

## Egypt

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### Executive summary

In 2015, the poverty rate in Egypt reached 27.8 per cent, with multidimensional poverty among children at 29.5 per cent. Over 10 million children in Egypt are living in conditions of multiple deprivations related to lack of access to services and support mechanisms. To address increasing levels of child poverty, UNICEF Egypt continued expanding its collaboration with partners to increase the quality of and access to services for Egypt's most vulnerable children.

In 2017, a total of 217,831 refugees and asylum seekers were registered, 40 per cent of whom are children. UNICEF Egypt expanded its humanitarian assistance by improving refugees' access to services and strengthening community-based structures in health, education and protection. UNICEF Egypt reached 56,471 beneficiaries, of whom 60 per cent were refugee and migrant children and the remaining were from host communities. Primary health services reached 8,700 Syrian women, 19,701 children under 5 were reached with routine immunization and growth monitoring services, 6,685 refugee children received education grants and 869 were enrolled in 30 kindergartens, and 58 unaccompanied and separated children gained life-skills education.

UNICEF Egypt worked with the Government of Egypt to establish a multisectoral taskforce on Ending Violence Against Children (EVAC). The taskforce is supported through a newly drafted national EVAC framework. Some 88 million people were reached through an EVAC and positive parenting awareness-raising campaign through UNICEF social media. Twelve million additional people were reached through television and radio.

UNICEF Egypt continued to work with the Government of Egypt to scale-up and strengthen the national social protection system (Takaful and Karama), which provides cash transfers to improve the livelihoods of 2 million families. UNICEF Egypt support was instrumental in upgrading the programme's monitoring and evaluation system and implementing a service readiness assessment that provides an analysis of the availability and quality of services linked to the conditions to which beneficiaries need to adhere to be enrolled in the programme.

UNICEF Egypt assisted the Government of Egypt in institutionalizing a case management system through existing child protection committees (CPCs). These committees operate on a cross-ministerial level to identify, assess and refer at-risk children. Through UNICEF support, the Government of Egypt rotated and trained civil servants from other sectors to establish dedicated social workers on child protection committees to provide case management services.

UNICEF Egypt's research, data analysis, and capacity-building efforts with the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) led to the approval of the nutrition agenda for action and nutrition stakeholder action mapping policy reports to inform nutrition policy decisions, the updating of protocols for anaemia and micronutrient supplementation and the development of capacity-building packages for healthcare workers. UNICEF Egypt's focus on policies and

service quality during the first 1,000 days of a child's life are building a stronger healthcare system to improve nutrition and health outcomes for children.

The new Government of Egypt and UNICEF Egypt Country Programme of Cooperation 2018–2022 will build on these successes, with continued emphasis on equity-focused programming, including for children on the move and children with disabilities.

UNICEF Egypt also faced challenges in 2017. UNICEF Egypt identified 663 new community school sites, but the sectoral context was not conducive to the actual opening of new community schools. The Ministry of Education (MOE) developed a new vision of community-based education under the education system reform plan, Education 2.0, which focuses on public schools and aims to phase out community schools. Therefore, UNICEF Egypt, MOE and other key stakeholders are currently conducting strategic discussions to identify a modified solution. UNICEF Egypt also faced a setback in mainstreaming child protection in the education system; to overcome this setback, a package will be developed that fully aligns with the new priorities of the MOE as part of the Education 2.0 reform.

UNICEF Egypt strengthened its partnership with Al-Azhar University's International Islamic Center for Population Studies and Research, the Bishopric of Public, Ecumenical and Social Services and the Ministry of Religious Endowments to harness religious leaders' outreach to advocate for a non-violent environment for children. A partnership with Aramex International was established as an innovative model providing livelihood education and rehabilitation for children in conflict with the law as an alternative to detention measures.

A global partnership with the World Bank enabled UNICEF Egypt to establish a country-level partnership to work on evidence and policy development. This includes the Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) to strengthen data analysis for policy development in early childhood education. Partnership with the World Bank also included an investment case on nutrition to inform the updating of the National Nutrition Strategy 2018–2030 and the implementation of the health quality improvement programme aimed at enhancing the quality of and access to healthcare services.

## **Humanitarian assistance**

The Government of Egypt, represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, remains the main United Nations counterpart for policy and coordination of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for Egypt. UNICEF Egypt extended its emergency response to other refugee communities to address the needs of vulnerable refugee children and families through education, health and protection. UNICEF Egypt employed a two-pronged approach by 1) strengthening the capacity of national systems to respond to the influx of refugees and 2) establishing and supporting community-based initiatives to supplement the system.

The latest figures show that there are 124,000 Syrian asylum seekers and refugees in Egypt, of whom 70,000 are children. There are an additional 89,000 asylum seekers and refugees, mainly from the Sudan and the Horn of Africa. UNICEF Egypt focused its interventions on the governorates with the highest concentration of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers (Giza, Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta). UNICEF's humanitarian support extends to all vulnerable populations in these areas, including host communities.

In 2017, one of the key initiatives of UNICEF Egypt was to pursue the development of integrated programmes. A key initiative between child protection and health led to a partnership between UNICEF Egypt and MOHP to deliver psychosocial support in 40 primary health units in 16

governorates, including crucial migration hubs. UNICEF Egypt re-launched the initiative of 'family clubs' to provide key protection services, especially in terms of preventing violence against children and promoting access to health services. UNICEF Egypt trained 351 Egyptian nurses and health sector practitioners to develop a common understanding of the importance of parenting in children's lives in terms of their well-being. UNICEF Egypt reached a total of 56,471 beneficiaries, of whom 60 per cent were refugee and migrant children and 40 per cent were from host communities. Additionally, 15,678 parents were reached through positive parenting programmes.

Through UNICEF support, some 8,700 Syrian women (aged 15–49) accessed primary healthcare unit services. Additionally, 19,701 children under the age of 5 were reached with routine immunization and growth monitoring services, and 1,045 antenatal care consultations were supported through primary healthcare units. Furthermore, UNICEF Egypt, jointly with MOHP, trained 200 community health workers in six governorates. In 2017, UNICEF Egypt continued to support refugee children's access to school and other educational opportunities. A total of 6,685 kindergarten-aged refugee children received education grants, 113 refugees and 51 Egyptian teachers received trainings and 869 Syrian refugee children were enrolled in 30 newly established kindergartens.

UNICEF Egypt, jointly with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), supported a cash grant reaching an estimated 118,000 refugees and vulnerable asylum-seekers, of whom 40 per cent are children (47,200). UNICEF Egypt's US\$1.5 million contribution to the programme is being used to increase the amount of the grant from US\$25 to US\$34, which, according to a vulnerability assessment recently conducted, is the minimum amount required to meet beneficiaries' basic needs. The grant ensures that families are equipped to survive the winter and can cover children's needs, since failure to do so can potentially result in dire consequences for children's health and nutrition.

Over the years, Egypt has increasingly become a country of origin, transit and destination for irregular migration. UNICEF Egypt developed a country-level strategy for children on the move that addresses Egyptian children as potential migrants and refugees. During 2017, UNICEF Egypt provided legal and humanitarian assistance to 287 children, of whom 131 are unaccompanied and separated children detained for irregular migration. UNICEF Egypt's intervention is conducted in close coordination with UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in different governorates in the northern coast, Aswan and the Red Sea. UNICEF Egypt worked through MOHP provide those detained with necessary humanitarian assistance. UNICEF Egypt worked to ensure that child protection services are provided to migrant, refugee and host community children through the public health system. UNICEF Egypt collaborated with MOE to strengthen the protective environment for migrant, refugee and host children through child safeguarding and violence prevention in public schools as well as preventing violence in the home through positive parenting programming.

