Executive Summary

Monetary poverty in Egypt continued to increase in 2016, as did vulnerability for the majority of the population. The Government of Egypt embarked on a set of economic reforms to be monitored to assess the impact on children.

Recently released data on poverty showed an increase in extreme monetary poverty from 26.3 per cent in 2013 to 27.8 per cent in 2015. This equated to 3 million individuals falling into poverty between 2013 and 2015, and the total number rising to 25 million. Food poverty increased to reach 5.3 per cent.

Children have faced an average 3 per cent higher rate of monetary poverty than the national averagesince 2000. To address child poverty and its impact on the realization of children’s rights, UNICEF Egypt continued its technical and financial support to the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) for the reform of social protection schemes, notably Takaful, a conditional cash transfer programme targeting poor families with children.

This support included the finalization of a child multidimensional poverty analysis showing that 29.4 per cent of children suffered two or more deprivations.

A major initiative to advance early childhood development (ECD) commenced this past year following a request from the Ministry for support to expand access to quality ECD services. In response, UNICEF Egypt developed the ECD Model for Co-Responsibility to scale-up childcare services nationwide. And to promote inter-sectoral coordination, a high-level inter-ministerial committee was established that prepared a roadmap for expanded, integrated ECD services.

A national taskforce on violence prevention and family strengthening, under the leadership of the National Council of Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), was formed to advocate for zero tolerance of violence against children and to work according to a strategic plan. In addition, UNICEF cooperated with the Council and the European Union (EU) on two media campaigns on positive parenting, reaching more than 28 million people, with the second campaign still in progress.

The partnership with Al-Azhar University and the Coptic Church gathered pace with the launch of publications on the Islamic and Christian perspectives on the protection of children from violence. The leaders of Egypt’s two main faiths united to present their perspectives in a joint publication, the first ever joint document on these issues. The partnership, which also included the Ministry of Religious Endowments, engaged with religious leaders and communities on this critical issue and will be a key area for work in 2017.

The response to vulnerable refugee, migrant and host community children and parents in 16 targeted governorates continued to be a priority, reaching more than 25,000 children in education, child protection and health services, as well as cash assistance.

UNICEF Egypt supported the Government to reposition maternal and child nutrition as a national priority. The Agenda for Action nutrition policy document was developed jointly by
UNICEF and the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) to define key nutrition interventions. The 1,000 Days Model was adopted as a framework for action for stunting prevention in two districts of Lower Egypt.

As part of the United Nations Country Team partnership for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), UNICEF supported the new Sustainable Development Unit at the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) to establish SDGInfo, a database to monitor progress towards the SDGs using the DevInfo application.

New partnerships were established with the World Bank and the French Development Agency to scale-up the UNICEF-supported integrated perinatal health and nutrition (IPHN) programme implemented by the MoHP. The MoHP signed an agreement with UNICEF to design and conduct independent verifications assessing the performance of 1,040 family health units (FHUs) under the new health care quality improvement project (HQIP) targeting all units in five Upper Egypt governorates. UNICEF also supported the MoHP and the French Development Agency to design a community mobilization component of a complementary primary health care (PHC) project in three additional governorates.

Constraints caused by delays in obtaining Government approvals for some activities continued to affect implementation. The finalization of the list of target governorates for the education component of the EU-financed programme to expand access to education and child protection was delayed by several months. Delays regarding the approval of one non-governmental organization (NGO) partner prevented cash assistance from being disbursed to Syrian refugees. A new NGO law currently under consideration could further challenge the operating space for NGOs.

**Humanitarian Assistance**

Humanitarian assistance in Egypt focused on support to Syrian and other refugees, as well as vulnerable host populations. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Statistical Report of 30 September, the total number of refugees and asylum seekers registered with UNHCR in Egypt was 190,486, including 62 per cent from the Syrian Arab Republic. Children represented approximately 40 per cent of the total population, with 50,697 Syrian children and 24,970 refugee children from other nationalities, including 2,581 unaccompanied and separated children, mainly from the Horn of Africa.

Preliminary results of the Egypt Vulnerability Assessment of Refugees, the first comprehensive assessment since 2014, highlighted the precarious living conditions of Syrian refugees in Egypt. Some 95 per cent could not meet their basic daily needs, up from 92 per cent in 2014. Approximately 66 per cent could not meet half of their basic needs. Food was the item representing the highest amount of family expenditure; previously rent had been the highest expenditure item. Negative coping mechanisms included reducing non-food expenditure, especially on education and health, borrowing money to meet basic needs and taking on unsafe employment. Child labour increased from 2–3 per cent in 2014 to 5 per cent 2016. One in 10 families had a relative who had attempted or succeeded in migrating irregularly.

One of the most vulnerable refugee groups were unaccompanied minors. In November 2016, 1,600 unaccompanied minors were registered with UNHCR. UNICEF Egypt supported unaccompanied minors with education grants as well as child protection services. Nonetheless, the information on unaccompanied minors was incomplete. To address this and to strengthen support to this group, UNICEF, in coordination with UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), started a vulnerability assessment that will
follow a cohort of unaccompanied minors through 2017, assessing their needs and the support provided.

UNICEF Egypt supported MoHP efforts to expand outreach to Syrian families in 102 primary healthcare units in 16 governorates. Since January 2016, a total of 9,138 primary healthcare consultations were provided to pregnant Syrian adolescents and women (aged 15–49 years), and 14,219 Syrian children under 5 received primary healthcare consultations, immunization and growth monitoring.

As part of community engagement, UNICEF financed and trained approximately 200 Syrian community health workers who work directly with Syrian families, raising the health awareness of the families and encouraging them to use MoHP primary healthcare facilities. UNICEF supported the MoHP to conduct the National Immunization Day for polio reaching 14 million children under 5, including approximately 11,000 Syrian children under 5.

UNICEF expanded its outreach and support to Egyptian migrant and refugee children and parents in 16 targeted governorates - particularly in the area of child protection - as part of the No Lost Generation initiative aimed at bridging immediate response plans and longer-term development efforts in education, child protection and adolescent and youth engagement for children affected by the crises in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq.

UNICEF Egypt strengthened the resilience of 29,472 Syrian beneficiaries, including 23,867 children and 5,398 parents, exceeding expected targets by more than 20 per cent and almost doubling the number of beneficiaries, from 12,500 targeted beneficiaries in 2015 to 25,000 in 2016. As co-chair of the child protection working group, UNICEF led the development of a standardized inter-agency case management system endorsed by more than 25 NGOs and provided case management and specialized services to 5,398 children who were victims of violence, exploitation, abuse or neglect. A total of 18,012 Egyptian children also benefited from receiving psychosocial support in their schools/learning spaces through UNICEF-supported interventions.

In addition, education grants were disbursed to 3,164 kindergarten students and 421 unaccompanied and separated children, reaching a total of 2,489 additional children, to extend education access for refugee children in Egypt. Disbursement of grants was accompanied by teacher training and the provision of life-skills training to unaccompanied and separated children. Preparations were underway for supporting 2,923 refugee children in 16 public schools in Damietta including with provision of resource rooms, school rehabilitation and teacher training.

Under the resilience framework, UNICEF Egypt initiated an innovative approach to mainstream child protection in health delivery platforms, thereby achieving scale, efficiency and greater coordination. A strategic partnership was developed between UNICEF and the MoHP to deliver psychosocial support and other family-oriented services such as parenting programmes to combat violence within 44 primary health units in 16 targeted governorates, including crucial migration hubs that might be scaled up to all governorates in the future.

UNICEF also provided legal and humanitarian assistance to 543 detained children, of which more than 40 per cent were unaccompanied minors/separated children in connection with irregular migration, in close coordination with UNHCR and IOM in different governorates, including 17 detention centres on the Northern Coast and two in Aswan, near the Red Sea.

**Emerging Areas of Importance**

**Children on the move:** Egypt has increasingly become a country of origin, transit and destination for irregular migration. This was graphically illustrated in September 2016 when an overloaded boat destined for Italy carrying 500 migrants capsized, killing more than 200.
people. Although those on board included Sudanese, Eritreans and Somalis, the majority were Egyptian. In 2016, UNICEF Egypt designed a country-specific strategy addressing both Egyptian children as potential migrants and child refugees and covering the prevention of unsafe irregular migration and the protection of children during their migration journeys. Some initial funding has been agreed upon with the Government of Italy. The strategy builds on UNICEF’s existing work in education, adolescent development and child protection, focusing on strengthening skills and opportunities for children to remain in Egypt. In addition, UNICEF established a child protection safeguarding mechanism to prevent and respond to the needs of children requiring care and protection, to be implemented in those governorates with significant refugee populations and where youth are seen to be migrating in large numbers. Communication for Development initiatives are an integral part of the strategy to ensure that children and their families have a sound information base on which to make their decisions.

In 2016, UNICEF supported children on the move, both through the emergency response to Syrian refugees and through its support to children and families in detention. In Egypt, ‘children on the move’ has become a national priority and is governed by the new national strategy of the National Coordinating Council for Prevention of Illegal Migration, which is mandated to coordinate all national efforts and respond to the needs of all children on the move in Egypt, irrespective of their nationality. UNICEF also worked to prevent family separation by strengthening the positive parenting programme in targeted governorates and communities with high-levels of migration. UNICEF also invested in providing access to education and health services, including psychosocial support, through the activation of family clubs within existing primary health units.

**Integrated ECD:** Based on a request from the MoSS for support to increase access to quality ECD services, particularly for disadvantaged children, UNICEF drafted the ECD Model for Co-Responsibility to scale-up childcare services nationwide. This integrated model is based on two mutually reinforcing components: 1) promoting policies linked to social protection systems to stimulate female labour force participation; and 2) scaling up quality childcare services for children aged 0–3 nationwide to enhance holistic child development. To promote inter-sectoral coordination, an inter-ministerial group was invited to a workshop on the importance of integrated ECD interventions. As a result, a proposal and terms of reference for a high-level inter-ministerial committee was drafted for the approval of the Minister of Social Solidarity. This issue is likely to be a major component of the new UNICEF-Government of Egypt Country Programme, currently under preparation, as there is solid government commitment to expanding access to early childhood education from the current 36 per cent to 70 per cent.

**Children and urbanization:** During the current Country Programme, UNICEF Egypt completed a study on child poverty in urban areas that demonstrated that child deprivation in slums and unsafe areas was as bad as in rural Upper Egypt. Analysis of Demographic and Health Survey data also showed that the reduction of infant and child mortality was stagnating in urban areas. As a result, UNICEF initiated the Integrated Child Survival Partnership Initiative, which modelled urban programmes in health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and nutrition in two informal settlements in Cairo. Under the leadership of the Cairo Governorate, the Integrated Child Survival Partnership Initiative has been implemented in partnership with the Informal Settlements Development Unit of the Cairo Governorate, the Cairo Health Directorate, the Cairo Social Solidarity Directorate, the Cairo Water and Waste Water Company, and two local NGOs. The initiative has ensured increased PHC service coverage to a difficult-to-reach community. So far, one location has reported an increased number of antenatal visits, and the immunization coverage for children under 2 has increased from 32.6 per cent to 65 per cent. The model is currently being documented and costed, and a strategy for ensuring replication by government and major partners is under development.
Summary Notes and Acronyms

ANC  antenatal care
ARV  antiretroviral
CAPMAS  Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics
CMT  Country Management Team
ECD  early childhood development
EU  European Union
FHU  family health unit
HQIP  Health Care Quality Improvement Project
ICT  information and communication technology
IOM  International Organization for Migration
IPHN  Integrated Perinatal Health and Nutrition
LTA  long-term agreement
MENA  Middle East and North Africa
MoE  Ministry of Education
MoHP  Ministry of Health and Population
MoRES  Monitoring Results for Equity System
MoSS  Ministry of Social Solidarity
MoYS  Ministry of Youth and Sports
NCCM  National Council of Childhood and Motherhood
NGO  non-governmental organization
OCHA  Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PHC  primary health clinic
SDG  Sustainable Development Goal
SMS  short message service
UNDSS  United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNHCR  United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WASH  water, sanitation and hygiene
WHO  World Health Organization

Capacity Development

Community capacity development efforts centred on support to Egypt’s National Population Strategy 2015–2030. UNICEF partnered with the National Population Council on Mother Child Friends, a community outreach and mobilization intervention in Beni Suef and Fayoum governorates to disseminate priority messages from the Egyptian version of ‘Facts for Life’. This included capacity building of 80 health promoters to raise the awareness and enhance the skills and capacities of 3,600 mothers.

In partnership with the MoHP, UNICEF conducted a public awareness and social mobilization intervention to encourage caregivers to vaccinate their children during the national polio immunization campaign and to commemorate 10 years of a polio-free Egypt. The interventions included a social media campaign and capacity-building programme for more than 100 community leaders in 10 identified high-risk areas with dense concentrations of Syrian refugees. As per the MoHP coverage report, the campaign achieved 91 per cent of its target.

In collaboration with the MoSS, NCCM and the American University in Cairo, UNICEF supported the capacity development of social work professionals responsible for child protection. This effort sought to promote change by: 1) developing a curriculum for social work professionals that would train them to work more effectively with children and families with the goal of serving the best interests of the child; 2) identifying gaps in staffing, human
resources and systems functioning that impede effective child protection work; and 3) developing and advocating for public policy that addresses these gaps.

In partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS), UNICEF focused on strengthening the employability, life skills and entrepreneurship of adolescents and youth, as well as their rights to participation. During this reporting period, the MoYS also scaled up skills development and career guidance programmes into five additional governorates, Aswan, Qena, Beheira, Dakahlia and Kafr El Sheikh, using its own resources.

**Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy**

UNICEF finalized the 2016 edition of ‘Children in Egypt 2016: A statistical digest’, which represents the most comprehensive collection of updated and quality statistics on the situation of children in Egypt. It will be launched in February 2017 in collaboration with the CAPMAS and the Ministry of International Cooperation and the high-level participation of key ministries. The 2016 edition included a dedicated chapter on child-related SDGs and the results of a consultation with CAPMAS, NCCM and the Ministry of International Cooperation, and it aimed to inform decision makers on the status of child indicators under the SDG agenda and identify information gaps that need to be addressed.

UNICEF Egypt continued to support social protection reform and the expansion of cash transfers for children living in extreme poverty by providing evidence and technical assistance and participating in dialogues with donors on the reform. UNICEF engaged with CAPMAS and the MoSS to finalize the study on child multidimensional poverty, with a methodology tailored to the Egyptian context and with the participation of key national stakeholders. In parallel, UNICEF also worked with MoSS to strengthen the child focus of the monitoring and evaluation framework to enable effective monitoring of the programme’s coverage of children and its impact on children’s health, nutrition and education outcomes.

Other key areas for evidence generation and policy dialogue were ECD and nutrition. For ECD, the UNICEF Global ECD Adviser oriented an inter-ministerial group on the very latest evidence regarding the importance of investing in the early years, which was utilized in the development of a new ECD model for increasing access to and quality of ECD services. Similarly, in nutrition, UNICEF provided high calibre expertise to update ministry staff on the latest evidence on nutrition that was included in the Nutrition Policy Review and the Agenda for Action nutrition policy document.

**Partnerships**

The partnership with the CAPMAS was strengthened during the year with the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding for a traineeship programme in which CAPMAS technical staff joined UNICEF and received on-the-job training geared toward the delivery of the joint CAPMAS-UNICEF workplan. In2016, the traineeship programme included work on the establishment of the database for the statistical digest and the SDGs using the DevInfo application. In2017, the traineeship programme will contribute to the development of the publication, *Children in Egypt 2017*, and the analysis of child multidimensional poverty.

In response to the Government of Egypt request to invest in the primary healthcare sector, the strategic partnership on child survival was strengthened in close cooperation with the World Bank as well as the French Development Agency to scale-up IPHN. UNICEF became a formal partner in the new World Bank-funded HQIP in 1,000 PHC facilities, supporting the performance monitoring function.

The partnership with religious leaders, Al Azar University and the Coptic Church with the Ministry of Awqaf, intensified with the launch of the package of publications on peace, love
and tolerance. All partners extended their reach to religious leaders at the community level in the joint effort to end violence against children.

Private sector partnerships continued to add important inputs to the programme activities. Longstanding partnerships raised resources for programmes such as WASH, where Starwoods contributed to reaching 10,000 people with household water connections. Other partners such as Aramex International leveraged their core business, providing training opportunities for 40 children and youth in conflict with the law. UNICEF leveraged US$250,000 of in-kind contributions from 11 private sector companies to sponsor the Awladna positive parenting campaign dissemination.

**External Communication and Public Advocacy**

The midterm review, which was finalized in early 2016, recommended a shift towards streamlining communication to support the goals of the Country Programme and to be consistent with the Global Communication and Public Advocacy Strategy. An element of the Country Programme was to influence the adoption of positive social norms that support the well-being of children. This required a strengthened communication section. The programme budget review (PBR) approved the merging of the communications and communication for development functions into one streamlined section to be headed by an international professional and strengthened with additional communication staff.

A new communications and advocacy strategy as well as a social media strategy were finalized. UNICEF social media reach was at its highest during the month of Ramadan at 28 million with the launch of Awladna, the national campaign to protect children from violence. This focused on positive parenting and was led by NCCM in cooperation with UNICEF and the EU. The scaling up of the campaign was completed and launched on multimedia across the country in December.

The launch of the first joint interfaith publication on protecting children from violence was supported by a tailored social media campaign reaching 12 million people with key messages from the Muslim and Christian faiths promoting positive caregiving of children.

UNICEF in Egypt has the largest number of fans on Facebook of all UNICEF country offices. By the end of November 2016, the UNICEF Facebook page had received more than 1.4 million likes, with an average monthly reach of 2 million, ranking first among UNICEF country offices.

In 2016, UNICEF Egypt refreshed its online presence and completely revamped the website to make it more user-friendly and eventually more mobile-ready. The new site offers a visually engaging space for information gathering, dialogue and fund-raising, seamlessly integrated with all other digital and social media assets.

**South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation**

South-South and triangular cooperation was adopted as a key strategy in the work on justice for children. In collaboration with UNICEF Sudan, a team from the Ministry of Justice and the Prosecutor’s office visited the Sudan for a programme of structured learning and exchange of practical experience with Sudan law enforcement personnel and the judiciary on restorative justice and alternative measures to detention. In consultation with relevant stakeholders and partners, country-specific guidelines were drafted on restorative justice and are currently under review.

In collaboration with the New Zealand Embassy in Cairo and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, a study tour was conducted to New Zealand to acquire
knowledge on diversion, restorative justice and alternatives to detention. Senior officials from the Ministry of Justice, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the MoSS and the NCCM participated.

These experiences assisted in building support within the Ministry of Justice and other parts of the Government to test a new pilot for restorative justice and alternatives to detention.

**Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation**

As part of the development of UNICEF’s upcoming country programme, UNICEF initiated development of the situation analysis, which assesses the progress achieved and the disparities and vulnerabilities facing children. UNICEF held a national consultation with government partners to present and discuss the preliminary findings, focusing on child poverty (monetary and multidimensional), the deprivations in key child well-being indicators and the underlying causes of deprivation. This, together with other studies such as the Multiple Overlapping Dimensions of Poverty assessment will dive more deeply into the disparities, making them visible and thus able to be addressed and overcome.

Justice for children efforts concentrated on ensuring the full application of the Child Law and the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to the Government of Egypt state party report in 2011 for the protection of the rights of children in conflict with the law. UNICEF worked closely with the Ministry of Justice, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the MoSS and the NCCM to address gaps between legal provisions for children and actual practice and to promote alternative measures to detention. A majority of children in conflict with the law were charged with minor offences. Nevertheless, it is an established practice to hold children in pre-trial detention for a prolonged period and to sentence first-time child offenders accused of minor crimes with a penalty in the form of deprivation of liberty. Agreement has been reached to pilot alternatives to detention, thus addressing a major concluding observation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to Egypt’s state party report in 2011.

**Gender Equality**

The gender review assessed progress towards implementing the gender action plan and made recommendations for stronger gender programming in the upcoming Country Programme Document. The review showed how gender was currently being addressed. For instance, the gender review showed that the HIV/AIDS programme is a gender specific programme as it addresses practical gender needs. It also focuses on vulnerable mothers and children under 5 to increase their access to and utilization of integrated primary healthcare services and quality prevention, care, support and treatment for HIV. Furthermore, it addresses women living with HIV and at-risk groups. The review found that the education and child protection programmes are gender-sensitive programmes striving to address basic gender needs. It also revealed that although these programmes address gender norms, roles and relations, they do not address inequality generated by unequal norms, roles or relations.

In addition, the review illustrated that both the adolescent development and participation programme and the social policy, advocacy and monitoring and evaluation section address strategic gender needs and have good gender transformative potential. It also stipulated that these programmes strive to consider gender norms, roles and relations for young women and men. However, they need to address the causes of gender-based inequities. For example, while the adolescent development and participation programme attempts to include the transformation of harmful gender norms, roles and relations, it needs to place its objective often to promote gender equality and include strategies to foster progressive changes in power relationships between women and men.
The review also concluded that there was a need to scale-up and build on the attainments of current interventions to better address the targeted and mainstreamed programme priorities of the gender action plan. These programmes include: the HIV/AIDS programme, the adolescent development and participation programme, including the female genital mutilation/cutting abandonment programme, as well as the WASH, mother and child health and nutrition programmes.

**Environmental Sustainability**

UNICEF Egypt continued to support the ‘greening’ of UNICEF initiative. The 2015 reporting in this regard was released in 2016 and showed a 27.7 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for the office compared with the 2014 baseline of 3.6 tons per staff member. The factors, as well as the measures implemented in 2015, and carried forward in 2016. UNICEF Egypt’s total greenhouse gas emissions in 2014 were 198.5 tons compared with 174.6 tons in 2015. This 12 per cent drop was mainly due to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from electricity and public transport categories. Other categories such as air travel, vehicles and water consumption remained the same. Taking into consideration that the office had more staff in 2015 than in 2014, this explains the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 3.6 tons per staff member in 2014 to 2.6 tons per staff member in 2015.

Reporting for 2016 will be done in 2017, and these values will be affected by the increase of prices in electricity, gasoline and petroleum products.

The programme has not yet engaged on issues related to climate change and environmental sustainability. The upcoming development of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the Country Programme Document may provide an opportunity to align with organizational commitments in this regard.

**Effective Leadership**

The country management team (CMT) continued to provide strategic direction, guidance and oversight to ensure that planned results were achieved and risks mitigated, meeting 11 times during the year.

The midterm review was completed following a process of in-depth review with partners and external experts with the support of the Regional Office. This was followed by the midterm review of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The midterm review provided an opportunity for the programme to better align with national priorities, the SDG agenda and recent data and analysis on the situation of children. Key recommendations included the importance of the country programme toward supporting the new national social protection programme to ensure a strong linkage between cash transfers and social sector outcomes, the documentation of the modelling of the urban health programme, strengthening the coordination and modelling of ECD programmes, and the importance of investing in adolescence.

UNICEF Egypt management and programme priorities were established through a consultative process as part of Annual Management Plan, and accountabilities were assigned to staff in workplans and personnel appraisal system (PAS). Statutory committees remained fully functional and provided efficient oversight. The CMT and the Joint Consultative Committee also ensured a strong collaborative working environment. UNICEF Egypt continued to strengthen the partnership management function and the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers.

The enterprise risk management (ERM) review/assessment took place in August 2016 through a participatory exercise involving staff in group discussions/evaluations to reflect on
the changing country and programming environment. This review was timely as it will also feed into the preparatory work for the new Country Programme Document 2018–2022. The ERM update was reviewed/endorsed by the September 2016 CMT and uploaded into the ERM portal.

UNICEF Egypt ensured that all conflicting roles were mitigated as per applicable guidelines on internal controls and segregation of duties in the Virtual Integrated System of Information.

**Financial Resources Management**

The CMT regularly reviewed management performance indicators related to financial resources management such as utilization rates, direct cash transfer balances and end-of-month bank balances. The review of the grants situation and expiry dates was regularly undertaken during the CMT, focusing on the grants expiring within three months and those expiring in six months.

By the end of the year, budget utilization rates were 98 per cent for regular resources, 95 per cent for other resources regular, 99.15 per cent for other resources emergency and almost 99 per cent for the institutional budget. Expenditure was approximately US$16.5 million for the year, although US$3 million of the EU funding was re-phased to 2017 due to long delays in the selection of programme locations for the education component. Budget utilization was also affected by the devaluation of the Egyptian currency by 40 per cent.

Direct cash transfer advances were constantly monitored and reviewed, and as of 2 December they were at 3.1 per cent outstanding for more than nine months and 15.7 per cent outstanding between six and nine months.

Monthly, biannual and end-of-year closure activities were under control, and open items were followed up on and cleared as quickly as possible, usually within two weeks of being published on the accounts closure team site. All balances are currently within acceptable limits except for VAT refunds due to the lengthy refund processes.

The target of end-of-month balances not exceeding 30 per cent of total monthly replenishments was met in 3 out of 11 months as of the end of October 2016. This is mainly due to inaccurate needs forecasting by programme sections and delays in implementation.

Monitoring of open travel authorizations was regular to ensure trips were closed within and any unused budgets were released back to be reallocated.

**Fundraising and Donor Relations**

Due to successful resource mobilization and a particularly generous grant from the EU, the other resources ceiling was raised from US$32 million to US$60 million for the Country Programme ending in December 2017.

In 2016, UNICEF Egypt received other resources regular of US$9,060,607 and other resources emergency of US$7,278,824 (both figures refer to the programmable amount, which does not include UNICEF Headquarters cost recovery).

Funding agreements for other resources were also agreed to with the Italian Development Cooperation, the French Development Agency and the Government of the Netherlands. Apart from the EU funding, which is for five years, the remaining other resources funding is for two years, while other resources emergency funding remains limited to one year maximum. UNICEF Egypt is therefore not enjoying predictable and long-term funding.
The contribution management function was strengthened considerably through the
recruitment of an experienced international planning and reporting specialist to plan, monitor
and report on the new funding received from the EU.

In 2016, a new fund mobilization strategy was finalized and a new work process for all
aspects of contribution management was established in new standard operating procedures.
Both initiatives were endorsed by the Representative following CMT discussion and
recommendation.

UNICEF Egypt maintained strong relationships with development partners and engaged at
various levels in the official coordination bodies operating in Egypt. The Representative
attended the Development Partners Group monthly coordination meetings, and programme
staff attended relevant sub-group meetings.

