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<tr>
<td>ADB</td>
<td>Asian Development Bank</td>
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<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>Association of Southeast Asian Nations</td>
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<td>CCRA</td>
<td>Child-Centred Risk Assessment</td>
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<td>CDC</td>
<td>Center For Disease Control and Prevention</td>
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<td>CEP</td>
<td>Costed Evaluation Plan</td>
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<td>CERF</td>
<td>Central Emergency Revolving Fund</td>
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<td>CLTS</td>
<td>Community Led Total Sanitation</td>
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<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on The Rights of The Child</td>
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<td>DPRK</td>
<td>Democratic People’s Republic of Korea</td>
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<td>DRR</td>
<td>Disaster Risk Reduction</td>
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<td>EAPRO</td>
<td>East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office</td>
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<td>ECD</td>
<td>Early Childhood Development</td>
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<td>EENC</td>
<td>Early Essential Newborn Care</td>
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<td>ERM</td>
<td>Enterprise Risk Management</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agricultural Organisation</td>
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<td>GAP</td>
<td>Gender Action Plan</td>
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<td>GSSC</td>
<td>Global Shared Services Centre</td>
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<td>HACT</td>
<td>Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers</td>
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<td>HCD</td>
<td>Human-Centred Design</td>
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<td>HR</td>
<td>Human Resources</td>
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<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organisation</td>
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<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goal</td>
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<td>MICS</td>
<td>Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys</td>
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<td>MNCH</td>
<td>Maternal and Neonatal Child Health</td>
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<td>MNTE</td>
<td>Maternal Neonatal Tetanus Elimination</td>
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<td>ROMP</td>
<td>Regional Office Management Plan</td>
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<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<td>SEARO</td>
<td>WHO South East Asia Regional Office</td>
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<td>T4D</td>
<td>Technology for Development</td>
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<td>UHC</td>
<td>Universal Health Coverage</td>
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<td>UNCT</td>
<td>United Nations Country Team</td>
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<td>UNDAF</td>
<td>United Nations Development Assistance Framework</td>
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<td>UNDG</td>
<td>United Nations Development Group</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>UNEDAP</td>
<td>United Nations Evaluation Development Group</td>
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<td>UNESCAP</td>
<td>United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation</td>
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<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children's Fund</td>
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<td>VAC</td>
<td>Violence Against Children</td>
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<td>VAW</td>
<td>Violence Against Women</td>
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<td>VNR</td>
<td>Voluntary National Review</td>
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<td>WASH</td>
<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</td>
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<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
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<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organisation</td>
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<td>WPRO</td>
<td>WHO Western Pacific Regional Office</td>
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Part 1: Overview

1.1 Executive Summary

In its 2014 – 2017 Regional Office Management Plan (ROMP), the East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) committed to support countries’ efforts to accelerate progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) unfinished business and to mainstream the 2030 Agenda. In its last year of the ROMP, this annual report highlights the main achievements during 2017, but also highlight some of the achievements over the 2014 – 2017 period.

The most impactful issues and trends in 2017 have the potential to both accelerate and erode progress in East Asia and the Pacific across several child-related indicators. Myanmar faced an intensifying crisis with over a million Rohingya refugees crossing the border to Bangladesh and bringing the spotlight on ethnic and political tensions existing in many countries in the region. Meanwhile, the increased frequency and severity of climate related disasters combined with the vulnerabilities exacerbated by the increasing rate of urbanisation also brings new sets of problems that several of the countries are ill-equipped to address in the short term. On the other hand, the rising influence of China and its new development agenda is shaping the region – calling for greater regional integration - and has the potential to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and children-related indicators. As the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) celebrates its 50th anniversary, Member States committed to ‘Leaving No One Behind’ and committed to achieve progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In order to contextualize and focus the implementation of the new 2018-2021 UNICEF Strategic Plan in the region and more effectively report on progress, UNICEF regional office and country offices in East Asia and the Pacific has identified and committed to three mutually reinforcing regional headlines – ‘Early Moments Matter’, ‘Children Grow in Safe and Sustainable Environments’ and ‘Adolescents Potential Unleashed’ – along with six result areas for each headline. Recent efforts to increase quality and availability of data particularly to facilitate SDGs monitoring; to strengthen partnerships with regional institution, private sector and research institutions; to programme across the development-humanitarian nexus; and to learn the lessons from the ROMP implementation, are critical to the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan in the region.

In 2017, UNICEF country offices with strong support from the East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) achieved significant results across all sectors:

- Eight countries have two-year new-born care roadmaps in place;
- Two countries have improved capacities to target adolescents at risk of HIV;
- Countries are more knowledgeable about Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM), the challenges girls face and concrete steps to address them;
- Four countries in the region are better able to prevent and monitor the use of breastmilk substitutes;
- 11 country offices are more knowledgeable of the bottlenecks and barriers that prevent children from attending or returning to school and how to address them;
- 11 countries have strengthened legal frameworks to protect children;
- All country offices in the region have improved skills to undertake and manage research;
- 12 countries have now integrated disability programming;
• All country offices have strengthened capacities to design risk-informed plans and to support disaster preparedness and response.
• Four countries effectively responded to the needs of children affected by natural and manmade disasters.

Throughout the ROMP period, EAPRO played a key role in providing technical support to country offices. In 2017, it responded to over 600 country office requests for technical support. This included support to the development of Programme Strategy Notes and Country Programme Documents (CPD) for UNICEF in Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, and the Pacific. EAPRO’s Client Satisfaction Survey showed that over 80 per cent of respondents rated EAPRO’s performance as ‘good’ to ‘very good’. The suggestions for improvement included expanding cross-country exchanges, further customising support and organising more specialised meetings and trainings.

In 2017, EAPRO played a critical role in strengthening regional and country capacity in various sectors. This included in health, particularly for the eradication of preventable childhood diseases (quality polio supplementary immunization), health in emergencies (prepare for, respond to and rebuild in the aftermath of a public health emergency), and health system management (identity management and the harmonisation of information management). EAPRO also strengthened capacities for preparedness and risk-informed planning; to protect children against online abuse in partnership with the WeProtect Global Alliance and the private sector; to prevent gender-based violence with the development of a curriculum tool in partnership with UN Girls’ Education Initiative (UNGEI); and to safeguard the rights to education in humanitarian context. Throughout the region, EAPRO provided technical support on legislative reform on justice for children.

In terms of evidence generation and use, EAPRO conducted several regional study and research including on urban health, menstrual hygiene management, bottlenecks and barriers for out-of-school children, as well as the status and quality of child protection systems, all of which contributed to fill knowledge gaps and advance specific sectoral and cross-sectoral agendas. The regional office also focused on fostering the dissemination and use of the significant evidence generated over the past years on Early Childhood Development (ECD) to strengthen policies and scaling up efforts. EAPRO promoted a better understanding of role of social protection through knowledge sharing.

In terms of data support, EAPRO continues to actively support countries to strengthen their capacity for SDG monitoring and reporting. This included the data collection and analysis to establish baselines, particularly for SDG 6 on water and sanitation for all. The regional office also supported countries to undertake quality surveys and develop Data for Children strategies. It also supported the establishment of baseline on the use of breastmilk substitutes; contributed to the analysis on data on adolescent at risk of HIV; and data gathering on the management of malnutrition, particularly in DPR Korea.

Efforts on fostering regional advocacy and cooperation have been particularly significant in terms promoting the fight against malnutrition with the adoption by Member States of the ASEAN Declaration on Ending All Forms of Malnutrition. EAPRO also made significant progress in establishing regional cooperation on the Universal Health Coverage agenda as well as partnership on data for girls.

EAPRO continues to strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration, particularly making significant advocating for synergy between nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sectors.
In terms of **innovation**, the regional office explored opportunities for digital sexuality education, conducting a regional review and piloting Human-Centred Design (HCD) processes to engage with adolescent girls and boys. In **emergency response**, EAPRO provided technical support and resource mobilisation to DPR Korea, Myanmar, the Philippines and Viet Nam, which facilitated the delivery of essential services.

**Environmental sustainability** became a key priority for EAPRO to be addressed by both programmes and operations. Climate resilience is now at the centre of the WASH strategic framework, with emphasis on advancing child-centred risk assessment and risk-informed programming. EAPRO is leading UNICEF’s efforts in ‘Greening the Blue’, part of the UN’s Carbon Neutral Strategy. Several UNICEF country offices in the region have now retrofitted their office space to comply and the greening plan of EAPRO and Thailand CO will be implemented in 2018.

In terms of **management and operations**, key performance indicators show that all country offices have strengthened governance, enhanced human resources and improved transparency over the year, including vast improvements in Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) implementation. Monitoring has been strengthened further with quarterly process reporting. In addition, EAPRO continues to make steps towards shifting performance management culture through country offices participatory workshops. For supply, the regional office has been building capacity of country offices to improve understanding of the value of procurement services to broader sustainability goals and how the changing environment requires more effective planning for contracting for services.