In terms of external coordination, UNICEF Egypt continued to co-chair both the child protection and education working groups, in addition to playing a critical role in the health working group.

In 2017, eight journalists working for major European media outlets participated in a field visit jointly with the Directorate-General of European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and UNICEF. The visit was instrumental in raising awareness on the situation that Syrian and other refugees are facing and portraying UNICEF Egypt's work through the accounts of beneficiaries.

## Equity in practice

UNICEF Egypt strove to enhance access to disaggregated data and analysis of children's rights as a tool to shape national dialogue and inform policy decision-making towards the realization of children's rights. A recent example of UNICEF Egypt's engagement in this area is the launch of the *Children in Egypt* report in March 2017. The report, which was launched jointly with the Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS) and the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), is a collection of available statistics related to child rights in Egypt; it was widely disseminated and received large media coverage including a UNICEF-led social media campaign that reached more than 1 million people.

During 2017, UNICEF Egypt, MOSS and CAPMAS also disseminated the results of the multidimensional child poverty study, which provides data on the extent of non-monetary poverty among Egyptian children. This report is the main study available in Egypt making use of up-to-date primary data with a focus on children. The dissemination of the data and findings from the two studies was instrumental to increasing the awareness of stakeholders and the public at large on the extent of the disparities existing in outcome indicators related to children's rights.

In the education sector, UNICEF Egypt promoted improved access to formal and non-formal learning environments for educationally disadvantaged and out-of-school children in poor and remote areas, children with minor disabilities, refugee children and unaccompanied and separated children. UNICEF Egypt provided equitable access to education through the scaling-up of community-based schools and expanding inclusive education in public schools to integrate children with minor disabilities. Since 2014, UNICEF Egypt has supported 30 community-based schools with teaching and learning materials, rehabilitation and teacher training. This resulted in 750 additional children enrolled in school, of whom 60 per cent are girls. In addition, UNICEF Egypt, in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), supported the enrolment or re-integration of 13,763 out-of-school children and those at risk of dropping out, into schools and kindergartens.

Teacher training for inclusive schools commenced in 2017 as part of a partnership with Ain Shams University and Alexandria University for delivering teacher training that will result in a cadre of trained teachers with specialized capacity to teach children with minor disabilities. From 2014 to 2017, a total of 29,340 young people (16,051 boys, 13,289 girls) benefited from the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS) skills development programme, including life, employability and entrepreneurial skills of the Meshwary ('My Journey') project. In the same period, 18,510 young people (7,674 boys, 10,836 girls) benefited from career counselling and social interaction, enabling them to make informed decisions regarding their futures based on newly acquired life skills, career qualification skills, planning and feasibility and financial skills with increased self-confidence.

In 2017, UNICEF Egypt continued implementing integrated health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support to expand services to reach populations in two poor urban settlements in Cairo. The focus on urban communities with poor health outcomes supports UNICEF Egypt's equity approach through evidence-driven targeting of disadvantaged communities. Interventions started in 2015 and were informed by the equity-focused analysis conducted by UNICEF Egypt in partnership with MOHP and the Public Health Department at the University of Cairo. The analysis showed that in irregular urban settlement areas in Cairo, health

indicators and levels of access to services were comparable to those in Egypt's poor rural areas.

Under the leadership of the Cairo Governorate, UNICEF Egypt's Integrated Child Survival Partnership initiative was implemented with the Informal Settlement Areas Development Unit of Cairo, the Cairo Health Directorate, the Cairo Social Solidarity Directorate, the Cairo Water and Waste Water Company and two NGOs. As part of this model intervention, 107 health team members and community health workers were trained to enhance the quality of healthcare services. In the period 2016–2017, healthcare services were provided to 20,020 women of reproductive age and 14,800 children benefited from upgraded medical services. Furthermore, 6,745 women of reproductive age participated in health awareness classes addressing safe motherhood topics. Finally, 3,842 mothers of malnourished children under-2 benefited from learning kitchen classes.

The initiative resulted in increased primary healthcare coverage in the two model urban settlements and improvements in health outcomes. For example, immunization coverage in one of the intervention areas increased with the percentage of children under 2 who were fully immunized raising from 33 per cent in 2014 to 65 per cent in 2017. The model is currently being adopted by partners and plans for replication in two additional urban settlements are being developed as part of a memorandum of understanding signed by UNICEF Egypt and the Cairo Governorate.

Over the last four years, UNICEF Egypt and MOHP supported the implementation of polio national immunization days reaching an estimated 6 million children under 5, including refugee children from the Syrian Arab Republic and other countries.

### Emerging areas of importance

**Refugee and migrant children.** Egypt is a country of strategic importance when it comes to child refugees and child migrants. Syrian refugees are the largest group, representing 62 per cent of the total population of registered refugees in Egypt. Additionally, Egypt is home to a protracted crisis of refugees from other countries and is increasingly becoming a country of origin for irregular migration to Europe. The country itself is facing a 'youth exodus' through well-established migration streams. The Government, through the National Coordinating Committee on Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration, has established coordination mechanisms. UNICEF Egypt supported the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) in its role leading national child protection systems to ensure that the systems are responsive to the needs of children on the move.

In 2017, there was an increase in the number of unaccompanied and separated children to an estimated 4,075 nationwide. UNICEF Egypt expanded its support to Egyptian, migrant and refugee children and parents in 16 governorates, including migration hubs. UNICEF interventions benefited 56,471 children, of whom 60 per cent are refugees and migrants and 40 per cent are from host communities, through community-based child protection interventions that included recreational activities for younger children and life skills for older children. Refugee and migrant children face a range of protection issues. These include barriers to residency and visas; risk of detention and deportation; discrimination and harassment in public spaces; and high risk of physical and sexual violence.

The country strategy centres around two priorities: 1) tackling push and pull risks that contribute to the migration of Egyptian children and other vulnerable children to Europe; and 2) ensuring that children on the move, including both refugee children in Egypt and those transiting through

Egypt, have non-discriminatory access to quality basic social services. The strategy focuses on actions in child protection, education, health and social protection, such as ensuring access to basic public services for migrant and refugee children and promoting awareness of the risks of irregular migration.

**Accelerate integrated early childhood development (ECD).** UNICEF Egypt supported the Government of Egypt to design and operationalize an intersectoral approach to ECD. The partnership aims at building a holistic approach to services and policies. In 2017, two intersectoral ECD task forces were established under the leadership of the NCCM, one focusing on strategy, policies and standards and the other on social and behavioural change communication. The task forces have greatly enhanced coordination and the building of a common vision for moving the national ECD agenda forward.

The task force identified the need to develop national child developmental standards for early learning, care and development. The standards guide the design of curriculum, assessment and instructional practices with young children. A protocol between NCCM, the National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation and UNICEF Egypt was signed to develop the national standards. In December 2016, NCCM requested UNICEF Egypt to assist in developing the national ECD strategy. An ECD situational analysis is being conducted with UNICEF's support to inform the development process for this strategy. UNICEF Egypt coordinated a group of stakeholders to develop a communication model for social and behaviour change focused on positive parenting; this will be a key component of the national ECD strategy.

Through its partnership with MOHP, UNICEF Egypt worked to improve breastfeeding, support integrating early stimulation, nurturing and care as well as improving awareness on ECD practices. In this context, 450 health workers were trained, and 45 primary healthcare units and four public hospitals were accredited as baby-friendly, in order to deliver breastfeeding support to women who are pregnant and lactating. UNICEF Egypt and partners updated breastfeeding curricula and ensured, through trainings for 261 nurses and 179 doctors, that medical graduates working in public health facilities are equipped with the skills to deliver integrated ECD and nutrition services.