Evaluation and Research

In 2016, UNICEF Egypt continued to strengthen its evaluation function, particularly the
internal monitoring and evaluation function and system. UNICEF Egypt decided on a more
strategic approach to choosing which areas to evaluate rather than conducting a
comprehensive programme evaluation for all programmes. UNICEF Egypt based its
selection of key issues for evaluation using and capitalizing on the midterm review findings.
As a social protection evaluation with an equity focus was planned and will be conducted in the
first half of 2017. The evaluation will assess the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance and
sustainability of the Country Programme’s comprehensive and integrated social protection
efforts. UNICEF Egypt has also commissioned a summative evaluation of the Meshwary
Project for adolescent skill development. This programme is currently being scaled up in five
additional governorates. The evaluation is in the field data collection stage following
completion of the inception phase. The evaluation is assessing the extent to which the
project has achieved its planned or unintended results with a focus on the main five
governorates covered by the programme and informing design and implementation in the
five additional governorates where the MoYS is currently scaling up the programme.

The Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan was developed in a participatory manner
through systematic coordination with different sections and the monitoring and evaluation
specialist. Special emphasis has been on utilization of the research, studies, reviews and
evaluation deliverables, as well as the level of effort and strategic timing of these
deliverables. The UNICEF Regional Office support in reviewing the plan; terms of reference,
inception reports and drafts has been substantive completion rates fell short of optimal for
2016 due to ambitious planning; delays in feedback from government counterparts and
limited capacity of research institutions.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

UNICEF Egypt signed a new deal with the office’s main mobile operator to receive a 30 per
cent discount on the total bill, effective September 2016, which represents an improvement
over the previous deal of 2015.

UNICEF Egypt continued to actively participate at the operations management team level,
working with other United Nations agencies. The year witnessed the activation of the
Procurement Working Group, which took on the task of inventorying all individual long-term
agreements (LTAs) managed by United Nations agencies and negotiated the expansion of
some LTAs to all United Nations agencies.

UNICEF continued to negotiate, along with other United Nations agencies, and benefit from
reduced hotel rates applicable to all agencies in the United Nations system in Egypt. Moreover, the various agencies share several LTAs.

Reporting on 2015 ‘greening’ of UNICEF was released in 2016 and showed a 27.7 per cent reduction in office greenhouse gas emissions compared with the 2014 baseline of 3.6 tons per staff member. The factors as well as the measures implemented in 2015 also carried forward in 2016. However, these values may be affected by the increase of prices in electricity, gasoline and petroleum products. Therefore, the results for 2016 will only be known once the 2016 reporting exercise is concluded. In 2016, all office perimeter security lights were replaced with LED ones, and a few solar-powered external lights were also installed.

Due to the increase in the number of staff, UNICEF Egypt had to be reorganized to accommodate more staff. New comfortable seating arrangements were put in place with new criteria to fit all appointed staff. Furniture from the Garden City office, which will close in 2017, was used. New office space has been organized on the ground floor to accommodate more office-based consultants.

### Supply Management

The procurement actions handled by the supply unit in 2016 totalled US$25,131,728 and were divided as below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total value of local procurement (US$)</th>
<th>25,137,728.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local programme supplies</td>
<td>942,251.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement of service (institutional contracts)</td>
<td>980,757.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offshore supplies</td>
<td>2,207,580.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement of service from the Government</td>
<td>20,950,140.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational supplies</td>
<td>57,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In compliance with UNICEF Regional Office requirements, UNICEF Egypt finalized and submitted the supply plan in a timely manner.

UNICEF Egypt continued to provide procurement of HIV medications for the National AIDS Programme/MoHP. The total value of this procurement in 2016 was US$155,234.93.

UNICEF Egypt continued to handle procurement services for the MoHP. These procurement services amounted to US$20,950,140 in 2016. This mainly covered the procurement of vaccines against measles, mumps and rubella; Bacillus Calmette–Guérin; diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, and haemophilus influenzae type b; tetanus and diphtheria; diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis; as well as potassium iodate. The UNICEF Egypt supply unit is working closely with the MoHP to conquer any obstacles that occur while shipments are being released by the consignee. The supply unit is also cooperating with the programme section and government counterparts as well as the UNICEF Supply Division to
solve any issues related to the available balance of funds belonging to the MoHP at the UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen.

The digital media buying LTA was finalized, and UNICEF Egypt is working on issuing and renewing other LTAs.

In 2016, there were 24 contract review meetings, and 45 cases were presented. In 2016, there were 16 PRC meetings, and 25 cases were presented. UNICEF Egypt managed to refund the total amount of US$23,418.99, which represents 91 per cent of the claimed amount. UNICEF Egypt is still following up closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Egyptian Tax Authority to receive sales tax refunds from the Government.

### Security for Staff and Premises

The security environment in Egypt in 2016 witnessed a further reduction in public protest compared with 2015, as well as a reduction in the number of terrorist attacks. However, with several high-profile attacks against security/police and a terrorist attack on a Coptic church, the office continued to maintain a high level of security awareness and to coordinate closely with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). A national security officer was under recruitment to better deal with the increasing number of staff and the complex security environment. The position is expected to be filled in the first quarter of 2017.

Warden trees were updated regularly and shared with staff and UNDSS. UNICEF Egypt participated in the UNDSS testing of the short message service (SMS) warning system. Head count tests, a live count as well as a fire alarm drill successfully conducted. Training for wardens was offered by UNDSS, and ultra-high frequency radios were purchased for wardens and drivers.

A new system—IP Based Fingerprint Access Control and Time Attendance—was installed in the first quarter of 2016 for staff to access the office premises.

UNDSS assessed the Garden City office, and the recommendations proved to be very expensive to implement. The CMT recommended closing the office, and this was approved by the Representative.

The 2016 PBR approved the opening of a small office in Alexandria to be staffed by L3 temporary appointments and three NOBs, and the premises have been identified. UNDSS cleared the new office, with some work required to bring it up to Minimum Operating Security Standards.

All new staff members were briefed on the security system in the office and monitoring of mandatory security trained BSIF and ASITF. The fire plan was updated and is in place, and fire drills are taking place. UNICEF Egypt followed up on staff mandatory security training certificates (BSIF and ASITF). As of 6 December, UNICEF Egypt was 90 per cent compliant.

### Human Resources

The human resources section supported recruitment, staff training and new staff orientation. External human resources professional support was hired for four months, particularly to meet the demands of recruitments and to enhance the planning and technical skills of the human resources officer. A total of 17 recruitments were completed this year: six international professionals and 11 national officers. The office undertook two human resources reviews to keep staffing levels optimal, particularly for emergency interventions.
Gender statistics were 60 per cent female overall; 63 per cent female for international professionals; 39 per cent female for general service staff; and 34 per cent female for national officers. Geographical diversity was at 60/40 in favour of donor countries. Eighty-three per cent of 2015 PASs were completed by the April 2016 deadline, and 78 per cent of the planning phase of 2016 ACHIEVE was completed by October 2016. The completion rate for international staff was 100 per cent for both 2015 PAS and 2016 ACHIEVE. UNICEF Egypt regularly reminded staff and supervisors of the different phases of performance evaluation and their deadlines and encouraged staff and supervisors to use Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions objectives/indicators.

The learning and development plan was used by the HRDC to review staff development objectives based on office and global priorities. Group learning events included results-based management (RBM), Microsoft Office 2013 and warden training.

UNICEF Egypt supported the UN Cares initiative and implemented the 10 minimum standards on HIV in the workplace. Post-exposure prophylaxis kits were maintained with the HIV/AIDS Officer for emergency use. UNICEF Egypt supported the PSV system, and two staff members were elected and trained in 2016.

The flexible workplace arrangement remained in place (18 staff members utilized the flexible workplace option, and eight staff members used teleworking in 2016). Three joint consultative committee meetings were held, and the office improvement plan was always a standing agenda item to assess progress. Several office improvement plan actions are still in progress.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

UNICEF Egypt concentrated public digital advocacy on identifying and engaging key influencers to increase public awareness on children’s rights. The national campaign to protect children from violence lead by the NCCM in partnership with UNICEF and supported by the EU promoted positive parenting. The multimedia campaign capitalized on the UNICEF social media presence, with 1.5 million followers on Facebook alone and the engagement of key influencers to ensure the maximum reach of the campaign.

The information and communication technology (ICT) unit participated in the Innovation Task Force through two projects: the implementation of U-Report and the establishment of a new helpline call centre system with unified case management for NCCM.

In terms of infrastructure, connectivity in UNICEF Egypt for data/voice/video traffic continued to be acquired through a local Internet service provider through leased lines. The current office bandwidth is 10 megabytes for primary traffic with third generation cellular phone technology as a backup solution and four megabytes as a secondary link with two backup options (an asymmetric digital subscriber line and third generation cellular technology).

To simplify presentations in the conference room, a new wireless data show was installed to facilitate remote connection by wireless Internet users.

ICT equipment needs and the ICT replacement plan were implemented in October, covering the Cairo and Alexandria offices. The equipment is expected to be received by the end of 2016/early 2017.

The ICT Governance Committee continued its activities and met three times in 2016 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.
ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 Improved management of financial, administrative, ICT and human resources to support pursuit of results

Analytical statement of progress:
Support services remained on track and provided services for programme implementation. In 2016, the security environment remained similar to that of 2015 with less public protest and fewer terror incidents targeting the Government/security installations. Office governance structures operated effectively. The CMT met 11 times in 2016 (as of November 2016), providing oversight and high-level monitoring on key programmes/operations and management indicators.

The areas of financial management, human capacity development, staff safety and ICT system efficiency, governance, reduction in overall operations costs and gaining higher efficiency were addressed throughout the year. The Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers implementation and assurance plans were carried out as planned. As of mid-November, all six planned micro-assessments were carried out, 60 programme visits were completed against a target of 52, four spot checks were completed out of 20 planned, and eight spot checks are underway. Office systems, structures and resources were available and maintained to provide staff with an enabling and safe work environment. Alternative space and seating arrangements were put in place to accommodate increasing staff numbers, pending assessment of space needs and a decision on moving to a new office location. Efforts to reduce the office carbon footprint continued, and in 2016, UNICEF Egypt reported on its 2015 greenhouse gas emissions, which showed a reduction of 27 per cent in 2015 compared with the 2014 baseline of 3.6 tons per staff member.

OUTPUT 1 Governance and systems

Analytical statement of progress:
All management systems operated effectively and efficiently. The 2016 AMP was finalized/shared with the UNICEF Regional Office on time (by mid-March 2016). Office statutory committees operated, as per their terms of reference, to support office governance and accountability structures. The CMT met regularly (10 times as of mid-November) to monitor the AMP and key performance indicators; risk control and self-assessment; business continuity; and staff learning and development.

Office ICT systems functioned smoothly and backup systems and processes were in place and functioning as designed. The ICT inventory count was done in September 2016 and obsolete IT items were submitted to PSBs throughout 2016. The ICT component of the key actions and preparedness of the Early Warning Early Action system were updated in September 2016. ICT is participating in the Innovation Task Force with two projects taking place: the implementation of U-Report in NCCM and the establishment of a new helpline call centre system and unified case management system for NCCM.

In June 2016, the contract with the Internet service provider to provide Internet connectivity at UNICEF Egypt was renewed, and the current bandwidth in the office is 10 megabytes for primary traffic and four megabytes for secondary traffic. In addition, the contract for BGAN at the Disaster Recover Site was renewed for one year.
Administrative and logistical support for travel, workshops and meetings continued with increased pressure due to the increase scope of activities and increase in staff numbers.

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 are current. The transition to the Global Shared Services Centre in the area of finance went smoothly and according to plan without issues, thanks to good preparation. After the ‘go live’ period, issues remained in delays and the learning curve both at the office and Global Shared Services Centre levels. Direct cash transfer follow-up on a large outstanding balance of more than nine months resulted in bringing this to 3 per cent as of the end of November.UNICEF Egypt still faces bottlenecks with some partners and must exert extra effort to deal with these. Financial benchmarks in terms of providing necessary cash flow liquidity, clearing GL accounts, bank reconciliations, NEP registers/inventory were consistently met, with activities completed in a timely manner.

The target of end-of-month bank balances not exceeding 30 per cent of total monthly replenishments was met in 3 out of 10 months as of the end of October 2016. This is mainly due to inaccurate needs forecasting by the programme section and less control of the process due to movement of the paying function to the Global Shared Services Centre, reducing the ability of the local office to manage the process efficiently.

Regular resources funds utilization was at 88 per cent as of 23 November 2016, while other resources regular and other resources emergency funds were at 65 per cent and 48 per cent, respectively, as of the same period. The BMA budget was at 99 per cent utilization.

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. Due to a large increase in recruitment activities, UNICEF Egypt brought in additional professional human resources support for four months to manage the workload. From the beginning of the year, five international professionals were recruited at the following levels: two Professional Level 3 and three Professional Level 4. Six national officers were recruited, including one post at the NOC level 3 at NOB level and two at NOA level. One general service staff recruitment was finalized at the General Service 6 level, and five national officer TAs and one Professional Level 3TA were recruited. Currently four posts are under recruitment and are in the interview stage (three national officer positions and one general service position). One Professional Level 3TA is in the process of being advertised. Subject to funding availability, UNICEF Egypt is planning to get international professional human resources support in 2017 as elaborated in the June 2016 PBR.

