

Egypt

Executive summary

The year 2015 marked the midpoint of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)-Government of Egypt Country Programme, and the mid-term review was initiated towards the end of year. The recommended shifts in the Country Programme will be finalized in early 2016.

The year 2015 also marked a milestone in the reform of social protection in Egypt, with the introduction and progressive implementation of a new cash grant programme targeting children living in extreme poverty. UNICEF Egypt contributed to the programme with evidence generation and technical advice as well as support to communication, outreach and social workers' training. In 2016, support will be expanded to complement the existing programme's monitoring and evaluation system, focusing on child indicators and impact.

UNICEF Egypt contributed to the ongoing reform of child protection by strengthening child protection systems and promoting social change. The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) made important progress towards developing secondary legislation and practical guidance for the implementation of the child protection committees (CPCs) in line with the Child Law. In partnership with the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) and academic institutions, UNICEF Egypt initiated the implementation of a plan to develop a specialized child protection workforce, including an accreditation system and revised policies on the roles, status and function of social workers. Following the recommendation of a 2014 study on violence against children, NCCM and UNICEF Egypt produced two public service announcements for a national initiative to end violence against children aimed at generating dialogue on this issue and suggesting solutions under a positive parenting narrative. In addition, the National Population Council launched the National Female Genital Mutilation Abandonment Strategy.

Response to refugee children and their families remained a strong priority, with UNICEF Egypt providing assistance in the health, education and child protection sectors. As co-chair of the Child Protection Working Group, UNICEF Egypt was instrumental in ensuring an interagency case management system was in place, using common standard operating procedures.

Positive developments were also observed in the HIV/AIDS programme. Key issues related to mothers and children were included in the new HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan, including care and support for HIV-positive mothers and their infants, as well as children and adolescents living with HIV, and measures to address the vulnerability of street children to HIV/AIDS. UNICEF Egypt engaged in the process of reforming the Country Coordination Mechanism and contributed to the concept note submitted by Egypt to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for funding.

UNICEF Egypt supported the availability of new data on the situation of children in Egypt through the release of the 2014 Egypt Demographic and Health Survey (EDHS), the 2014 Survey on Young People in Egypt and the 2015 Health Issues Survey and with the publication of a statistical brief on child monetary poverty by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS).

The partnership with CAPMAS was strengthened through capacity development on measuring and reporting on child poverty indicators, the establishment of a data lab on social statistics and intensive discussion on child indicators. This discussion fed into CAPMAS' contribution to the Global Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators, paving the way for the creation of a child SDGs database/observatory at the CAPMAS office.

The violence against children (VAC) agenda proved to be useful for convening a range of partners, particularly religious authorities. The perspectives on VAC by the Al-Azhar University and the Coptic Church were finalized, as was a joint document outlining the common positions of both. Following the launch of the religious leaders' books, the materials will be used to engage with the issue at the community level.

Engagement with the World Bank intensified in 2015. The World Bank agreed with the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) to provide more Egyptians with access to quality healthcare by building on the MoHP-UNICEF Integrated Perinatal Health and Child Nutrition Programme (IPHN). Since 2008, the MoHP, with UNICEF support, has implemented the IPHN in 269 poor villages, reaching some 320,000 children and 426,000 women. Several of the Monitoring Results for Equity System (MoRES) indicators from the MoHP-UNICEF programme will be used as the basis for the disbursement of instalments of performance-related financing. UNICEF Egypt will support the programme, and the partnership has been formalized in a technical assistance agreement.

Shortfalls in programme implementation have been primarily related to delays in the signing of agreements with some authorities and delays experienced by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in obtaining clearances to accept funding from UNICEF.

Humanitarian assistance

Humanitarian assistance in Egypt was focused on support to Syrian and other refugees as well as vulnerable host populations. At the end of November 2015, 184,705 refugees and asylum seekers of different nationalities were registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Egypt, out of whom 123,585 were Syrians and 61,120 were from Iraq and sub-Saharan African countries. More than 75,000 refugees in Egypt were children (approximately 40 per cent of the overall refugee population), including 54,000 Syrian children and 21,000 children from other countries.

The humanitarian response to Syrian and other refugees in Egypt significantly expanded in 2015 both in terms of the geographical coverage and the services delivered.

After several years away from home, families are struggling to cope, and many are slipping into poverty. According to the latest UNHCR socio-economic assessment, approximately 60 per cent of the refugees assessed were classified as 'severe' vulnerability (i.e. living under the poverty line), and an additional 25 per cent were classified as 'high' vulnerability (i.e. living close to the poverty line). Both categories of vulnerable households risk not being able to meet their basic needs.

Among those that stay in Egypt, negative coping mechanisms such as dropping out of school to work have been observed, reflecting the increased needs. Refugees, including Syrians, are among those that have engaged in irregular migration, while others have been deported or who have left Egypt for another country. The needs have been amplified by the lack of funding

experienced by agencies such as UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP), which have reduced basic livelihood support for refugees.

UNICEF Egypt has also experienced funding shortfalls. Only 47 per cent of funding was received in 2015, although a significant portion of this was for polio vaccines for two full rounds of national immunization days (NIDs), which were carried out by the Government of Egypt. Despite this, in line with the No Lost Generation strategy and the Regional Refugee and Response Plan for Syrian refugees, UNICEF Egypt and partners provided assistance to Syrian refugee children through support to public schools and health centres hosting refugees, community-based child protection services, case management, psychosocial support for children and adolescents, cash assistance and protection of children in detention. UNICEF Egypt also jointly coordinated the education sector and the child protection sub-sector.

In child protection, UNICEF Egypt led the development of case management standard operating procedures endorsed by more than 20 organizations working with refugee families. In partnership with Terre des Hommes and Plan International, UNICEF Egypt reached 16,565 Syrian refugee children and 5,145 Syrian refugee parents out of a total population of 50,000 in Egypt through non-specialized community-based child protection and psychosocial activities in Alexandria, Cairo and New Damietta, where the large majority of refugees were concentrated. UNICEF Egypt also provided 4,503 parents of Syrian refugee children with access to community-based support in the form of parent activities and discussions facilitated by specialists. UNICEF Egypt provided humanitarian legal assistance to more than 700 refugee children in detention for irregular migration.

On the basis of an assessment supported by the UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office (MENARO), UNICEF partnered with UNHCR to support the expansion of the emergency winterization cash grant to support vulnerable refugee families to cope with lower winter temperatures. Approximately 84,000 refugees (Syrians and non-Syrians, including 40 per cent children) received the winter cash grant promoted by UNHCR and UNICEF (UNICEF's contribution allowed for the inclusion of some 24,000 individuals belonging to vulnerable families).

In health, UNICEF Egypt continued to support the government services extended to Syrian refugees. UNICEF Egypt supported the MoHP to strengthen the capacities of the medical teams of 102 Public Health Units, enabling more than 20,000 women and children to receive primary healthcare services. UNICEF Egypt also supported the MoHP to appoint and train 185 Syrian community health workers (CHWs) in six governorates to work directly with Syrian families to raise health awareness and encourage them to use MoHP primary health care (PHC) facilities.

The Syrian refugee population includes more than 40,000 children aged 5-17 years who are permitted to access education in Egyptian public schools. However, Syrian children are facing the same obstacles that Egyptian children are facing in public schools, such as crowded and reduced numbers of classrooms and violence. In 2015, UNICEF Egypt supported more than 13,000 Syrian children to attend 241 public schools and more than 1,200 children to attend community kindergartens.

Summary notes and acronyms

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| AIDS | acquired immune deficiency syndrome |
| ANC | antenatal care |
| ARV | antiretroviral |

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| BCG | Bacillus Calmette-Guerin |
| C4D | Communication for Development |
| CAPMAS | Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics |
| CBE | community-based education |
| CHW | community health workers |
| CMT | Country Management Team |
| CPC | child protection committee |
| CSO | civil society organization |
| DCT | direct cash transfer |
| DTP | diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis |
| EDHS | Egypt Demographic and Health Survey |
| ERM | enterprise risk management |
| FGM | female genital mutilation |
| FGM/C | female genital mutilation/cutting |
| FHU | family health unit |
| HACT | harmonized approach to cash transfers |
| HCWWW | Holding Company for Water and Waste Water |
| HIV | human immunodeficiency virus |
| ICT | information and communication technology |
| IPHN | Integrated Perinatal Health and Child Nutrition |
| KAP | knowledge, attitude and practice |
| LAN | local area network |
| LTA | long-term agreement |
| MB | megabyte |
| MCH | maternal and child health |
| MENA | Middle East and North Africa |
| MENARO | Middle East and North Africa Regional Office |
| MMR | measles, mumps and rubella |
| MoE | Ministry of Education and Technical Education |
| MoHP | Ministry of Health and Population |
| MoRES | Monitoring Results for Equity System |
| MoSS | Ministry of Social Solidarity |
| MoYS | Ministry of Youth and Sports |
| MR | measles-rubella |
| NAP | National AIDS Programme |
| NAQAA | National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation |
| NBP | National Breastfeeding Programme |
| NCHR | National Council for Human Rights |
| NCCM | National Council for Childhood and Motherhood |
| NGO | non-governmental organization |
| NID | national immunization day |
| NO | National Officer (UNICEF) |
| OPV | oral polio vaccine |
| PAS | Performance Appraisal System |
| PCA | programme cooperation agreement |
| PHC | Primary health care |
| PHU | Primary Health care Unit |
| PRC | Procurement Review Committee |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| SOP | standard operating procedure |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |

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| UNDSS | United Nations Department for Safety and Security |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| UNODC | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| VAC | violence against children |
| WASH | water, sanitation and hygiene |
| WFP | World Food Programme |
| WHO | World Health Organization |

Capacity development

Capacity development is a key aspect of the Country Programme. In the area of child survival, UNICEF Egypt supported the capacity development of the health system to improve the quality of services, as well as communication and community-based activities to strengthen demand for services. The impact has been positive. Early antenatal care (ANC) visits (before 13 weeks) improved from 11 per cent in 2013 to 23 per cent in 2015. The average number of ANC visits rose by 20 per cent (from 2.5 in 2013 to 3.09 in 2015). The utilization of health services increased from 53.2 per cent in 2013 to 67.2 per cent in 2015. Improving administrative data through the application of MoRES has been successful over the past few years.

In the area of HIV/AIDS, UNICEF Egypt worked with the National AIDS Programme (NAP) to improve adherence to treatment through specific behavioural change activities. Treatment literacy sessions, the introduction of a 'buddy' system and training of health service providers to provide stigma-free care resulted in reduced dropouts and higher uptake of monthly treatment on a regular basis.

Capacity building for child protection institutional reform focused on strengthening the social work function. The MoSS introduced a national strategy and action plan for developing a specialized child protection workforce, including an accreditation system and revised policies on the role, status and functions of social workers.

UNICEF Egypt contributed to strengthening the capacity of selected national statistical office staff to produce data and analysis on child poverty by jointly preparing a brief on monetary poverty and developing a methodology to assess multidimensional child poverty using nationally tailored indicators. Through specific on-the-job training and the joint preparation of briefs and notes on the results of the poverty analysis, the staff of CAPMAS acquired the technical capacity to replicate and adjust the analysis on child poverty with new suitable data sources.

Evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy

With the release of the results of the 2014 EDHS, the 2014 Survey on Young People in Egypt and the 2015 Health Issues Survey, a large amount of data on women and children became available to inform national policy debates. UNICEF Egypt contributed to these surveys, along with other partners, by providing funds and technical assistance and supported data analysis, notably on child health, nutrition and protection. These new data have been included in the second edition of UNICEF's yearly statistical digest, *Children in Egypt*, which features the most comprehensive set of statistics on children in the country.

CAPMAS and UNICEF Egypt collaborated to produce a brief on child monetary poverty, the first official release of data and analysis of child monetary poverty in Egypt and a step towards the

institutionalization of child poverty measurement and reporting in the country. UNICEF Egypt continued its support of social protection reform and the introduction of cash transfers for children living in extreme poverty by providing evidence and technical assistance and participating in dialogue on the reform with donors. After contributing to the evidence on the potential impact of the subsidy reform on child poverty, UNICEF Egypt in 2015 collaborated with CAPMAS to produce and disseminate a statistical brief on children living in extreme poverty and engaged with CAPMAS and the MoSS to prepare a study on child multidimensional poverty, with a methodology tailored to the Egyptian context with the participation of key national stakeholders. The evidence from the new study, which is expected in early 2016, will further contribute to the national policy discussion on child-sensitive, integrated social protection.

Partnerships

The strategic partnership of UNICEF Egypt, the World Health Programme (WHO), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with the MoHP on 'Child Survival, A Promise Renewed' and the Maternal and Child Health Acceleration Plan received a strong boost with the decision of the World Bank and the MoHP to allocate a US\$75 million loan to strengthen 1,000 family health units in disadvantaged villages in Upper Egypt. The IPHN, piloted by the MoHP and UNICEF with USAID support, will be expanded under this new World Bank-financed initiative, the Healthcare Quality Improvement Project. The MoHP formally invited UNICEF Egypt to provide technical support for this new project using MoRES as a platform for performance-related programme financing.

The partnership with CAPMAS was strengthened in 2015. UNICEF Egypt supported the development of capacity to measure and report on child poverty indicators (child multidimensional poverty and monetary poverty), the establishment of a data lab focusing on social statistics and intensive discussions on child indicators that fed into CAPMAS' contribution to the work of the Global Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators. The results achieved by the partnership in 2015 are paving the way for the creation of a child SDG database/observatory at the national statistical office and for the joint production of the annual child indicators digest, *Children in Egypt*, in 2016.

Towards the end of the year, a contribution agreement was signed with a European Union delegation focusing on education and child protection. This reflects the importance of investing in the education sector to ensure that all children have access to higher quality education. The partnership will provide strong support for the fledgling child protection reforms that are now underway.