### 1.2 Trends and Progress in the region, as affecting Children and Women

**Rohingya refugee crisis.** Since 25 August, more than half a million Rohingya refugees have fled violence in Myanmar and crossed the border into Bangladesh’s southern district of Cox’s Bazaar. Many of the refugees are reported to be living in overcrowded and unsanitary makeshift settlements, exacerbating the risk of waterborne and other diseases. Almost 60 per cent of the refugees are children. Prior to 25 August, UNICEF Myanmar was providing tens of thousands of children in Rakhine with critical emergency aid, supporting treatment for acute malnutrition, providing access to psychosocial care and clean water, and repairing schools. UNICEF’s work to reach these children has been seriously disrupted. There has been significant destruction of homes and villages across several of the northern townships.

The key objectives of UNICEF’s programme in Rakhine State are to provide essential life-saving or life-sustaining assistance; to advocate for freedom of movement both of beneficiaries and humanitarian actors; to provide specialised protection support in response to any grave rights violations; and to ensure that government support is provided universally to all people.

Regarding potential returns of the estimated 680,000 people who fled to Bangladesh, UNICEF continues to advocate that any returns should be voluntary and people should be allowed to return to their place of origin and have access to basic services and protection measures. UNICEF also advocates that in areas of returns, children have access to functioning schools which help provide a sense of normalcy, routine and structure for children. UNICEF stands ready to support the Government of Myanmar to assist with returning populations as long as there is adherence to international standards and norms.
While the crisis will not destabilise the region, it brings to the fore long-standing, underlying ethnic and political tensions that exist in many countries in the East Asia Pacific region.

**The rising influence of China.** In recent years, China’s foreign assistance budget has become more transparent and has revealed that China’s net foreign aid resources reached over US$7.1 billion. At the May 2017 Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation – part of new development strategy aiming to promote economic cooperation between countries along the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road – a further US$8.7 billion was committed for countries joining the Belt and Road Initiative. While China’s development focus to date has been infrastructure-heavy, the Government of China has committed to considering the priorities of recipient countries, particularly as they relate to SDG achievement.

UNICEF has an opportunity to redefine its engagement with China in game changing ways for the benefit of children in China and those outside China as well. In doing so, we also have the opportunity to model an invigorated hybrid approach to development in the 21st century, anchored in high level advocacy and partnerships with government, citizens and the private sector, that is more appropriate to the context of our time.

EAPRO’s vision is driven by our shared belief with China that children of the world should enjoy the right to a happy childhood that allows every child to grow to his/her full potential. Delivering on that vision would see China become a champion for children, in the same way as certain donor governments or foundations champion specific issues (Norway = Education, the Gates Foundation = polio/immunization).

The ambition inherent to that vision would be channelled using China’s global voice and positioning; making the Belt and Road Initiative child friendly, leveraging areas of global leadership that China has set for itself in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, and building on the formidable partnership potential with the private sector, including the growing number of high net worth individuals in China and the 850 million Chinese who will be middle class by 2030.

UNICEF will continue to explore its role as an influencer, continuing to build trust with the Government of China. Internally, the regional office and UNICEF China will continue to develop a working relationship that will yield the best partnership results with the Government, including prioritising bigger countries who report well with smaller countries that may need to be supported in implementation and reporting, but have considerable needs. In addition to all of this is the sensitivity required to navigate child rights issues persisting in China, including child migration and child labour.

**Regional Integration - ASEAN and UNICEF.** 2017 marked the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN’s establishment as a regional organisation founded on the ideals of peace, prosperity and harmony. While looking back at the organisation’s history, the anniversary was very much focussed on future partnerships, reaffirming member countries commitments to reach the goals of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, set under the theme of ‘One Vision, One Identity, One Community’ – also highlighting the complementarity of this vision with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this connection, UNICEF, ASEAN and the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) led a symposium on ‘Leaving No One Behind’, looking at how to boost progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly focused on investing in data and improving public finances. The issue of data availability is critical for UNICEF and working towards ASEAN’s Vision 2025, it will be important to develop comprehensive data strategies that will feed into
the SDG reporting – so that all partners in the region can measure progress and therefore contribute to better policy choices. A UNICEF study released earlier this year showed that, for over half of the child-related SDG indicators, availability of data is either limited or poor. In terms of child-friendly public financing, the vast majority of investments in social services for children and their families in ASEAN Member States are funded by national governments. How these funds are prioritised to support those most in need is crucial in realising the SDGs as well as the ASEAN Vision 2025. UNICEF can play a clear role in leveraging these resources.

**Climate Change, Resilience and Children.** East Asia and the Pacific is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In recent years, the region has seen warming trends, rising sea levels and extreme weather events leading to more frequent and severe weather-related disasters. In addition, rapid urbanisation and population growth in hazardous coastal areas are creating new disaster hotspots. The impacts of climate change could also bring huge economic losses to the region. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) estimated that climate change may reduce the region’s gross domestic product (GDP) by up to 11 per cent by 2100. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) predicts that increasing floods and drought events in the region will affect rice crops leading to increased food prices and by 2030, climate change could force more than 100 million people into extreme poverty.

There has been significant progress in implementing and monitoring the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) with strong commitments from government and non-government institutions, particularly with the implementation of the Asian Regional Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction and the planning of the Asia Ministerial Conference for DRR which will be held in Mongolia in 2018. In this context, UNICEF East Asia Pacific is committed to help address climate change impacts with an increased focus on strengthening resilience and creating synergies between development and humanitarian assistance.

**Urbanisation and children.** The East Asia and the Pacific region is rapidly urbanising. Projections show that more than half of the total population will live in urban areas by 2018.\(^1\) Of the estimated 1.2 billion people living in urban areas, the World Bank estimates that more than 250 million people live in slums and 75 million people live below the poverty line of US$ 3.10 a day.\(^2\) Although there are pockets of concentrated poverty in some large cities, urban poverty is higher in small and medium-sized cities. In Viet Nam for example, small cities and towns host 43 per cent of the country’s total urban population and more than 70 percent of the total urban poor. Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, which comprise 32 per cent of the total urban population, only have 11 per cent of the total urban poor population.

Rural-urban migration, natural population increase, and the reclassification of administrative boundaries contribute to urbanisation in the region. The pace of growth is happening faster than administrative boundaries are changing, leaving those living on the periphery, often the poorest, behind. Incomplete decentralisation reforms have left cities administratively and

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1. Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing Asia Pacific, 2017. UNDP, UNESCAP and ADB
fiscally incapable of providing adequate services leading to an increase in inequalities, risks and exclusion for the most marginalised and disadvantaged urban dwellers.³

Marginalised urban communities, such as migrant women and children, face multiple deprivations, lack basic services and are not involved in municipal planning and budgeting processes. Migrant women and children are highly vulnerable to exploitation, discrimination and insecurity, face prohibitive and exclusionary registration policies. While contributing to urban economies in various capacities, migrants in the region are not recognised as legal citizens, live in some of the worst quality informal settlements and lack access to basic services.

Due to rapid urbanisation, family structures are also changing in the region. Multi-generational family networks, accustomed to cohabitation and lending one another support in rural settings, are separated by promises of work in urban areas. Young adults are seeking out opportunities and leaving children and other family members behind. In China, both migrant children and children left behind by migrant parents showed significantly less interactions and competence than other Chinese children. The rural-urban continuum poses challenges for both source (rural) and destination (urban) areas that need to be considered in planning interventions to address inequality in cities.⁴

1.3 Humanitarian Assistance

East Asia and the Pacific is one of the most disaster-affected regions in the world. In 2017, the region faced around 90 different disaster events that killed more than 1,900 people and affected more than 24 million people. In recent years, the complex combination of disasters, from climate change impacts to conflict and violence, has further challenged the vast and diverse economies and populations of the region exacerbating existing vulnerabilities. Recurrent typhoon events in the Democratic People’s Republic (DPR) of Korea, the Philippines, Viet Nam and the Pacific sub-region continue to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, pose new health risks and challenge the establishment and delivery of quality infrastructure and basic services. At the same time, unfolding political tensions in DPR Korea and conflict and violence in Myanmar and the Philippines continue to deteriorate regional stability, with substantial impacts on children.

As mentioned in the previous section, the violence in Myanmar’s Rakhine State resulted in the largest refugee crisis in the region, with 60 per cent of people affected being children. 286,360 children are in need of life-saving humanitarian support in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states. At the same time, the country was severely hit by tropical cyclone Mora in May this year. UNICEF provided essential supplies and services on WASH, health, education, nutrition and child protection to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states.

In the Philippines, the enforcement of military law in Marawi City left more than 353,921 people displaced. UNICEF estimated that more than 205,000 children and adolescents were affected. The conflict in Mindanao continues to affect the indigenous population who were further hit by

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³ The State of Asian and Pacific Cities 2015: Urban Transformations shifting from quality to quantity. UN-Habitat and UNESCAP
⁴ Wang, and Mesman, 2015. The paper discussed three types of functioning of children. Emotional functioning means children’s feeling about themselves; social functioning refers to children’s interactions with peers and also includes positive and negative outcomes; school functioning refers generally to school grade and sense of belonging to school.
floods, landslides and tropical storm Tembin, affecting more than one million people at the end of 2017. UNICEF provided essential relief supplies and support to individuals displaced by the conflict and the host communities with education, child protection, WASH and nutrition services.