Gender statistics are 64 per cent female and 37 per cent male overall for the office, with a breakdown of 63 per cent female/37 per cent male international professionals, 39 per cent male/61 per cent female general service staff and 34 per cent male/66 per cent female national officers.

Geographical diversity is at 63 per cent/37 per cent in favour of donor countries. However, this does not reflect recruitment actions completed but not reflected in the system, which should improve the programme country statistics.

The Local Training Committee met once; however, due to the delay in completing the planning phase of 2016 ACHIEVE, UNICEF Egypt did not finalize the 2016 learning plan.
until the end of June 2016, and group learning events took place during the year. These included sessions on RBM, the Country Programme Document and Microsoft Office 2013. Warden training and ultra-high frequency radio training were held for all wardens and assistant wardens.

**OUTCOME 2** Vulnerable mothers and children under 5 have increased access to and utilization of continuous and integrated primary healthcare services, particularly perinatal care, nutritional services, WASH and quality prevention, care, support and treatment for HIV

**Analytical statement of progress:**
The IPHN programme continued to strengthen perinatal and child healthcare quality standards in 269 FHUs in six governorates. Key components of the IPHN programme were included in the new HQIP, which the MoHP started in January 2016 with financing from the World Bank. HQIP aimed to support the accreditation of 1,140 FHUs in five governorates in Upper Egypt. UNICEF became a partner in the HQIP, signing an agreement with the MoHP to be responsible for the verification of quality services in the FHUs. In 2016, UNICEF designed the verification system, conducted the baseline data collection and completed two batches of Level I and II verification. UNICEF has been requested by the MoHP to partner with the French Development Agency to implement the community health activities component of the French Development Agency loan project for supporting the Government’s strategy to strengthen the primary healthcare system in six governorates.

In 2016, the Integrated Partnership Initiative for Urban Health with the MoHP and the Cairo Governorate established a new healthcare facility to provide maternal and child healthcare services and to support community health awareness-raising activities and hygiene promotion and WASH services. This initiative has proved to be a promising model of strengthening partnerships to deliver quality health services to excluded urban populations.

UNICEF supported the maintenance of Egypt’s polio-free status by procuring vaccines and communication interventions for the polio National Immunization Day as part of the Polio Endgame Strategic Plan. A total of more than 14.5 million children under 5 benefitted from these efforts.

The primary healthcare consultations, immunization and growth monitoring services for Syrian refugees reached 11,263 Syrian children under 5, and antenatal care (ANC) consultations reached 9,138 Syrian women living in target communities.

During 2016, UNICEF interventions with the National Holding Company for Water and Waste Water expanded to benefit 16,245 households in the governorates of Minia, Assiut, Sohag and Qena.

UNICEF supported a stakeholder nutrition mapping exercise that will feed into the Agenda of Action nutrition policy developed by UNICEF and the MoHP. UNICEF developed the 1,000 Days Model in two health districts of Lower Egypt for the prevention of stunting. UNICEF supported the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) certification of 97 health facilities in 12 governorates. The joint UNICEF/Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition/MoHP National IDD Survey was completed and showed the sustained success of the National IDD Programme, with improved household coverage of iodized salt, and identified recommendations for addressing sustainability gaps.

**OUTPUT 1** Increased access to quality perinatal care and nutrition services of children under 5 and mothers in intervention areas
Analytical statement of progress:
In 2016, the MoHP initiated implementation of the HQIP funded by the World Bank loan to improve the quality of healthcare services in 1,140 FHUs. The MoHP and the World Bank requested that UNICEF support the new programme, building on the learning gained during the implementation of IPHN, which is considered by the MoHP to be a solid platform to build on and scale-up. Based on the agreement with the MoHP, UNICEF verification officers received orientation and training on the role of verification and capacity building of a shadow team from the MoHP at central and peripheral levels. A baseline study was conducted on a random sample of 80 FHUs in the target five governorates of Qena, Sohag, Minia, Assiut and Beni Suef to assess the situation of healthcare services and raise recommendations with the MoHP to reach the standard expected for quality services. The baseline assessment was conducted during the period between 25 May and 16 June 2016.

Seventy-five percent of the health facilities have health clubs with dedicated space for the organization of education sessions for FHU patients; 90 per cent of the FHUs have housekeeping staff available more than 85 per cent of the time, and 81 per cent of the FHUs meet cleanliness requirements. Nevertheless, some health system gaps remain and represent a critical barrier to delivering quality care services. The overall service utilization rate is below the HQIP targets among 40 per cent of the FHUs. Two batches of Level I and II verifications of sample PHC units in target governorates were completed in addition to the baseline assessment. Results and recommendations of the verification process were shared with the MoHP for implementation and better quality improvement of healthcare services in the project governorates.

With the successful implementation and follow-up of awareness and quality service provision that IPHN ensures for the MoHP, Monitoring Results for Equity System (MoRES)/administrative data showed: 73 per cent coverage of pregnant women with ANC; an increase in the registration rate for the first ANC visit before week 13 of gestational age from 8 per cent to 20 per cent in the third quarter of 2016; 88.4 per cent of births were attended by skilled birth personnel; and an increase in the percentage of children that received postnatal care within 48 hours of birth to 71 per cent.

UNICEF continued to support the partnership initiative with Cairo Governorate, the MoHP in Cairo Directorate and two partner NGOs to improve access to and availability of integrated child survival services in two slum areas in Cairo. The initiative involved working with partners to improve access to and quality of health, nutrition and hygiene services and conduct awareness sessions to benefit 3,267 women in the reproductive age group and 4,487 children under 5 during the reported period. Beneficiaries received awareness-raising interventions on health, nutrition and hygiene topics related to ANC, maternal health and child health. Accordingly, ANC visits increased to two visits instead of one, and immunization coverage for children under 2 reached 65 per cent instead of 32.6 per cent.

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 was implemented in four governorates in Upper Egypt (Qena, Sohag, Assiut and Minia) and two slum areas in Cairo. WASH was implemented in partnership with the National Holding Company for Water and Waste Water 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 programme works at the national level in partnership with Rotary International in Egypt and the National Holding Company for Water and Waste Water and subsidiary companies in Upper Egypt governorates in specific rural districts to advocate for the efforts needed to bring safe water
directly to homes.

In 2016, UNICEF provided water companies with technical and financial support, and as a result, 2,031 households were connected to the public water connection network, benefiting an estimated 10,155 people. As a part of UNICEF capacity-building support to the National Holding Company for Water and Waste Water, the skills of 120 staff members working in the awareness departments of 23 governorate water companies were improved in relation to water customer service, monitoring and planning of awareness activities. They will be able to manage the revolving fund mechanism and monitor awareness within their target communities for sanitation and proper safe-water usage.

Approximately 12,000 schoolchildren benefited from improved school sanitation, and 450 families accessed household water connections in two urban slum areas as a result of UNICEF technical and financial support. Discussions with Cairo Governorate and the Informal Settlement Development Unit are ongoing to build the capacity of the unit team to better extend the initiative to other slum areas.

More than 26,000 schoolchildren benefited from the school sanitation component implemented in 40 schools by the Minia Company for Water and Waste Water through UNICEF support. Key achievements involved ensuring the proper maintenance and functioning of WASH services in the respective schools and motivating and influencing basic hygiene practices among schoolchildren through hygiene promotion and effective project monitoring. In addition, the programme started an initiative on applying the revolving fund mechanism to households’ sanitation connections in Minia and Sohag governorates. A total of 155 households were connected to the public sewage network. This initiative will be assessed for further scale-up next year.

As part of the forthcoming midterm review of the country programme, the WASH programme interventions and initiatives will be reviewed in the context of a sector strategy review. The outcome will feed into the programme results framework and fund-raising activities.

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

Analytical statement of progress:
Improving key family practices is one of the main strategies of the UNICEF-supported IPHN programme implemented by the MoHP since 2012 in 11 disadvantaged districts in six governorates in Upper and Lower Egypt. Since June 2016, the IPHN experience has been exchanged with a total of 40 districts in four governorates in Upper Egypt to support HQIP. This new partnership between the MoHP, UNICEF and the World Bank is intended to improve quality of health services in more than 1,140 PHC units in Upper Egypt. The MoHP and UNICEF 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 communication and awareness activities as part of the IPHN as well as HQIP.

Positive changes in key health behaviours were evident as per MoHP MoRES administrative data. Early ANC visits before 13 weeks improved from an average of 11.1 per cent in 2013 to an average of 22.8 per cent by the third quarter of 2016. In addition, the demand for ANC increased as indicated by the average number of ANC visits, which rose from 2.1 to 3 during the same period. The utilization of health services has shown improvement from an average of 59 per cent in 2013 to 64 per cent by the third quarter of 2016 as per MoRES data, which reflects increased community demand for services following community-based activities.

These results were achieved through intensive UNICEF capacity-building and
Communication for Development activities to enhance the communication and counselling skills of the MoHP community health workers and improve knowledge on health and behavioural practices. In the period from January to December 2016, on-the-job and refresher trainings were conducted for more than 700 community health workers to enhance their skills and ability to conduct outreach activities, communicate health messages and counsel families on key health, nutrition and WASH topics. Approximately 70,000 pregnant and 60,000 lactating women in target communities participated in health education sessions facilitated by community health workers. These sessions covered topics such as ANC, postnatal care, nutrition and breastfeeding practices, as well as handwashing, sanitation and food handling. A verification process was conducted for a sample of 300 villages as part of UNICEF’s role in HQIP and found that the average number of sessions per month per FHU was 16.4, representing a substantial increase compared with the baseline values (6.9) in the first quarter of 2015. The MoHP shadow team that accompanies the verifiers from UNICEF from the central and governorate levels received capacity building and awareness from UNICEF at the training and preparatory meetings as well as on-the-job training during implementation of the data collection and verification processes.

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:
In 2016, UNICEF continued to provide technical and financial support to facilitate strategic and technical discussions between the National AIDS Programme and the MoHP through the Mother and Child Health Department to support policy development for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. A guidance framework for a pilot model for integrating HIV testing into ANC services was developed with the National AIDS Programme and the Mother and Child Health Department. The model includes HIV awareness raising, counselling and informed HIV testing for pregnant mothers and referral of positive cases to specialized care. A draft protocol was also developed to guide the implantation of elimination of mother-to-child transmission in selected pilot sites. The results will inform the scale-up at a more strategic level.

Since the inception of the programme in mid-2015, nine mother and child health centres were selected in four governorates (Cairo, Alexandria, Giza and Qalyubia) as intervention pilot centres based on agreed-upon selection criteria and approaches. In 2016, 19 senior managers/directors in selected directorates/mother and child health sites were oriented about various programmatic and technical aspects of prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV to familiarize them with the intended intervention and ensure their buy-in and leadership.

A training manual and information, education and communication materials were developed, reviewed and validated by experts in the field. Capacity-strengthening elements along with management support and commitment have been crucial to ensuring that the work environment is supportive and ready for the launching of actual service provision in the intervention sites in early 2017 with the highest potential to achieve a successful scalable model.

UNICEF support to the national procurement and supply management system of antiretroviral (ARV) treatment in 2016 resulted in improved access for more than 2,300 persons living with HIV to high quality medicines. Beneficiaries included refugees and HIV-positive pregnant women and their infants who received ARVs to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission. This range of support included improvements made to the ARV storage infrastructure/conditions in addition to capacity development of National AIDS
Programme staff on effective inventory management and applying quality assurance standards on product selection, forecasting and quantification.

UNICEF’s pioneering collaboration with civil society organizations and the National AIDS Programme to increase the adherence of people living with HIV or AIDS, including mothers and children, to treatment has been successfully improving the health outcomes for an increasing number of people living with HIV or AIDS. The intervention package, which included treatment literacy sessions on the vitality of compliance and tips to avoid, minimize and deal with side effects; assignment of a buddy system; enhancement of the role of family members in supporting retention; addressing stigma and discrimination in treatment sites; and support to economic challenges through transportation allowances, has contributed to increasing treatment retention among target groups, with subsequent improvement in treatment coverage. This initiative expanded in 2016 (commenced in September) to six governorates with more than 100 people living with HIV or AIDS newly served (25 per cent of the total target for 2016–2017). The total number is 270 when the 170 enrolled since 2015 are included.

OUTPUT 5 New vaccines successfully introduced to national immunization schedule

Analytical statement of progress:
UNICEF and partners from the World Health Organization (WHO) are supporting the MoHP to strengthen the Expanded Program for Immunization by maintaining high routine immunization coverage to keep Egypt polio-free and maintain low rates of vaccine-preventable diseases, particularly measles. This is done through the introduction of new vaccines, the management of outbreaks, proper timely responses to the national needs of vaccine supply, and maintaining and upgrading the current routine programme.

Through UNICEF procurement services, the MoHP secured the national needs of vaccines—Bacillus Calmette-Guérin; measles, mumps and rubella; diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis; seasonal influenza; and pentavalent—for routine immunization, targeting more than 2.7 million children under 18 months as per the MoHP’s routine immunization programme. In addition, tetanus toxoid vaccine was procured for the immunization of pregnant women during their ANC visits, as well as the travellers’ vaccination programme.