External communication and public advocacy

Egypt is a pilot country guided by the Global Communication and Advocacy Strategy. In 2015, UNICEF's Division of Communications increased its public reach to strengthen social engagement and drive the growth of interest in children's rights via digital communication. UNICEF Egypt social media platforms (including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram) closed 2015 with an impressive reach, engaging millions of Egyptians on the situation of children and UNICEF Egypt interventions. A series of diverse media campaigns and effective participation in regional and global communication initiatives such as #EndViolence, #NoLostGeneration and the Convention on the Rights of the Child #FightUnfair campaign, enabled the UNICEF Egypt Facebook page to receive more than 1 million likes, ranking first among United Nations agencies in Egypt and first among UNICEF country offices.

Public reach peaked during Ramadan (July), when more than 9 million Facebook users engaged in a special campaign produced by UNICEF Egypt. The 'Lives Beyond Figures' campaign was based on real stories observed by field researchers. The campaign aimed to raise national awareness and engagement on children's rights and emphasize the rights of the most deprived children and adolescents. The Egyptian adaptation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child global campaign #FightUnfair was the closing campaign for 2015. The campaign involved 19 high-profile celebrities supporting the right of every child to a fair chance in life, with facts highlighting discrepancies and the suffering of the most deprived children. Some 7.5 million people were reached through this campaign. UNICEF Egypt Facebook posts were often reflected in other media and in the press.

A wide range of multimedia materials addressing the situation of children and youth in Egypt were also developed and disseminated at high-level public functions involving government officials, private sector partners and young people.

Human rights-based approach to cooperation

UNICEF Egypt continued to advocate for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2011) for the development of independent human rights institutions. The Memorandum of Understanding between UNICEF and the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) outlined several initiatives for national institutions and civil society to promote and protect child rights. The experience of Greece in establishing independent human rights institutions provided a good model. A workshop was held with 30 participants from the Ministry of Justice, NHCR, NCCM, the National Council for Women and civil society. The Children's Ombudsman of Greece presented the mandate, function and approach.

An assessment of community-based responses to children in conflict with the law was conducted as part of the MENARO initiative in five countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Concrete opportunities for community-based alternatives ranging from reconciliation, delivery to parents/guardians, judicial probation, community services and early release were identified. A three-year action plan (2016–2019) was finalized with relevant stakeholders, including the Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Interior Affairs, Ministry of Justice and MoSS, to pilot diversion away from judicial proceedings and strengthen alternative measures. In the course of the preparatory phase, UNICEF Egypt and partner NGOs provided practical training for all probation offices in Cairo, Giza and Alexandria governorates for the identification and assessment of community-based alternative programmes. Moreover, a workshop on diversion, reconciliation and restorative justice best practices was conducted with support from MENARO and UNICEF Jordan for the Ministry of Interior Affairs, MoSS, the Prosecutor's Office and lawyers from partner NGOs to raise awareness and share best practices.

Through partners, UNICEF Egypt provided legal assistance to 786 children in detention to promote alternative sentencing or release. UNICEF also contributed to interagency responses to irregular migration and conducted regular monitoring visits to places of detention across Egypt's North Coast.

Gender mainstreaming and equality

The Country Programme prioritizes the identification of gender disparities in data collection and analysis. It specifically targets gender disparity reduction in programme areas as well as

addressing social norms and practices that create the underlying conditions for gender discrimination.

In 2015, UNICEF Egypt initiated the mid-term review of the Country Programme; stronger alignment with the Gender Action Plan was one of the expected results. Following a consultative process and secondary analysis of recent data, the review of female genital mutilation (FGM) interventions proposed the adoption of a positive narrative to promote FGM abandonment instead of traditional messages that emphasize the negative outcomes of this harmful practice. The review recommended placing FGM within the wider agenda of girls' empowerment/life skills and using branding and social marketing techniques in addition to capacity building and civic engagement. A broader agenda on adolescent girls can also be a more effective strategy for addressing a wide range of issues such as child marriage, sexual harassment and discrimination against girls.

Secondary analysis of the EDHS helped to identify the mother's own experience (i.e. having undergone FGM), as well as her attitude towards the continuation of the practice, as among the most significant determinants of FGM practice. The relationship between FGM and wealth quintile is clearly significant. The odds of a girl undergoing FGM decreases as wealth increases, which is a phenomenon that was not visible in previous surveys. The same trend is observable with regard to the educational background of the mother. The mother's age and age at first marriage are other important determinants.

The implications of this analysis include the need to concentrate behavioural change efforts on future mothers and young mothers, focusing on the empowerment of young people and adolescent girls, particularly through life-skills development programmes and civic engagement. The adolescent programme, which has so far focused mainly on small-scale initiatives related to civic engagement and life skills, will focus much more on adolescent girls and their holistic needs. This will require closer linkages to the child protection, health, education and Communication for Development (C4D) programmes.

Environmental sustainability

In 2015, UNICEF Egypt calculated its greenhouse gas emissions for the first time and reported an estimated 3.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per staff. Looking ahead to future years, UNICEF Egypt engaged the services of a specialized United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project team that undertook an assessment of the UNICEF Egypt office to make recommendations for how to reduce the carbon footprint and reduce costs at the same time. The results of the report have been very positive and the office plans to implement them in 2016.

Effective leadership

The Country Management Team (CMT) continued to provide strategic direction, guidance, leadership and oversight to ensure that the Country Programme remained aligned with the country's changing requirements and that the planned results were achieved. The CMT met 11 times in 2015 and monitored the progress of key priorities. The mid-term review of the current Country Programme commenced in 2015 and will conclude in early 2016. Several programme areas were reviewed with the support of regional advisors and external experts to ensure that the Country Programme was positioned appropriately in regards to the many changes that have taken place in Egypt over the past few years. The office management and programme priorities were established through a consultative process as part of the Annual Management Plan, and accountabilities were assigned to staff in work plans and the Performance Appraisal System. As

part of the CMT oversight and governance responsibility, review of the progress/responses to audit observations was done on a regular basis, and all were closed by the end of the year. Statutory committees (e.g. CMT, Joint Consultative Committee, Contract Review Committee,) remained fully functional and provided efficient oversight to ensure transparent processes and cost effectiveness in the procurement of goods and services, recruitment and retention of competent staff, timely achievement of results for children and risks management. The CMT and Joint Consultative Committee also ensured a strong collaborative working environment. UNICEF Egypt made good progress towards the implementation of the harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT), establishing a functioning HACT Steering Committee, hiring an audit firm to conduct spot checks and audits, and preparing a solid assurance plan that was implemented and reported on. The Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) was reviewed and updated through a participatory process and agreed to by the CMT. The Global Staff Survey raised staff concerns on a number of issues. A staff retreat was held to begin the process of preparing the office improvement plan.

Financial resources management

The CMT regularly reviewed management performance indicators related to financial resources management such as utilization rates, direct cash transfer (DCT) balances and end-of-month bank balances. The review of the grants situation and expiry dates was regularly undertaken during the CMT, focusing in particular on the grants expiring within three months and those expiring in six months. As the financial throughput of UNICEF Egypt has more than doubled over the past two years, an active grants and reports monitoring tool (using Microsoft Excel) was developed. The tool contains a calendar displaying the grant amount, duration and expiry, as well as donor report deadlines and the schedule of the programme cooperation agreements (PCAs) and has helped to strengthen the contribution management function.

With regards to budget utilizations, the rates were 100 per cent regular resources, 97 per cent other resources regular and 99 per cent other resources emergency at the end of the year. Almost 100 per cent of the institutional budget was committed/consumed. DCT advances were constantly monitored throughout the year, and at the end of the year, 0.8 per cent of DCTs were outstanding for more than nine months and 34.9 per cent were outstanding for more than six months. Frequent follow up, as well as projections for two months forward, were shared regularly with section heads and also monitored at the CMT level.

Monthly, bi-annual and year-end closure activities were completed, and open items were followed up on, usually within two weeks of being published on the accounts closure team site. At the end of 2015, all balances are within acceptable limits except for value-added tax refunds, which was due to lengthy refund processes.

Fundraising and donor relations

UNICEF Egypt maintained strong relationships with development partners and engaged at various levels in the official coordination bodies operating in Egypt. The UNICEF Country Representative attended the Development Partners Group monthly coordination meetings, and programme staff attended relevant sub-group meetings. A funding agreement with the European Union for US\$29.33 million for education and child protection was finalized and signed by the end of the year.

Approximately US\$5.2 million of other resources was raised in 2015, which is below the ceiling of US\$7,111,000 for the year. The overall ceiling for the country programme stands at approximately 50 per cent funded against a ceiling of US\$32 million. With European Union and

other funds in the pipeline, this will increase significantly in 2016. More than US\$5 million was raised for other resources emergency, representing 47 per cent of the planned amount.

UNICEF Egypt has a written standard operating procedure (SOP) for the preparation of donor reports that was introduced following an audit in 2007. Reports are prepared by sections and submitted to management for quality assurance. Contribution management is monitored by the CMT, including the receipt of new funding against the ceiling and the completion of donor reports. A new fundraising strategy was drafted towards the end of year and will be finalized in early 2016.

Evaluation

In 2015, UNICEF Egypt did not conduct any programme or project evaluations. UNICEF Egypt will consolidate a plan for utilization-focused evaluations in 2016, informed by the mid-term review findings (to be completed by mid-February 2016).

During the reporting year, UNICEF Egypt worked on strengthening its internal results-based monitoring and evaluation function to enhance the preparedness of the office programmes for evaluation to be conducted in 2016–2017. The UNICEF Egypt results frameworks indicators, targets, baselines and milestones were revised to reflect the new data. Efforts were invested in refining field monitoring tools and processes to support future programme reviews.

The practice of systematically aligning the logical frameworks of programme cooperation agreements with NGOs with Country Programme results was streamlined. The result reporting process was supported through coaching sessions for UNICEF Egypt monitoring and evaluation focal points and staff. The monitoring and evaluation function of UNICEF Egypt emergency response to the Syria crisis was strengthened with a review of the quality spot-check tools and processes for different sections.

The annual management and programme priorities (as reflected in the Annual Management Plan) were systematically updated, monitored and reviewed by management and programme staff through CMT and programme group meetings.

The 2015 annual Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan was quarterly updated, monitored and reviewed by the management team and MENARO. The 2016 Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan is being planned to be more utilization focused, with costed and dissemination plans to directly respond to programmatic needs. A 'light' mid-term review of the Country Programme was undertaken in the fourth quarter of 2015 through the first quarter of 2016, combined with the annual programme reviews. The mid-term review included a specific review of the adolescent and the female genital mutilation programmes. The results of the mid-term review will be reflected in work plans with partners and in programme indicators. Indicators, milestones, baselines and targets will be reviewed in early 2016 accordingly.

Efficiency gains and cost savings

Several initiatives were undertaken to improve efficiency and reduce costs. UNICEF Egypt negotiated a deal with the main mobile operator for a 50 per cent discount on monthly tariffs. The agreement was signed mid-November with a retroactive effect from mid-August. The calculations of the savings have not yet been completed.

UNICEF Egypt continued its active participation in the Operations Management Team with other United Nations agencies. In 2015, a United Nations banking services mission visited Egypt and

reviewed the request for proposals for banking services. UNICEF Egypt was a member of the Request for Proposals Committee. The request for proposals review recommended switching to a new service provider, and the recommendations were shared with the headquarters of all United Nations agencies in Egypt. UNICEF Egypt has already begun the process of changing its bank to Barclays, the successful bidder. This decision was supported and endorsed by the UNICEF Division of Financial and Administrative Management as it is in line with global consolidation efforts.

UNICEF Egypt continued to negotiate for and benefit from reduced hotel rates applicable to all agencies in the United Nations system in Egypt. Moreover, the various agencies share a number of long-term agreements (LTAs).

As part of the greenhouse gas emission initiative launched by UNICEF, UNICEF Egypt engaged the services of a specialized UNDP project office that did an assessment of the UNICEF Egypt office to provide options for cost cuts and reducing the carbon footprint. The results of the report show promising cost savings by converting light sources in the office to light-emitting diodes. These recommendations will be implemented in 2016.

The information and communication technology (ICT) unit implemented the UNICEF universal Wi-Fi solution in the office, and an additional Cisco wireless access point was installed on each floor. This has facilitated staff access to network resources anywhere in the office and reduced the need for related hardware infrastructure upgrades (i.e. physical local area network (LAN) connections).

Supply management

The procurement actions handled by the supply unit in 2015 totalled US\$47,656,390:

- Local procurement: US\$2,011,969
- Offshore procurement: US\$324,661
- Procurement services for the Government: US\$45,246,033
- Operational supplies totalled: US\$75,000

In compliance with MENARO requirements, UNICEF Egypt finalized and submitted the supply plan in a timely manner. UNICEF Egypt continued to provide procurement of HIV medications for the NAP/MoHP. The total value of this procurement in 2015 totalled US\$204,707.46. The office continued to handle procurement services for the MoHP. The procurement services amounted to US\$45,246,033 in 2015, primarily for the procurement of measles-rubella (MR); measles, mumps and rubella (MMR); Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG); diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis-Hepatitis B-Haemophilus influenza type B; and diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTP) vaccines, as well as syringes for vaccinations. During the reporting period, delays in releasing vaccines for use were experienced, caused by the request of the regulatory authority for non-standard documentation. A mission from the UNICEF Supply Division to discuss these delays resulted in the establishment of more streamlined procedures.

Printing, translation, video production, HACT assurance activities and still photography LTAs were finalized and signed.

In 2015, there were 28 Contract Review Committee meetings, and 53 cases were presented, out of which there were eight PCA submissions. After the new PCA guidelines were adopted in June 2015, five Procurement Review Committee (PRC) meetings reviewed seven cases.

UNICEF Egypt continued following up with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the tax authority to receive the sales tax refunds from the Government.

Security for staff and premises

The security environment changed in 2015, with main threats shifting from public protest to terrorist attacks targeting security forces/police installations. UNICEF Egypt continued to closely coordinate with the United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS) and other agencies. The installation of new security doors at the office entrance was completed. Work was completed as required, and individual first aid kits, emergency trauma bags and automated external defibrillators were procured accordingly. Funding was secured through the special security budget allocated by Headquarters through MENARO.