In DPR Korea, out of US$ 12 million in Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF) resources, US$ 4 million was allocated to UNICEF emergency programmes. UNICEF DPR Korea and its partners supported with provision of essential medicines, immunization services, screening and treatment of severe acute malnutrition and moderate acute malnutrition children and WASH services.

In November, typhoon Damrey had a severe impact in the central and south central provinces of Viet Nam affecting an estimated 4.33 million people of which 395,000 were in need of humanitarian support. Acute needs included emergency support to provide WASH, nutrition and health, shelter recovery, food security and livelihoods, education support and life-saving behaviour change communications efforts for affected children and host communities. CERF provided covered US$ 4 million to Viet Nam, which included US$ 1 million for UNICEF to provide WASH services.

1.4 Strategic Plan 2018-2021

In order to focus the implementation of the Strategic Plan and more effectively report on progress, UNICEF in East Asia and the Pacific has identified and committed to three mutually reinforcing regional headlines – *Early Moments Matter, Children Grow in Safe and Sustainable Environments*, and *Adolescents Potential Unleashed*. Six result areas have been identified for each of the regional headlines (for a total of 18) and embody 11 results areas from the new UNICEF Strategic Plan. An additional seven result areas are specific to the EAP region but also contribute directly to the Strategic Plan goal areas. All 14 of the country offices have mapped their country programme outputs against the headlines and have selected primarily Strategic Plan indicators to ensure improved capacity to aggregate results at regional level and effectively report progress against Strategic Plan.

Governments in most East Asia Pacific countries are expressing strong commitment to the achievement and monitoring of the SDGs. China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam have embarked on policy initiatives to localise and mainstream the SDGs goals and targets into national development plans as well as policy and monitoring frameworks. Furthermore, countries including Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, and Viet Nam are Voluntary National Review (VNR) countries, which means that they carry out national and sub-national processes – sharing challenges, lessons and successes– to review progress towards the SDGs. These countries have already submitted reports in 2017 or will submit in early in 2018. The process is supported by the respective country offices with assistance from EAPRO, particularly ensuring that Strategic Plan goals and indicators linked to the SDGs are prioritised.

The ASEAN-UNICEF Symposium, ‘Leaving No One Behind’ (above), concluded with recommendations to ASEAN Member States to focus on data, public finance, evidence-based strategies and child rights – all of which are central to UNICEF’s results areas. UNICEF’s relationship with ASEAN will be critical to the achievement of the regional headline results and therefore the Strategic Plan.

As noted China is becoming a major development actor in the region and in the world. This represents an important opportunity to leverage resources and technical cooperation for the
Strategic Plan. Although much of this funding will be delivered through bilateral agreements, EAPRO, in collaboration with HQ and UNICEF China, is positioning itself to ensure that at regional and country levels, UNICEF influences China’s development priorities and allocations. Triangular Cooperation – including with the Chinese private sector is also gaining traction as China encourages philanthropy to support SDGs achievement in Belt and Road countries. A US$ 25 million contribution to UNICEF from the HNA Group for health efforts in four countries is an example of this emphasis in action and is an area for ongoing growth. Targeted country offices in the region plan to develop funding proposals covering Strategic Plan areas such as maternal, neonatal and child health (MNCH), early childhood development (ECD) and humanitarian emergency assistance. To date, US$ 11 million has been received from the HNA Group.

As prioritized in the regional headline: ‘Adolescents’ Potential Unleashed’, the youth agenda is central in East Asia and Pacific. Under the leadership of the new UNICEF Executive Director, UNICEF is set to agree on adolescent/youth agenda as a priority area of focus under the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan. This decision will significantly enhance EAPRO’s ability to leverage strategic partnerships and resources at global, regional and country level to support implementation and monitoring of progress on the regional headline as well as Strategic Plan results areas related to adolescent education outcomes, adolescent health and nutrition, gender equality, violence prevention and treatment.

Through a joint initiative between UNICEF and the Gates Foundation and with the technical support of Development Gateway, five countries in the region, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, are developing Data for Children strategies and implementation plans to improve data availability and quality in the region. This work is complemented by Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and other UNICEF-supported data collection activities in collaboration with UNFPA and WHO. EAPRO is using Set Aside Funds for the establishment of baselines and support efforts to track and report on the Strategic Plan goals and regional headlines across the 27 countries in the region. Despite continuous efforts to increase quality and availability of data, preliminary findings from the baseline initiative reveal that fewer than 20 per cent of the indicators have updated, reliable data values. Filling the gaps will take significant efforts and resources and will push the region to be more innovative on methods of data collection.

UNICEF’s ability to programme across the development-humanitarian nexus paradigm is crucial in order to ensure sustainable and progress across programming context. As noted before, the potential impact of disasters and humanitarian emergencies on the achievement of progress remains an area of concern.
Part 2: Development Effectiveness

2.1 Analysis of programme strategies and results

2017 was the final year of the ROMP, in which the regional office committed to supporting country offices in their efforts to accelerate progress on the unfinished business of the MDGs, mainstream the 2030 Agenda and address the impact on children and adolescents of several evolving trends in the region. EAPRO prioritised the following trends: a) the increasing income and social inequalities that localise child poverty and threaten social cohesion; b) a changing epidemiological burden of childhood diseases coupled with a demographic shift towards a youth bulge and ageing population; and c) the increasing frequency, intensity and impact of emergencies and natural disasters in East Asia and the Pacific region.

In 2017, EAPRO received and responded to over 600 requests for technical support from country offices. A Client Satisfaction Survey conducted at the end of the year to measure the overall relevance, timeliness and quality of its support to country offices indicated that over 80 per cent of respondents rated EAPRO’s performance on these categories as ‘good’ to ‘very good’ and an additional 15 to 18 per cent rated it as satisfactory. Country offices suggested that the regional office needs to expand cross-country exchanges, further customise its support and organise more specialised meetings and trainings. This feedback will help guide EAPRO’s engagement with country offices in the coming years.

2.1.1 Health

Strengthening regional capacity for health in emergencies. Governments and UNICEF staff have improved capacities to prepare for, respond to and rebuild in the aftermath of a public health emergency. For the first time, through an established partnership with Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for Health in Emergencies, EAPRO organised and facilitated a learning forum on Health in Emergencies with wider participation from government counterparts and UNICEF staff from across the region and from different sectors (health, nutrition, WASH, emergency, and communication for development). The training enhanced knowledge and practical operational capacities and helped to foster regional and interstate collaboration through exchange of information and experiences.

Quality maternal and newborn care. Eight priority countries (Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon, and Viet Nam) now have in place two-year newborn care roadmaps. The Government of Viet Nam, WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) and UNICEF EAPRO co-organised the first-ever high-level forum on Early Essential Newborn Care (EENC) as part of the second biennial regional EENC meeting, culminating in the development of the plans. In collaboration with WPRO, EAPRO helped to ensure that over 30,000 health workers from over 2,500 health facilities are able to provide improved quality of care through practicing EENC.

Furthermore, East Asia and the Pacific countries have access to an improved maternal and newborn care package. In partnership with WHO, UNFPA and USAID, EAPRO made technical contributions to the regional quality improvement standard package (point of care quality improvement) for maternal and newborn health, and it was launched in collaboration with WHO South East Asia Regional Office (SEARO). The pilot implementation started in a few health facilities for each priority countries (Indonesia, Myanmar, and Timor-Leste).
Advancing the urban health agenda. Four countries (Cambodia, Mongolia, Myanmar and the Philippines) have baseline data and information for planning and decision-making on urban health and immunization. In 2017, EAPRO published the regional analytical study in the four focus-countries with the objectives to: a) generate critical evidence, including defining urban undocumented or mobile poor communities; b) identify critical barriers in access to health and social protection systems in urban settings; and c) map stakeholders. Of concern are the large agglomerations of peri-urban residents who relocate to areas where there is limited public health infrastructure and services. The study found that harsh social conditions are extreme, particularly for undocumented migrants and mobile poor populations (in these countries access to public services is regulated through systems of civil registrations). Conditions in all countries demand more comprehensive urban peri-urban health and social policy responses.

Towards the eradication of preventable childhood diseases. Five countries (Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, and the Philippines) have strengthened capacities to eliminate preventable childhood illnesses. EAPRO’s targeted technical support for quality polio supplementary immunization activities in Lao PDR and Myanmar contributed to maintaining the polio eradication status in East Asia and the Pacific. The regional office also provided both on-site and remote technical support for the acceleration of the national maternal neonatal tetanus elimination (MNTE) actions in the Philippines and Papua New Guinea as well as for conducting large-scale measles-rubella vaccination campaigns in Indonesia. MNTE in the Philippines was officially validated in November 2017.

Strengthening health systems management. More countries have committed to adopting Digital Health to improve the continuum of care. With strong advocacy from EAPRO, and starting with Myanmar, countries in the region are moving towards identity management and the harmonisation of existing and new sources of information. The regional office is working with country offices to support Ministries of Health (MoH) to develop a uniform way of identifying patients, assign unique identifiers and manage identity across the continuum of care. A reference implementation of a Master Patient Index/Client registry is being developed in Myanmar to demonstrate the benefits of a core component of Health Information Exchange to improve the safety and quality of care. This is the initial phase of the National Health Management Information System strategy to support interoperability and unique identification of clients throughout the Health System, using HIV as the starting point.