To maintain Egypt as a polio-free country, UNICEF supported the MoHP to conduct polio National Immunization Days in February 2016 targeting 15 million children under 5 (both Egyptians and non-Egyptians). According to MoHP reports, coverage reached 100 per cent. UNICEF 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 to complement the full amount required for the National Immunization Day.

According to the global PolioEndgame Strategic Plan for polio eradication, UNICEF supported the MoHP with the projection/planning of procurement needs for the switch of trivalent oral polio vaccine to bivalent oral polio vaccine. UNICEF provided technical and financial support to the MoHP for the switch plan, implementation and monitoring and validation of implementation in coordination with central and independent teams. The switch was conducted on 12 May 2016 as agreed with WHO and the MoHP and as per the global Standard Operating Procedures.

To upgrade MoPH vaccine storage capacity and cold chain system, UNICEF is working to build the necessary infrastructure to accommodate the new equipment for the finalization of building vaccine main storage for the MoHP that was started with the procurement and delivery of 20 walk-in refrigerators and six freezers.
OUTPUT 6 Exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices improved

Analytical statement of progress:
In 2016, UNICEF consolidated efforts to support the Government to strategically refine its nutrition agenda using an evidence-based and participatory approach, through technical advocacy and financial support. UNICEF has been focusing primarily on contributing to increasing the rate of complementary and exclusive breastfeeding. In that context, UNICEF is supporting the MoHP to redefine national public health priorities to include nutrition, through the development of a national nutrition operational action plan. A nutrition stakeholder mapping exercise was completed by the MoHP with UNICEF’s technical support. The nutrition mapping results identified key gaps in coordination, resource mobilization and prioritization of nutrition interventions for maternal and child nutrition, which are informing the development of an updated operational action plan for nutrition. As requested by the MoHP, the updated operational plan and strategy will be in line with the SDGs, the Global Nutrition Targets 2025 and the Egypt Strategy 2030. This strategy will be developed through a consultative process with national counterparts and stakeholders, which will ensure that a national coordination and governance structure is in place for implementing a joint national nutrition multi-stakeholder action plan.

The MoRES results in IPHN-supported governorates showed gaps in capacities and skills for delivering nutrition interventions within PHC units. UNICEF supported the development of the 1,000 Days Model, which will be tested in two districts in Lower Egypt to address these capacity gaps, at the level of health service provision, enabling environment and demand. The programme focuses on strengthening the capacities and skills of healthcare workers for growth monitoring, nutrition counselling, supply chain management of micronutrients and monitoring and supervision of nutrition indicators. An important bottleneck, revealed through MoRES, was the delay in the provision of vitamin A supplies for children and pregnant women in the family health units. This was due to structural challenges at the central level of the MoHP, despite the provision of procurement support by UNICEF, indicating the need to review the supply chain management of MNs as part of the 1,000 Days Model. A draft communication counselling package was developed with technical support from UNICEF to support the preparation of nutrition counsellors at the FHU level and improve awareness at the community level.

UNICEF is supporting the National Population Council to develop the national nutrition communication strategy, which is the national platform for nutrition communication and awareness, including policy advocacy and community outreach and awareness. UNICEF is also providing technical support for one of the pillars of this communication strategy, which is the implementation of the youth pioneers/leader’s initiative in 12 universities within 14 governorates. The initiative is based on UNICEF’s Facts for Life nutrition awareness material and targets 100 core youth pioneers in the selected universities to be trained on nutrition counselling for peer-to-peer and community outreach and dissemination.

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

Analytical statement of progress:
UNICEF is continuing to support the MoHP in its emergency response to the Syrian refugee crisis in Egypt by strengthening the capacity of the public primary healthcare system, particularly maternal and child healthcare services provided in the MoHP primary health units in the communities with major concentrations of Syrian refugees. UNICEF is providing technical and financial support to the medical teams at the central and peripheral levels to improve the quality of healthcare services and strengthen the system to accommodate the increased burden of serving larger populations in target communities. This is considered part of the resilience support UNICEF is providing to the MoHP in the area of maternal and child health. This includes but is not limited supporting the development of the information and
monitoring and evaluation systems and the review of data collection tools and reporting mechanisms as well as the skills of the medical team to better serve target communities.

UNICEF supported MoHP efforts to expand outreach to Syrian families in 102 primary healthcare units in 33 districts in 16 governorates. Since January 2016, through UNICEF support, a total of 9,138 primary healthcare consultations were provided to pregnant Syrian women aged 15–49 years. A total of 14,219 Syrian children under 5 received primary healthcare services. UNICEF continued its technical and financial support to the MoHP to improve demand for services. It did this through an initiative that provided training opportunities and supportive supervision and monitoring and evaluation visits. The initiative included appointing Syrian community health workers as part of the community engagement through partner NGOs who work directly with Syrian families raising health awareness of the families and encouraging them to use MoHP PHC facilities. The MoHP and UNICEF appointed and trained up to 200 community health workers in nine governorates: Cairo, Giza, Damietta, Alexandria, Daqahlya, Qalyubia, Behaira, Gharbia and Matrouh. Five new brochures were developed by UNICEF and the MoHP to provide additional guidance to Syrian refugees on the location of the public primary health units, types of services and price list of these services. UNICEF worked with the MoHP to provide the required equipment to mother and child health services in facilities in the expanded governorates and 20 neonatal intensive care units in Giza and Damietta.

UNICEF and the MoHP started the ‘positive parenting’ and psychosocial support model to be introduced in 40 primary healthcare facilities in target areas. This model aims to consider the psychosocial trauma and challenges among Syrian and non-Syrian refugees as well, as Egyptian host communities, and to train community health workers and medical teams to provide the support they need or to refer indicated cases if complicated.

UNICEF technically and financially supported the MoHP with implementation, procurement and media coverage for the polio national immunization days conducted in March 2016, with special attention given to the coverage of Syrian children. The WHO monitoring and coverage survey referred to an estimated 11,299 Syrian children under 5 covered in the designated areas. Invalidated MoHP estimates refer to the campaign reaching 16,036,682 Syrian and Egyptian children.

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:
The country has increased access to education with gross enrolment ratios of around 96 per cent in primary education, 95 per cent in preparatory education and 67 per cent in secondary education in 2015/16. However, gross enrolment in pre-primary education is still low with around 32 per cent in 2015/16 and approximately 2 million children still not in school.

However, children’s learning is compromised due to the sub-optimal quality of education. More than half of Egyptian students in Grade 8 did not meet the low benchmarks (53 per cent for mathematics and 58 per cent for science) of international learning achievement assessments. The scores of Egyptian students decreased by 15 points for mathematics and 13 points for science from 2003 to 2007. Science scores further decreased by 37 points from 2007 to 2015.

There are currently 50,697 Syrian children and 24,970 refugee children from other nationalities. These children need to access an already overstretched education system in Egypt. While significant progress has been made towards improving enrolment rates of the 37,000 Syrian refugee children in public schools, up to 12 per cent of Syrian children of school age (6–17) either never enrolled in school or had dropped out as of 2014.
In order to contribute to enhancing the Egyptian education sector, UNICEF’s activities in 2016 targeted: 1) increasing access to quality pre-primary education; 2) increasing access to quality community schools; 3) expanding inclusive education especially for children with disabilities; and 4) increasing access to quality education in government and community-based schools for refugee children.

In 2016, UNICEF played a role in improving the access to and quality of pre-primary education and preparing to scale-up ECD. UNICEF is finalizing the development of an integrated ECD model to prevent malnutrition in children, reduce the infant mortality rate, increase school readiness and empower mothers to ensure the holistic development of the child. The model is based on an ECD situational analysis conducted in July 2016, an Inter-Ministerial Technical Workshop conducted in August 2016 calling for cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration for developing integrated ECD in Egypt and a rapid assessment for nurseries conducted in November 2016.

In late 2016, UNICEF committed to developing a sustainable and replicable excellence model for early childhood education in Egypt to improve children’s school readiness through a pilot school-based reform package. Approximately 600 children aged 4–5, 185 school administrators/supervisors and 40 teachers will benefit from this pilot. Based on the results of the pilot, the reform package will be scaled up. The goal is to reach 70 per cent of children demonstrating school readiness at primary school entry.

UNICEF identified an additional 1,650 children in Assiut and Qena to be enrolled in community-based schools for the academic year beginning in September 2017. Target location choice was based on a baseline survey completed in June 2016. Joint community-based education profile assessments were conducted with the Mudiriyas (Assiut and Qena) to identify community schools. UNICEF established robust relationships with Mudiriyas that contributed to the capacity development of education administration at the governorate/community levels.

UNICEF reached 1,326 children with disabilities who are now enrolled in 120 mainstream public schools. Schools received supplies and are now equipped with resource rooms for creating improved inclusive teaching and learning environments. A total of 841 school teachers, principals, board of trustee members, school social workers and the Ministry of Education (MoE) staff were trained on diagnosis of disabilities, child-centred learning and examination specifications for disabled children.

A total of 30 additional primary schools were identified in Alexandria and Sohag governorates to be prepared as inclusion schools. Within the 30 selected schools, 10 received resource room furniture and educational materials in 2016. Furthermore, three schools in Alexandria were identified to receive pre-fabricated rooms to be used as resource or training rooms, and three schools in Sohag and one school in Alexandria were identified to be prepared as performance improvement centres.

In Sohag, 111 teachers were trained on diagnosis of disabilities. This will help with the early detection of children with special needs and their developmental problems, enabling teachers and schools to respond adequately in a timely manner. Trainings in Alexandria and Damietta will be completed in December 2016. Some 113 teachers were trained on early grade reading, 153 teachers were trained on classroom management and 70 school management personnel were trained on school leadership for developing a common understanding about the roles and responsibilities of different partners at the school level. Preparations are underway for supporting 2,923 refugee children in 16 public schools in Damietta and Alexandria to extend inclusive education to Syrian and Egyptian children with disabilities. Support includes the provision of resource rooms, school rehabilitation and
In 2016, UNICEF supported 1,318 refugee children across seven governorates to access education in 50 community-based kindergartens. The kindergartens received teaching and learning materials, furniture and teacher trainings. Some 100 female teachers and 73 education personnel (majority female) received trainings on classroom management, active learning and skills for managing community kindergarten classrooms.

In addition, kindergarten education grants were disbursed to 3,164 kindergartens and 421 unaccompanied and separated children, supporting a total of 2,489 additional children to access education opportunities for refugee children. Disbursement of grants accompanied teacher training and the provision of life skills training to unaccompanied and separated children.

In addition to non-Egyptian children, a total of 18,012 Egyptian children also benefited from receiving psychosocial support in their schools/learning spaces through UNICEF’s emergency interventions. Both community-based education and inclusive education interventions faced slow progress due to delays of government clearances and approval processes by the MoE.

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

**Analytical statement of progress:**
Despite low enrolment rate of children in pre-primary education is increasing in Egypt. The general enrolment rate ages increased from 29.6 per cent in 2013/14 (1,032,176 children) to 31.7 per cent in 2015/16 (1,236,136 children). The enrolment rate is far from reaching the targets in the country’s Constitution and the SDGs (80 per cent by 2030). Although pre-primary education is considered part of public education, it is not mandatory and has varying levels of service qualities. Currently, there are 14,273 nurseries with 847,423 children (0-4/5/6). In 2014/15, the percentage of children demonstrating readiness at primary school entry was 62 per cent. The MoE did not conduct a school readiness assessment in 2015/16.

In response to a request from the Minister of Social Solidarity to scale-up and improve the quality of nurseries nationwide, UNICEF conducted an ECD situational analysis in July 2016 to capture information on existing structures, service types, the legal framework and financing. This is an important step towards developing a comprehensive ECD programme for Egypt serving children aged 0–3 through the MoSS and children aged 4–5 through the MoE.

In addition, an Inter-ministerial Technical Workshop (among the MoE, MoSS, MoHP, Ministry of Finance, NCCM, Ministry of Planning and the World Bank) was held in August to invite commitment, coordination and collaboration among government entities for developing ECD in the country.

A rapid assessment specifically on nurseries was also conducted in November 2016 to identify existing models of nurseries, methods of registration and governing authorities.

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

**Analytical statement of progress:**
Access to primary education for boys and girls in Egypt has improved in recent years from a GER of 95.2 per cent in 2013/14 to 96.1 per cent in 2015/16, including those attending community-based schools. The number of community schools in the country increased from
4,780 in 2013/14 to 5,018 in 2014/15. The number of children attending community-base schools increased from 99,475 in 2013/14 to 106,781 in 2014/15. Alternative modes of education service delivery (e.g. formal or non-formal, including community-based, distance learning, flexible hour-schooling, etc.) were further emphasized to supplement the insufficient expansion of formal public schools in the country.

In 2016, UNICEF contributed to establishing the basis of further expansion of the community schools model and improving the access of out-of-school children to quality primary education.

UNICEF identified an additional 1,650 children (from Qena and Assiut) to be enrolled in community-based schools beginning in September 2017.

In order to specify the target community schools for the programme, joint-community-based education profile assessments were conducted with the Mudiriyas in five governorates (Assiut, Qena, Marsa Matrouh, Alexandria and Beheira). The assessment included information such as the number and locations of existing community-based schools, the number of children enrolled, teacher profiles, challenges, opportunities, etc.