UNICEF Egypt supported the operationalization in two lower Egypt marginalized districts of the 'first 1,000 days' stunting prevention model, further integrating ECD into primary healthcare. Based on findings from a capacity gap analysis for healthcare workers, skills training packages were developed on growth monitoring, with 240 child health staff trained. One hundred and ten medical staff and supervisors were trained to monitor the growth and development of children aged 0–24 months for improved detection of malnutrition. The 1,000-days model standardized protocols will be tested to demonstrate an updated model for scaling up stunting prevention in primary health care. UNICEF Egypt and the MOHP developed and launched the nutrition agenda for action and a nutrition-stakeholders mapping exercise to document the challenges in and the urgency of establishing a national nutrition governance and accountability mechanism. Through this analytical work, MOHP established a high-level committee with a mandate to update the national nutrition strategy.

#### Summary notes and acronyms

CAPMAS	Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics
CMT	country management team
CPMP	country programme management plan
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child



CSO	civil society organization
DCT	direct cash transfer
ECD	early childhood development
ECHO	Directorate-General of European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
EVAC	Ending Violence Against Children
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HACT	harmonized approach to cash transfers
HCWW	Holding Company for Water and Waste Water
ICT	information and communication technology
HRDC	human resources development committee
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMEP	Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LTA	long-term agreement
MCH	maternal and child health
MENARO	Middle East and North Africa Regional Office (UNICEF)
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOHP	Ministry of Health and Population
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOSS	Ministry of Social Solidarity
MOYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports
NAP	National AIDS Program
NCCM	National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
PMG	programme management group
SABER	Systems Approach for Better Education Results
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAT	value added tax
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme

### Capacity development

UNICEF Egypt supported the Meshwary project led by MOYS that aims at empowering young people with life, employability and entrepreneurial skills. In 2017, 45 individuals were trained to become master trainers and scale-up the project at the national level in 2018. UNICEF Egypt also supported the integration of an innovative module that aims at creating awareness among young people on the risks of irregular migration. The module uses an interactive simulation game based on a fictional scenario in which participants play the roles of various stakeholders involved in irregular migration. The module is being implemented in five governorates in Lower Egypt, where the majority of Egyptian migrants come from.

UNICEF Egypt strengthened the capacity of CAPMAS staff in data collection and analysis through an approach that combines training on statistical techniques with the production of analytical papers focused on gender-based violence, population and education. The papers will be launched shortly as joint CAPMAS-UNICEF publications. This approach has proven

successful in strengthening CAPMAS's capacity to produce more in-depth analytical work in addition to descriptive surveys reports.

In partnership with the National Council for Population, UNICEF Egypt supported the establishment of a youth-led peer-to-peer platform (University Pioneer Initiative) contributing to the implementation of the National Community Awareness Plan (NCAP). The platform focuses on nutrition through lifestages, healthy lifestyles, communicable and non-communicable diseases, reproductive health and promoting health services. A total of 1,200 university students received training on four key components of the NCAP.

UNICEF Egypt supported the development of a standardized iodized salt quality control and quality assurance manual in partnership with MOHP, the Ministry of Industry, salt producers and food inspection departments. UNICEF trained 60 food inspectors to implement the quality control and quality assurance procedures in 27 governorates within the context of the national Iodine Deficiency Disorders sustainability plan.

### **Evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy**

In March 2017, the Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation, MOSS, CAPMAS and UNICEF launched the *Children in Egypt* report, a collection of available statistics related to child rights in Egypt. The report was widely disseminated and the data presented at the event received ample coverage in multimedia outlets, including a UNICEF-led 10-day social media campaign estimated to have reached more than 1 million people. During 2017 UNICEF, MOSS and CAPMAS also disseminated the main results of the multidimensional child poverty study, which provides data on the extent of non-monetary poverty among Egyptian children. This report is the main study available in Egypt making use of the most recently available primary data with a specific focus on children.

The dissemination of the data and findings from the two studies was instrumental in increasing awareness of key stakeholders and the public at large on the extent to which children's basic rights are being met as well as on the large gaps and disparities existing in the provision of and access to basic services.

NCCM and UNICEF Egypt conducted a costing exercise showing that US\$10–20 million is required annually for the establishment and scaling-up of a national child protection system, of which US\$7–10 million is necessary for a child protection social work workforce dedicated to child protection. Based on the costing, UNICEF Egypt produced an advocacy brief that was instrumental to generating stakeholder buy-in on the need to accelerate progress toward strengthening the national child protection system with a dedicated workforce. As an initial step, UNICEF Egypt and MOSS are in the process of establishing and training a social work workforce in four governorates. Furthermore, in 2017, a model Child Protection Unit was established in Sharqia Governorate and an agreement was reached for the creation of a similar unit within MOSS.

### **Partnerships**

UNICEF Egypt strengthened its partnership with Al-Azhar University's International Islamic Center for Population Studies and Research, the Bishopric of Public, Ecumenical and Social Services and the Ministry of Religious Endowments (Al Awqaf). The partnership aims at harnessing the religious leaders' outreach and mobilization mechanisms to advocate for a non-violent environment for children. The engagement of religious leaders influences community members' understanding of the religious position on violence against children as well as critical analysis of their own behaviours regarding violence against children. This is expected to foster a



process of change towards a reduced acceptance of behaviours harmful to children. UNICEF Egypt supported the dissemination of the interfaith publication 'Peace, Love and Tolerance.' The publication's dissemination is estimated to reach 500,000 people.

Based on the global alliance between the World Bank and UNICEF on ECD, UNICEF Egypt and the World Bank established a partnership at the country level for the implementation of SABER. In 2018, UNICEF Egypt will deliver the SABER assessment on ECD in Egypt to provide an in-depth analysis of the system-level status of ECD that will inform policy dialogue and action for scaling up of ECD services in the country.

UNICEF Egypt partnered with six national universities to update breastfeeding curricula within public health, paediatrics, obstetrics, community medicine and nursing faculties, as well as to implement the university baby-friendly hospital initiative. This improved the skills of 261 nurses and 179 doctors on breastfeeding and ECD. These partnerships have been instrumental to ensuring sustainable improvements in service delivery quality. In partnership with the National Population Council, a health and nutrition training package was developed targeting university youth, 350 trainers were selected to ensure sustainable transfer of skills and 1,500 pioneers are now skilled in peer-to-peer education.

#### **External communication and public advocacy**

Capitalizing on the large social media reach and user engagement in Egypt, with 35 million Internet users, 43 per cent of whom are below the age of 18, UNICEF Egypt supported the EVAC campaign in 2017. This is the first national multimedia campaign addressing violence against children with a focus on positive parenting. The campaign messages, including non-violent alternative disciplinary measures, reached more than 88 million people and social media users, creating public debate on the issue with high engagement from Facebook users on the campaign messages (around 5 per cent). In March 2017, the EVAC campaign received the Communications Award of the Directorate General for the Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission.

In 2017, UNICEF Egypt appointed three prominent ambassadors with pan-Arab popularity and a significant presence on social media platforms: actor Ahmed Helmy, actress Mona Zaki, and actress and singer Donia Samir Ghanem. In 2017, the ambassadors, through their active participation in global and national campaigns, were instrumental in substantially increasing the reach of messages on children's rights. This provided new opportunities for broad public and social reach and engagement on children's rights and UNICEF interventions. The ambassadors also participated in fundraising campaigns for children on the move. Ambassadors Helmy and Zaki were instrumental in promoting the EVAC campaign and were featured in two social media public service announcements promoting positive parenting.

On the occasion of the ECD report's global launch on 21 September, UNICEF Egypt launched the first of five public service announcements on 'early moments matter'. The campaign was relayed at the global and the regional levels, notably through the presence of two Egyptian ambassadors at the launch event at UNICEF Headquarters in New York. The one-month social media campaign is estimated to have reached 14 million people with high engagement amounting to 25 million impressions.