2.1.2 HIV and AIDS

HIV and AIDS awareness among adolescents. Two countries (China and Indonesia) have improved capacities to target adolescents at risk of HIV. An Inter-Agency Task Team on Young Key Population launched the Asia-Pacific Adolescents and HIV report in 2015 raised attention on adolescents and HIV issues to unprecedented levels. In 2017, EAPRO provided technical assistance to improve data analysis on adolescents at-risk of HIV (15-19 years) in China where, as a result, UNICEF China launched a respondent-driven sampling survey on adolescent men who have Sex with men (15-19) to fill knowledge gaps and guide programming. The regional office also supported UNICEF Indonesia and the Ministry of Health to conduct facility-level data analysis workshops in six provinces, which contributed to identifying critical gaps and challenges in HIV testing services for adolescents under 18.
2.1.3 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Enhancing national capacities for coordination. Countries in the region are better able to develop and implement integrated WASH strategies and plans. EAPRO advocated to countries in the region to participate and contribute to the High-Level Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Forum. Eight countries attended the forum in 2017, with Vietnam currently SWA Steering Committee Member. In these eight countries, UNICEF either leads or co-leads national level high level committees or development partners’ groups to support governments in legislation reform, standards setting, joint sector reviews and in strengthening knowledge management and monitoring systems. The regional office provided technical guidance in the development of strategies, joint action plans and monitoring systems.

Advancing WASH-Nutrition collaboration to address chronic malnutrition. Four countries (Cambodia, DPR Korea, PNG and the Philippines) are better able to achieve synergies across WASH and nutrition interventions. EAPRO continued to advocate for synergy between nutrition and WASH sectors in country offices to address the critical challenges faced by children due to poor sanitation, hygiene, care and feeding practices. The Joint WASH-Nutrition Toolkit, rolled out in Cambodia, DPR Korea, PNG and the Philippines, was reviewed in the Joint Regional Nutrition-WASH Network Meeting. The “Maturity Matrix”, a visualisation tool that mapped each country’s status across the spectrum – from “no collaboration” to “converged” to “joint/integrated” to “synergistic” programming – revealed progress in stronger collaborative programming actions at the country level.

Promoting action on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM). Countries in the region are more knowledgeable about the challenges girls face and concrete steps to address them. In the framework of the Gender Action Plan, EAPRO conducted a Regional Assessment on MHM, which provided insights on challenges girls continue to face in schools. MHM was one of the thematic areas discussed in the international WASH in Schools Learning Exchange, during which EAPRO shared the findings of this assessment. MHM emerged as a new priority and countries agreed to include it in their action plans. Furthermore, staff and government partners participated in sessions on this issue to enhance their knowledge and reflect on steps to use the evidence in programming. The assessment findings have also been shared globally.

Integration of a sanitation approach in national policies and strategies. Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) was accepted as sanitation approach and integrated in the national policies and strategies across 12 countries. The regional study of the effectiveness of CLTS conducted by EAPRO was used in advocacy with the governments. EAPRO provided technical support to country offices in their advocacy efforts around CLTS. This adoption of the approach in policies and strategies has the potential to change social norms around sanitation and create new norms of abandoning open defecation.

Tracking and reporting on SDG 6. All countries have established baselines to monitor and report on SDG 6 (Availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all). A data drive led by EAPRO through regional and country level consultations, workshops and networks has resulted in a set of research and studies that not only helped to guide programming in country offices but also contributed to regional and global learning. The scoping study ‘Preparing for SDG reporting of WASH in schools and WASH in Health Care Facilities in East Asia and the Pacific’, as well as Regional Snapshots on WASH in East Asia and the Pacific, helped countries to mainstream SDG indicators into their existing information management systems and served as an advocacy tool to influence national policies, plans and financing for the unserved and the least-served population.
Fostering partnerships for learning. Governments have increased capacities for quality at-scale WASH programming and monitoring. EAPRO promoted new strategic partnerships, networking and experience exchanges in 2017. The UNICEF-ASEAN symposium on ‘Leaving No One Behind’ and UNICEF-WHO joint workshop on SDG baselines led to a UNICEF-Singapore partnership on ‘Leaving No One Behind: Sustainable WASH Services in Rapidly Changing Context’ training programme. The Regional Joint Nutrition-WASH Network Meeting in Bangkok and the Sixth WASH in Schools International Learning Exchange in Myanmar were also opportunities to strengthen capacities in the region

2.1.4 Nutrition

Improving management of malnutrition. UNICEF DPR Korea has evidence to improve management of acute malnutrition. Historically, data gathering has been challenging in DPR Korea. EAPRO worked closely with UNICEF DPR Korea on the evaluation of the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition programme, which obtained unprecedented access to data. Thus, the next phase of the programme can be more accurately informed than ever before. However, in what is considered as a major setback, China has repealed its mandatory iodisation legislation. As a result, and despite strong advocacy and technical support from the regional office, the high regional average of Universal Salt Iodisation (USI) coverage is now under threat. EAPRO is now strategizing with UNICEF China as to how to respond, while also monitoring other countries in the region to ensure that commitments remain in place. The regional office continued to provide technical and advocacy support to nine additional country offices for USI alongside the Iodine Global Network.

Making babies safer by regulating breastmilk substitutes. Four countries in the region (Lao PDR, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Thailand) are better able to prevent and monitor the use of breastmilk substitutes. For early childhood nutrition, a highlight was the signing into law of the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes in Thailand, after many years of advocacy with support of EAPRO. The Government of Thailand has now developed a system for monitoring and enforcement of the new code. EAPRO supported the orientation of key stakeholders with the International Code Documentation Centre (ICDC), an office set up with the express purpose of protecting breastfeeding by monitoring implementation of the code. The regional office supported UNICEF PNG and UNICEF Philippines to garner technical assistance from ICDC on code updating and monitoring respectively, while Lao PDR received support from UNICEF HQ for its updating process.

Securing regional support to end malnutrition. ASEAN member states made a declaration on ending all forms of malnutrition. In the 50th anniversary year of ASEAN, EAPRO has engaged the regional body on a number of child rights issues, including malnutrition. In a major coup, ASEAN Member States made a declaration on ending all forms of malnutrition, with leaders endorsing the declaration in November 2017. Working closely with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation under a new grant focusing on early childhood and maternal nutrition, the regional office will engage with ASEAN member states to operationalise this pledge, including setting out financial obligations.

2.1.5 Education

Applying global frameworks to help out-of-school children. Eleven country offices are more knowledgeable of the bottlenecks and barriers that prevent children from attending or returning to school and how to address them. EAPRO supported Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, PNG, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam country
offices to identify and analyse the barriers and bottlenecks around out-of-school children based on the global Out-of-School Children Initiative (OOSCI) conceptual and methodological framework and targeted interventions. The OOSCI roll-out has been boosted by high-level political buy-in, particularly the UNICEF-supported ASEAN Declaration on Out-of-School Children and Youth.

**Enhancing equitable, inclusive education.** *Education sectors in five countries are better able to prevent gender-based violence in schools.* The UN Girls’ Education Initiative (UNGEI), hosted by EAPRO, led the development of a curriculum tool called ‘*Connect with Respect - Preventing Gender-Based Violence in Schools*’, which five countries have adapted to assist lower secondary teachers to promote respectful relationships and gender equality. Other initiatives have been undertaken to address gender mainstreaming, inclusive education and children with disabilities, and migrant, undocumented and indigenous populations in Cambodia, PNG and Thailand.

**Integrating education in emergencies into national response mechanisms.** *18 governments in the region have improved capacities to safeguard the right to education in humanitarian context.* EAPRO supported Myanmar, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea and Pacific Island countries to convene education in emergencies clusters to respond to various emergencies. Furthermore, EAPRO assisted 15 Pacific Island countries to integrate conflict analysis and DRR through the Comprehensive School Safety framework and child-centred assessments. UNICEF, UNESCO and SEAMEO INNOTECH collaborated to strengthen the conflict/DRR micro-planning module for a training package aimed at seven high-risk Pacific Island Countries.

**Using neuroscience to expand ECD.** *Four countries (Cambodia, Pacific, Thailand, Viet Nam) have and are using new evidence to strengthen ECD policies and advocacy.* The four countries are disseminating and utilising a number of new sources in their subnational capacity strengthening efforts and in national policy dialogues, including: (a) evidence from the Lancet; (b) new evidence on economic returns; (c) evidence on neuroscience; and (d) regional work on holistic ECD, Social Protection, Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Analyses and papers on Cognitive Capital. This resulted from EAPRO’s contributions in bringing high level academic knowledge as well as advocacy through presentations and knowledge sharing in national and regional fora as well as high-level events aimed at bringing policymakers and experts together. In addition, the regional office provided ongoing support to UNICEF Cambodia, PNG, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam to scale-up efforts to advance holistic ECD. Efforts led to a commitment from the Government of China for holistic ECD programming.