UNICEF established robust relationships with both Assiut and Qena Mudiriyas (target locations for 2016/17) that contributed to the capacity development of education administration at the governorate/community levels. Actions plans were developed in a consultative manner with the Mudiriyas of Assiut and Qena to nominate new community school sites for MoE inspection and approval. In addition, eight NGOs were shortlisted in Assiut and Qena for implementing activities on the ground. Both school nomination and NGO selection is pending MoE clearance. The target of selecting 36 community schools in Assiut and Qena for the 2016/17 academic year is incomplete with only 26 schools completing the inspection (based on national standards for quality community-based education distributed nationwide in November 2015). An additional 10 community schools will be identified through a transparent and evidence-based planning process once MoE clearance is obtained.

Delay of government clearances and approval processes hindered programme progress in 2016, mainly due to changes in the priority locations (governorates) addressed by the MoE. Despite official EU approval of the programme inception phase in October 2016, new target governorates were suggested by the MoE in November 2016. The MoE is currently in the process of confirming the programme’s target governorates.

**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 Egypt, 93 per cent of children aged 1–14 were being disciplined through physical and emotional abuse (Egyptian Demographic and Health Survey, 2014). In line with the global Ending Violence Against Children agenda, during the programme cycle, UNICEF refocused its child protection interventions to address violence against children through three main approaches: strengthening the child protection system; improving child protection services for children in need of care and protection; and changing harmful behaviours and cultural norms including violent parenting practices and harmful practices such female genital mutilation/cutting.

Technical support to the Government, including the NCCM and MoSS for the development and the mobilization of a child protection workforce that is able to respond for children need through installing case management in government structures and budget. Therefore, UNICEF technically initiated a costing exercise to finalize the institutional setup and budget
related to caseworkers. Core competencies and positive parenting manuals were also finalized in partnership with the American University in Cairo and mainstreamed in the MoSS and the child helpline to strengthen social worker capacities on a sustainable basis through training trainers and embedding manuals in training units.

A national media campaign on positive parenting was also initiated by UNICEF and the NCCM in December. Public service announcements on TV and radio were widely viewed nationally. A social media campaign in June/July and December reached more than 48 million in aggregate. This was part of a three-tier strategy to end violence against children involving awareness raising, policymaking and social mobilization with the objective of behavioural change. Complementing the campaign, UNICEF built the capacity of NCCM social workers for child helplines 16000 and 16021 on positive parenting and counselling to provide immediate relief to parents seeking parenting advice at the national level. Under the Regional Refugee Response framework, a positive parenting manual and monitoring tools were developed and a programme was rolled out through more than 500 front-line workers and health practitioners across the country.

In addition, Egypt has become a country of origin, transit and destination for irregular migration as a result of the social unrest and political instability of several neighbouring countries. Child trafficking, human smuggling and irregular mixed migration are among the main risks faced by children in the region. In line with the global strategy, UNICEF Egypt has prioritized children on the move as an issue warranting careful assessment, advocacy and programme intervention. In this programme cycle, UNICEF led the creation of a national task force chaired by the NCCM and comprised of UNICEF, IOM and UNHCR. The task force, linked to the National Coordinating Committee on Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration, aims to support the MoSS to establish alternative care arrangements such as safe houses or foster care arrangements and also looking into alternative measures to detention for refugee and migrant children deprived of liberty.

A major investment in terms of financial and technical resources was provided to civil society organizations and the Government, including the MoSS, the National Population Council, the Ministry of Justice, the MoHP and the MoE, to strengthen child protection services. UNICEF managed the delivery of child protection services at the community level, including non-specialized psychosocial support, positive parenting skills, building child safeguarding systems into public schools and case management, as well as awareness raising on female genital mutilation/cutting at the community level. Case workers from the Government and civil society, as well as community health workers, were mobilized in 21 governorates to ensure that quality services are reaching 29,472 refugees and 2,388 Egyptian children living and working on the street.

Routine administrative data indicate that every year, more than 20,000 children in conflict with the law are tried in child courts in Egypt, in addition to the children tried on an exceptional basis in adult criminal courts or military courts. Currently, the criminal justice system focuses on punitive approaches and the deprivation of liberty as a first resort rather than rehabilitative approaches when dealing with children. Many children continue to face abuses during all stages of judicial proceedings, including prolonged periods of pre-trial detention, detention with adults, arbitrary detention and physical and emotional abuse. The criminal justice system also focuses on criminalizing offenders and lack enforcement of any protective measures in dealing with child victims and children in need of care and protection. Many migrant and refugee children are administratively detained for more than a year in violation of the national legislation and Egypt’s international obligations.

UNICEF Egypt has conducted advocacy to promote the implementation of alternative measures to the deprivation of liberty, such as probation, community service, training and rehabilitative programmes, as well as mediation and the rehabilitation and reintegration of
children who come in contact with the law. Working closely with the Ministry of Justice, the MoSS, The Office of the Public Prosecutor and the NCCM for the full recognition of the rights of these children and narrowing the gap between law and practice.

The programme is constantly facing challenges that constrain implementation and the advancement of results including changes in government leadership, weak capacity of government staff and current government austerity measures that affect the Government’s commitment to child protection. UNICEF is foreseeing fewer partnerships with civil society under the new NGO law, which will affect implementation and advocacy efforts in 2017.

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

**Analytical statement of progress:**
Through UNICEF financial and technical contributions, 3,906 children have access to child protection services though governmental and non-governmental services, which strengthened the NCCM’s capacity to regulate the provision of child protection services at central and decentralized levels in 15 districts.

The programme is focused on operationalizing the Child Law by bridging the gap between legislation and actual practice in the field and strengthening the connection between the child helpline and local statutory structures presented in child protection committees. UNICEF advocacy led to the appointment of 70 social workers for case management (50 government and 20 NGOs). In this context, UNICEF is technically supporting the Government to mobilize and institutionalize specialized child protection social worker forces through the development of an investment case to integrate the operational setup of the child protection system in governorates’ organigrams and budgets (to be finalized in February 2017).

At the operational level, UNICEF is technically supporting the NCCM to scale-up the operational set-up of case management linked to child protection committees in 15 governorates (15 out of 27) through: 1) technically supporting the NCCM to develop a monitoring and evaluation system with clear indicators for tracing the progress of child protection functions at the national level, with a baseline finalized during this programme cycle in 15 governorates; 2) negotiating and finalizing a tripartite action plan with four governorates and the NCCM to operationalize the child protection system in terms of allocating human resources and capacity building; and 3) finalizing strategic partnerships with civil society to address human resource gaps in social work and capacity building.

UNICEF continues its technical support to strengthen the capacities of child protection social workers at the national level through partnerships with the American University in Cairo, the NCCM and the MoSS, which finalized a core competencies manual for social workers comprising of 12 modules that was tested on 100 social workers and will be rolled out at the national level.

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

**Analytical statement of progress:**
UNICEF established the foundations for a national programme to prevent violence against children at home and in schools, covering abusive discipline by parents and teachers/school management and peer pressure. In addition, it strengthened the capacity of key stakeholders involved in the Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting Abandonment Programme by developing partnerships, knowledge and strategies for the prevention of female genital mutilation/cutting.
The stepping stones of the Ending Violence against Children programme were endorsed by the NCCM through a scoping mission and a strategic ‘way forward’ document from experts from the South African programme, Parenting for Lifelong Health, which is implementing evidence-based programmes on positive parenting for different age groups in South Africa and other countries. In this context, the Ending Violence Against Children national programme would aim to: 1) strengthen existing government policy regarding the prevention of violence against children; 2) demonstrate social mobilization programmes with evidence of effectiveness, integration within service delivery structures and scalability to a large population, as well as cultural relevance to Egyptian families; and 3) expand communication campaigns to address social norms regarding violence against children.

On the policy level, and under the leadership of the NCCM, a national multi-ministry taskforce on violence prevention and family strengthening is in the process of being formulated. The terms of reference and membership have been established, and the aim is to advocate for zero tolerance of violence against children and support national programmes. In partnership with the NCCM and the EU in June, the UNICEF child protection, private sector partnerships and communications sections launched Awladna (“our children”), a one-month social media campaign on positive parenting, which reached 28 million viewers. In December, a mass communication campaign was launched with the same content on social media (so far reaching 20 million), as well as television, radio and online print. The campaign will refer to the NCCM child helplines 16000 and 16021 for receiving counselling on parenting. The child helpline received training on principles of positive parenting for 56 of its employees in preparation for the television and radio campaigns and referring to the helpline. An important private sector in-kind contribution of US$500,000 was secured to advertise the campaign through SMS, supermarkets and outdoor events.

In partnership with Al-Azhar AlSharif, the Coptic Church launched three publications by religious scholars on Islamic and Christian perspectives on child protection and violence against children. In addition, religious leaders from Egypt’s two main faiths united to present their perspectives in a joint publication that was the first ever joint document on these issues. The launch event, presided over by the Grand Imam and Sheikh of Al-Azhar and Pope Tawadros II of Alexandria, the Minister of Social Affairs and the Minister of Awqaf, convened a large audience of policymakers, civil society members, diplomats and development partners. The implementation plan for disseminating the core messages was finalized.

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

Analytical statement of progress:
The implementation of this programme is currently being re-discussed.

The partnership with the National Council for Human Rights is currently being discussed. The Council requires a clearer and stronger mandate for the protection and promotion of children’s rights for UNICEF to positively contribute to its establishment as a mechanism in Egypt, in compliance with the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to the Government in 2011. The formation of the new Parliament has opened new venues for policy dialogue on child rights promotion. In this context, UNICEF will define a strategy for the creation of independent monitoring of the rights of children in Egypt.

OUTPUT 4 Justice for children systems increasingly adopt family and community care alternatives for children in contact with the law
Analytical statement of progress:
The programme concentrates its efforts to ensure the full application of the Child Law and the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to the Government in 2011 for the protection of the rights of all children who come into contact with the justice system (child victims, witnesses and children in conflict with the law), emphasizing: 1) the use of deprivation of liberty as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period; 2) the rehabilitation and reintegration of children within their families and communities; 3) implementing child-sensitive procedures and special protection measures in line with international standards; and 4) provision of legal aid.

Since July 2016, 278 children were provided with legal aid through partner NGOs in Cairo and Alexandria governorates. Out of the 278 children, 42 children received a non-custodial sentence. A draft legal case analysis report was developed by four independent lawyers for 502 cases, covering the period from 2012 through 2015, on trends of Egyptian authorities concerning the treatment of children in conflict with the law. This will be used as evidence for advocacy purposes on policy reform.

UNICEF continued to advocate and provide technical support to the Ministry of Justice, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the MoSS and the NCCM to address gaps between law and practice and the promotion of alternative measures to detention. During the reporting period, a unified curriculum proposed by the Juvenile Justice Working Group for newly appointed judges and prosecutors was approved. This came following UNICEF advocacy efforts with the Minister of Justice, the Child and Women Sector and agreements on the steps forward, including the development and implementation of a National Plan of Action for justice for children in Egypt. Trainings will be conducted in 2017.

Within the framework of the Regional Leadership Area on Justice for Children, the UNICEF MENA Regional Office and UNICEF Egypt conducted an assessment of promising and good practices for the treatment of children in contact with the law in line with international standards. The assessment was conducted in March 2016, and a regional workshop was organized in October 2016 involving nine prioritized MENA countries (Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the State of Palestine (Gaza and the West Bank), the Sudan and Tunisia). The Egyptian delegation included lawyers and representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the MoSS and civil society. Regional guidelines for dealing with child victims/witnesses of crimes when they come into contact with the law is being developed, and a training of trainers will be conducted in the first quarter of 2017 on the implementation of the guidelines.

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:
During the reporting period, the capacities of 18 partner civil society organizations were developed with sustained programmes and tools to support HIV prevention, care and support, targeting at-risk children. This number included two mentor medical student societies (Al-Azhar University and Alexandria University medical schools) that were recruited as mentors to a wider range of civil society organizations specialized in working with vulnerable children and adolescents in street situations. This was envisaged as a more sustainable approach by investing in the continuous volunteerism programme in these two universities.

Mentors assisted 47 staff in 16 NGOs (seven in Cairo and nine in Alexandria) to have their capacities enhanced on how health education and HIV/AIDS messages could be swiftly mainstreamed in this age of interactive awareness sessions. UNICEF also provided civil
society organizations with a standardized information manual and tool package to be used by NGO staff with a set of tailored prevention messages for reducing HIV/AIDS risks and vulnerabilities of children and adolescents living in street situations.

To address the needs and protect the rights of children and adolescents living with HIV and their caregivers, UNICEF continued to provide technical and financial support to strengthen national capacity to effectively and comprehensively respond to various psychosocial and health needs of these target groups. As a result, more than 30 children and adolescents living with HIV (all of those identified) and caregivers in intervention governorates received at least one kind of specialized psychosocial, economic or health-related support as a result of enhanced capacities of social workers and psychologists recruited by the project.

At the policy level, UNICEF Egypt adopted the ‘All In’ initiative with MENARO technical support, which aims to generate better understanding of the extent to which adolescents are included and contributing to HIV/AIDS national policies, programmes and services in Egypt. The study results, which are planned to be compiled and disseminated in early 2017, will contribute to evidence-based planning for UNICEF Egypt to enhance national and sub-national partners’ capacities and systems in relation to adolescent health and HIV within the new Country Programme Document.