#### **South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation**

In 2017, UNICEF Egypt stepped up its support for the Government of Egypt's social protection intervention, the Takaful and Karama programme, with the objective of strengthening the programme's capacity to effectively reach Egypt's poorest families and their children. To this

end, UNICEF Egypt helped establish a partnership with the International Poverty Centre in Brazil. A new monitoring system is being developed that, based on the data collected in the targeting process, produces reports on the profile of beneficiaries, thus enhancing the understanding of policymakers and programme managers about the socio-economic situation of the beneficiary population. Furthermore, UNICEF Egypt provided technical advice to improve the system and monitored beneficiaries' adherence to the programme conditions related to health- and education-seeking behaviours. These tools facilitate the improvement of programme design and implementation, which in turn are expected to improve the lives of programme beneficiaries.

In September 2017, UNICEF Egypt facilitated a study tour to Jordan of an Egyptian delegation comprised of mid-level officials from NCCM, the Office of the Public Prosecutor and MOSS. The objective of the visit was to gain knowledge on the functioning of Jordan's national system for case management. The study tour focused on the design and establishment of a national information management system to support welfare and justice systems for children in Egypt.

UNICEF Egypt also supported a study tour to Norway in May 2017 with a delegation comprised of senior officials from the Egyptian Ministry of Justice (MOJ), the Office of the Public Prosecutor, MOSS and NCCM. The objective of the visit was to gain knowledge on best practices for dealing with children in contact with the law. Direct exposure to the way the system operates in Norway provided valuable inputs to the development of national guidelines on the treatment of children in contact with the law.

### **Identification and promotion of innovation**

MOJ, MOSS, Terre des Hommes, Aramex International and UNICEF Egypt implemented an innovative model intervention that aims at providing children in conflict with the law with rehabilitation and training opportunities and helping them avoid detention.

Most children in conflict with the law commit petty crimes or minor offences. The 2008 Egypt Child Law establishes that in such instances, children can be referred to alternative measures, including training and rehabilitation programmes, rather than to detention. However, such measures remain largely unimplemented, resulting in overreliance on detention and dependence on punitive rather than rehabilitative approaches by the justice system.

In this context, Aramex International and UNICEF Egypt signed an agreement based on which 40 children in conflict with the law received professional skills training in the company's facilities, followed by an induction period in the workplace. The one-month training targeted children aged 14 and above and was conducted in November and December 2017.

Aramex trainers in charge of administering the courses went through orientation sessions on child rights and child protection. Social workers and psychologists were mobilized to support children throughout the process and to support the development of tailored rehabilitative plans for each of the children.

In addition to avoiding detention, the project provides beneficiaries with increased opportunities for future employment and potentially facilitates their rehabilitation, lowering the risk of repeat law offences. Improved employability also contributes to addressing the root causes linked to law offences, such as poverty.

It is expected that successful completion of this one-year model may encourage other businesses to offer similar training and rehabilitation opportunities to children in conflict with the law. To this

end, UNICEF Egypt will support targeted communication interventions to showcase the results of the model. Finally, the project is expected to contribute to creating a more positive outlook towards this group of vulnerable children.

### Human rights-based approach to cooperation

UNICEF Egypt supported NCCM to facilitate the visit of the Chairperson of the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), to Egypt in August 2017. She met with representatives of the Government of Egypt and civil society organizations (CSOs) to advocate for the implementation of the Convention and the 2011 Committee's concluding observations to Egypt. The visit fostered the Government of Egypt's commitment to implement the Committee's recommendations and reaffirmed the Government's accountability regarding children on the move. A road map was prepared for completing the reporting with UNICEF support. While there continues to be a need to strengthen the capacity of NCCM to leverage implementation among the different entities, some progress took place in the implementation of the 2011 recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. This included increased resources allocated to the child protection committees and case management; the development of a strategy to prevent and address all forms of violence against children; and changes in the child law enacted to ensure monitoring and quality of foster care system.

In 2017, UNICEF Egypt supported a capacity-building programme for child prosecutors countrywide focusing on the application of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, relevant general comments and the Committee's 2011 concluding observations to Egypt. The training aims at promoting the protection of the rights of all children who come in contact with the justice system. The emphasis is on: 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; and 3) implementing child-sensitive procedures and special protection measures in line with international standards.

UNICEF Egypt joined the global initiative marking World Children's Day and the anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child under the theme #KidsTakeOver. Encouraging children to assume responsibility and express themselves, UNICEF Egypt supported more than 200 children from community schools in Upper Egypt, children without parental care, refugee children and children with disabilities to celebrate a fun day at Kidzania edutainment park. The event was attended by one of Egypt's Goodwill Ambassadors and was covered by 10 media outlets; the children's voices reached 12 million people on social media platforms.

### Gender equality

The National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030 was endorsed by the President of Egypt in 2017 as a guiding framework for the empowerment of Egyptian women. The strategy focuses on four pillars, namely: 1) political empowerment; 2) economic empowerment; 3) social empowerment; and 4) protection. In 2017, UNICEF Egypt, under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, contributed to developing work packages for each pillar through its contribution to a mapping exercise of programmatic interventions under each of the four pillars of the strategy. The work packages will be the basis for multi-stakeholder engagement in support of the operationalization of the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women, and will facilitate stakeholders' alignment with and coordination on the strategy's expected outcomes. UNICEF Egypt's specific contribution in 2018 and beyond will prioritize pillars two, three and four of the strategy.

Also, in 2017, gender mainstreaming within the scope of girls' empowerment was a focus. A new partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was

established to provide an enabling environment for girls' empowerment to combat harmful practices, including female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage. The project that will be implemented within the framework of this partnership is based on a two-pronged approach to addressing individual and community factors that will reduce gender disparities, enhance girls' social and economic standing and influence a reduction in female genital mutilation/cutting.

The project builds on UNICEF Egypt's achievements in 2017 when partnership with NGOs enabled community dialogues on ending female genital mutilation/cutting with over 9,000 community members and mobilized over 1,000 adolescents and youth through Y-Peer educators. Nearly 7,000 families made public declarations supporting the abandonment of female genital mutilation/cutting; nearly 20,000 girls received services and were protected from circumcision. In November, this initiative was supported by an eight-day social media campaign on female genital mutilation/cutting in partnership with NCP and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), reaching over 6 million people with over 225,000 people engaged (liking, sharing and commenting) with the campaign. In the health sector, UNICEF Egypt supported the development of a new manual on how to mainstream gender issues in healthcare services, and 111 healthcare providers gained improved skills in gender-sensitive healthcare.

### **Environmental sustainability**

The UNICEF Egypt communication for development section worked on establishing a movement of youth and parents using recycled materials to produce toys for children which will result in improved awareness of their environmental footprint and climate change.

UNICEF Egypt developed a programme to enhance knowledge and acceptance of ECD in deprived communities across 16 governorates. The programme will train social workers, university pioneers and women pioneers to engage the community in utilizing recycled material to make toys for children. The overall purpose is to engage both fathers and mothers in a more environmentally friendly lifestyle, which includes recycling habits and investing time in playing with children. The programme builds on the partnership established in 2017 with the Abdel-Wahab Abdel-Mohsen Foundation for Culture, Arts and Development to support the international Burullus Symposium for Painting on Walls and Boats, an event that catalyses national and international artists to use art and culture to promote sustainable development in marginalized communities.

In 2017, UNICEF Egypt reported on the 2016 environment footprint assessment. In 2016, per-staff-member carbon dioxide emissions were at 3.3 tons, compared to 2.6 tons in 2015. This increase was due to increases in the overall size of the office and higher utility rates. In November 2017, UNICEF Egypt replaced all halogen light bulbs used in light fixtures with LED light bulbs that use almost 80 per cent less power. This is expected to result in a substantial lowering of per-staff-member emissions.