Following the success of the Women Security Awareness Training, another session was held in 2015 with almost 40 participants from UNICEF Egypt and other United Nations agencies. It was also opened to female dependants of staff. It has been decided to hold this training every year.

Warden trees were updated regularly and shared with staff and UNDSS. UNICEF Egypt also participated in the UNDSS testing of the short message service warning system with tests contributing to the fine-tuning of the system alert message. Staff responded satisfactorily to head count tests carried out during the year as well as to false fire alarm drills.

As per the latest updated Minimum Operating Security Standards for Egypt, the office ordered 11 ultrahigh frequency radios to be used by drivers and wardens to enhance the communications network.

UNICEF Egypt followed up on staff mandatory security training certificates (i.e. for basic security in the field and advanced security in the field) to ensure that they were up to date.

Human resources

In 2015, 82 per cent of the 2014 PAS were completed by the deadline in April, and 41 per cent of the key performance and development objectives – Phase I PAS – were completed by the end of May. The completion rate for international staff was 100 per cent for both 2014 PAS and 2015 PAS Phase I. Mid-year performance-related discussions were conducted for all staff in September and October 2015 (63.6 per cent completion rate).

In 2015, UNICEF Egypt handled recruitment cases for two national officers (a finance officer and adolescent development officer) and the recruitment of one general service level 6 staff member (senior executive assistant). Three national officer recruitments (a human resource officer, social media officer and C4D specialist) were advertised, pending interviews, and one professional level 3 recruitment (child protection specialist) was advertised through UNICEF Headquarters in New York.

The programme budget review approved the establishment of two new international professional posts in anticipation of the financing agreement with the European Union. The office maintained a rolling learning and development plan, and the Human Resources Development committee met three times in 2015 and systematically reviewed staff member development objectives, taking into account office and global learning priorities. Group learning activities were all implemented during the year.

UNICEF Egypt is committed to UN Cares and implements the 10 minimum standards on HIV in the workplace. UNICEF Egypt also maintains a stock of post-exposure prophylaxis kits for emergency use.

UNICEF Egypt is also supporting the peer support volunteer system. One member was available in 2015, but could not assume responsibilities without the proper training, which has been requested through MENARO but has not yet materialized.

Finally, a flexible workplace arrangement policy is being implemented.

Effective use of information and communication technology

Connectivity in UNICEF Egypt for data/voice/video traffic continued to be acquired through a local Internet service provider through leased lines, which provided the office with credible and reliable service at a competitive price. In 2015, leased lines for hypertext transfer protocol traffic were increased by 4 megabytes (MB), now providing 10MB for hypertext transfer protocol traffic and 4MB for Internet protocol security. The ICT unit implemented the UNICEF universal Wi-Fi solution in the office, and an additional Cisco wireless access point was installed on each floor, facilitating staff access to network resources anywhere in the office and reducing the need for related hardware infrastructure upgrades (i.e. physical LAN connections).

In the fourth quarter of 2015, the UNICEF Egypt mission control gateway was replaced by the new one received from Open Systems. Obsolete equipment was disposed of in line with the Property Survey Board guidelines, while two new network colour LaserJet printers were ordered and installed to replace the obsolete ones.

The ICT Governance Committee continued its activities and met three times in 2015 to ensure that management of the ICT function conformed to the UNICEF ICT strategy, and that ICT policies, procedures, standards and guidelines were adhered to.

Representatives of the ICT unit attended the Light Office Infrastructure Training held in Amman and the Information Technology Infrastructure Library Version 3 Training in Amman and passed the related foundation exam.

The ICT unit delivered training sessions on OneDrive and Microsoft Office to interested staff in the final two quarters of 2015. All UNICEF Egypt staff members were granted access to the office Microsoft Outlook calendar, which is managed by the communications team and displays all major office events.

The ICT Business Continuity Plan and Disaster Recovery Plan were updated in December 2015 to maintain operational response capacity during crisis situations.

Programme components from Results Assessment Module

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 Improved management of financial and human resources in pursuit of results.

Analytical statement of progress:

The security environment changed in 2015 with less public protest but more terror incidents targeting government/security installations. Office governance structures operated effectively.

The CMT met 11 times in 2015, providing oversight and high-level monitoring on key programme/operations and management indicators.

The areas of financial management, human capacity development, staff safety, efficiency of ICT systems, governance, reduction in overall operations costs and efficiency gains were addressed throughout the year. HACT implementation and assurance plans were strongly solidified in 2015 with the support of a shared HACT specialist from UNICEF Sudan, as well as the engagement of a service provider on an LTA basis to undertake assurance activities. Office systems, structures and resources were available and maintained to provide staff with an enabling and safe working environment.

OUTPUT 1 Governance and systems

Analytical statement of progress:

All management systems operated effectively and efficiently in 2015. The 2015 Annual Management Plan was finalized/shared with MENARO on time. Office statutory committees operated as per the terms of reference to support office governance and accountability structures. The CMT met regularly (11 times during the year) to monitor Annual Management Plan and key performance indicators, risk control and self-assessment, business continuity, and staff learning and development. In 2015, UNICEF Egypt went through an external audit. The six open audit recommendations were closed by the beginning of December 2015.

Office ICT systems functioned smoothly and backup systems and processes were in place and functioning as designed. The information technology unit implemented the UNICEF universal wireless LAN in the office, which facilitates staff access to network resources anywhere in the office and reduces the need for related hardware infrastructure upgrades (i.e. physical LAN connections). The Business Continuity Plan was updated in January 2015 to maintain operational response capacity during crisis situations.

In terms of security, UNICEF Egypt completed the installation of the security doors at the entrance of the office and upgraded perimeter security lights. UNICEF Egypt also completed security upgrades to the basement to turn the space into a safe haven. The upgrades included the installation of iron bars and a security door as well as the procurement of emergency trauma bags, first aid kits and automated external defibrillators. Warden and staff lists were updated frequently and shared with staff. In addition, wardens attended a refresher training held by UNDSS in March 2015, a Women Security Awareness Training held in October 2015 for some 40 staff from UNICEF Egypt and other United Nations agencies, and two drivers attended a defensive driving course organized by UNDSS.

The ERM review/assessment took place on 9 December 2015 with the participation of staff to reflect on the changing country and programming environment. This was linked and complementary to the office's ongoing mid-term review process. The ERM update was reviewed/endorsed by the December CMT and final comments are being adjusted to be uploaded on the ERM portal.

OUTPUT 2 Financial resources and stewardship

Analytical statement of progress:

Bank reconciliations continued to be submitted on time, all relevant monthly accounting activities were completed, and all open balances were current. DCTs were under rigorous management by the sections with close monitoring by the CMT. As of 23 December 2015, less

than 1 per cent of DCTs were outstanding for more than nine months and 34.9 per cent of DCTs were outstanding for more than six months. Financial benchmarks, in terms of cash flow liquidity, clearing of general ledger accounts, bank reconciliations, Non-Expendable property registers/inventory were consistently met, with activities completed in a timely manner.

The target of month-end bank balances not exceeding 30 per cent of total monthly replenishments has so far been met in 11 months in 2015.

Regular resources funds utilization was at 98 per cent as of 23 December 2015, while other resources regular and other resources emergency funds stood at 97 per cent and 99 per cent, respectively, for the same period. The institutional budget was at 99 per cent utilization rate.

As part of UNICEF Egypt's efforts to reinforce HACT implementation, the office concluded an LTA with a local accounting/audit firm to undertake micro-assessment, spot checks, audit and trainings as needed. This is in line with the 2014 HACT framework and the related new UNICEF guidelines aimed at pushing HACT implementation. Moreover, the office will benefit from the HACT specialist recruited and based in UNICEF Sudan who will also be serving UNICEF Egypt. In 2015, five micro-assessments were undertaken, and out of 20 planned spot check visits, 14 were completed and reports received.

OUTPUT 3 Human capacity

Analytical statement of progress:

The human resources section provided assistance and support in the areas of recruitment, staff training and orientation of new staff. From the beginning of 2015, two NOB recruitments and one general service recruitment were finalized, three national officer recruitments were advertised and are pending interviews, and one professional level 3 recruitment was advertised through UNICEF Headquarters in New York.

Office gender statistics are as follows: 60 per cent female and 40 per cent male overall, with a breakdown of 71 per cent male 29 per cent female for the international professional category, 41 per cent male and 59 per cent female for the general service category, and 41 per cent male and 59 per cent female for the national officer category.

Although the Local Training Committee met twice, due to the delay in completing part one of the 2015 PAS/electronic-PAS, they were not able to finalize the 2015 learning plan until 29 October 2015. Nevertheless, a number of group learning events took place during the year. These included sessions on OneDrive, Skype for Business and Microsoft Office 2013, as well as a refresher training on inSight and the use of the manager's dashboard to facilitate access to information and its use in daily work. In addition, a Women's Security Awareness Training was held for approximately 60 UNICEF/United Nations participants.

OUTCOME 2 Vulnerable mothers and children under age 5 have increased access to and utilization of continuous and integrated primary health care services, particularly perinatal care, nutritional services, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and quality prevention, care, support and treatment for HIV

Analytical statement of progress:

In 2015, the MoHP expanded the IPHN to all 269 targeted family health units (FHUs) in 11 districts in six governorates, reaching an additional 114,457 children under 5 years and 95,808 pregnant women and lactating women. The MoRES/administrative data established evidence

on improved FHU performance indicators in antenatal and postnatal care coverage, births attended by skilled birth personnel and vitamin A supplementation. The community-based survey data in 90 communities reflected estimated positive changes in health seeking behaviours and demand of FHU services. The MoHP decided to scale up the IPHN through its new Healthcare Quality Improvement Project supported by the World Bank loan to the 1,000 most-deprived villages in Upper Egypt.

In the context of the Integrated Child Survival Partnership initiative in two slum areas in Cairo, a new healthcare facility was established, benefiting some 7,300 women of reproductive age and approximately 5,145 children under 5 years. Some 12,000 schoolchildren benefited from the improved school sanitation, and 200 families had access to household water connections. The Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development is considering scaling up the initiative.

To maintain Egypt as polio free, some 15 million children under 5 years were vaccinated in the Polio NID in April, including 13,053 Syrian children, with 100 per cent coverage. In response to the measles outbreak in 2014, an MR NID was implemented in October/November that reached an estimated 23.2 million children aged 9 months to 10 years, including 16,222 Syrian children, with 100 per cent coverage. This was a follow up to the sub-national NID in the affected area (Western Desert).

The MoHP strengthened the capacities of 102 PHUs in 12 governorates where Syrian refugees are concentrated, reaching 5,235 Syrian women (aged 15-49 years) and 14,073 Syrian children under 5 years. The MoHP assigned and trained 185 Syrian CHWs in six governorates to work directly with Syrian families.

Through the Water for Life initiative and in partnership with the water companies and Rotary International–Egypt, 1,500 households were connected to the public water network in four governorates of Upper Egypt. In addition, 40 households were connected to the public sewage network in Sohag Governorate. This initiative will continue next year.

The national iodine survey was completed, and the report is nearly finalized, showing overall median urinary iodine of schoolchildren (170 micrograms per litre) and denoting optimum iodine nutrition status. The MoHP is currently finalizing a five-year sustainability plan to address the recommendations of the survey report.

The MoHP finalized the draft national nutrition policy document, 'Agenda for Action', and its operational plan, which identifies the key priority nutrition interventions with focus on the first 1,000 days platform in the context of the UNICEF global strategy on infant and young child feeding. The MoHP also developed a draft five-year action plan for reviving the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative guided by a rapid appraisal exercise conducted on sample MoHP facilities.

OUTPUT 1 Increased access to quality perinatal care and nutrition services of children under age 5 and mothers in intervention areas

Analytical statement of progress:

In 2015, the MoHP expanded the UNICEF-supported IPHN to an additional 109 most-deprived rural villages, reaching the project target of 269 villages in 11 districts in six governorates. The IPHN aims to support governmental efforts to increase access to quality ANC, assisted delivery, post-natal care and nutrition and growth monitoring services to deprived mothers and children under 5.

The IPHN MoRES/administrative data showed ANC coverage for pregnant women has increased from 76 per cent to 81 per cent, indicating better awareness of women and increased demand for services. With UNICEF Egypt support, 1,126 physicians, nurses and CHWs enhanced their skills in ANC and maternal and child health (MCH). This contributed to increasing the percentage of births attended by skilled birth personnel in target areas to 92.7 per cent. In addition, 94 per cent of children aged 9 months received vitamin A supplementation and 85 per cent of mothers received vitamin A capsules post-delivery.

Acknowledging the value added by the use of MoRES through the IPHN programme, the MoHP decided to integrate MoRES into the Ministry Health Information System and established a central taskforce with UNICEF Egypt support. The MCH information technology team trained data entry personnel at district and FHU levels nationwide on MoRES-derived indicators and on report generation for tracking progress and addressing bottlenecks. The MoHP also decided to conduct a system review for the pilot perinatal and neonatal mortality surveillance system implemented through IPHN in three governorates in preparation for national scale up.

To respond to the disparities in urban areas, UNICEF Egypt continued to support the partnership initiative with the Cairo Governorate, MoHP and two NGOs to improve access to and availability of integrated child survival services in two slum areas in Cairo. In 2015, a new healthcare facility was established in one slum area. A total of 7,300 women of reproductive age and some 5,145 children under 5 years benefited from the health and nutrition services of the newly established facility.

The MoHP, with the joint support of UNICEF Egypt and Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, completed the national iodine survey, showing sustained normal iodine status among primary school children since the last survey was conducted in 2007. The overall median urinary iodine of the school children is 170 microgram per litre, denoting optimum iodine nutrition status. The adjusted percentage of adequate (greater than or equal to 15 ppm) household salt iodine levels among primary school children was 74.7 per cent, denoting that household utilization of adequately iodized salt has improved. The 2014 EDHS prevalence was confirmed by the Iodine Deficiency Disorder Survey, which indicated that 90 per cent of households were using iodized salt. Guided by the successful model of partnership of the national Iodine Deficiency Disorder Programme, with the leadership of the MoHP and active participation by the salt industry, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, UNICEF Egypt and the Iodine Global Network, the MoHP and UNICEF Egypt are finalizing a five-year sustainability plan to address the recommendations of the survey report. The recommendations highlight areas that need further work to strengthen quality control/assurance, legislative support and the distribution of iodized salt.