### 2.1.6 Child Protection

**Making legal frameworks more child-friendly.** *Eleven countries (Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam) have strengthened legal frameworks to protect children.* EAPRO provided technical support on legislative reform – including reviewing draft laws, advocacy for passage of laws or halting retrogressive proposals – and on justice for children – including strengthening capacity of law enforcers, judges, lawyers, corrections and social workers. Aside from delays in the passage of critical laws due to political changes in some countries, EAPRO supported country offices in advocating against a number of retrogressive bills, including the death penalty (Mongolia and the Philippines), chemical castration as a penalty for child sexual abuse.
(Indonesia, Mongolia and Malaysia), lowering the age of minimum age of criminal responsibility (the Philippines).

**Reporting on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).** *The Government of DPR Korea met its CRC reporting obligations.* This year, EAPRO supported the Government of DPR Korea to report, helping to organise consultations in order to ensure that the facts reported were as accurate as possible. As part of this engagement, UNICEF also trained 30 members of civil society organisations on alternative reporting to the Committee, including on ways to submit evidence and express views on the CRC implementation status in the country, independently of the Government. In addition, EAPRO served as resource focal point for training on CRC implementation and reporting for ASEAN Member States, as well as on implementation of Optional Protocol 3 in Thailand, and on strengthening legal aid in ASEAN.

**Protecting children from online abuse.** *Five countries (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam) have strengthened capacities to prevent child-online abuse.* As a partner in the *WeProtect* Global Alliance – an international movement dedicated to national and global action to end the sexual exploitation of children online – UNICEF manages the *WeProtect* Fund. EAPRO provided technical support to the five countries committed to this initiative. This support has focused on prevention of sexual exploitation of children online, through guidance on national educational materials for parents, children and educators. The regional office also provided assistance to country offices in their engagement with the private ICT sector and governments to ensure an effective balance between government regulation of industry and well-informed industry good practices and corporate social responsibility initiatives. EAPRO provided advice on promoting and implementing multi-sectoral national action plans to prevent and respond to the sexual exploitation of children online.

**Strengthening systems for violence prevention and treatment.** *11 countries have more information on the status and quality of their child protection systems.* To build a foundation for implementation of UNICEF’s global social service workforce strengthening strategy, EAPRO undertook a rapid assessment of social work in the region, identifying key gaps for systems strengthening. In collaboration with UNICEF Philippines, a survey of positive parenting programmes in the region was completed and presented at a virtual round table involving 11 country offices and external experts. Three countries have now completed Violence against Children surveys (Cambodia, Lao PDR, and the Philippines), and planning is underway in China and Indonesia. EAPRO supported a comparative review of survey results amongst the three countries having completed the survey, in collaboration with UNICEF Philippines.

### 2.1.7 Social Inclusion

**Building research capacity to improve evidence-based programming.** *All 14 UNICEF country offices have improved skills to undertake and manage research.* EAPRO organised the East Asia and Pacific Regional Research Training Workshop in Bangkok in August 2017 in collaboration with UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti, a capacity building effort which is part of EAPRO's research strategy. Participants responded positively and follow-up research training has been proposed in several countries in 2018.

**Promoting better understanding of social protection.** *EAPRO and country offices are more knowledgeable about the role of social protection in safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable children.* EAPRO organised learning sessions as channels for knowledge sharing between the regional office and country offices. Subjects included: EAPRO's Approach to
Resilience-Oriented Cash Transfer; Fundamentals of Social Protection; Resilience Oriented Social Protection case studies from UNICEF Myanmar and the Philippines; and UNICEF Nepal’s emergency cash response. EAPRO also provided technical support for developing a guidance note on Resilience-Oriented Social Protection to UNICEF Thailand. Internally, EAPRO has invested time to share knowledge on Public Finance for Children and the importance of UNICEF’s contributions to the national policy planning and budgeting efforts.

2.2 Cross-Sectoral Programme Areas

2.2.1 Gender

Gendering WASH. Country offices are better able to advocate for and support gender specific interventions in the WASH sector. EAPRO continued the focus on the integration of gender into WASH sector work. This included providing ‘Gender in WASH’ trainings in both humanitarian and development contexts; presenting and disseminating best practices on gender in WASH programming and MHM approaches in the region; designing materials to illustrate and galvanise multi-sectoral support for ensuring women and girls manage their periods in safety and dignity; and supporting country offices to develop MHM and puberty education materials and programme proposals on Water for Women.

In 2017, ‘Innovation for MHM’ gained momentum, with EAPRO and the Global Innovation Centre taking the lead together to develop localised mobile phone solutions for adolescent girls to track their menstruation and to access sexual and reproductive health information and support. The range of innovative MHM approaches, from the region and beyond, was presented at the WASH in Schools International Learning Exchange in Myanmar.

2.2.2 Children with Disabilities

Making children with disabilities more visible. Access to information, knowledge and data on the situation of children with disabilities has increased significantly. To address inequalities in the region, EAPRO prioritised actions that focused on reducing the barriers to inclusion of certain groups of the population, particularly girls and children with disabilities. Strong technical support from the regional office resulted in the collection of disability data and generation of evidence to enable governments to formulate disability inclusive policies and programmes in seven countries. Furthermore, EAPRO collaborated with the Washington Group to integrate disability measurement tools in surveys, resulting in the implementation and planning of disability inclusive surveys and censuses in the Lao PDR, DPR Korea, and three Pacific Island Countries. EAPRO and UNICEF Thailand are negotiating with the General Statistics Office of Thailand on the inclusion of the child functioning module in the upcoming National Disability Survey. Moreover, EAPRO supported the field testing of another new survey module developed by UNICEF HQ and the Washington Group on inclusive education in Cambodia.

Twelve countries have now integrated disability programming. EAPRO provided overall guidance and technical support to shape the key recommendations and priorities for integration in their country programmes with emphasis on disability inclusive education as an entry point. However, barriers to inclusion that UNICEF in the region must prioritise going forward include the lack of comprehensive inclusive education policies and the limited capacity of teachers.
2.2.3 Adolescent development and participation

**Engaging adolescent voices on digital health and sexuality education.** Youth networks in three countries (Indonesia, Mongolia and Thailand) are piloting Human-Centred Design approaches. Closely related to the drivers of teenage pregnancy and child marriage is the need for comprehensive sexuality education, inclusive of education on gender equality, human rights and power relations. To explore ‘The Opportunities for Digital Sexuality Education in East Asia Pacific’, EAPRO conducted a regional review in 2017. Based on the recommendations of this review, the regional office is supporting the piloting of Human-Centred Design (HCD) processes to engage with adolescent girls and boys on their interests and needs for digital health and sexuality education. The pilot initiatives are being implemented by UNICEF Indonesia, Mongolia, and Thailand in collaboration with the regional office, HCD providers, youth networks, civil society and inter-agency partners. EAPRO supported country offices to access gender thematic funding for these endeavours.

**Reducing the risk of HIV infections with technology.** Policy makers and health care staff in three countries (China, Indonesia, and the Philippines) used innovations to reach adolescents. To reach adolescents at risk of contracting HIV, EAPRO has been working with partners to identify service delivery (PrEP, HIV self-testing and community-based HIV-testing) approaches that will engage young people. To that end, the regional office worked with the Burnet Institute the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine to conduct capacity development workshops for HIV policy makers and health service staff from China, Indonesia and the Philippines to look at key strategies on innovative technologies. EAPRO also supported the regional Young Key Populations Network, ‘Youth LEAD’ to launch the TeenGen Leadership curriculum for adolescents at-risk.

2.2.4 Humanitarian response emergency preparedness and DRR

**Safeguarding the rights of children in humanitarian settings.** Four countries (DPR Korea, Myanmar, the Philippines and Viet Nam) effectively responded to the needs of children affected by natural and manmade disasters with regional office support. EAPRO supported 14 country offices in the region to work closely with stakeholders at the national and regional level to provide basic rights of vulnerable children and families in humanitarian situations. This included technical support and resource mobilisation, which facilitated the delivery of essential services in health, WASH, nutrition, child protection and education services in Myanmar (Rakhine conflict), the Philippines (Mindanao conflict), DPR Korea (Drought) and Viet Nam (Typhoon Damry). EAPRO also facilitated nutrition in emergency trainings in Viet Nam and provided technical input and guidance in the development of the national Nutrition Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan. Furthermore, UNICEF mobilised US$ 7.2 million through CERF and US$ 16 million through the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal, US$ 3.4 million of which was raised by EAPRO. The regional office also provided quality assurance, planning and reporting of the HAC and cross-regional support to the L3 emergency in Bangladesh through the surge deployment.

2.2.5 Preparedness and DRR

**Strengthening preparedness and response capacity.** All country offices have strengthened capacities to design risk-informed plans and to support disaster preparedness and response. EAPRO supported country offices in emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction, ensuring strengthened preparedness in line with the new UNICEF Preparedness Guidance and Guidance on Risk Informed Programming. EAPRO increased
the capacity of country offices in emergency preparedness and response and DRR through regional and in-country trainings. This included assistance for preparing and updating emergency preparedness plans to address sector-specific concerns, particularly for child protection, nutrition, education and WASH. For example, hygiene issues arose in the IDP camps in Kachin, Myanmar and the regional office provided technical support for a hygiene promotion strategy workshop.