### **Effective leadership**

In 2017, the country management team (CMT) continued to provide strategic direction, guidance and oversight to ensure that available human and financial resources remained focused on the achievement of annual results. The team met 11 times during the year.

UNICEF Egypt agreed on office management and programme priorities through a consultative process as part of the development of the annual management plan; and accountabilities were assigned to staff in workplans and performance plans. The 2017 Annual Management Plan was reviewed and updated in July and December. Key performance indicators and other management indicators were updated as part of the country management team and programme

management group. Statutory committees remained fully functional and provided efficient oversight. The country management team and the joint consultative committee also ensured a strong collaborative working environment.

Implementation progress of the office improvement plan was reviewed regularly at the joint consultative committee and all-staff meetings. The office improvement plan was instrumental to achieving a better work environment, as was evident in the large increase in the use of flexible work opportunities by staff and the generally increased frequency and depth of consultation with staff on relevant matters. UNICEF Egypt continued to strengthen the partnership management function and the harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT).

In August 2017, UNICEF Egypt conducted an enterprise risk management review and assessment through a participatory exercise, as part of the Country Programme Management Plan (CPMP) 2018–2022 preparations, with facilitation from the UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office (MENARO). Staff assessed the changing country and programming environment and updated the risk elements in terms of likelihood and impact of the risks. The updated risk control self-assessment was endorsed by the country management team in October and uploaded to the enterprise risk management portal. UNICEF Egypt ensured all conflicting roles were mitigated as per guidelines on internal controls and segregation of duties in the internal virtual integrated system of information management system.

### **Financial resources management**

On a monthly basis, the country management team reviewed the management performance indicators including those related to financial resources management, such as utilization rates, direct cash transfer (DCT) balances and HACT assurance activities. By the end of the year, the total throughput was US\$18.5 million, the Regular Resources funds utilization rate was 100 per cent, while Other Resources Regular and Other Resources Emergency funds utilization rates were 99 per cent and 94 per cent, respectively. The BMA budget was at a 100 per cent utilization rate. DCT advances were under constant follow-up and review, 0 per cent of DCTs were outstanding for more than 9 months and 2.3 per cent were outstanding for 6–9 months.

Monthly and year-end closure activities were under control and open items were followed up on regularly, within two weeks of being published on the accounts closure team site. Currently, all balances are within acceptable limits except for value added tax (VAT) refunds, however, due to the lengthy refund process. The target of month-end bank balances not exceeding 30 per cent of total monthly replenishments was met in 7 out of 11 months as of the end of November 2017. In the third quarter of 2017, UNICEF Egypt constituted an internal audit preparation committee with the purpose of reviewing office readiness and establishing a preparation plan. The plan will reflect on the global peer review tools issued in the third quarter and include these in UNICEF Egypt's preparatory plans. Regular monitoring of open travel authorizations ensured that trips were closed within 15 days of travel and any unused budgets were released and could be utilized.

UNICEF Egypt established an audit committee, which established a plan to review and prepare for an audit based on criteria shared by the regional chief of operations. The committee is also planning to adjust the plan to reflect on the global peer review tools newly released in the third quarter.

### **Fundraising and donor relations**

In 2017, UNICEF Egypt received Regular Resources totalling US\$4,455,344 and Other Resources Emergency of US\$10,884,614 (these figures refer to the programmable amount,



excluding UNICEF Headquarters in New York recovery costs). Funding agreements for Other Resources Regular in the programmable amount of US\$4,824,587 were also funded by AFD, the H&M Foundation, USAID, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNFPA, the European Union and thematic funding. UNICEF Egypt also secured an in-kind donation of Lego playing blocks for educational use, worth US\$451,200.

UNICEF Egypt recruited an international resource mobilization and reports specialist to oversee, monitor and track UNICEF Egypt's funds mobilization efforts since August 2017. Donor reports are now developed and submitted on time, and resource mobilization is more strategically organized. A quality assurance process is in place where section chiefs provide inputs for reports, the reports specialists drafts documents, and the deputy representative clears all reports. A standard checklist is used to ensure the high quality of donor reports.

UNICEF Egypt has been pursuing long-term funding opportunities, but the status of Egypt as a lower-middle income country, and higher donor engagement on emergency response elsewhere in the region, has limited UNICEF Egypt's success in obtaining sustainable funding. In 2017, UNICEF Egypt developed a donor briefing package to strategically address this shortfall and engaged donor interest on the forthcoming Country Programme 2018–2022. Additionally, a private sector business plan was developed with UNICEF's private funding and partnerships division to engage the private sector in Egypt. UNICEF Egypt has made investments to consult over 40 large corporations and media companies to partner on advocacy related to social and behaviour change communications for ECD.

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 2017, UNICEF Egypt continued strengthening its evaluation function through an enhanced focus on sound planning, monitoring, implementation and dissemination of the activities included in the integrated monitoring and evaluation plan (IMEP). UNICEF Egypt established a quality assurance process for IMEP management; this included standardized templates for terms of reference and inception, draft and final reports. The 2017 IMEP used a utilization-focused approach with dissemination recommendation-implementation plans. This included specific sessions with UNICEF Egypt and relevant counterparts to discuss the findings and agree on recommendations and the way forward.

UNICEF Egypt completed a summative evaluation of its Meshwary project for adolescent life-skills development. The evaluation assessed the programme achievements against planned results; gauged the sustainability and scalability of the project's interventions; and provided recommendations for strengthening the programme. The evaluation's findings, recommendations and management response were approved jointly with counterparts. The evaluation findings informed the development of the Country Programme Document 2018–2022 and the evaluation recommendations are being reflected in the 2018–2019 MOYS-UNICEF Egypt workplan.

The 2017 IMEP was endorsed and monitored quarterly by the country management team and UNICEF MENARO. Based on the quarterly monitoring exercise, the team decided to cancel three research and study projects. Implementation challenges originated from the delayed approvals of the 2017 workplans and changes in counterparts' staff. Out of 10 research projects



planned in 2017, three were completed, one was cancelled and five will continue in 2018. Out of five studies, two were completed, two were cancelled and one was delayed. The planned evaluation was completed. Three monitoring and evaluation capacity-building activities were completed and one will be finalized in 2018, as planned.

In 2018, UNICEF Egypt intends to continue strengthening the utilization-focused approach for better management of research and evaluations.

### Efficiency gains and cost savings

The negotiated discount in 2016 with mobile operators returned the equivalent of US\$2,759 in 2017, representing 26 per cent of the total invoices for the period of January–October.

UNICEF Egypt continued its active participation in the operations management team working with other United Nations agencies. The business operations strategy is planned for implementation in 2018 after formal adoption by the United Nations Country Team in 2017. Baseline data is being gathered from all agencies to help assess common areas of interest and common services to capitalize on.

The supply unit completed the bidding process and issued 25 long-term agreements (LTAs) in 2017 covering six main areas (social media services, printing, video production, editing and translation). Many of UNICEF Egypt's long-term agreements are used by other United Nations agencies due to their quality and the performance of vendors.

The implementation of the UNICEF Universal Wi-Fi solution in UNICEF Egypt in 2016 and guest Wi-Fi access points was effective and facilitated the access of many staff members, consultants and visitors to UNICEF information and communication technology (ICT) resources. Internet bandwidth will be increased in December 2017 from 16 MBs to 20 MBs to accommodate additional demand.

During 2017, office space was further reorganized to accommodate an increase in staff. Currently, UNICEF Egypt is evaluating options for new premises in coordination with UNICEF MENARO to provide a conducive and better work environment with potential cost savings due to changes in market rates. In 2017, the Garden City office was vacated and handed back to the landlord who acquired all old, obsolete furniture in it for his use and paid US\$6,706, which was recorded as miscellaneous income for UNICEF Egypt.