OUTPUT 2 Increased access to safe water and sanitation and improved hygiene practices among groups vulnerable to diarrheal disease in intervention areas

Analytical statement of progress:

The UNICEF WASH programme, a component of the Young Child Survival and Development Programme, was implemented in four governorates in Upper Egypt, namely Qena, Sohag, Assiut and Minia. WASH was implemented in partnership with the Holding Company for Water and Waste Water (HCWWW) as well as the water companies in the relevant governorates. The Programme aimed to provide water-deprived households with water connections within their dwellings, through the operation of an established revolving fund mechanism. The Water for Life initiative worked at the national level in partnership with Rotary International–Egypt as well as the HCWWW and the subsidiary companies in Upper Egypt governorates in specific rural

districts to advocate for the required efforts to bring safe water directly to homes.

During the reporting period, with UNICEF Egypt technical and financial support, a total of 1,500 households were connected to the public water connection network, with an estimated 7,500 people benefiting from it in the four governorates. To date, a total 14,200 households have been connected with water supply since the start of the WASH programme. As a part of the UNICEF Egypt capacity building support to the HCWWW, the skills of 162 staff members working in the awareness department in 23 governorates' water companies were improved in relation to water customer services, monitoring and planning of awareness activities.

The Water for Life initiative was extended to the governorate of Minia where a revolving fund unit was established. UNICEF Egypt contributed to the skill and capacity development of 43 staff members from the water company and local authorities in Minia in order to build their capacity in the management and sustainability of the revolving fund mechanisms. In addition, the programme started an initiative on applying the revolving fund mechanism to households' sanitation connections in Sohag Governorate. A total of 40 households were connected to the public sewage network. This initiative will be assessed for further scale up next year.

As part of the Integrated Child Survival Project in urban slum areas of Cairo Governorate, a total of 200 families accessed household water connections, and 3,000 women received hygiene awareness sessions on WASH-related issues, including personal hygiene, food hygiene and water conservation, in the two slum communities where the project was implemented.

As part of the forthcoming mid-term review of the Country Programme, the WASH programme interventions and initiatives will be considered in the context of a sector strategy review. The outcome will feed into the programme results framework and fundraising activities in the remaining period of the Country Programme, particularly with the current funding constraints and shortage of funds.

OUTPUT 3 Family care practices in health, nutrition and hygiene are improved in areas of intervention

Analytical statement of progress:

The MoHP and UNICEF Egypt continued to work together to improve family health, nutrition and hygiene practices and increase demand for services in targeted communities through community-based health and nutrition interventions. These interventions were extended to 90 rural villages as part of the UNICEF-supported IPHN implemented by the MoHP since 2013 in 11 disadvantaged districts.

Positive changes in some health behaviours are evident from the MoHP MoRES administrative data as well as by the community-based survey data gathered by CHWs and the pre-post assessment data used in the 'Arab women speak out' classes. Per MoHP/MORES administrative data, early visits for ANC before 13 weeks improved from 11 per cent in 2013 to more than 23 per cent in 2015. In addition, the demand for ANC has increased as indicated by the average number of ANC visits, which rose by 20 per cent (from 2.5 visits in 2013 to 3.09 visits in 2015). The utilization of health services has shown improvement, from 53.2 per cent in 2013 to 67.2 per cent by 2015, which reflects increased community demand for services as a result of community-based activities.

These results were achieved through intensive capacity building and C4D activities to enhance the communication and counselling skills of the MoHP CHWs and community volunteers and to

improve knowledge on health and behavioural practices. In the period from January to December 2015, 200 CHWs and community volunteers were trained to conduct outreach activities, communicate health messages and counsel families on key topics in health, nutrition and WASH. Some 59,650 women in the target communities were reached through the trained CHWs and community volunteers who conducted approximately 195,000 home visits and facilitated 18,250 health, nutrition and hygiene education sessions. These sessions covered topics including ANC, post-natal care, nutrition and breast feeding practices, as well as handwashing, sanitation and food handling.

In order to create an enabling environment for behaviour change, the 'Arab women speak out' programme was implemented to empower rural women to play active roles in relation to their families, including health care and health seeking behaviours. The sessions also involved mothers-in-law, who are influential in decision making within rural families. More than 6,000 mothers-in-law attended awareness sessions. Results showed that the percentage of women who intended to circumcise their daughters dropped from 78 per cent to 43 per cent and the intention to participate in public elections increased from 58 per cent to 78 per cent.

As a result of this positive model of community-based health and nutrition, the MoHP decided to mobilize additional resources to institutionalize the model and fill the gap in CHW numbers given the MoHP's stretched budget.

OUTPUT 4 Women living with HIV and at-risk groups are provided with appropriate counselling, support and access to treatment needed to eliminate mother-to-child transmission

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF Egypt continued to support the MoHP NAP with advocacy, system strengthening, and technical assistance efforts.

In 2015, care and support for both HIV-positive mothers and their HIV-positive infants was included in the new five-year National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan, as a result of UNICEF Egypt's advocacy efforts. The Strategy will be translated into prioritized action and operational plans.

Through the technical support provided to the national procurement and supply management system of antiretroviral (ARV) treatment, 15 key NAP staff in HIV/AIDS treatment sites were trained on effective inventory management and applying quality assurance standards on product selection and quantification. A rollout plan for training of trainer workshops will follow in 2016 to ensure national ownership and sustainable capacity development. Some 1,936 persons living with HIV gained improved access to high-quality medicines, including 94 refugees, 15 pregnant women receiving ARVs to reduce risk of mother-to-child transmission and 10 infants born to HIV-positive women receiving ARVs as prophylaxis against mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

To support policy development for prevention of mother-to-child transmission, UNICEF Egypt supported strategic and technical discussions between the NAP and the MCH department of the Ministry of Health and Population to jointly develop a successful pilot model to integrate HIV testing into antenatal care services for potential scale up. Seven MCH centres were selected in three governorates (Cairo, Alexandria, Giza) as intervention pilot centres. Key staff in selected sites will be trained in 2016 on counselling skills and HIV management for pregnant and lactating mothers and their infants with the aim of increasing pregnant women's demand for HIV testing as part of routine ANC services and providing prophylactic ARVs during pregnancy for those that test positive.

To improve service delivery and consistency in demand for care and ARVs and to reduce dropouts, UNICEF Egypt provided technical support to partner NGOs to address key challenges related to treatment adherence in three governorates (Cairo, Giza, Gharbia). Adherence tracking data reflected observable improvement in the reduction of dropout rates and improvement in patients' regular collection and uptake of their monthly treatment. In 2015, data analysis revealed that more than 72 per cent of project beneficiaries (150 beneficiaries) returned adherent to ARVs within six months of the project. Enhanced awareness sessions regarding treatment literacy were conducted for 144 people living with HIV and their families. People living with HIV were assigned to 15 companion volunteers (buddy system), and 22 health service providers in public fever hospitals were trained on adherence support and providing stigma-free care and treatment.

To strengthen national response and HIV funds/system management, UNICEF Egypt provided guidance and technical support for the governance of the country coordination mechanism that will oversee the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria grant for HIV (and tuberculosis) programmes. This included motivation and capacity building for people living with HIV to meaningfully participate in the election process, as well as technical input to the concept note submitted by NAP to the Global Fund, which is expected to enormously improve the care and treatment aspects of the national response.

OUTPUT 5 New vaccines successfully introduced to national immunization schedule

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF Egypt continued to work closely with the MoHP to support the Expanded Programme on Immunization, contributing to the successful introduction of new vaccines, the management of outbreaks, the appropriate and timely response to the national needs of vaccine supply, and the maintenance and upgrade of the current routine programme.

To maintain Egypt as a polio-free country, UNICEF Egypt supported the MoHP to conduct polio NIDs from 19-22 April 2015 targeting 15 million children under 5 years (both Egyptians and non-Egyptians). According to MoHP reports, coverage reached 100 per cent. UNICEF Egypt worked closely with the MoHP to plan and conduct the social mobilization/media campaigns and supported the procurement of 6 million doses of oral polio vaccine (OPV) to complement the full amount required for the NID. According to an independent polio post-campaign report, 63.8 per cent of people learned about the vaccination through UNICEF-supported MoHP mass media campaigns. Guided by the global end-of-game strategy for polio eradication, UNICEF Egypt supported the MoHP in the projection/planning of the procurement needs for the introduction of the inactivated poliovirus vaccine in 2016 and beyond, as well as the switch of trivalent oral polio vaccine to bivalent oral polio vaccine. Annual amounts of 4.25 million doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine and their schedules of arrivals in 2016 and 2017 were discussed and agreed with the UNICEF Supply Division.

To respond to the measles outbreak that took place at the end of 2014, UNICEF Egypt supported the MoHP to plan and conduct a national campaign for the MR NID between 31 October and 19 November 2015, targeting children aged 9 months to 10 years. UNICEF Egypt provided procurement services to the MoHP to purchase a total of 25.5 million doses of MR and worked with the MoHP and WHO to plan and monitor the campaign; UNICEF Egypt took the lead in the social mobilization and communication activities. Some 23.2 million children were immunized with MR, with coverage of more than 100 per cent. This was a follow up to the sub-national NID in the affected area (Western Desert).

Through UNICEF Egypt procurement services, the MoHP secured the Expanded Programme on Immunization BCG, MMR, DPT and pentavalent vaccines for routine immunization, targeting more than 2.7 million under 18 months. To facilitate the procurement procedures among the MoHP, Planning, Monitoring and Research Directorate, and the UNICEF Supply Division, a mission from the UNICEF Supply Division was hosted in September 2015 and facilitated the acceleration of the procurement process of the tetanus toxoid vaccine, which was needed for the immunization of pregnant women during their ANC visits .

To upgrade the vaccine storage capacity and cold chain system of the MoHP, UNICEF Egypt completed the procurement and delivery of 20 walk-in refrigerators and six freezers granted by UNICEF Egypt to build a central vaccine storage for the MoHP. Work is continuing to build the necessary infrastructure to accommodate the new equipment.

OUTPUT 6 Exclusive breast feeding and complementary feeding practices improved

Analytical statement of progressIn 2015, the MoHP and UNICEF Egypt finalized the national nutrition policy document, 'Agenda for Action'. The agenda analyses the weaknesses of the current nutrition system and identifies the key priority areas for nutrition interventions to address at scale. Institutionalizing nutrition interventions within the primary health care sector by strengthening infant and young child feeding practices was an immediate priority of the MoHP. In line with UNICEF's global strategy for nutrition, UNICEF Egypt is collaborating with the MoHP to strengthen the prevention and early detection of malnutrition within the 'first 1,000 days of life' platform through system strengthening and advocacy efforts. UNICEF Egypt is supporting the MoHP to translate the policy paper into an operational time-bound and costed action plan, which includes the short, intermediate and long-term interventions that need to be addressed by the different sectors inside and outside the MoHP, and building on the recommendations of Egypt's 2012 *Nutrition Landscape Analysis* report. The launch of the 'Agenda for Action' is planned for early 2016, followed by a succession of consultation workshops with relevant stakeholders led by the MoHP to determine the accountability framework for nutrition action and to build a nutrition system.

UNICEF Egypt worked with the MoHP to develop a first draft of the five-year action plan for breast feeding to for revive the National Breastfeeding Programme (NBP). This was based on a UNICEF-guided 'rapid appraisal' exercise conducted in the second quarter of 2015 to identify the key issues requiring immediate interventions with measurable results to set the foundation for the NBP. The 2014 EDHS noted declining trends with regard to breast feeding, which provided evidence for the urgent need to revive the NBP. UNICEF Egypt is collaborating with the MoHP on finalizing the process and tools of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative based on UNICEF/WHO guidelines as well as strengthening the nutrition data monitoring system. In addition, the programme fostered a partnership with a local NGO, together with the MoHP, to integrate breastfeeding within the community context and ensure the sustainability of the NBP.

In collaboration with UNICEF Egypt, the MoHP concluded a needs assessment survey covering 80 MCH facilities and hospitals in three governorates to determine the needs of these facilities and qualify for designation as baby-friendly. The MoHP is working on the accreditation of the targeted facilities to set the cornerstone of the NBP and is strengthening the community component by delivering targeted breast feeding promotion messages. A knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) survey will be completed in early 2016 to update the breast feeding promotion messages, and successive phases will follow in the first quarter of 2016, including nutrition messages on complementary feeding and nutrition practices for pregnant and lactating

women. Results of the KAP survey will guide the development of national nutrition guidelines for the first 1,000 days, including nutritional training materials for health care workers and communities. Based on the KAP findings, the MoHP and UNICEF Egypt will also develop a framework for a national nutrition communication strategy for early 2016.

OUTPUT 7 UNICEF emergency response for women and children's health is secured

Analytical statement of progress:

In regards to health, the UNICEF Egypt contribution to the emergency response to the Syrian refugee crisis in Egypt has mainly involved supporting the MoHP to strengthen the capacity of maternal and child healthcare services through existing public health services in areas where Syrian refugees are concentrated. UNICEF Egypt continued the support to MoHP efforts in 102 primary healthcare units in 27 districts in 12 governorates. Throughout 2015, 5,235 Syrian women (aged 15-49 years) and 14,073 Syrian children under 5 years received primary healthcare services through UNICEF Egypt support. UNICEF Egypt continued to support the MoHP in the effort to appoint Syrian CHWs who work directly with Syrian families raising health awareness and encouraging the use of MoHP PHC facilities. The MoHP and UNICEF Egypt appointed and trained up to 185 CHWs in six governorates, namely Cairo, Giza, Damietta, Alexandria, Dakahlia and Matrouh. Five new brochures were developed by UNICEF Egypt and the MoHP to give more guidance to the Syrian refugees on the location of the public PHUs, the type of services provided and the price list of these services.