The regional humanitarian action workshop in provided key updates on humanitarian developments and built the capacity of 25 UNICEF staff from 13 country offices to roll out the new corporate Emergency Preparedness Guidance. The workshop on the Regional Rapid Response Roster Mechanism in September strengthened the capacity of 25 staff members from across the region on processes, tools and coordination mechanisms in humanitarian responses, including assessing the feasibility and design of cash-based programmes in emergencies as a response intervention.

To build the capacity of country offices, EAPRO conducted in-country trainings and emergency simulations and provided technical expertise on preparedness planning, DRR, and resilience building in China, DPR Korea, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Mongolia, the Pacific, Papua New Guinea, and Viet Nam. EAPRO provided technical support to develop the Emergency Preparedness Plan for Mongolia, Myanmar, Pacific, and Papua New Guinea. A joint social policy-emergency initiative strengthened country capacity to implement shock-responsive social protection programmes in Cambodia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

2.2.6 Evaluations

Increasing number and quality of evaluations. 11 countries have Costed Evaluation Plans (CEPs). Following the 2014 board decision to include CEPs as part of new Country Programme Documents (CPDs), 11 out of the 14 country offices in the region developed CEPs. The number of planned Country Programme Evaluations increased from one to six (to be completed by 2021). Coverage and quality of evaluations have significantly improved with 13 country offices having completed 36 evaluations in the last four years. However, China continues to experience difficulties in completing evaluations due to the restrictive context. Opting for a learning and partnership approach may help overcome this stumbling block. The number of completed evaluations fell in 2017, compared to 2016. Between 2014 and 2017, the average annual budget use for evaluation in the region increased from 0.2 per cent to 1.2 per cent.

Consolidating a regional approach to evaluations. A regional evaluation strategy approved. In 2017, UNICEF validated the Regional Evaluation Strategy 2018-2021 and Action Plan at the Joint South Asia and East Asia and the Pacific evaluation network meeting in March and approved at the RMT in April. The Strategy and Action Plan supported country office as well as EAPRO senior management to implement UNICEF’s Evaluation Policy and to improve independence, quality and use of evaluations. Larger country offices committed to complete at least five evaluations in a country programme cycle, while smaller ones committed to three. EAPRO committed to completing at least two evaluations during the next ROMP cycle. EAPRO regularly monitored the performance of country offices in the region against the Evaluation Policy and Regional Evaluation Strategy priorities. Learning-oriented evaluations supported strategic positioning even in difficult context. The 2016 WASH evaluation proved that learning oriented evaluations are feasible and possible in the contexts such as DPR Korea
where quantitative data is limited. This fostered strong ownership and reinforced country office and government willingness to engage in regularly doing evaluations.

2.2.7 Planning and Monitoring.

Ensuring strong results-based country programming. Three country programmes (Myanmar, Papua New Guinea and Pacific) are results-based and were successfully and adopted by the Executive Board. EAPRO provided technical support, particularly on results-based management (RBM). UNICEF’s approach to RBM and its Master Trainers were deployed across the region to build this capacity at country level, with five training conducted in Cambodia, China, Myanmar, the Philippines and Timor-Leste.

Strengthening data collection. Two countries (DPR Korea and Lao PDR) have updated data on key childhood indicators for planning and SDG reporting. With strong support from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) team in UNICEF HQ, EAPRO supported the National Statistics Offices of DPR Korea and Lao PDR to undertake MICS in what is now the sixth round of MICS. Governments from both countries signed Memorandum of Understanding with UNICEF, committing themselves to ensuring the quality of the surveys and the sharing of the data. Technical teams from both countries attended global and regional trainings and received in-country technical support to undertake sampling, survey design, data collection and processing. In the case of Lao PDR, the data will form the bases for their VNR reporting on the SDGs in mid-2018. Reports of the surveys will be launched by mid-2018. Being the sixth round, countries implemented the Child Functioning Module to collect data on children with disabilities and the new Water Quality Testing module. Other countries, including Mongolia, the Pacific Island Countries, Thailand, and Viet Nam received support to plan MICS and DHS surveys in 2018 and 2019.

Data for children strategies. Five countries (Myanmar, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Viet Nam) have formulated data for children strategies. These four countries received support from EAPRO and the Data and Analytics Team in HQ to develop strategies, based on collaboration with the Gates Foundation. The countries were supported to map the sources of data available for their country programme indicators, assess the quality of the data collection systems available to produce data, identify pathways to ensure availability of quality data, including strategies to enhance timeliness of survey data, use of innovations and the strengthening of national data systems. The strategies will be available in 2018, after which the countries will be supported with their implementation.

2.2.8 Communications

In 2017, EAPRO conducted advanced advocacy training of staff from all offices and provided training on content development and audience-focused story creation for programme and communications staff in six country offices. UNICEF’s global campaign priorities were introduced in all country offices with regional communications support, resulting in high levels of public engagement on World Children’s Day and for the End Violence campaign. Plans are also now in place for national roll outs of global campaigns in 2018.

EAPRO has started to employ the new tools and processes arising from UNICEF’s global digital transformation project. These new, more flexible tools aim to make digital outreach stronger in national languages over the next two years. Plans are in place to use our regional experience to support country offices to roll out this major change to their communications processes.
Part 3: Analysis of programme strategies and results: Global and Regional Programme

3.1 Influencing Global/Regional Discourse and Policy

Enhanced trust-based partnerships for immunization. EAPRO organised a bi-regional meeting and mobilised all regional key partners on immunization, including UNICEF ROSA, WPRO, SEARO, 11 country offices of WHO and UNICEF, Gavi, CDC, the World Bank, and Gates Foundation. The team jointly developed country specific support plans, and agreed to follow up at country level. Following the meeting, Cambodia, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, PNG, Solomon, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam strengthened their fiscal and operational capacity for immunization, strengthening immunization supply chain systems; improving coverage and equity; and promoting demand.

Regional multi-partner cooperation for child-centred Universal Health Coverage (UHC) established. EAPRO has engaged with ASEAN, ADB, regional public health communities and a global health conference to advocate to policy makers on the importance of achieving child-centred UHC with less out-of-pocket payment. The established JICA-Thailand-EAPRO tripartite partnership for child-centred UHC as well as the Regional H6 Partnership Working Group and WHO SEARO technical advisors’ meeting for women’s and children’s health have been leveraged to advance the agenda.

Improved urban programming for children. EAPRO joined an HQ core team to articulate why UNICEF’s current and future work for children in urban settings is an essential component or the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan and beyond within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Development. As part of this, the regional office fed into a Plan of Action to implement UNICEF’s Strategic Note on Work in Urban Settings. The Plan outlines key enablers required to support country and regional offices in implementing and enhancing urban programming; clear actions to deliver each of the five pillars included in the Strategic Note; a timeline for implementing each action; responsibilities for each action; and challenges and risks in implementation. As a follow-up to the contributions made on the urban core team, EAPRO is now part of the urban practice group, a network of urban focal points within UNICEF globally to exchange knowledge, share work in progress or planned, identify challenges and opportunities, and advise on capacities and resources required to take the Urban Strategic Note forward. The first webinar of the global urban practice group was held in October. The work and recommendations of the group will directly inform the Urban Director’s Group, which consists of Regional Directors and HQ Directors who oversee the rollout of UNICEF’s urban agenda across the organisation.

3.2 Evidence Generation

Strategic partnerships for data and evidence. A ‘Review of National Evaluation Systems and Capacities for Evaluating Progress Towards the SDGs’ was launched jointly with UNDP. The methodology developed was peer reviewed by the ADB and UNWOMEN and the initiative was subsequently endorsed by the UN Development Group (UNDG). Country case studies were conducted in Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Participating national governments welcomed the initiative and presented lessons learned in several global meetings, including the National Evaluation Capacity Conference in Istanbul and the Asian Evaluation Week in Hangzhou hosted by the Chinese Ministry of Finance and ADB as well a
joint regional UNICEF-UNDP workshop in the Philippines. As a result, the Thailand’s National Legislative Assembly asked UNICEF’s support to develop a National Evaluation Policy. Case studies from 2017 will be finalised in 2018 together with a regional synthesis and new ones will be initiated with the Government of Mongolia and the Philippines.

**Strengthened interagency partnerships on data for girls.** In support of data for children, EAPRO launched a gender data initiative in 2017. The initiative is conceptualised as a multi-agency collaboration, led by UNICEF, partnering with UNFPA, UN WOMEN, WFP, UNDP, ILO, FAO, ESCAP, and UNESCO, under the Asia Pacific Regional Thematic Working Group for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women Gender and Statistics. The envisaged ‘Regional Review of Gender Data and Situation Analysis for Girls in Asia and the Pacific’ is a first of its kind, evidence-based analysis of gender issues for girls and boys in the region, based on quantitative analysis, and drawing attention to data gaps and limitations in understanding their situation. The aim of the initiative is to provide evidence to strengthen programming and policies that impact girls and progress gender equality.