### Supply management

The supply unit handled procurement totalling US\$13,778,422 with the following breakdown:

- Local procurement: US\$ 2,304,555 out of which US\$ 649,438 for local programme supplies, US\$ 1,576,241 for procurement of Services (institutional contracts) and US\$ 78,876 operational supplies.
- Offshore procurement: US\$ 210,562
- Procurement service (PS) for the government: totalled US\$ 11,263,305

The supply plan was submitted to UNICEF MENARO in a timely manner. UNICEF Egypt supported procurement services for the MOHP with a total value of US\$11,263,305 used mainly for the procurement of vaccines and potassium iodate. The procured vaccines covered

measles, mumps and rubella; bacillus Calmette–Guérin; pentavalent; and diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccines. The supply unit worked closely with the UNICEF programme sections, government counterparts and the UNICEF Supply Division to solve challenges related to procurement services. These included delays in the shipment of bacillus Calmette–Guérin vaccines due to issues with the National Regulatory Authority that were solved through close collaboration with stakeholders.

UNICEF Egypt finalized LTAs for video production, translation, editing, still photography and printing to facilitate work processes, improve efficiency and reduce transactions costs. In 2017, a total of 19 contract review committee meetings were held, during which 35 cases were presented and reviewed. As for the partnership review committee, 17 meetings were held with 29 cases reviewed.

Following a lengthy follow-up from the supply unit, UNICEF Egypt is expected to receive a VAT refund of around US\$100,000, which represents 80 per cent of the claimed amount with further follow-up to clear and secure the refund of the remaining 20 per cent.

### **Security for staff and premises**

The political situation in Egypt in 2017 was comparatively more stable than in recent years. The political process moved ahead within a more stable and political environment after several years of upheaval and changes in government leadership.

The security environment remained tense in 2017, with several terrorist attacks throughout the country over the course of the year targeting police and military installations and troops, as well as Muslim and Christian religious locations. There is no information, however, indicating that the United Nations or its personnel were directly targeted by any attacks that were planned or took place.

To further enhance security at the UNICEF Egypt office, a dedicated security officer was deployed from May 2017. The security officer acts as the focal point for coordination with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) when conducting official activities such as workshops, seminars and retreats outside the office; monitors all events organized in UNDSS-recommended hotels; liaises with UNDSS and host country security elements to ensure the safety and security of staff and assets; and ensures the use of security- and safety-compliant vehicles.

Security advisory and information sharing mechanisms were in place in 2017, including an effective warden system and phone tree. UNICEF Egypt continued to monitor all staff compliance with mandatory UNDSS security training courses, with 90 per cent of office staff compliant with both mandatory training certificates. To reach 100 per cent compliance, there will be rigorous follow-up and no travel allowed for non-compliant staff. UNICEF Egypt arranged for enhanced training of its security guards, including strengthening of hostile surveillance procedures, security training for drivers on safe driving and women's security awareness training for female staff and dependents.

First aid kits were available in the office and in vehicles, and the premise's emergency plans were in place and exercised regularly. UNICEF Egypt continued to implement residential security measures and guidelines.

## Human resources

For the preparation of the CPMP 2018–2022, UNICEF Egypt undertook a participatory human resources capacity gap assessment that informed the structure of the new CPMP. In response to the Global Staff Survey results, the management and staff association established an office improvement plan based on staff feedback and participation.

By April 2017, 77 per cent of 2016 performance evaluation reviews were completed. For the 2017 performance evaluation review, the planning phase was completed for 20 per cent of performance evaluation reviews by April and reached 90 per cent by June.

Additional human resources professional support was acquired for five months starting in September to manage a surge in recruitment processes. In 2017, 28 recruitments were initiated, of which 23 were finalized – 8 international professionals, 7 national officers and 10 general service positions. Delays in the selection process were determined by the heavy workload of supervisors and lengthy exchanges of information between UNICEF Egypt and UNICEF MENARO.

UNICEF Egypt continued to address a persistent gender disparity in staffing, with a higher percentage of men in the international professional category and a higher percentage of women in the national officer and general service categories. However, UNICEF Egypt faced challenges in identifying sufficient adequate male staff for the national officer and general service roles, particularly in some areas (e.g. ECD, prevention of female genital mutilation).

UNICEF Egypt maintained a learning and development plan and the human resources development committee met three times and reviewed staff members' training requests, considering UNICEF Egypt and UNICEF global learning priorities. Group learning events took place as planned. UNICEF Egypt is committed to the United Nations Cares initiative and implements the 10 minimum standards on HIV in the work place. UNICEF Egypt supports the peer support volunteers system and has maintained two trained volunteers since 2016.

During 2017, nine joint consultative committee meetings were held. A flexible workplace arrangement policy was implemented throughout the year.

## Effective use of information and communication technology

The UNICEF Egypt ICT unit participated in the innovation task force to conduct several ICT improvement projects. The help line call centre system for NCCM was upgraded to replace an old analogue system with a new digital one. In addition, UNICEF Egypt supported the Holding Company for Water and Waste Water (HCWW) by establishing a database with a responsive user interface to enhance public awareness of HCWW activities and its 25 subsidiary companies and by creating an e-library portal and website to provide increased access to information and knowledge. UNICEF Egypt also supported MOSS with U-Report and Primero.

In terms of infrastructure, connectivity in UNICEF Egypt for data, voice and video traffic continued to be acquired through a local Internet service provider through leased lines, and the current bandwidth in the office is 10 Mb for the primary link with 3G as a backup solution and 4Mb for the secondary link with ADSL and 3G backup options. UNICEF Egypt is in the process of upgrading the bandwidth to 20Mb by December 2017.

The deployment of Windows 10 will be finalized on all UNICEF Egypt laptops before the end of December 2017 as per the agreed corporate timeline. The ICT equipment needs and replacement plan was implemented throughout the year.

The ICT officer attended the Windows server 2016 training held in Global Shared Services Centre and the ICT assistant attended the emergency telecommunications training and passed the GVF HOSTexam.

The ICT governance committee continued its activities and met twice in 2017, with a third meeting planned for December 2017. This committee ensures that the management of the ICT function conforms to the UNICEF ICT strategy, and that ICT policies, standards and guidelines are adhered to.

The ICT business continuity plan and disaster recovery plan is to be updated in December 2017 to maintain operational response capacity during crisis situations.

## Programme components from RAM

### 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 activities remained on track, providing services and support for programme implementation in the areas of financial management, human capacity development, staff and office safety, efficiency of ICT systems, administrative support and supporting office governance systems for oversight and ensuring a more efficient and cost-effective programme and service delivery. These efforts were addressed throughout the year and monitored at section and PMG level and by the CMT (on a monthly basis) through the review of UNICEF Egypt's key performance indicators in all of these areas.

In 2017, the political situation in Egypt was, comparatively, far more stable than in recent years, with the political process going forward for new presidential elections in 2018. Security-wise, the United Nations is not directly targeted and most incidents targeted police, military installations and troops, as well as Muslim and Christian religious locations. In 2017, UNICEF Egypt appointed a dedicated security officer at NOB level (temporary appointment), which was regularized into a full-time position in the October Programme Budget Review, to be filled in 2018.

HACT implementation and assurance plans faced implementation challenges. As of 23 November, 7 of 19 planned spot-checks were carried out and the remaining were in progress; 49 programme visits were completed against a target of 65; and 12 planned audits were in progress. UNICEF Egypt's office systems, structures and resources were available and maintained to provide staff with an enabling and safe working environment.