UNICEF Egypt technically and financially supported the MoHP with the implementation, procurement and media-coverage of polio NIDs conducted in April 2015, with special attention given to the coverage of Syrian children. The WHO monitoring and coverage survey indicated that an estimated 13,053 Syrian children under 5 years were covered in the designated areas.

In response to the measles outbreak, UNICEF Egypt continued to support the MoHP to prepare and implement the national MR vaccination campaign that took place in October and November 2015, reaching 23.2 million Egyptian and non-Egyptian children aged 9 months to 10 years. This was a follow up to the sub-national NID carried out in the affected area (Western Desert). In cooperation with the MoHP, UNICEF Egypt is in the process of analysing the independent monitoring and coverage report of the MR immunization campaign.

OUTCOME 3 Girls and boys aged 4-14 years have equitable access to quality education with specific focus on vulnerable groups and disadvantaged areas.

Analytical statement of progress:

Although Egypt has made significant progress in regards to improving school enrolment rates (for the 2014/2015 school year, the net enrolment rate was 91.1 per cent for primary school and 83.3 per cent for preparatory (secondary) school, the quality of education remains a major challenge and is preventing children from reaching their full potential. Some 30 per cent of teachers are not qualified, 11.5 per cent of students attend double shifts, and average classroom density is 44 students. Egypt was ranked last out of 148 countries included in the 2012–2013 Global Competitiveness Report in terms of the quality of primary education. A recent study on out-of-school children in Egypt conducted by UNICEF Egypt and the Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MoE) and further research showed that there were nearly 430,000 children (aged 6-11 years) out of school or at risk of dropping out of school. According to the MoE, less than 1.8 per cent of children with disabilities receive the educational services they need. Currently, some 70 per cent of Egyptian children aged 4-5 years are not enrolled in pre-school. The Government of Egypt is working on expanding learning spaces to

accommodate at least 60 per cent of Egyptian children by 2017. The National Strategic Plan for Pre-University Education Reform (2014–2030) aims at the sustainable development of the pre-university education sector to achieve better quality education and equitable access to schools. UNICEF Egypt contributes to the achievement of these results mainly by supporting the scale up of effective sustainable community-based and school models to enhance access to quality education, particularly among the most disadvantaged children. The programme includes four components: pre-primary education, community-based education (CBE), quality education through the inclusion of children with disabilities, and education in emergencies. The programme interventions include capacity building, knowledge generation and advocacy, covering nine governorates (Cairo, Giza, Kalubia, Sharkia, Assiut, Sohag, Qena, Alexandria and Damietta), in cooperation with the MoE, Professional Academy for Teachers, the National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation (NAQAA) and NGOs.

In 2015, the programme realized achievements at the policy, national and local levels. The National Standards for Quality Pre-Primary Education were disseminated. At the local level, UNICEF Egypt initiated the process of developing a school-based reform package for adoption and dissemination by the MoE to improve children's developmental readiness to 75 per cent. The results of the 'Children's Readiness for School' study, conducted by National Center for Examinations and Educational Evaluation and UNICEF Egypt in 2014, revealed an average school readiness score of 62 per cent in three districts in Assiut, Sohag and Qena governorates. Some 180 teachers and MoE inspectors in the three targeted districts were trained through UNICEF Egypt technical assistance on conducting school self-assessment and developing school improvement plans.

Although the Gross Enrolment Rate target of 30 per cent has been achieved, UNICEF Egypt continues to advocate for the allocation of adequate human and financial resources to enable the acceleration of scale-up plans and to ensure equitable access, particularly in remote rural areas.

The MoE launched the National Standards for Quality CBE and disseminated it nationwide as a first step towards institutionalization. UNICEF Egypt provided technical assistance to the MoE by training 600 teachers and inspectors from around the country to promote standard-based school improvement interventions for a stimulating child-friendly learning environment. To generate knowledge and enhance informed decision making at central and local levels, a database to monitor school development plans and assessments results was developed.

UNICEF Egypt continued to support the development and institutionalization of a system for scaling up the inclusion of children with disabilities in public primary schools. Examination specifications for the assessment of different disabilities and learning assessment tools for five subjects (Arabic, mathematics, science, social studies and English) were adopted nationwide by the MoE. UNICEF Egypt continued to provide technical assistance to the existing 120 inclusion schools to improve the quality of education through the provision of educational resources, professional development and advocacy for the allocation of adequate human and financial resources to improve school performance. Some 1,943 children with disabilities are enrolled in these schools. In addition, 532 resource room teachers, inspectors and inclusion coordinators were trained on diagnosis and preparation of individual development plans and a Montessori learning programme.

Scaling up of community schools and inclusion models was delayed due to funding shortages and delays in signing the 2015–2016 work plan (signed in September 2015). However, 10 new schools (out of 30 targeted) were selected in Sohag (a UNICEF pilot area) to be prepared for

integrating children with disabilities. Under a new signed European Union agreement, scaling up the models will be initiated in early 2016 to reach about 30,000 out-of-school children by 2019.

The Government of Egypt continues to allow Syrian children to access public education in equal measure to Egyptian children. UNICEF Egypt, in cooperation with NGOs, supported the establishment and operation of 50 community kindergartens reaching a total of 1,318 Syrian children. To improve the quality of education in kindergartens, 173 teachers were trained on active learning, which they applied in kindergarten classrooms.

A total of 13,181 Syrian boys and girls in 84 schools in the seven governorates (Qalyubia, Giza, Cairo, Damietta, Alexandria, Sharkia and Menofia) with the highest concentration of Syrian refugees, benefited from UNICEF Egypt interventions, including the provision of supplies, furniture, classroom extensions and teacher training. UNICEF Egypt also provided financial support to the MoE to improve water and sanitation facilities in 30 schools serving 6,972 Syrian children and 50,588 Egyptian children.

To minimize bottlenecks obstructing access to education among Syrian children, UNICEF Egypt continued to support the dissemination of MoE rules and regulations and the exchange of experiences. Some 308 middle managers in 25 governorates participated in workshops to develop a better understanding of refugee children's right to quality education and identify ways to facilitate enrolment in schools.

OUTPUT 1 School-based and community models of quality pre-primary education scaled up

Analytical statement of progress:

Improving the quality of kindergarten classrooms to meet the national standards contributes to improvements in the quality pre-school education. UNICEF Egypt continued to technically support the MoE to develop a school-based reform package that will be adopted and gradually disseminated to improve children's developmental readiness scores to 75 per cent. In 2015, UNICEF Egypt partnered with NAQAEE to disseminate the National Standards for Quality Pre-Primary Education in three governorates. Some 180 teachers and supervisors from 72 kindergartens in three districts in Assiut, Sohag and Qena enhanced their capacity to develop standards-based kindergarten reform plans as a result of these capacity development efforts, benefiting approximately 1,800 children. Selection of these particular governorates was based on the findings of the 'Children's Readiness for School' assessment which was conducted by UNICEF/National Center for Education Evaluation and Examinations in 2014. The assessment revealed an average school readiness score of 62 per cent. UNICEF Egypt technically and financially supported National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Education to develop and implement relevant capacity building plans and tools/materials for teachers/supervisors. In 2016, UNICEF Egypt will provide further technical and financial assistance to develop and pilot a school-based reform package in targeted administrations (Idaras).

Lack of government resources to employ teachers continues to be an obstacle to the scale-up process. UNICEF Egypt is currently advocating with the MoE to allocate resources.

OUTPUT 2 Out-of-school girls and boys have improved access to quality community-based primary education in intervention areas

Analytical statement of progress:

A recent study on out-of-school children in Egypt conducted by UNICEF Egypt and the MoE showed that there are nearly 430,000 children (age 6-11 years) out of school or at risk of

dropping out of school. In an effort to institutionalize the National Standards for Quality CBE and sustain a community school model, UNICEF Egypt focused on improving the quality of CBE to contribute to improving children's access to school. While UNICEF Egypt continued its advocacy at the policy level for the adequate allocation of government funds to employ community school teachers, UNICEF Egypt also worked at the local level with the MoE and community development association to ensure the retention of children in marginalized areas. UNICEF Egypt provided financial assistance to retain 750 children in 30 community schools in pilot areas in Assiut and Sohag.

In cooperation with NAQAA, the National Standards for Quality CBE were launched and disseminated nationwide. To institutionalize the accreditation processes, UNICEF Egypt technically supported NAQAA through capacity building and CBE system strengthening efforts. Accordingly, a cadre of 60 MoE inspectors received training of trainers to be able to train others on the evaluation of CBE. As a result, 540 MoE inspectors were trained on evaluation of CBE according to national quality standards. An information system and database was finalized, installed and launched at NAQAA. The system was designed to promote informed decision making for education reform at policy and local levels. The focus on quality CBE will contribute to improving children's access and retention in schools.

A total of 750 out-of-school children in 30 community schools in pilot areas in Assiut and Sohag were retained as a result of UNICEF Egypt financial assistance to the MoE for paying incentives to teachers in response to a request from the MoE. UNICEF Egypt continued to advocate for the allocation of adequate budgets to scale up the model.

The end of the project evaluation, 'Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour', was finalized. The evaluation findings, conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations have informed both national and international stakeholders, such as the MoE, NGOs, the European Union, UNICEF and WFP, on the design and implementation of subsequent projects. The evaluation stressed the importance of combining different types of interventions to combat child labour, such as education, school feeding, livelihoods and entrepreneurship support in a combined package.

There was no progress on scaling up the community schools model due to funding shortages. A new agreement with the European Union was signed to resume the scale up of the community school model to reach about 30,000 out-of-school children by 2019.

OUTPUT 3 Girls and boys with disabilities have improved access to quality education in mainstream schools in intervention areas

Analytical statement of progress:

During the reporting period, UNICEF Egypt focused on strengthening the MoE inclusion system to ensure that girls and boys with disabilities have improved access to quality education in mainstream schools in disadvantaged areas through a package of technical support.

In cooperation with the MoE, examination specifications for proper assessment of different disabilities and learning assessment tools for five subjects (Arabic, mathematics, science, social studies and English) were approved and adopted nationwide by the MoE.

In addition, UNICEF Egypt provided technical assistance to develop a teacher's manual on best practices in teaching techniques for different subjects and disabilities. The guide was approved by the MoE and will be used in UNICEF pilot schools and disseminated nationwide. A second

manual on designing and implementing awareness raising on quality improvement through the inclusion of disabled children was developed to assist schools in their advocacy interventions. The manual has been approved by the MoE.

To improve the access of girls and boys with disabilities to quality mainstream education, 10 new schools in Sohag, a UNICEF pilot area, are currently being equipped with resource rooms to integrate boys and girls with disabilities. Within these 10 schools, 120 new teachers, principals and psychologists were trained on inclusion concepts and practices and the Montessori programme. To institutionalize the training interventions as part of the MoE professional development system, 20 MoE staff were trained to train others in targeted schools. To improve the quality of the existing 120 schools, the capacity of 532 resource room teachers, inspectors and inclusion coordinators from decentralized levels (mudiriya and idara) was enhanced to improve the quality of education for disabled children. Areas of capacity building included diagnosis, development of individual plans and the Montessori learning programme.

School selection and manual approvals were delayed. Accordingly, Assiut and Cairo could not meet their target of 20 new schools. UNICEF Egypt's preparation of schools with resource rooms, mainstreaming the learning assessment tools, and finalizing guides also encountered some delays.

OUTPUT 4 Syrian refugee children aged 3-14 years have improved access to quality education in government and community-based schools

Analytical statement of progress:

The Government of Egypt continues to offer Syrian children access to education in public schools. The quality of the educational environment in Egyptian public schools remains a significant barrier to enrolment and retention. Overcrowded classrooms, depleted resources, problems with transportation and violence represent major challenges for Syrian families and host communities alike. Additional difficulties are faced in regards to enrolment and adjusting to the Egyptian dialect and curriculum. UNICEF Egypt focuses on strengthening the institutional capacity of public schools to accommodate Syrian children and to improve the quality of education for both Syrian and Egyptian children. CBE interventions are established whenever access to public schools is limited.

During the reporting period, UNICEF Egypt supported the MoE with technical assistance and capacity building to improve access to quality pre-primary and basic education for Syrian refugee boys and girls in the context of the regional response to the Syria crisis. Some 13,181 Syrian boys and girls aged 6-14 years in 84 schools in the seven governorates (Qalyubia, Giza, Cairo, Damietta, Alexandria, Sharkia and Menofia) with the highest concentration of Syrian refugees, gained access to basic education through UNICEF Egypt support to the MoE, including the provision of supplies, furniture, classroom extensions and active learning teacher training. In addition, 308 MoE middle management staff were trained on the rules and regulations governing the integration of Syrian refugees into mainstream schools. At the end of 2015, the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities was in progress in 19 schools to decrease classroom density and create a healthier school environment.

As access to public schools is limited to 30 per cent of Egyptian children age 4-5 years, UNICEF Egypt is supporting the scale up of the community-based kindergarten model to accommodate Syrian children. Some 20 community kindergarten classrooms were established in partnership with civil society.

To facilitate the integration of disabled Syrian children into government schools, UNICEF Egypt

is working with the MoE to scale up the inclusion school model. A total of 16 government schools in Alexandria and New Damietta with the largest number of Syrian children were identified for preparation for the inclusion of children with disabilities, beginning in the 2015/2016 school year.

In 2016, UNICEF Egypt will focus on reaching out-of-school children. A coordinated assessment plan is currently being planned by the Education Working Group to address needs and interventions for out-of-school Syrian children in remote areas.

OUTCOME 4 Quality and coverage of child protection services and programmes to prevent violence against children are strengthened and supported by national policies and budgets

Analytical statement of progress:

In 2015, the Government of Egypt, with UNICEF Egypt technical and financial assistance, continued its efforts to strengthen child protection services and prevent violence against children. In addition, under the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for Syrian refugees, the programme scaled up welfare and child protection interventions for refugee children at the community level.