**Positioning evaluation within the UN.** As United Nations Evaluation Development Group (UNEDAP) co-chair, EAPRO jointly developed work plan and monitored progress together with ten UN agencies’ evaluation focal points. EAPRO scoped and quality assured the Cambodia and the Philippines United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) evaluations and presented lessons learned at the UNDAF Workshop for Countries formulating UNDAFs in Asia-Pacific Annual Meeting. The 8th UNEDAP training ‘Evaluation in the UN context’ was postponed to February 2018 due to conflicting agencies agendas.

For a list of 2017 EAPRO publications, see the Data, Research and Evaluation database

### 3.3 South-South Cooperation

EAPRO, together with UNESCO Bangkok and Malaysia Ministry of Education, co-organised the Asia-Pacific regional technical workshop on effective planning of education sector for achieving SDG4 – Education 2030. The workshop enhanced the capacity of education planners from 17 selected countries to integrate the SDG 4 targets and equity-focused indicators into national education sector planning processes. The activity also allowed participants to learn from Malaysia’s experiences in the development, implementation and monitoring of the Education Blueprint (2013-2025) while facilitating further cross-national exchanges/sharing and collaboration.

EAPRO also initiated a learning exchange on Thailand’s Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission validation experiences (as the first country in the region to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Syphilis) with the Thai government, WHO and UNAIDS in China and Myanmar. This contributed to strengthened capacities and increased high-level government commitment in both countries. In addition, UNICEF HQ and EAPRO guided the design and launch of the National Health and Family Planning Commission of the People’s Republic of China demonstration project in three sites identified for triple elimination.

### 3.4 Regional Partnerships

**Consolidating the ASEAN partnership.** EAPRO partnered with the Royal Government of Thailand, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and the ASEAN Secretariat in convening a symposium on the SDGs and the impact of ASEAN integration on child rights. A total of 170 senior officials from ten ASEAN Member States shared good practices and lessons learned on data and evidence, public finance and implementation
strategies, and committed to: (1) strengthening inter-sectoral monitoring and evaluation systems that guarantee reliable, timely collection, analysis and use of disaggregated data on child related indicators at national and subnational levels that promote evidence-based decision making and that provide the basis for regular monitoring, review and reporting on progress towards ‘Leaving No One Behind’; (2) ensuring adequacy and efficiency of public expenditure for the realisation of the rights and well-being of children, especially the most vulnerable; (3) investing in scaling-up proven, equity-focused, gender responsive strategies and good practices that reach those farthest behind with essential, quality services in social protection, health, education, nutrition, water and sanitation, protection from violence and abuse, including in emergencies and humanitarian situations, to ensure that a child’s early moments matter, that adolescents’ potential is unleashed and that all children grow up in safe and sustainable environments; and (4) integrating the recommendations of the study on potential impact of ASEAN integration on child rights in regional and national policies, plans and programmes.

3.5 Knowledge Management and Exchange

EAPRO engaged in several knowledge management and exchange initiatives that plugged important knowledge gaps and advanced key learning objectives, such as the following:

- The regional office finalised the study ‘Emergency Preparedness and Response in the changing context: An experience from Cambodia, Philippines and Indonesia’. The study provided recommendations to country offices and the regional office to develop fit-for-purpose humanitarian action plans.
- EAPRO organised five webinars on humanitarian action to promote knowledge sharing and used as key opportunities for capacity development.
- With support from EAPRO, country offices captured 15 good practices and lessons learned as Practice Notes which were shared and peer reviewed during the Humanitarian Action Workshop. This process resulted in recommendations for future action and identification of best practices that could be scaled up.
- EAPRO conducted scoping studies on Preparing for SDG reporting of WASH in schools and WASH in Health Care Facilities in East Asia and the Pacific and Regional Snapshots on WASH.
- The WASH SharePoint was launched, which allowed for regular sharing of WASH achievements in the region.

3.6 Normative Principles

3.6.1 Human Rights-based Approach to Programming.

Three UN Country Teams (UNCTs) have rights-based UNDAFs. During 2017 UNICEF continued to collaborate with the UNGD to ensure Human Rights expertise in the region. The agencies collaborated to cover the cost of a P5 Human Rights specialist. This collaboration has been instrumental in ensuring that, in the shrinking rights space in East Asia, Human Rights remains at the core of the UNDAFs and CPDs in the region. This was particularly important in the development of the Cambodia, Myanmar, and the Philippines UNDAFs. As chair of the Peer Support Group and Convener of the Myanmar UNDAF, UNICEF played a critical role in ensuring that the agencies quality assured the various milestone documents for their human rights content and their adherence to rights-based approaches. Furthermore, UNICEF regional office collaborated to strengthen RBM capacity in the three UNCTs.
UNICEF’s approach to RBM and its Master Trainers were deployed across the region to build this capacity at country level.

3.6.2 Gender Equality

UNICEF’s Gender Action Plan (GAP) specifies how UNICEF promotes gender equality across all its work around the world. EAPRO supported country offices in the region to implement the GAP, monitoring the integration of gender into all programmes, targeting policy advocacy to end child marriage. With the Plan entering its final year of implementation in 2017, EAPRO conducted a participatory regional review of GAP implementation, consolidated inputs for the next phase, and supported the development of GAP 2018-2021 approaches in alignment with the new Strategic Plan goal areas and results framework.

EAPRO provided targeted support to country offices with technical expertise, knowledge products, gender analysis and capacity building. Early in the year, all country offices were provided with detailed ‘Gender Dashboards’, a tool which provides an overview of the country office’s annual progress on GAP implementation and guidance for strengthening gender results at scale for children and women. Based on these, Cambodia, Mongolia, and Myanmar pursued in-depth gender programmatic analysis in key sectors to strengthen gender integration and results in their country programme. In addition, EAPRO initiated a project in 2017 to help with articulating gender in sector-specific results and indicators that integrate with existing country office results frameworks, by developing an illustrative list of examples, and user-friendly guidance to support sector specialists to make gender results more explicit within their sector programming and to better report on gender achievements.

With regards to the GAP Targeted Priorities, EAPRO, in collaboration UNFPA, supported country offices’ work on ending child marriage, providing technical reviews and inputs on the drafts of National and Sub-National Action Plans to End Child Marriage for Cambodia and Indonesia; on child marriage research and analysis in Malaysia and Viet Nam; in-country support was provided to country offices and partners on girl-centred programming for adolescents at risk of child marriage and teenage pregnancy in Indonesia; and on guiding and supporting the National Conference to End Child Marriage in Hanoi, Viet Nam. EAPRO led the development of the programme strategy brief on teenage pregnancy and child marriage and commissioned a study on Teenage Pregnancy, Child Marriage and Early Union in South East Asia and East Asia, in the lead up to the joint regional forum with UNFPA in early 2018.

To deliver enhanced results for the prevention of and response to violence against women (VAW) and violence against children (VAC), EAPRO partnered with UNFPA and UN WOMEN to undertake a study on VAW-VAC intersections in 2017. The aim of the initiative is to identify opportunities and challenges across existing policies and programmes that straddle both fields, to promote dialogue between VAW and VAC practitioners and policy-makers and to review evidence on what works to achieve mutually reinforcing results across the fields of VAW and VAC and scope opportunities for greater collaboration on ending both forms of violence. The study includes in-country deep dives in Cambodia, PNG, the Philippines, and Viet Nam in early 2018.

3.6.3 Environmental Sustainability

EAPRO continued to address the issues of environmental sustainability through both programmes and operations in 2017. A regional advisor post was established in late 2017 to lead and advocate UNICEF’s work on environmental sustainability – and increase UNICEF
EAPRO’s integration of environmental sustainability and climate change in its plans and in the health, education and nutrition sectors.

With regard to addressing environmental sustainability and climate change in the sectoral programmes, climate resilience is now at the centre of the WASH strategic framework, with emphasis on advancing child-centred risk assessment (CCRA) and risk-informed programming. For example, in Cambodia EAPRO provided guidance and technical support on the draft CCRA, which led to development of guidelines for mainstreaming DRR/CCRA within WASH sector. Similarly, EAPRO guided the Pacific to revise the Pacific WASH Resilience programme using CCRA.

The new global WASH strategy includes of climate resilient WASH as one of the core programming principles. Several recent guidance documents on WASH and Climate Resilience, including the WASH module in the new UNICEF Risk-Informed Programming Guidance package, developed by UNICEF HQ, were used in regional/country level consultation. For example, Climate Resilient WASH module was integrated in the training package on ‘Leaving No One Behind: Sustainable WASH Services in Rapidly Changing Context’ in Singapore and discussed in the Joint Regional Nutrition-WASH Network Meeting. EAPRO continues to conduct advocacy with country offices to promote solar-powered pumping water systems, with Cambodia and Myanmar leading on this initiative. In the health sector, EAPRO is working with country offices to support the governments in Myanmar, PNG, Solomon Islands and Viet Nam with solar-powered refrigerators for cold-chain operation and maintenance as well as to improve injectable waste management at health facilities. Similarly, EAPRO provided technical guidance for UNICEF’s school construction programme in Myanmar promoted environment-friendly design which consider flood levels, rainwater harvesting and drainage, and protection of the environment during construction.