On administrative services, alternative space and seating arrangements were paramount and were established to accommodate increasing staff numbers pending UNICEF Egypt's assessment of space needs and a decision to move to a new office location. Support for local events (both for office functions and programme services) increased in 2017. Other efforts continued to reduce costs and realize cost efficiencies from measures and arrangements established in 2016.

In 2017, UNICEF Egypt reported on the 2016 environmental footprint assessment. In 2016, per staff carbon dioxide emissions were at 3.3 tons, compared with 2.6 tons in 2015. This increase was due to an increase in staff numbers in 2016 compared to 2015 and an increase in utility rates.

Human resources support was enhanced during the year with additional contracted professional human resources services. The human resources team handled an increased volume of recruitment, supported the HRDC and provided support needed during the preparations and finalizing of the CPMP and Programme Budget Review for the 2018–2022 CPD.

On financial management, UNICEF Egypt recruited a new NOB finance officer in September after the re-assignment of the previous NOB. Also, a general service 6 finance assistant position was added back as part of the Quadrennial Support Budget Review to strengthen the finance functions in many offices; the recruitment of that position is nearly finished. The finance team is also supporting the roll-out of eZHACT, which went live at the end of October 2017, and followed up on monthly and year-end closure activities to ensure key performance indicators were within acceptable corporate standards.

## **OUTPUT 1 Governance and systems**

### **Analytical statement of progress**

All management systems operated effectively and efficiently. The 2017 Annual Management Plan was finalized using the new annual management plan template and shared with UNICEF MENARO on time (by April 2017). Office statutory committees operated as per terms of reference to support the office governance and accountability structures. The CMT met regularly (11 times as of the beginning of December) to monitor annual management plan and key performance indicators, risk control and self-assessment, HACT implementation and assurance activities and staff learning and development, as well as any other issues, as needed

UNICEF Egypt ICT systems functioned smoothly and back-up systems and processes were in place and functioning as designed. An office assets and ICT inventory count was done in September 2017 and obsolete assets and ICT items were submitted to PSBs throughout 2017. The ICT unit participated in the innovation task force with several projects taking place. The first one is to upgrade the help line call centre system for NCCM, replacing the old analog system with a new digital one. The second project was to support the HCWW in three different areas: establishing a database with a responsive user interface for public awareness activities and the 25 subsidiary companies, creating an e-library portal and website and supporting MOSS with U-Report and Primero. In June 2017, the contract with the Internet service provider for UNICEF Egypt was renewed and the current bandwidth in the office is 14 MBs. In December, UNICEF Egypt requested to add another 6 MBs to the existing bandwidth to accommodate extra demand propelled by increasing staff numbers. The contract for BGAN at the disaster recovery site was renewed for one year.

Administrative and logistical support for travel, workshops and meetings continued with increased pressure due to the increased scope of activities and the increase in staff numbers. An additional element to consider was the lack of capacity or willingness of some government partners to plan events on their own, which ended up the responsibility of UNICEF Egypt.

Enterprise risk management review and assessment took place in August 2017 through participation of staff in group discussions and evaluations to reflect on the changing country and

programming environment and as part of the 2018–2022 CPMP preparation exercise. It was finalized and approved by the CMT in October 2017 and uploaded to the enterprise risk management portal.

## **OUTPUT 2** Financial resources and stewardship

### **Analytical statement of progress**

Bank reconciliations continued to be submitted on time and all relevant monthly accounting activities were completed with all open balances being current.

Transition to the Global Shared Services Centre in the area of finance went as planned and smoothly, without issues, due to good preparation. After the go-live period, there remained issues of delays and learning curves both at the UNICEF Egypt level and the Global Shared Services Centre level.

DCTs were regularly followed up on at the section, PMG and CMT levels. Throughout the year, UNICEF Egypt faced challenges and bottlenecks with some partners causing DCTs to be outstanding for more than nine months. These efforts were successful and brought down DCTs outstanding for more than 9 months to zero as of 6 December; whereas DCTs outstanding between 6–9 months were at 2.8 per cent as of the same date. Financial benchmarks in terms of providing necessary cash flow liquidity, clearing of GL accounts, bank reconciliations, NEP registers and inventory were consistently met, with activities completed in a timely manner.

The target of month-end bank balances not exceeding 30 per cent of total monthly replenishments was met in 7 out of 11 months as of the end of November 2017. Monthly and year-end closure activities were under control and open items were followed up on and clearly as quickly as possible, usually within two weeks of being published on the accounts closure team site. Currently all balances are within acceptable limits except for VAT refunds; however, UNICEF Egypt just received approximately US\$100,000 covering the period of mid 2013–mid 2015, which will be applied to the VAT account to clear old outstanding amounts.

Regular Resources funds utilization rate was 100 per cent, while Other Resources Regular and Other Resources Emergency funds utilization rates were 99 per cent and 94 per cent, respectively. The BMA budget was at a 100 per cent utilization rate. Monitoring of open travel authorizations was regular to ensure that trips were closed within 15 days of travel and any unused budgets were released so they could be utilized. As of 6 December, four travel authorizations were open and expected to be closed by the end of the year.

## **OUTPUT 3** Human capacity

### **Analytical statement of progress**

The human resources section in UNICEF Egypt provided assistance and support in the areas of recruitment, staff training and orientation of new staff joining the country office. Due to a large increase in recruitment activities, UNICEF Egypt brought in additional professional human resources support for five months to manage the workload. From the beginning of the year, 28 recruitments were opened, out of which 23 were finalized. Eight international professionals were recruited at the following levels: five at professional level 3, one at professional level 4 and two at professional level 5. Seven national officers were recruited, out of which four posts were at



the NOB level and three were at the NOA level. In addition, 10 general service recruitments were finalized at the following levels: three at Level 6, five at Level 5 and two at Level 4. Six recruitments are still in process, including one is at professional level 4, one at professional level 3, two are at NOC level and two are at NOB level. These recruitments are at the shortlist, interview and approval stages.

For the preparation of the 2018–2022 CPMP, UNICEF Egypt undertook a human resources capacity gap assessment that informed the proposed structure of the new CPMP to achieve the intended results. It was a very inclusive and participatory process with support and facilitation by UNICEF MENARO. In response to the Global Staff Survey results for UNICEF Egypt, management and the staff association established an office improvement plan based on staff feedback and participation and facilitation by MENARO staff. Progress on the office improvement plan was measured by the joint consultative committee and an all-staff session.

As of 6 December, gender statistics were 62 per cent men and 38 per cent women overall for the whole office, with a breakdown of 67 per cent men and 33 per cent women for the international professional category, 25 per cent men and 75 per cent women for the general staff category, and 34 per cent men and 66 per cent women for the national officer category. Geographical diversity is at 60 per cent and 40 per cent in favour of donor countries.

By April 2017, 77 per cent of the 2016 performance evaluation reviews were completed. For the 2017 performance evaluation review, the planning phase was completed for 20 per cent of the performance evaluation reviews by 10 April and later reached 90 per cent by June 2017.

UNICEF Egypt maintained a rolling learning and development plan and the HRDC met three times and reviewed staff members' training requests considering UNICEF Egypt and UNICEF global learning priorities. Group learning events took place on topics such as ethics, women's security awareness training, performance management, career development and training for wardens and building marshals.

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

### **Analytical statement of progress**

Through the health quality improvement programme, which is funded by a World Bank loan, MOHP reached the standard of quality services expected by the end of 2017. Six hundred and twenty family health units have been accredited and improved outreach to communities in targeted areas has resulted in an increase in facility utilization from 45 per cent in 2016 to 72 per cent in 2017. The percentage of children attending the one-year visit tested for haemoglobin also increased from 56 per cent to 82 per cent during the same period in the same communities.