OUTPUT 6 Emergency

Analytical statement of progress:
Through November 2016, UNICEF had expanded its outreach and support to Egyptian, migrant and refugee children and parents in 16 targeted governorates, including strategic migration hubs. UNICEF strengthened the resilience of 33,020 Syrian beneficiaries (14,665 boys, 11,250 girls, 6,153 mothers and 952 fathers), exceeding expected targets by 32 per cent and almost doubling the number of beneficiaries from 12,500 targeted in 2015 to 25,000 in 2016. As co-chair of the Child Protection Working Group, UNICEF has played a leadership role and developed a standardized inter-agency case management system endorsed by more than 25 NGOs and has provided case management and specialized services to 7,222 child victims of violence, exploitation, abuse or neglect (3,898 boys and 3,324 girls).

A strong investment has been directed to prevention and response to violence, such as positive parenting programmes rolled out in close coordination with the health sector and building child safeguarding systems in 15 public schools. Standardized tools have been developed with governmental counterparts and adopted for both interventions. As a result, a child safeguarding system and related referral pathway has been established within 15 targeted public schools in close coordination with existing child protection committees and community development associations.

Under the resilience framework, UNICEF Egypt is working to mainstream child protection in the health and education sectors. A strategic partnership was developed between UNICEF and the MoHP to deliver psychosocial support within 40 primary health units in 16 targeted governorates, including crucial migration hubs, which may be scaled up to all governorates. UNICEF and the MoHP trained 306 national staff on child protection to amend their terms of reference and to deliver related interventions through primary healthcare units.

Furthermore, UNICEF provided legal and humanitarian assistance to 543 detained children, 40 per cent of whom are unaccompanied minors/separated children in connection with irregular migration, in close coordination with UNHCR and IOM in different governorates, including 17 detention centres in the Northern Coast and two in Aswan and the Red Sea.
UNICEF developed a strategy in line with UNICEF’s global approach on children on the move. In close engagement with the Government and in line with the national strategy and action plan of the National Coordinating Committee on Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration, UNICEF is supporting the NCCM to function as the legal guardian for all children, including unaccompanied and separated children, under the framework of the Law No.82 for 2016 issuing the law on combating illegal migration and smuggling of migrants. UNICEF is supporting the role of the NCCM in leading the national child protection system. While standard operating procedures have already been developed, special provisions for children on the move are being developed with the full engagement of the NCCM, IOM, UNHCR and other relevant actors to ensure that they are consistent and respond to the needs of all children in Egypt, irrespective of their nationality.

**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 MoYS, UNICEF focuses on strengthening employability, life skills and entrepreneurship and promoting the rights of adolescents and youth to participation. UNICEF is committed to providing effective and sustainable models for the MoYS to be nationally scaled-up and adopted through a diverse package of system strengthening and advocacy support.

During this reporting period, the MoYS adopted and scaled-up the life and employability skills and career guidance programmes that ended on 30 June 2016 in five new governorates: Aswan, Qena, Beheira, Dakahlia and Kafr El Sheikh. The Ministry allocated US$253,167.08 of the state’s annual budget to continue implementation beyond the UNICEF partnership. As a result, 72 additional staff affiliated with the MoYS in five new governorates were trained to become skills development trainers, and 50 additional staff became career guidance facilitators. This scale-up increased the total number of life skills and entrepreneurship trainers in the 10 targeted governorates to 161 and increased the number of career guidance facilitators to 74.

Consequently, during this reporting period, 4,730 adolescents (2,828 males and 1,902 females) and 3,918 youth (1,958 males and 1,960 females) benefited from the Meshwary Project skills development programme. Since the initiation of the Meshwary Project in September 2012 through December 2016, a total of 24,968 young people (13,071 adolescents, of whom 7,813 are males and 5,258 are females, and 11,897 youth, of whom 6,604 are males and 5,293 are females) benefited from the skills development programme.

In addition, during the reporting period, a total of 6,724 young people (2,822 males and 3,902 females) benefited from the career counselling services of the Meshwary Project. The cumulative number of beneficiaries reached since the beginning of the project is 10,411 young people (4,511 males and 5,900 females).

Through the referral and work placement scheme of the Meshwary Project, 160 young people, including marginalized young people with mental disabilities and living in slum settings were referred and linked to work placement opportunities during the reporting period. Since the initiation of the project, a total of 695 young people benefited from the work placement schemes. In addition, during the reporting period, Meshwary also supported 22 young people to start 52 businesses. Since the beginning of project, 151 young people started 165 businesses.

During the reporting period, UNICEF operationalized the adolescents’ empowerment part of the Annual Work Plan with the MoE. To date, 432 teachers, school supervisors and school
social workers were trained by the student unions’ project to reach 10,770 students (2,941 males and 7,829 females) in 30 preparatory schools in Alexandria, Dakahlia and Gharbeya. The training addressed the student unions’ bylaws for the student union election process.

Furthermore, UNICEF is continuing its collaboration with the MoYS Civic Education Department and has organized a training event led by Ministry staff for student union members. During the reporting period, a total of 74 adolescents (52 males and 22 females) representing student unions from all over the country participated in the training. In addition, during the reporting period, the MoYS Civic Education Department conducted four civic education workshops at four universities, and a total of 120 university students (69 males and 51 females) were reached through these workshops. The cumulative number of adolescents and youth trained on knowledge and skills for becoming active citizens, either directly from UNICEF or from the MoYS since July 2013 reached 8,753.

Based on the 2015 midterm review, future adolescent development and participation programming will focus on the adolescent age group. Future interventions will address issues like adolescent girls’ empowerment, migration and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation/cutting and early marriage.

Consequently, during this reporting period, through the United Nations joint programme on female genital mutilation/cutting abandonment, 406 youth peer educators were trained on messages regarding the harms and the religious perspective of female genital mutilation/cutting. Through them, 900 beneficiaries were reached. In addition, 6,320 community members, including girls and women, participated in educational dialogues promoting the abandonment of female genital mutilation/cutting. Of these, 1,080 families in target intervention areas made public declarations to support the abandonment of female genital mutilation/cutting, and 132 families with circumcised daughters do not intend to circumcise their current/next daughters who were at the age for female genital mutilation/cutting. Furthermore, the Facebook page developed to increase female genital mutilation/cutting awareness increased its viewership to 3,405. In addition, the number of community women leaders who conducted awareness activities that support or are in favour of female genital mutilation/cutting abandonment reached 65.

The Adolescent Development and Participation midterm review recommended the provision of analytical evidence on the important issues affecting adolescents in Egypt to better inform programme and policy development. For this purpose, an adolescent profile based on a secondary analysis of existing data in the country is currently being developed.

OUTPUT 1 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:
The second phase of the Meshwary Project, which was implemented in partnership with Barclays Bank, came to an end. The UNICEF-supported curriculum of the life, employability and entrepreneurship skills development programme for adolescents and youth was adopted by the MoYS in the 10 targeted governorates and will be scaled up nationwide.

During this reporting period, the MoYS also scaled-up the skills development and career guidance programmes into five additional governorates: Aswan, Qena, Beheira, Dakahlia and Kafr El Sheikh. The scale-up phase not only contributed to the expansion of the project’s geographical scope but also to the number of professional trainers and facilitators affiliated with the MoYS, which is a major factor contributing to the institutionalization and scalability of the project.
During the reporting period, with the technical and financial support of UNICEF, 4,730 adolescents (2,828 males and 1,902 females) and 3,918 youth (1,958 males and 1,960 females) participated in the Meshwary Project, a skills development programme. Pre- and post-assessments of the total beneficiaries of the Meshwary Project showed that 92 per cent of adolescent and young girls and boys who benefited from the life-skills development programme in the 10 governorates reported having acquired five or more essential life skills such as critical thinking, teamwork and communication. Since its inception in July 2013, a total of 24,968 young people (13,071 adolescents, of whom 7,813 are males and 5,258 are females, and 11,897 youth, of whom 6,604 are males and 5,293 are females) were equipped with employability, enterprise, financial skills and life skills to be able to have better future prospects socially and economically.

In 2016, 72 additional staff affiliated with the MoYS in five new governorates were trained to become skills development trainers, and 50 additional staff became career guidance facilitators. The scale-up led to the increase in the total number of life-skills and entrepreneurship trainers in the 10 targeted governorates to 161 and increased the number of career guidance facilitators to 74.

During this reporting period, a total of 6,724 young people (2,822 males and 3,902 females) benefited from career counselling that enabled them to make informed decisions regarding their future careers, while the total number of young people who benefited from the career guidance services since the beginning of the project was 10,411 (4,511 males and 5,900 females). Through the referral and work placement scheme, 160 young people, including marginalized young people with mental disabilities and living in slum settings were referred to work placement opportunities during this reporting period. The total number of young people referred to work placement opportunities since the initiation has therefore reached 695. Meshwary also supported 22 young people start 52 income-generating businesses. Since the beginning of Meshwary, 151 young people have started their own businesses.

An evaluation of the Meshwary Project is underway. It will inform UNICEF’s programmatic focus areas in the upcoming programme cycle and the strategic options for scaling up the programme.

**OUTPUT 2** New evidence in place to guide policies and advocacy for adolescent rights with an equity focus

**Analytical statement of progress:**

The programme further analysed some of the findings related to migration of the 2014 Survey of Young People in Egypt. The key findings of the Survey are being used for the development of new UNICEF Egypt programming addressing irregular migration of vulnerable adolescents and youth. The Survey revealed that 17.2 per cent of youth aspire to migrate within the next five years. Migration aspirations peaked for the 18–24 age group. Male youth (aged 15–29) from rural areas were slightly more likely to aspire to migrate (28.3 per cent) compared with those in urban areas (23.3 per cent). The main reasons behind youths (aged 18–29) migration aspirations were identified as low income (44 per cent) and the desire to earn more money (29.7 per cent). Two-thirds of youth blamed the lack of job opportunities in Egypt as a motivating factor. Poor living conditions in Egypt (48.9 per cent) were another common reason.

UNICEF Egypt has taken step towards the development of an adolescent profile comprising key dimensions of well-being such as education, nutrition, health, participation and child protection. The adolescent profile, which is currently being developed, will build on the analysis of existing data from national surveys and is expected to be completed by early 2017.
OUTCOME 6 Social policies, programmes, public opinion and social norms are strengthened to promote and advance child rights

Analytical statement of progress:
The year 2016 witnessed an acceleration in the scale-up of social protection reform in Egypt. The MoSS expanded the coverage of the Takaful and Karama cash transfer programmes to all governorates. The main scheme in the programme, Takaful, is a conditional cash transfer programme targeting poor families with children. By November 2016, the programme was benefiting 950,000 households (approximately 2.47 million children) identified as extremely poor.

UNICEF has been cooperating with the MoSS through the different phases of social protection reform and the establishment of the new cash transfer programme that started in early 2015. UNICEF’s support took place via evidence generation and technical advice. This included the development, in collaboration with CAPMAS and the MoSS, of an analysis of child multidimensional poverty. The findings of the study were reviewed with the MoSS, and the study report will be published in January 2017. Another area of support in 2016 included the training of social workers and support to the activation of the programme’s communication strategy. Furthermore, the cooperation with the World Bank was strengthened by holding a joint mission of support to Takaful to align UNICEF and World Bank support for the reform with focus on the implementation process, monitoring and evaluation and the impact evaluation.

In 2016, UNICEF initiated technical support for the child focus of the Takaful and Karma national programmes’ monitoring and evaluation system through the monitoring and evaluation framework technical review sessions to monitor the reach and impact of the programmes on children’s health, nutrition and education outcomes. In 2017, UNICEF will continue to support the MoSS to upgrade the monitoring and evaluation system, implement a service readiness assessment to inform the availability and quality of services that Takaful aims to increase families demand on for their children and provision of technical advice and advocacy as the Government further expands programme coverage.

In 2016, the National Programme to Abandon Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting was informed with solid evidence provided by UNICEF on the main factors determining the practice of female genital mutilation/cutting. This was based on the results of the secondary analysis conducted by UNICEF.

During the last quarter of 2016, the analytical capacities of a group of 15 researchers from CAPMAS were enhanced through a learning-by-doing exercise with close follow-up by UNICEF. The output of this initiative, which is supported by the Regional Office, is the production of the analytical paper, ‘Effect of Population Growth on Youth Employment and School Education’, which is currently being edited. During the last quarter of 2016, the capacities of two young researchers from CAPMAS were also enhanced in data and metadata quality checks and review to produce the DevInfo database and statistical digest through a traineeship programme provided by UNICEF.

UNICEF is increasingly supporting vulnerable refugee children in the areas of education, protection and health. To address economic vulnerabilities of households and support them to invest in children’s education, health and nutrition, in January 2016, UNICEF, in coordination with UNHCR, used top-up approach to provide winterization grants to 25,000 severely vulnerable children. Another area of intervention is the implementation of a vulnerability assessment of unaccompanied minors to inform UNICEF and partners’ programmes supporting this vulnerable group. During the fourth quarter of 2016, UNICEF started the development of survey tools, and the survey will take place during the first
quarter of 2017.