To ensure that current and future climate change impacts are more coherently analysed and integrated into Country Programme design, EAPRO reviewed Country Programme documents (the Situation Analysis, Programme Strategy Notes, Theories of Change and CPD drafts) specifically to identify environmental concerns.

EAPRO has rolled out the Risk Informed Programming Guide (which includes environmental and climate change risks) in the region and conducted trainings on Emergency Preparedness Response and Rapid Response Mechanism to ensure compliance to global guidance on risk management. In social policy section, EAPRO is working on resilience-oriented social protection, which provides a strategic opportunity to integrate environment and climate-related risks into the existing social protection policies and programmes to build robust national systems for long-term resilience.
Part 4: Management and Operations

4.1 Key results

Improved governance and systems. All country offices in the region have actively strengthened governance. This includes all offices undertook initiatives to streamline internal transactions processing or applying the ‘working differently initiative’ (a working modality with shared positions which support several country offices from a sub-regional level). After participating in all country office audit exit meetings, EAPRO is well-placed to actively support them on the follow-up of the recommended actions. At the time of reporting, 87 per cent (against a target of >90 per cent) of key performance indicators were reached or surpassed the agreed benchmark in all countries.

Management and human capacity. All country offices strengthened human resources. EAPRO has led a robust process of upskilling that has led to all country offices developing a Strategic Learning Plan. To that end, 100 per cent of offices have now completed training in ethics for their staff. All country offices have instituted a Human Resources in Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan, consistent with the vulnerability to natural disasters of each country. In terms of career development, only 50 per cent of staff participated in the performance discussions and coaching training (lower than the target of 90 per cent). This initiative will be prioritized in 2018.

Strengthened performance management. Country offices have improved transparency of their operations through enhanced knowledge and implementation of UNICEF processes. EAPRO continued to provide close guidance, coordination and oversight for HACT efforts across the region, with a primary focus on quality assurance on financial and programmatic assurance activities. This has resulted in all country offices improving HACT implementation in 2017. In-country support missions were completed in Malaysia, DPR Korea, and Papua New Guinea. The well-established HACT Network contributed to strengthening the leadership capacity of the country office focal points and other staff were sensitized during their respective network meetings. The 2017 Regional HACT and Partnerships Network meeting included joint sessions with the Regional PME Network that emphasised the programmatic side of partnerships and programme assurance accountabilities and included specific discussions around the mechanisms and risk management associated with procurement and construction by partners. In addition, four countries have greater than 80 per cent coherence between risk profiles in Insight and Annual Management Plan’s management priorities. EAPRO conducted 12 learning sessions (at the regional or in-country level) to build knowledge on and compliance with key UNICEF processes.

Transaction management. Capacity to manage transactions more effectively is improving across the region. EAPRO and country offices collaborated with the Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC) to strengthen the transaction management model at both policy and technical levels. EAPRO encouraged country offices to undertake targeted staff development missions to address capacity gaps at both levels. The Regional Chief of Operations and four Operations Managers contributed to framing UNICEF strategy during the GSSC-organised Interagency Business Operations Strategy Visioning Meeting.
4.2 Success factors/constraints

**Oversight and performance monitoring.** A coordinated approach to monitoring was enhanced. EAPRO continued to produce Quarterly Regional Management Indicator Reports aligned to organisational benchmarks which were shared for comparison and feedback. Analysis of indicators highlighted capacity gaps and enabled targeted regional support. EAPRO maintained close relations with Office of Internal Audit and Investigations and actively participated in country offices’ internal, thematic and external audits in 2017.

**Performance management culture.** A process to improve performance management culture in the region was initiated. EAPRO organized several performance management workshops across the region (DPR Korea, China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam). Going beyond process, these workshops look at the necessary shifts from an organisational culture focused on performance evaluation to a feedback culture. Senior management involvement was a key part of the change process. These workshops lay the foundation for the beginning of PER review meetings in 2018.

**Improved operational, programme efficiency and effectiveness.** Support for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) was strengthened throughout the region. EAPRO enhanced regional and country office ICT efficiency, through support to corporate ICT projects, system and security updates, replacement of legacy equipment, workspace upgrade to Windows 10, improved WiFi and backend systems upgrades.

**Improved HR through knowledge sharing.** Supporting the regional HR strategy, various tools, such as checklists, one-page guides, and pre-developed presentations, were developed and placed in HR Teamsite for easy use for staff and HR. The Teamsite is managed by EAPRO and used as knowledge sharing platform that will continue to develop and facilitate enhanced HR collaboration and exchange of best practices.

**Innovative use of ICT.** Programme monitoring was enhanced using technology. EAPRO has invested in strong engagement with country offices and regional programmes on use of innovative solutions in Technology for Development (T4D) and work with stakeholders to develop standards, procedures and partnerships for T4D projects. EAPRO’s main drive has been to strengthen monitoring and evidence-based programming and to improve T4D capacities at the country level to institutionalise T4D in programming. In addition, EAPRO provided onsite support to country offices in China, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, and Thailand to identify and assess T4D initiatives to improve key results for children.

4.3 Risk Mitigation Practices

Over the last two years, Moore Stephens UK conducted Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) workshops in all country offices designed to improve understanding, implementation and coherence of risk analysis and mitigation measures. EAPRO hosted administration and supply training and networking events designed to build capacity and mitigate identified high risks. It also continued to emphasise the concept of risk informed decision making in all major interactions, resulting in country office staff becoming more risk aware at all levels. UNICEF PNG received special targeted remote and on-site support throughout the year. Furthering the mainstreaming of a risk management approach in the region, EAPRO led an innovative approach to prepare for UNICEF’s role as principle recipient of the next phase of two large Global Fund grants being implemented in a high-risk environment (DPR Korea).
4.4 Office Management Practices, Systems and Structures

**Environmental sustainability.** Prioritisation of environmental responsibility was added to the traditional efficiency and effectiveness initiatives. Based on solid investment cases and ecologically sound “greening” principles, EAPRO has invested and leveraged considerable organisational resources to reduce carbon footprints across the region. It is facilitating UNICEF’s efforts in ‘Greening the Blue’, which is part of the UN’s Carbon Neutral Strategy. Several UNICEF country offices in the region have now retrofitted their office space to comply. The greening plan of EAPRO and Thailand will be implemented in 2018.

**ICT for programme effectiveness.** EAPRO has continued to improve working modalities through strengthening options for remote access to services, enabling remote work and online, low cost communication solutions, including via Microsoft Teams and Planner pilots and knowledge sharing via SharePoint Team Sites.

**HR reforms and capacity.** EAPRO provided technical support to country offices via webinars (on recruitment reforms and technical steps) and 12 country visits to strengthen and shift HR delivery in line with the HR reforms. As part of the Working Differently initiative HR managers were shared across several offices. The initiative was evaluated in 2017, receiving largely positive feedback, with working environments reportedly made more efficient. The two regional HR network meetings held during this pivotal year in HR Reforms were central to assuring that the shift in HR business practices in the region towards a Business Partner approach is understood and embraced by all staff, and that they all have the same understanding of the future direction of HR in the region.

**Career development for national staff.** EAPRO developed a pilot mentoring programme focused on furthering the careers of national staff across the region and launched the first cohort of staff to participate as both mentors and mentees. In the same vein, a staff exchange programme providing international exposure for national colleagues was established, marketed and maintained by EAPRO and utilised by country offices.

**Staff well-being.** This year the EAPRO regional staff counsellor post fell vacant and a replacement identified only at the very end of 2017. Rebuilding this area will be a key priority of 2018.

**Global Staff Survey.** Please note that inputs have been submitted to the Global Staff Survey – Action Plan Status page.

4.5 Supply Management

**Improved skills for contracting for services.** While there has been a declining trend in the overall volume of procurement of goods in the region, there is a steady increase in the volume of services being undertaken. EAPRO has worked closely with UNICEF Supply Division to build capacity in contracting services – especially for rapidly evolving private sector fundraising requirements. EAPRO conducted a contracting of services workshop involving both programme and supply participants, designed to emphasise the importance of early planning and more proactive engagement between supply and programme sections.

**Enhanced understanding of the value of Procurement Services.** Although Procurement Services are not undertaken by all country offices, they remain an area of strategic importance. EAPRO and ROSA facilitated a Procurement Services and Financing Solutions workshop providing staff with a better understanding of their strategic role; highlighting the importance of integration of Procurement Services into UNICEF’s programmes; identifying countries’
health supplies financing challenges; and exploring how access to the capital markets can be facilitated to support broader sustainability goals. The workshop was attended by 26 participants including nine colleagues from the Regional Office Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

**Knowledge exchange.** Discussions were ongoing between EAPRO, country offices and Supply Division teams regarding emergency preparedness actions and the reporting of logistics tracking and monitoring at the country office level. EAPRO engaged colleagues from Supply Division to facilitate sessions at regional workshops on Health in Emergencies and WASH in Emergencies to empower programme staff with knowledge on supply practices.