In the area of system strengthening, UNICEF Egypt adopted a multi-level approach, including policy reform, capacity building and direct provision of services. The NCCM finalized a policy package comprising SOPs on case management for children at risk, a decree on the implementation of child protection provisions in the Child Law pertaining to CPCs and a monitoring and evaluation toolkit (to be piloted in 2016). The MoSS launched a national strategy and action plan for developing a specialized child protection workforce, including an accreditation system and revised policies on the roles, statuses and functions of social workers.

Community-based structures affiliated with 12 district CPCs (out of 20) in Alexandria and Assiut governorates responded to 9,563 children in need of care and protection (3,722 boys and 5,841 girls) through case management and referral to appropriate care services. In Cairo, 2,791 street children received services through NGO partners.

In the juvenile justice sector, a study on community-based responses to children in conflict with the law, supported by MENARO, identified concrete opportunities and strategies for the development of diversion and alternatives to the deprivation of liberty. A three-year action plan (2016–2019) was finalized with relevant stakeholders to pilot diversion away from judicial proceedings and strengthen alternative measures for future scale up. In parallel, partners provided legal aid to 786 children (208 cases in the course of political events and 578 criminal cases) to promote alternative sentencing, benefiting 221 children.

A study on VAC in Egypt, conducted in partnership with the NCCM, was presented with key recommendations that led to the design of a mass media campaign on positive parenting, which will be broadcasted in April 2016. The MoE issued decree number 179 on school discipline, which establishes measures for regulating student behaviour, provides alternative positive measures to be used by teachers and establishes school protection committees to monitor discipline in schools.

Under the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for Syrian refugees, the Child Protection Working Group, co-chaired by UNICEF and UNHCR, developed SOPs for case management and were field tested and adopted by more than 20 organizations working for refugees in Egypt. UNICEF Egypt provided non-specialized community-based child protection and psychosocial

support services to 15,141 refugee children in partnership with NGOs.

On the basis of an assessment supported by MENARO, UNICEF Egypt partnered with UNHCR to support the expansion of the emergency winter cash grant to help vulnerable refugee families cope with the winter season. Approximately 84,000 refugees (Syrian and non-Syrians, including 40 per cent children) are expected to receive the winter cash grant promoted by UNHCR and UNICEF. UNICEF Egypt's contribution allowed for the inclusion of approximately 24,000 individuals belonging to vulnerable families.

Major challenges remain in regards to the development of a comprehensive child protection system and national strategies to prevent violence against children in Egypt. To date, efforts led by the Government to enhance child protection services are still insufficient. Stronger national structures, the existence of a specialized workforce and adequate financial resources are important elements that need to be in place for a full-fledged policy reform in the child protection sector. UNICEF Egypt is committed to providing technical assistance to the Government of Egypt to overcome these challenges.

OUTPUT 1 Specialized child protection services at national and sub-national levels are strengthened

Analytical statement of progress:

Partnerships with government institutions and civil society responded to four main recommendations that emerged from a Mapping of Child Protection Services conducted by the NCCM and UNICEF Egypt in 2013: 1) build a solid institutional and policy framework; 2) professionalize the child protection workforce; 3) mobilize public funding; and 4) develop a service delivery model.

In 2015, some results were achieved with UNICEF Egypt technical and financial assistance, regular advocacy initiatives and structured coordination with key stakeholders.

At the policy level, progress was made with NCCM in terms of harmonizing technical assistance for CPCs and aligning the CPC technical assistance methodology and programme approach with international NGOs and NCCM in case management. The NCCM finalized a policy package for the operationalization of CPCs and the child helpline with the technical support of UNICEF Egypt. This draft package comprises SOPs for children at risk, an implementation decree detailing CPC financial and human resources and a monitoring and evaluation toolkit to measure impact on children. The NCCM and the Ministry of Interior Affairs signed an action plan to ensure referrals of child protection cases from police stations to CPCs and the CHL. A cost analysis concept note was discussed with the NCCM to secure adequate public funding in the future.

The MoSS launched a national strategy and action plan for developing a specialized child protection workforce, including an accreditation system and revised policies on the status and functions of social workers. UNICEF Egypt brokered a tripartite agreement involving MoSS, the American University of Cairo and the Helwan University School of Social Work to develop an in-service training for child protection social workers in the MoSS. UNICEF Egypt submitted a policy proposal reviewing the status and functions of social workers to the MoSS.

The MoSS issued a decree on minimum standards in child care institutions. In addition, structured policy dialogue with key stakeholders resulted in draft SOPs for the protection of children without family and a policy proposal for ensuring interdepartmental coordination within

the MoSS.

The NCCM created three new units within the Child Helpline Department related to CPC operationalization for monitoring and evaluation, policy and case management. UNICEF Egypt trained and coached 30 NCCM staff to assume their new roles. As a result of UNICEF continuous advocacy and training, the MoSS appointed a team of 54 social workers to enhance child protection outreach for children living and working on the street. A total of 62 governmental and non-governmental care institutions were assessed against national standards, which led to the formulation of improvement plans.

At the sub-national level, linkages between governmental and non-governmental social workers were established in Alexandria, Assiut and Cairo in joint case conferences. UNICEF Egypt partnerships with these governorates led to the appointment of government social workers to CPCs and the implementation of national SOPs. Civil society members in 12 district CPCs (out of 20) in Alexandria and Assiut governorates responded to 9,563 children in need of care and protection (3,722 boys and 5,841 girls) through case management and referral to appropriate governmental and non-governmental services (data relate to services that are not government funded). In Cairo, 2,791 street children received services.

OUTPUT 2 Partnerships, knowledge and strategies for the prevention of violence against children are developed

Analytical statement of progress:

In partnership with the NCCM, the National Population Council and the MoE, UNICEF Egypt is engaged in a long-term effort to end VAC, including FGM. The following results were achieved with UNICEF Egypt financial and technical assistance.

In January, the NCCM and UNICEF Egypt released a study on VAC, which showed that 64 per cent and 78 per cent of children aged 13-17 years had recently been exposed to physical and emotional abuse, respectively. The study found that VAC is a widespread phenomenon and is often condoned as a way of instilling discipline. In response, a multimedia initiative championed by the NCCM using a positive parenting narrative was designed and is currently being produced as two public service announcements. A five-year strategy, which included high-level advocacy, mass awareness and social/behavioural change, has been developed by UNICEF Egypt and will be partially funded by the European Union.

The MoE issued decree number 179/2015 on school discipline, which establishes measures for regulating student behaviour, provides alternative positive measures to be used by teachers, and establishes school protection committees to monitor discipline in school. Nationwide, 300 social workers and their supervisors have been trained on the decree, child protection policies, case management and positive discipline. At the sub-national level, pilot implementation of the decree is taking place in 115 schools, covering all districts in Assiut Governorate. All targeted schools have child safeguarding policies in place, and boards of trustees have been informed. Child protection units have been established in the MoE directorate and in all district offices. School protection committees have been established in 115 schools but are not yet fully operational.

The National FGM Abandonment Strategy was launched with the announcement of an intergovernmental taskforce to oversee implementation. In August, UNICEF Egypt conducted a strategic review of the FGM programme in close consultation with the National Population Council, United Nations agencies and NGO partners. UNICEF Egypt adopted a new strategy to

contribute to the national programme, shifting from a negative to a positive narrative on girls' empowerment/life skills, using branding and social marketing techniques. At the community level, a core package of services will be promoted, including strengthening community structures, enhancing supportive services and ensuring visibility through media and public events.

NGO partners reached the families of 22,021 girls aged 5-12 through home visits and awareness sessions on FGM. Some 6,111 families have publicly declared abandonment of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) out of 6,807 targeted. A total of 910 families have abandoned FGM/C but without a public declaration. Some 1,889 families are not intending for their second daughters to undergo FGM/C, out of 1,890 families targeted in 2015.

Y-PEER, a network for youth peer education, prepared a training manual on FGM abandonment, which is planned for dissemination in 2016. Some 480 peer educators have been targeted for training to educate approximately 8,400 youth in the community about FGM/C in 2016. In addition, 24 religious leaders from Assiut have been targeted through Al-Azhar University to train other religious leaders to lead actions towards FGM/C abandonment. An additional 40 religious leaders are expected to receive a training of trainers in 2016.

OUTPUT 3 National human rights institutions and civil society capacity to promote and protect child rights is strengthened

Analytical statement of progress:

Through partnership with UNICEF and in collaboration with the MoE, the NCHR conducted awareness raising activities on child rights in two primary schools in Sohag, targeting 120 children, and began drafting a paper on the situation of child rights in Egypt, based on a workshop conducted with relevant stakeholders in November 2015.

Advocacy initiatives organized by UNICEF Egypt for national institutions and civil society to promote and protect child rights included a workshop conducted with 30 participants from the Ministry of Justice, the NHCR, the NCCM, the National Council for Women and civil society. The Children's Ombudsman of Greece presented the office mandate, function and approach, as well as its work with children in schools and institutions, case handling, networking and cooperating with civil society.

As a result of this advocacy work, a recommendation letter on the establishment of an independent children's rights institution in Egypt noting key lessons learned from the Greek Ombudsman experience was presented to the NCHR. The letter advised the council to: 1) strengthen its independence from the state, as stipulated in the constitution; 2) develop a clear and strong mandate regarding promoting and defending children's rights; and 3) appoint an experienced, well qualified person of recognized standing, through specific procedures and for a specific term described in the law. A face-to-face meeting was held with the NCHR as a follow up.

The development of an independent human rights institution for children, in line with the Paris Principles and the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2011), remains constrained. A stronger mandate on children, enhanced independence as per the Egyptian constitution and a more defined role in regards to informing national policies are important elements that would enhance the effectiveness of this important new institution, for which UNICEF will continue to advocate.

OUTPUT 4 Justice for children systems increasingly adopt family and community care alternatives for children in contact with the law

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF Egypt focuses its juvenile justice efforts on promoting and implementing community-based alternatives to deprivation of liberty, aimed at shifting from punitive juvenile justice policies towards community-based alternatives. Over-reliance on detention was evident in Egypt's juvenile justice system in a series of assessments conducted by UNICEF Egypt and partners in 2013 and 2014 and key recommendations from the Committee on Rights of the Child to Egypt in 2011.

The following results were achieved through evidence generation, advocacy, inter-agency coordination, system strengthening, provision of technical support and legal representation.

An assessment on community-based responses to children in conflict with the law was conducted as part of a MENARO initiative in five MENA countries. The assessment involved analysis of legislation and review of research and current practices through extensive consultations with professionals, practitioners and children. Concrete opportunities for community-based alternatives ranging from reconciliation, delivery to parents/guardians, judicial probation, community services and early release were identified. A three-year action plan (2016–2019) was finalized with relevant stakeholders, including the Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Interior Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and the MoSS, to pilot diversion away from judicial proceedings and strengthen alternative measures for future scale up. During the course of the preparatory phase, UNICEF Egypt, through partner NGOs, provided practical training for all probation offices in Cairo, Giza and Alexandria governorates for the identification and assessment of community-based alternative programmes. In addition, a workshop on diversion, reconciliation and restorative justice best practices was conducted with support from MENARO and UNICEF Jordan for the Ministry of Interior Affairs, the MoSS, the Prosecutor's Office and lawyers from partner NGOs to raise awareness and share best practices.

One of the main achievements of the year is the development of a common advocacy agenda for juvenile justice reform with Save the Children and Terre des Hommes. This led to structured policy dialogue with relevant stakeholders for the enactment of key provisions in the Child Law related to alternative measures to the deprivation of liberty as well as minimizing the time spent in detention. Preliminary consultations with relevant stakeholders will be organized to draft secondary legislation, including proposed amendments to executive bylaws and ministerial decrees.

Based on a UNICEF Egypt study on the role of social workers in the juvenile justice system and other assessments, a task force composed of UNICEF Egypt, the MoSS, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and Terre des Hommes was established. The objective was to develop and implement a work plan aimed at restructuring probation offices and strengthening the role of social workers to improve social representation throughout the justice system and ensure effective implementation and monitoring of alternative measures. The work plan is being developed in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

UNICEF Egypt, through partner NGOs, provided legal aid to 786 children (208 cases in the course of political events and 578 criminal cases) to promote alternative sentencing, document practice norms and generate evidence. Some 221 children benefited from alternative sentencing.

OUTPUT 5 National and sub-national partners develop their capacity and systems to reduce risks and vulnerability of targeted young populations to HIV/AIDS, sexual violence and exploitation

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF Egypt technical guidance and advocacy with the NAP led to the inclusion of children's issues (including vulnerability of children living and working on the street and children living with HIV/AIDS) in the new National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan (2016–2020). Protection through the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV was also reflected in both the Strategic Plan and the new concept note submitted to mobilize funds from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

UNICEF Egypt continued to support the capacity strengthening of national partners to address children's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and address the various needs of those infected. During the reporting period, a partner civil society organization (CSO), the Centre for Development Services, was supported technically and financially to conduct a needs assessment of children and adolescents living with HIV. This study has helped to inform programmatic actions to address the needs of children and adolescents living with HIV. Building on that achievement, 30 health care providers and social workers were trained through two training of trainers workshops to become skilled trainers on tailored interventions addressing the soft skills and health needs for target groups of children and adolescents and their families. The trained group of trainers will facilitate the roll out of knowledge and skills to children and adolescents and caregivers to be able to sustain gains beyond the tenure of the project.

To strengthen CSO's partners' capacity in the area of prevention and reducing risks and vulnerability of young populations to HIV/AIDS, UNICEF Egypt assessed a group of CSOs in terms of their institutional capacities and willingness to design and implement programmes addressing children's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS (among other common health issues). Medical students' societies at Al-Azhar University and Alexandria University were selected to mentor and further build the capacities of an increasing number of CSOs working with children and adolescents living and working on the street in order to develop sustainable HIV prevention and care programmes. The first batch of medical students has been trained, and educational messages and manuals have been developed as preparation for equipping the staff of between five and eight CSOs staff in early 2016 in Cairo and Alexandria.

