICT: Close collaboration with the Global Innovations team has been instrumental to the support in scaling up use of RapidPro (now in use in Indonesia, PNG and Vietnam) and UReport (active in Indonesia, Myanmar, Malaysia, PNG, Pacific and Thailand), while enhancing the capacity for Technical back-stopping within Country office, and their ability to further apply the solutions for Programmes to deliver results. The Creation of a P4 ICT4D position in EAPRO will strengthen the drive towards further application of solutions at the CO levels.

4.4. Common Services Unit

The CSU continued to provide support to Thailand CO, EAPRO and other CO in the Region, ensuring a smooth transition to GSSC for Finance and HR transactions. The Finance Unit processed a total of 1,053 transactions (USD$4.1M – payroll excluded) and the HR Unit, in addition to the role in Regional Field Reference Group – supported EAPRO to ensure smooth transition to GSSC, coordinated 6 new staff recruitments and POs with total value $1,597,900 for individual consultants (EAPRO only). Travel and General Services processed over 462 TAs with total value of USD$ 874,256.08; 374 visa applications & authorizations and 290 Resident Permits; 27 UNLPs during 2016.

Administration and Support Services managed the space allocation for all of EAPRO (total of 116 work stations) and several greening projects were initiated related to the renovation of the building and improved staff facilities including: new shower facilities (to encourage cycling to work), a structural assessment of the Thailand CO premises as part of the overall compound renovation, a water and electricity audit was started to identify ways to make additional savings (in addition to those being made from the solar panels installed end 2015), ergonomic chairs were procured for staff and equipment purchased to improve the WIFI. The Unit also supported security-related matters including the maintenance of security equipment and conducting the obligatory 2 fire drills.

4.5. Global Staff Survey

Please see Annex 1 for an update on EAPRO’s response to the 2014 Global Staff Survey.

4.6. Regional Management
In May 2016 the RO welcomed the new Regional Director. Similarly, there were senior management changes in three countries: DPRK, PNG and the Pacific. The RO ensured that there was a change management strategy in place to support the COs during their transition periods and provided extensive support in that regard.

The two RMTs were conducted successfully with high-level participation from HQ Directors from PD, DRP, DHR, FRG, PSFR, and Innocenti. The autumn RMT was organized jointly with ROSA and allowed for formal and informal discussions of mutual interest and concern to both regions such as rapid urbanization and the implications for children and our work, collaboration with the EU, cross border migration, resource mobilization and human resources availability, among others.

The EAP RMT contributed to coordination of the region’s inputs into various global strategies and plans including the 2018 - 2021 SP, the Global PSFR Strategic Plan, and HR reform. Additionally, the RMT benefitted from and contributed to analysis of the trends impacting children in the region and implications for UNICEF in the region. Of significance were the extensive discussions on the evolving role and influence of China in the region, facilitated by external experts on China. This has led to increased recognition by UNICEF of the importance of the relationship with this country and the establishment of a post in the China CO to coordinate and manage China’s collaboration with Africa and EAP countries through UNICEF.

Important decisions were made on resource allocations to ensure a more equitable distribution of the Institutional Budget, innovative approaches to ensure adequate capacity across the region such as shared positions in HR, Supply and Evaluation.