The UNICEF Egypt social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, continued to expand, contributing to informing Internet users and the public about children’s rights, the situation of Egyptian children and the interventions of UNICEF Egypt. Facebook posts were often reflected in other media and in the press. The UNICEF Facebook page received more than 1.4 million likes with an average monthly reach of 2 million, ranking first among United Nations agencies in Egypt and first among UNICEF country offices. UNICEF social media reach was highest during the month of Ramadan, amounting to 28 million for the Awladna campaign launched in cooperation with the NCCM and supported by the EU. The UNICEF-tailored social media campaign, Awladna, reached 12 million people with key messages from the Muslim and Christian faiths promoting positive caregiving of children and ensuring child rights.

In 2016, UNICEF expanded its portfolio for engaging with the private sector with a focus on UNICEF Egypt advocacy priorities while continuing to strengthen its existing partnerships for WASH. US$202,000 was raised for the WASH sector from corporate partners, including Check Out for Children of Starwood Hotels and Resorts, serving 1,700 households with water connections and reaching 10,000 people in Upper Egypt. In addition, US$223,538 of in-kind contributions was received from 11 private sector companies in sponsorship of the Awladna positive parenting campaign dissemination.

OUTPUT 1 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:
As part of social protection reform from a system based on subsidies (primarily for fuel and basic nutritional products) to a system of cash transfers, the MoSS continued in 2016 to scale-up the new cash transfer programme (Takaful and Karama), including a conditional cash transfer programme targeting poor families with children. By November 2016, the total number of eligible households reached by the programme was 950,000, benefiting more than 2.47 million children.

In 2016, UNICEF support to the programme took place via evidence generation and the provision of technical advice. In the current phase, this included the development in collaboration with CAPMAS and the MoSS, of an analysis of child multidimensional poverty. In 2016, the study was completed, and the findings were reviewed with the MoSS to assess the implications for social protection schemes. The study report will be published in January 2017. Another area of support included the training of social workers and support to the activation of the programme’s communication strategy.

In 2016, UNICEF initiated technical support for the child focus of the programme’s monitoring and evaluation system of the Takaful and Karama national programme through monitoring and evaluation framework technical review sessions to monitor the reach and impact of the programme on children’s health, nutrition and education outcomes. During the fourth quarter, the Government applied a set of economic reforms, including the adoption of a liberalized exchange rate, increased the prices of fuel and electricity and started the implementation of a value-added tax. The latter reform measures are causing inflationary pressures and will increase poverty and vulnerability. In response to this, the Government has announced that it will increase the coverage of Takaful and Karama to benefit a larger segment of the poor and vulnerable. In 2017, UNICEF will continue to support the MoSS on upgrading the monitoring and evaluation system, implementing a service readiness assessment and conducting a knowledge, attitude and practice study of beneficiary
households to inform the availability and quality of services that Takaful aims to increase families demand on for their children. In addition, UNICEF will continue to provide technical advice and advocacy as the Government further expands programme coverage.

As part of the development of the upcoming UNICEF Country Programme, in the second half of 2016, UNICEF started to develop the situation analysis. The situation analysis aims to stand on the progress achieved as well as the disparities and vulnerabilities facing children. UNICEF held a national consultation in mid-November with government partners to present and discuss the preliminary findings, focusing on child poverty (monetary and multidimensional) and deprivations in key child well-being indicators and the underlying causes of deprivations. A working draft of the situation analysis was shared with the Regional Office, and UNICEF Egypt aims to integrate comments and finalize the report in January 2017.

OUTPUT 2 Strategic partnerships are forged and strengthened to positively influence social beliefs of families, caretakers and communities related to child care and gender perceptions

Analytical statement of progress:
In the reporting period, UNICEF forged and strengthened its key partnerships to support awareness raising and positive social change and positively influence social beliefs contributing to the achievement of UNICEF results.

UNICEF fostered its partnership with Al-Azhar University, the Coptic Church and the Ministry of Awqaf to promote values of non-violence and support a sustained positive social, behavioural and cultural peace for children and their communities through the Peace, Love and Tolerance Initiative, which is geared towards engaging religious leaders at the centralized and decentralized levels. A joint position and declaration for combating violence against children was endorsed in a public event attended by key Muslim and Christian religious leaders and top governmental officials in May 2016. UNICEF supported the development of the three religious publications Peace, Love and Tolerance and their launch through advocacy, coordination and technical efforts since 2013. UNICEF coordinated with the Ministry of Awqaf to include positive parenting in the Friday mass prayer’s unified speech disseminated on 9 December by all accredited imams through all mosques of Egypt and broadcasted by television and radio channels.

In partnership with MoHP, UNICEF conducted a public awareness and social mobilization intervention to encourage caregivers to vaccinate their children during the national immunization campaign from 21–24 February 2016 and to commemorate 10 years of a polio-free Egypt. According to the MoHP, 2.8 million children under 2 years were immunized (91 per cent of the target). The accompanying public awareness and social mobilization interventions included a social media campaign, capacity-building programme for 100 community leaders in 10 identified high-risk areas with a concentration of Syrian refugees and the printing and dissemination of more than 30,000 posters and flyers to announce the National Immunization Day.

In partnership with the MoHP and WHO, UNICEF launched the National Awareness-Raising and Community Mobilization Campaign to Eradicate Intestinal Parasitic Infestations to support the National Deworming Treatment Campaign targeting 12.5 million children (the MoHP prioritized children aged 6–12 years in 22,000 public primary schools that are managed by the MoE). The MoHP estimates 82.1 per cent coverage (10.2 million children) of its intended target (12.5 million children) as of December 2016.

UNICEF and the National Population Council are currently implementing the first-year plan targeting 1,200 youth leaders (university students from medical, nursing and pharmacy faculties) of 12 national universities within 15 governorates identified to scale-up the
dissemination of ‘Facts of Life’ messages among university students in Egypt. In cooperation with the MoHP, UNICEF also developed information and communication materials and a documentary film to help raise demand on and utilization of quality health services for the prevention of adolescent, maternal and under-5 child malnutrition.

**OUTPUT 3** 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 (including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube) continued to expand, contributing to informing Internet users and the general public about children’s rights, the situation of Egyptian children and the interventions of UNICEF Egypt. Facebook posts were often reflected in other media and in the press.

In the reporting period, by the end of November 2016, the UNICEF Facebook page received more than 1.4 million likes with an average monthly reach of 2 million, ranking first among United Nations agencies in Egypt and first among UNICEF country offices. UNICEF Egypt alignment to the Global Communication and Public Advocacy Strategy has contributed to producing diverse material and special campaigns related to the protection of children and immunization. Timely interaction and engagement also contributed to increasing viewership and reach in 2016.

UNICEF supported advocacy efforts around the launch event of the first joint interfaith publication on protecting children from all forms of violence in May 2016. The tailored social media campaign reached 12 million people with key messages from the Muslim and Christian faiths promoting positive caregiving of children and ensuring child rights.

In April, UNICEF supported the MoHP to advocate for the measles campaign on social media, reaching 7 million people with verified awareness information.

UNICEF social media reach was highest during the month of Ramadan, amounting to 28 million for the Awladna campaign launched in cooperation with the NCCM and supported by the EU. The campaign focused on positive parenting.

Public debate via multimedia outlets was triggered by advocacy for children and women's rights highlighted during the World Humanitarian Day marathon done in cooperation with UNHCR, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and other United Nations agencies. Further debate was triggered during the launch event of the joint programme with NCCM and the EU, Expanding Access to Education and Protection for At-Risk Children in Egypt.

The UNICEF Egypt website was completely revamped to present evidence-based advocacy material on children’s issues and is scheduled to go live on 20 December 2016.

**OUTPUT 4** Strengthened private sector partnerships

**Analytical statement of progress:**
In the reporting period, UNICEF took positive steps towards expanding its portfolio for engaging with the private sector with a focus on UNICEF Egypt advocacy priorities, while continuing to strengthen its existing partnerships for WASH. US$202,000 was raised for the WASH sector from corporate partners, including Check Out for Children by Starwood Hotels and Resorts. This served 1,700 households with water connections reaching 10,000 people in Upper Egypt. Innovative approaches were employed to attract new partners, such as an online fund-raising campaign that engaged and advocated for the cause among social media users through a call for action. The click-funding campaign was managed by UNICEF and
Bassita, and social media users were engaged to share/like/comment on the video, while the company providing funds to support WASH gained online visibility. This method tapped into the marketing budgets of companies, providing a new source of funding. With a return on investment of 7.5, the initiative attracted five new partners and was covered in the international press and via a news website in Cairo. The campaign's key performance indicators were more than 2.2 million views on Facebook, 100,000 likes, 100,000 shares, and 4,000 comments. The initiative was featured on ICON as an example of integrating communication, advocacy and fund-raising, as well as UNICEF's newsletter Things We All Can Learn From as a good example of integration.

UNICEF leveraged US$253,167.08 of in-kind contributions by 11 private sector companies in sponsorship of the Awladna positive parenting campaign dissemination. This represented a first step to an integrated advocacy strategy that included 230 free billboard, 100 Aramex fleets with face of the campaign, 230 stores of major corporates (with supermarket chains printing and exhibiting the danglers and prevailing information kit for the incomers of the outlets), 3 million free SMS to subscribers of all mobile network operators, 90 free radio spots from a major radio channel disseminating the campaign's sound tracks. UNICEF also convinced a young jewellery designer to design an ‘ending violence’ logo and donate the product for UNICEF to use with 100 influencers to further communicate the cause among their network and create digital hype. Three new leads have resulted from this engagement, with long-term commitment to support the UNICEF Egypt advocacy plan.

UNICEF is also beginning market research in collaboration with the UNICEF Division of Private Fundraising and Partnerships in Geneva as a basis for private sector fund-raising and engagement strategy for the UNICEF Egypt new country programme cycle.

OUTPUT 5 Social protection and cash grants for children in the response to the Syrian refugee crisis in Egypt

Analytical statement of progress:
UNICEF is providing increasing support to vulnerable refugee children in the areas of education, protection and health. To address the economic vulnerabilities of households and support them to invest in children’s education, health and nutrition, in January 2016, UNICEF in coordination with UNHCR used a top-up approach to provide a winterization grant to 24,600 severely vulnerable refugees, including 17,309 children.

One of the most vulnerable refugee groups is that of unaccompanied minors. UNICEF Egypt is supporting unaccompanied minors with an education grant and child protection services though the information on unaccompanied minors is incomplete in terms of the actual number of unaccompanied minors in the country as some unaccompanied minors are not registered with UNHCR and in terms of information on the needs of unaccompanied minors and the programmatic support provided in response. To address these information gaps and enhance UNICEF Egypt support to this group during the fourth quarter, UNICEF Egypt started the preparation of a vulnerability assessment that will follow a cohort of unaccompanied minors through 2017 to assess their needs and the support provided. To enhance the coverage of unaccompanied minors who are present in Egypt, UNICEF Egypt is coordinating with UNHCR and IOM as well as key partner NGOs. The first round of the survey will be implemented in January 2017 with a sample of 300 unaccompanied minors.

In early 2016 UNICEF was planning, in coordination with UNHCR, to provide monthly cash assistance to unaccompanied minors through the same implementing partners of UNHCR and Caritas Internationalist to ensure better coordination between the two agencies. To enter into an agreement with UNICEF and receive funding from UNICEF, Caritas Internationalist was required by law to obtain the approval of a national coordination committee facilitated by the MoSS. The approval was delayed for five months and then denied. With the vulnerability
assessment, UNICEF aims to get updated information on the vulnerability of unaccompanied minors and coordinate with partners.

Given the economic reforms introduced at the end of 2016 and their impact on rising vulnerability, UNICEF is discussing with partners the required programmatic and assistance adjustments necessary to address rising vulnerability among refugees. In order to provide immediate relief support to refugees, in the fourth quarter of 2016, UNICEF Egypt began preparations to disburse a one-off vulnerability grant to approximately 13,000 extremely vulnerable families in collaboration with Catholic Relief Services in February 2017.

OUTCOME 7 Cross-sectoral costs

Analytical statement of progress:
Cross-sectoral costs are composed of two elements—staff and operational costs—that 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 was approximately US$22.57 million for 2016 and contributed to significant results in polio immunization, the national Expanded Programme on Immunization and emergency response to Syrian refugees in the health and education sectors.

The programme procurement activities continued in 2016 as the supply unit finalized the LTA for digital media buying and working on renewing more LTAs.

The UNICEF Egypt 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, cost estimates and available balance of funds belongs to the MoH at the UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen. The value of the procurement service in 2016 reached approximately US$21 million.

OUTPUT 1 Cross-sectoral staff

Analytical statement of progress:
During 2016, seven staff members were funded from the programme budget under the cross-sectoral staff costs output. These include two staff in supply, one senior budget monitoring assistant, an administrative officer, two drivers and one reports specialist.

In 2016, 24 CRC meetings were held, and 45 cases were presented, and 16 PRC meetings were held, and 25 cases were presented.

The unit managed to refund a VAT amount of more than US$23,000.00, which represents 91 per cent of the claimed amount. The unit is still closely following up with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Egyptian Tax Authority to receive the rest of the sales tax. In general, the process is quite time consuming and suffers from government delays. Allocated funding under this IR supported/complemented UNICEF Egypt operations support activities in administration, finance, ICT, logistics and United Nations coordination (specific to RCO function) as well as some cross-cutting Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers support activities. The progress under this IR complements that under IRs 7.1 and 7.2.
## Programme documents

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