OUTPUT 6 Emergency

Analytical statement of progress:

In line with the No Lost Generation strategy and the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for Syrian refugees, UNICEF Egypt and partners provided assistance to Syrian refugee children through community-based child protection, case management, cash assistance and protection of children in detention. UNICEF Egypt co-chaired the Child Protection Working Group with UNHCR.

In partnership with Terre des Hommes and Plan International, UNICEF Egypt reached 15,141 Syrian refugee children, out of a total of more than 50,000 children (43.5 per cent of the 127,000 registered Syrians in Egypt), through non-specialized community-based child protection and psychosocial activities in Alexandria, Cairo and New Damietta (areas where Syrian refugees are concentrated). UNICEF Egypt provided 4,503 parents of Syrian refugee children with access to community-based support in the form of parents' activities and discussions facilitated by specialists. The interventions aim to strengthen the protective role of parents and offer children

a safe space to play, learn and interact with their peers.

Within the framework of the Child Protection Working Group, UNICEF Egypt led the development of case management SOPs endorsed by more than 20 organizations working with refugee families after an extensive consultative process and field testing. The SOPs provide technical guidance and practical tools to social workers to address the care and protection needs of refugee children. Referral pathways were developed along with a case conference system for severe cases. Some 3,647 refugee children were involved in case management and provided with specialized support services. In an effort to build into existing systems, the programme established linkages between the interagency case management system for refugee children and statutory CPCs.

Based on an assessment supported by MENARO, UNICEF Egypt partnered with UNHCR to support the expansion of the emergency winterization cash grant to help vulnerable refugee families to cope with the winter season. Some 84,000 refugees (Syrian and non-Syrian, including 40 per cent children) are expected to receive the winter cash grant promoted by UNHCR and UNICEF Egypt (UNICEF's contribution allowed for the inclusion of approximately 24,000 individuals belonging to vulnerable families). The distribution of cash grants was associated with targeted communication on the use of cash grants for children, protection and health and nutrition messages specific for the winter. UNICEF Egypt is working to expand the partnership with UNHCR to the regular monthly cash grant for refugees, providing specific support to children.

A positive parenting programme was developed that targets both Syrian and Egyptian children. Some 350 workers from CPCs, family bureaus and the health sector were trained on preventing and responding to domestic violence. UNICEF Egypt provided training on child protection, case management and psychosocial support to 946 government, civil society and community-based organization staff.

UNICEF Egypt contributed to the inter-agency response to irregular migration and conducted regular monitoring visits to places of detention across Egypt's North Coast to identify and document children. At least 3,635 people, including 543 children, were detained and most were released. In addition, 418 children received humanitarian assistance, including clothes and blankets. UNICEF Egypt has continued to monitor the situation of more than 50 unaccompanied minors in detention.

OUTCOME 5 Adolescent girls and boys and youth have increased capabilities and opportunities for positive development and civic engagement with a focus on disadvantaged communities

Analytical statement of progress:

In partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS), UNICEF Egypt focused on strengthening employability, life skills and entrepreneurship and promoting the rights of adolescents and youth to participation. UNICEF Egypt is committed to providing effective and sustainable models for the MoYS that can be nationally scaled up and adopted through a diverse package of system strengthening and advocacy support.

During the reporting period and based on UNICEF's renewed protocol of collaboration with the MoYS, in August 2015, UNICEF Egypt's youth entrepreneurship and life skill training programme model was formally adopted and incorporated into the Ministry's regular mandate through the allocation of financial and human resources to guarantee its sustainability and its expansion. This model is being implemented in five governorates in a partnership with UNICEF

Egypt and has so far benefited 5,912 adolescents and youth in these governorates. The MoYS has committed to expand it into an additional five governorates using its own financial and technical resources. The MoYS is also committed to linking this programme to other complimentary opportunities to further prepare youth for the labour market, such as through vocational training and credit lines offered to youth by the Social Fund for Development.

In 2015, the MoYS also adopted UNICEF's model for physical activities and life skills, which was piloted in Assiut in 2014. This model was incorporated into the National Women and Girls Project implemented in 22 governorates with no financial resources from UNICEF. Though further support is needed from UNICEF Egypt, momentum has been built within the MoYS for the integration of this model to attract more girls into youth centres nationwide and to empower them through life skills development especially in marginalized communities.

Although UNICEF's sponsored civic education programme was adopted by the MoYS and has reached more than 8,400 youth and adolescents, the translation of these trainings into real youth civic engagement remains a challenge. There are no national or local mechanisms facilitating such participation and initiatives. UNICEF Egypt will focus on working with the MoYS and other stakeholders to create and mainstream youth participation opportunities, especially in marginalized communities in the coming year.

A strategic review of UNICEF's Adolescent Development and Participation programme was undertaken in November 2015. The review stressed the need to concentrate UNICEF's programming on adolescent girls and in the design of new scalable, multi-sectoral interventions strongly linked to child protection issues.

OUTPUT 1 Increased civic engagement opportunities for adolescent boys, girls and youth

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF Egypt is committed to providing adolescents and youth with space and opportunities for social and civic engagement. UNICEF Egypt continues to provide technical support to the MoYS and other stakeholders for the development of a national institutionalized and sustainable mechanism for youth participation. It is therefore necessary to gain a better understanding of the different opportunities and constraints to the design and implementation of effective models of youth participation that can be expanded and assessed nationwide.

During the reporting period, UNICEF Egypt updated the civic education manual to better reflect the current national context as it pertains to the new Constitution of Egypt and the role of youth. The MoYS adopted this amended curriculum and implemented a series of training activities in youth centres nationwide. This effort reached a total of 1,067 adolescents and youth, including 468 adolescents (312 males and 156 females), in cooperation with the MoE Student Union Department, and 599 young students (359 males and 240 females) through collaboration between the MoYS and public universities. The cumulative number of adolescents and youth who completed the civic education programme, either directly from UNICEF Egypt or from the MoYS, since July 2013 is 8,485, which is on-track with the planned target.

In addition to seven civic engagement initiatives that were designed and launched by trained graduates of the UNICEF civic education programme, other youth succeeded in launching projects such as: the Egyptian Diplomats Project, the Stock Market Simulation and Alexandria Volunteers for Awareness and Development. Other graduates volunteered with youth-serving NGOs. However, there is still no follow-up mechanism at the MoYS to track and evaluate these initiatives.

A Memorandum of Understanding between UNICEF Egypt and the MoE was signed in September 2015 after delays related to staff turnover within the Government. This agreement includes the expansion of the civic education programme to reach adolescents through school student unions, starting with the 2015/2016 academic year. The aim is to increase the capabilities of adolescents for positive development and civic engagement, especially in disadvantaged communities, using the training expertise built by UNICEF Egypt in the MoYS.

It should be noted that UNICEF Egypt is currently working on a programme design for 2016 that aims for greater youth engagement in shaping policies and programmes. The new design is informed by a recent ADAP strategic review, which recommended the creation of more opportunities for youth engagement in decision-making.

OUTPUT 2 Adolescent girls and boys and youth, with a focus on disadvantaged communities, are equipped with key life skills and employability skills in preparation for their transition to adulthood

Analytical statement of progress:

In a dedicated effort to ensure adolescents and youth are equipped with key life and employability skills in preparation for their transition to adulthood, in partnership with Barclays Bank, UNICEF Egypt has been supporting the MoYS since 2012 with a package of technical and capacity building interventions for institutionalizing such a package. UNICEF Egypt has also been working closely with partner NGOs to reach disadvantaged groups and narrow the gap between the skillsets of marginalized youth and the needs of the labour market.

In its final year of implementation, UNICEF Egypt focused on institutionalizing and scaling up the programme after its successful piloting in five governorates as a result of the Ministry's decision to expand it into five additional governorates (Qena, Aswan, Kafr El Sheikh, Beheira and Dakahleya) with related governmental financial commitments. Capacity development training-of-trainer workshops were provided to selected MoYS staff from the five original governorates (Cairo, Alexandria, Sharkia, Assiut, and Sohag). These trainers reached 2,946 adolescents between the ages of 13-17 (1,750 males and 1,196 females) and 2,966 youth between the ages of 18-24 (1,821 males and 1,145 females). The MoYS also plans to select graduates of this training of trainers to receive on-the-job training to train in other governorates in 2016.

In addition, 517 young graduates of the capacity development programme received internships and work placement from companies such as Aramex, The Carrefour Group, Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide and Barclays Bank as a result of UNICEF Egypt partnerships with the private sector.

Also in this reporting period, 1,012 young people with mental disabilities and 400 youth in slum areas (700 males and 323 females) received life skills through vocational training provided by UNICEF's NGO partners. These NGOs established strong linkages with local hospitals and clothing and leather factories, leading to internships and job placement opportunities. Furthermore, 292 youth (155 males and 137 females), among the beneficiaries of Phase I of the project, benefited from further in-depth vocational and/or soft skills training. The programme also led 129 young people to initiate 113 revenue generating activities such as leather making, mobile and computer repairing and hairdressing, among others.

Finally, due to the successful piloting of the UNICEF-sponsored life skills using physical

activities curriculum for adolescent girls in Assiut, the MoYS scaled the model up nationally in selected youth centres in 22 governorates with no support from UNICEF Egypt. UNICEF Egypt is needed however, to assess the impact of this expansion and whether any additional support is necessary to maximize results.

OUTPUT 3 New evidence in place to guide policies and advocacy for adolescent rights with an equity focus

Analytical statement of progress:

New data on the situation of youth and adolescents in Egypt was disseminated during the launch of the Panel Survey on Young People in Egypt 2014, carried out by the National Population Council and the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, with the financial and technical support of several United Nations agencies, including UNICEF. Similar to the Panel Survey on Young People in Egypt 2009, the results of the 2014 panel have the potential for far-reaching application and influence on policies. This is because it focused on key aspects, including education, health, family formation, migration, reproductive health, social issues and civic/political participation during this time of transition. Though some improvements have been observed compared with the 2009 report in areas such as narrowing the gender gap in education and the use of Internet and media, challenges remain, particularly among marginalized youth, in terms of gender equality, labour force participation, political and civic engagement and the desire to migrate. This new survey should guide UNICEF Egypt and its partners in adolescent and youth policy dialogue and in the identification of upcoming priorities in this important sector.

OUTCOME 6 Social policies, programmes, public opinion and social norms are strengthened to promote and advance child rights

Analytical statement of progress:

The year 2015 marks a milestone in the reform of social protection in Egypt, from a system based on commodity subsidies (energy and food) to a system centred on cash transfers, which are better targeted to the poor population, with a specific focus on children.

With the budget for 2014–2015, the Government of Egypt started to gradually reduce public expenditure on fuel and electricity subsidies (which mainly benefit the richest socio-economic groups and urban dwellers) and, at the end of 2014, approved the new social protection scheme 'Takafol and Karama' (solidarity and dignity). The MoSS started the progressive implementation of the new programme in early 2015 from the districts with the highest concentration of poverty. The scheme is a cash transfer programme that targets individuals living in households under the national extreme poverty line. The main component of the programme (*takafol*) targets children living in extreme poverty, and the cash disbursement is conditional to regular education and health checks attendance. The other component (*karama*) targets individuals with disabilities and elderly people living in extreme poverty. By September 2015, more than 120,000 households (266,000 children) were already receiving the cash grants in selected rural areas of Upper Egypt, while the programme was expanding to additional regions and to slum areas in Cairo Governorate.

The new programme is at the centre of the social justice pillar of the Egypt Sustainable Development Strategy approved in 2015 and is financed with the savings generated by the energy subsidies reform, as well as a World Bank loan. UNICEF Egypt cooperated with the MoSS during different phases of the reform process by generating evidence and providing technical advice and funding. In 2015, UNICEF Egypt contributed to the communication and

outreach activities and to the capacity development of social workers to apply the programme's enrolment criteria. For 2016, UNICEF Egypt is planning to expand its support to strengthening the child-sensitive monitoring and evaluation functions of the programme, aiming to ensure that the scheme's design is effectively reaching the most disadvantaged children in Egypt.

In 2015, a large amount of new data on the situation of children and adolescents in Egypt was made available with the contribution of UNICEF Egypt to inform national policies and programmes, notably with the release of the 2014 EDHS, the 2014 Survey on Young People in Egypt and the 2015 Health Issues Survey. The new data have been included in the second edition of *Children in Egypt*, the UNICEF yearly statistical digest, which represents the most comprehensive collection of updated and quality statistics on the situation of children in Egypt. Plans have been developed with CAPMAS for a joint production and the institutionalization of *Children in Egypt* in 2016.

In addition, in 2015, CAPMAS and UNICEF Egypt released data and analysis on child monetary poverty in Egypt (representing the first official release on child monetary poverty by the national statistical office), and initiated the preparation of a study on child multidimensional poverty in collaboration with MoSS. The results of the study will be released in the first quarter of 2016.

Representing Egypt in the global Inter-Agency Expert Group on the SDGs, CAPMAS is involved in defining the indicators to be adopted for monitoring the SDGs and received the technical support of UNICEF Egypt on reviewing the indicators concerning children and in preparing a plan for monitoring and reporting on the child-related SDGs.

In 2015, the UNICEF Egypt communication programme strengthened its contribution to child rights advocacy and the dissemination of information and knowledge on children in Egypt and on UNICEF Egypt's interventions, notably by expanding the reach of its social media platforms. By the end of 2015, the UNICEF Egypt Facebook page had received more than 1 million likes, making it the most followed UNICEF country office Facebook page. The Egyptian adaptation of the UNICEF global campaign #FightUnfair involved 19 national celebrities supporting the right of every child to a fair chance in life. Through UNICEF Egypt's social media platforms, the campaign reached approximately 7.5 million people.

During the reporting period, UNICEF Egypt continued to leverage its existing partnerships with private sector multinational companies such as The Carrefour Group, Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, Aramex, Giza Systems and the Engineering Consultants' Group to benefit the adolescent programme and strengthened its partnership with Rotary International–Egypt to generate funds for WASH activities.

UNICEF Egypt's C4D work contributed to the successful implementation of the national immunization campaigns for polio (in April) and MR (in October and November), which respectively targeted 14 million children under 5 years and 23 million children under 10 years. In addition, the partnership with Al-Azhar University and with the Coptic Church led to the finalization of three authoritative documents with religious leaders' positions on delegitimizing the use of violence as a means of child discipline. These documents will be widely disseminated in 2016 within a national campaign to tackle violence against children, in collaboration with Al Azhar University and the Coptic Church.

OUTPUT 1 Disaggregated statistics on key child and adolescents indicators and strategic programme evaluations are available to inform the national debate on children's rights and UNICEF's and its partners' programmes

Analytical statement of progress:

In 2015, with the release of the results of the 2014 EDHS, the 2014 Survey on Young People in Egypt and the 2015 Health Issues Survey, a large amount of data on women, children and adolescents became available to inform policies, programmes and debates on national development. In particular, the EDHS allowed for the update of childhood statistical profiles on health, nutrition, education, child labour, child discipline, child protection and access to water and sanitation, with data disaggregated by region and wealth quintile.

UNICEF Egypt has been a partner of the EDHS and Egypt Health Issues Survey, with the MoHP, USAID and UNFPA, providing funds and technical assistance, in particular for the survey sections on child health and protection. UNICEF Egypt has also been a partner in the Survey on Young People in Egypt project, along with the National Population Council, the CAPMAS and other United Nations agencies. These new data have been included in the second edition of UNICEF's yearly statistical digest *Children in Egypt*, which was disseminated in July and features the most comprehensive set of statistics on children in the country.

As a result of the technical collaboration between CAPMAS and UNICEF Egypt, a brief on child monetary poverty has been produced and disseminated, representing the first official release of data and analysis of child monetary poverty in Egypt, and is a step towards the institutionalization of child poverty measurement and reporting in the country. Earlier in the year, CAPMAS released a new edition of CAPMAStat, a database featuring Egypt's social and economic statistics, and inaugurated the DevInfo data lab that focuses on social statistics. These achievements took place within the programme of cooperation with UNICEF Egypt.

Representing Egypt in the Inter-Agency Expert Group on the SDGs, CAPMAS is involved in defining the indicators to be adopted for monitoring the SDGs. In preparation for the global consultations on the indicators, UNICEF Egypt worked with CAPMAS on reviewing the indicators concerning children and preparing a plan for monitoring and reporting on the child-related SDGs. During the national celebration of World Statistics Day that took place on 20 October, UNICEF Egypt contributed to a workshop on the SDGs, with presentations on child indicators and development goals.

Throughout the year, UNICEF Egypt's internal monitoring and evaluation functions were strengthened with the complete review of the monitoring and evaluation framework's baselines, targets and milestones for health and child protection and by enforcing a systemic monitoring and evaluation review of the result frameworks of PCAs between UNICEF Egypt and CSOs. Furthermore, the monitoring and evaluation work for the UNICEF Egypt response to the Syrian refugee crisis in Egypt was expanded with the introduction of quality spot-check tools in addition to the review and implementation of field data collection tools, the update of the indicators for the regional response to the Syria crisis and the capacity building of implementing partners. A DevInfo database has been created to archive, standardize and report the monitoring and evaluation data for the UNICEF Egypt emergency response.

OUTPUT 2 Updated research evidence on child poverty and well-being, focusing on disparities, is available to influence child-friendly social and budget policies and inform programmes

Analytical statement of progress:

In 2015, as part of the reform of the National Social Protection Policy, the MoSS began to implement the new cash transfer programme (Takafol and Karama), which includes a conditional cash transfer component targeting poor families with children. By September 2015,

more than 120,000 households (266,000 children) were already receiving the cash transfers in selected rural areas of Upper Egypt, where poverty is more concentrated. The programme has scaled up to additional regions, including poor informal urban settlements.

The programme is financed with the savings generated by the ongoing rationalization of the energy subsidies and is supported by a World Bank loan. UNICEF Egypt has been cooperating with the MoSS in different phases of the reform process, by generating evidence and providing technical advice and funding. In the current phase, UNICEF Egypt is contributing to the communication and outreach activities and to the training/capacity development of social workers to apply the programme's enrolment criteria. For 2016, UNICEF Egypt is planning to expand its support by reinforcing the child-sensitive monitoring and evaluation component of the programme, with the aim of ensuring that the Takafol and Karama design is effectively reaching the most disadvantaged children in Egypt.

In order to produce updated evidence on child poverty and to contribute to the discussion on effective targeting of social protection programmes, UNICEF Egypt, CAPMAS and the MoSS collaborated on a study on child multidimensional poverty and overlapping deprivations. The methodology of the study was defined with the direct involvement of national stakeholders (including, but not limited to, government ministries, the NCCM and academia) through a national workshop to better reflect the development context of Egypt in the severe deprivation indicators adopted for poverty measurement. UNICEF Egypt contributed to building the capacity of CAPMAS technical staff to carry out the child poverty analysis, given a possible institutionalization of the multidimensional poverty analysis to respond to evidence needs for monitoring the SDGs. In December 2015, the preliminary results of the multidimensional poverty analysis were produced. The official release of the final results is planned for early 2016, under the auspices of the MoSS.

Research and data evidence provided by UNICEF Egypt, along with technical advice, contributed to the finalization of the draft National Childhood Strategy, which is currently being reviewed by the NCCM, and will become the basis of a national action plan for children.

Within the Lives Behind Figures initiative organized by UNICEF Egypt with a partner NGO, researchers involved in household surveys were trained to document and prepare human interest stories based on evidence collected during field research experiences. As an outcome of this initiative, a series of written stories from the field on the challenges and successes of families and children in disadvantaged communities were collected and will be published in a booklet. Snapshots from these stories were posted during Ramadan on the UNICEF Egypt Facebook page and resulted in wide engagement by people and media.

OUTPUT 3 Strategic partnerships are forged and strengthened to positively influence social beliefs of families, care takers and communities related to child care and gender perceptions

Analytical statement of progress:

During the reporting period, UNICEF Egypt forged and strengthened its key partnerships to support awareness raising and social change and contribute to the achievement of results.

In partnership with the MoHP, public awareness and social mobilization interventions were instrumental to encouraging caregivers to vaccinate their children during two national immunization campaigns (a polio NID between 19-22 April targeting 14 million children under 5 and the MR NID between 31 October and 21 November targeting 23 million children under 10) and achieving 100 per cent coverage for both, according to the MoHP coverage report. Based

on an independent Polio Post Campaign Report, 63.8 per cent of people learned about the April NID through UNICEF-supported communication. UNICEF Egypt support focused on strengthening the interpersonal communication skills of local-level MoHP personnel and community leaders working with Syrians in 10 identified low-coverage areas.

A survey to explore Syrians' source of knowledge about polio immunization and health services was conducted with the support of 84 UNICEF-trained Syrian health workers in four areas where Syrian refugees are concentrated. Data sheets collected from 1,827 households are under analysis and will guide C4D programming for awareness campaigns and efforts aimed at Syrians' demand for health services.

Health and protection messages to help 90,000 refugees cope with winter were developed to support the utilization of the joint UNICEF-UNHCR winterization cash grant.

In 2015, the national target of 90 per cent of Egyptian households using iodized salt was met as per the Iodine Deficiency Disorder survey and confirmed by the 2014 EDHS. UNICEF Egypt-supported interventions to promote adequately iodized salt included a social marketing campaign that contributed to the attainment of the target. Social marketing was implemented in partnership with the National Nutrition Institute, Caritas and the Salt Alliance Group in four high-risk governorates. UNICEF Egypt built sustainable linkages between outreach networks of NGOs, salt distributors and health workers. A radio campaign reached 75 per cent of listeners nationally. Key interventions included 326,470 educational house visits conducted by health workers and eight public events that were attended by 7,300 people.

UNICEF Egypt continued its partnership with Al-Azhar University and the Coptic Church to instill values of non-violence against children. Three documents geared towards engaging religious leaders on the central and decentralized levels were finalized. The documents will be launched and disseminated in 2016. Under the same partnership with Al Azhar University and with support from UNFPA and Y-PEER, social mobilization to improve young people's awareness of FGM/C continued. In 2015, an informative package was published to support peer educators to roll out awareness sessions to 11,000 young people in 10 governorates. Posters and flyers featuring key messages from Islam were also published to correct misconceptions of religious leaders on FGM/C.

According to MoSS, an estimated 150,000 children (aged 2-6 years) in 4,200 kindergarten classrooms in five governorates continue to be exposed to messages promoting hygiene, nutrition and non-violence through the edutainment kit developed and rolled out since 2014 with support of the Kindergarten Supervisors League.

OUTPUT 4 Public knowledge on children's rights is increased among the general population, including adolescents and young people

Analytical statement of progress:

The UNICEF Egypt social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram) closed 2015 with significant reach, engaging millions of Egyptians on the situation of children and the interventions of UNICEF Egypt. At the end of December 2015, the UNICEF Facebook page had received more than 1 million likes with an average monthly likes of 2,865,058, ranking first among United Nations agencies in Egypt and first among UNICEF country offices. Facebook posts were often reflected in other media and in the press.

The public reach peaked during Ramadan (July), engaging more than 9 million Facebook users

via a special campaign produced by UNICEF. The Lives Behind Figures campaign was based on a UNICEF initiative compiling real stories observed by field researchers. The campaign aimed to raise national awareness and engagement on children's rights and give particular emphasis to the rights of the most deprived children and young people.

The Egyptian adaptation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child social media campaign #FightUnfair was a success, involving 19 celebrities supporting the right of every child to a fair chance in life with facts highlighting discrepancies and the suffering of the most deprived children. Some 7.5 million people were reached by the campaign.

UNICEF Egypt continued to support young people's participation through the youth initiatives' page, 'Saf7a Fil Share3', produced in partnership with one of Egypt's leading news portals, Masrawy. The page offers an open platform to promote young people's initiatives and provide volunteering opportunities. The page received approximately 29.9 visits in 2015.

Public debate via multimedia outlets was triggered by advocacy on children and women's rights highlighted during public functions held to mark International Women's Day and International Youth Day, with a focus on the SDGs. Multimedia reports focused on issues related to combating violence against children and their right to education and protection.

OUTPUT 5 Strengthened private sector partnerships

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF Egypt continues to strengthen its existing private sector partnerships while strategically expanding its portfolio to include small and medium enterprises, schools and universities for stimulating action around business practices, extended programme reach and accelerated resource mobilization. Currently, private sector partnerships focus on supporting the WASH programme and the employability skills programme for young people.

During the reporting period, UNICEF Egypt continued its partnership with Rotary International–Egypt around the Water for Life initiative. Some 1,100 households in Upper Egypt governorates (Assiut, Sohag, Qena, and Menia) benefited from safe water connections through funds raised from the private sector (US\$191,000), which represents almost half of the annual target. To accelerate the mobilization of resources in support to the Water for Life initiative, a communication and fundraising strategy was developed to support Rotary International to mobilize resources for the initiative independently and ensure professional branding for the initiative.

During the reporting period, UNICEF Egypt continued to leverage its existing partnerships with private sector multinational companies such as The Carrefour Group, Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, Aramex, Giza Systems and Engineering Consultants' Group to ensure work placements/internships as part of the employability skills programme for young people funded by Barclays Bank through the United Kingdom Fund for UNICEF. Some 141 internships/working placement opportunities were provided to disadvantaged youth. One major result was that Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, a global partner with UNICEF through the 'Check out for Children' initiative, created a local initiative, whereby they are establishing an academy for hotelier management to benefit the most disadvantaged youth. The academy is intended to graduate 100 youth per annum from local youth centres in collaboration with UNICEF Egypt and the MoYS. This initiative will be launched in September 2015. In addition, Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide is now providing work placements/training to physically/mentally challenged youth. Two youth have been trained in the hotel business and

one is currently working. The company intends for this to become a standard training that they provide to physically challenged youth in collaboration with UNICEF Egypt and the MoYS.

OUTCOME 7 Cross-sectoral costs

Analytical statement of progress:

Cross-sectoral costs are composed of two elements, staff and operational costs, which cannot be funded by the institutional budget. Staff funded under the cross-sectoral costs component made significant contributions to the overall results of the programme during the reporting period.

The value of all supply procurement increased from US\$38,275,428 in 2014 to more than US\$47,656,390 in 2015 and contributed to significant results in polio immunization, the national Expanded Programme on Immunization and the emergency response to Syrian refugees in the health and education sectors. Expanded Programme on Immunization procurement activities continued to expand in 2015, which is evident from the numbers above.

The supply unit finalized LTAs for printing, translation, video production, HACT assurance activities and still photography. The supply unit cooperated with the programme section and government counterparts as well as the UNICEF Supply Division to solve any issues related to procurement services and related cost estimates and participated in the Supply Division mission in which all pending matters were resolved with the MoHP.

OUTPUT 1 Cross-sectoral staff

Analytical statement of progress:

Between January and December 2015, five staff members were funded from the programme budget under the cross-sectoral staff costs output. These were two staff members in supply, one senior budget monitoring assistant, an administrative officer and a driver.

Activities under this output supported the office targets in supply and logistics, budget monitoring and administrative support. The supply procurement for 2015 reached US\$47,346,171, out of which the procurement service for the Government reached US\$45,246,033, local procurement of programme supplies reached US\$865,000, offshore procurement totalled US\$226,442 and the value of the procurement of service (institutional contracts) reached US\$1,008,696.

Printing, translation, video production, HACT assurance activities and still photography LTAs were finalized and signed.

In 2015, 26 Contract Review Committee meetings and 48 cases were presented, out of which there were eight PCA submissions. After the new PCA guidelines were issued in June 2015, four PRC meetings and five cases were presented.

The unit is still closely following up with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the tax authority to receive the sales tax refund from the Government.

OUTPUT 2 Operational

Analytical statement of progress:

Allocated funding under this output supported/complemented the office operations support

activities in administration, finance, ICT, logistics and United Nations coordination activities.