In 2017, UNICEF Egypt continued to support MOHP to improve access to quality antenatal care, assisted delivery, postnatal care, nutrition and growth monitoring services to deprived mothers and children under 5. The expanded support covered more governorates to ensure exchange and learning on past progress and help targeted family health units provide quality healthcare services. This was highlighted through Monitoring Results for Equity System administrative data that showed increased coverage of antenatal care for pregnant women from 68.8 to 81.7 per cent, and increased registration of the first antenatal care visit before the

thirteenth week of gestational age from 11 per cent in 2013 to 23.4 per cent, in 2017. These figures demonstrate improvement in both the quality of service provision and the success of outreach efforts to ensure that women who are pregnant are aware of the benefits of antenatal care, that the services are available, and that they use them.

Building on the successful initiative of urban programme implementation in irregular settlement areas in Cairo, UNICEF Egypt signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cairo Governorate in June 2017 to expand implementation in another two irregular settlement areas to scale up the integrated package of health, nutrition and WASH services and awareness, along with efforts to engage adolescents and expand ECD services to marginalized Egyptian and refugee women and children.

UNICEF Egypt is working closely with WHO and UNFPA in collaboration with MOHP to finalize and launch the national strategic plan for reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health for the period 2018–2022. The coordinated partners agreed on gaps in healthcare services to be highlighted in the situational analysis using national performance indicators to manage and monitor implementation of the plan, with an expected launch in January 2018.

UNICEF Egypt also collaborated with MOHP to strengthen the nutrition policy framework and support system strengthening through evidence generation to identify key challenges, opportunities and priority actions that need to be addressed at the policy level in order for Egypt to meet nutrition targets aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Egypt's Vision 2030 and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. UNICEF Egypt advocated with MOHP to update the national nutrition strategy (2018–2030) and action plan, in the context of addressing ECD, to support the implementation of scaled-up nutrition actions at the national level within a governance framework and clearly defined targets.

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

### **Analytical statement of progress**

The quality of and access to healthcare services improved in 2017 as MOHP implemented the health quality improvement programme and integrated perinatal health and child nutrition. Six hundred and twenty family healthcare units were accredited, passing level I and II verification indicators. Facility utilization increased from 45 per cent in 2016 to 72 per cent in 2017, and the percentage of children who were tested for haemoglobin during their one-year visit increased from 56 per cent to 82 per cent over the same period.

A mass screening initiative for hepatitis C virus assessed the screening coverage, which showed more than 60 per cent coverage of the target population. Antenatal care was improved to reach 81.7 per cent of pregnant women, and registration for the first antenatal care visit before the thirteenth week of gestational age increased from 11 per cent in 2013 to 23.4 per cent in 2017. In 2017, 100 per cent of births were attended by skilled birth personnel, exceeding the target of 90 per cent. The percentage of children who received postnatal care within 48 hours of birth increased to 76.7 per cent in 2017 from 54.9 per cent in 2013. These achievements demonstrate improvements in the quality of care, the availability of services and access to and use of those services by the community. Due to delays in supply procurement, only 59 per cent of one-year-old children received vitamin A supplementation, far below the 95 per cent target.

UNICEF Egypt integrated the Monitoring Results for Equity System at 45 health districts, including extending prenatal and neonatal mortality surveillance systems to 25 hospitals to expand the ability to track and manage causes of neonatal mortality. To enhance healthcare district and directorate management, 270 supervisors obtained new tools and skills to increase demand for quality healthcare services, and 157 middle management team members gained skills on performance tracking and facilities' utilization quality and accessibility indicators. Through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cairo Governorate in June 2017, UNICEF Egypt expanded the integrated package of health, nutrition and WASH services to marginalized Egyptian and refugee women and children into two new irregular urban settlements.

UNICEF Egypt and the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Scientific Secretariat disseminated the results of the national iodine survey and jointly coordinated the implementation of the national IDD sustainability plan with partners (the primary healthcare sector, food inspectors, NNI, salt producers and the Ministry of Industry). An iodized salt quality control and quality assurance manual was developed jointly with partners to standardize quality control and quality assurance procedures within salt factories and 60 food inspectors in 27 governorates now use it. UNICEF Egypt provided 40 WYD quantitative iodine testing devices to be distributed to salt factories to support the internal quality assurance monitoring procedures. A database was finalized for 100 salt factories, and 45 factories were assessed for quality control and quality assurance procedures to address capacity gaps.

In 2017, UNICEF Egypt worked with MOHP, WHO and UNFPA on the national strategic plan for reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health 2018–2022. UNICEF Egypt highlighted gaps in the situational analysis of national indicators for health concerns to be covered in the strategic agenda and with the proper approach. The plan has been finalized and will be launched nationally in January 2018.

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

### **Analytical statement of progress**

From a baseline of 7,000 households in targeted districts that were connected to the public water network in 2012, UNICEF Egypt provided an additional 10,382 households with water connections, for a total of 17,382 households. In 2017, 1,600 of these households were connected, providing an estimated 8,000 people with access to safe water. Additionally, UNICEF Egypt provided more than 16,000 school children in 31 schools in Minya Governorate with improved water and sanitation facilities. School staff were trained in facility maintenance and ways to motivate and influence basic hygienic practices for children. Through the provision of safe water connections at the household level, the improvement of WASH facilities at schools and hygiene awareness-raising, the risk of diarrhoeal diseases has decreased in these communities.

As part of UNICEF's response to the Syrian refugee crisis in Egypt, during 2017, 180 Syrian community health workers gained skills in WASH messages to disseminate within their communities through routine home visits. Although funding limitations remained a challenge for the WASH programme, UNICEF Egypt is expanding fundraising activities to secure funds to scale-up the WASH programme to include new geographic areas and increase the number of connected households to reach the planned number of new connections for 2017 (3,500) and for the current country programme (35,000).

UNICEF Egypt's contributions to reducing the risk of diarrhoeal risk through improved WASH services and practices consisted of the provision of new facilities and the improvement of old ones, training of water company staff and teachers in hygiene awareness and system-building to support a revolving fund mechanism. Seven hundred of the new household water connections installed in 2017 were paid for through funds raised by UNICEF Egypt during the reporting period, while the other 900 new connections were financed through collected instalments paid back by beneficiaries who received loans during previous years. The revolving loan mechanism was expanded in 2017 to 400 additional households in Fayoum Governorate for sewage connections.

The results achieved during the year were made possible by partnerships with the HCWW and national water companies. UNICEF's WASH programme is implemented in five governorates in Upper Egypt (Qena, Sohag, Assiut, Fayoum and Minia) and in two irregular urban settlement areas in Cairo Governorate. The partnership with HCWW and water companies provided the necessary water and sanitation facilities in households and schools and created a sustainable approach to the maintenance of these facilities and the delivery of hygiene messages. UNICEF Egypt trained 600 HCWW staff in the awareness department in 25 governorates on skills in customer service, monitoring, planning and hygiene awareness. These staff members were equipped with skills to manage the revolving fund mechanism and monitor hygiene awareness in their targeted communities for sanitation and proper safe-water usage. The 'Water for Life' programme initiative works at the national level in partnership with Rotary Egypt as well as the HCWW in Upper Egypt in specific rural districts to advocate with the local government and communities to bring safe water directly into homes.

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

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

Community-based activities have proven successful in terms of improving access to health and nutrition messages, as well as increased health-seeking demand for primary healthcare services. Data collected by MOHP showed an increased healthcare facility utilization rate in targeted districts from 53 per cent in 2013 to 72 per cent in 2017 as a result of capacity-building for community health workers and technical support provided by UNICEF Egypt in the form of the supervisors' training, updating of training kits, community outreach plans and data collection registers to strengthen outreach and awareness activities. The demand for antenatal care has also increased, as indicated from the average number of antenatal care visits, which rose from 2.1 to 3.2 in the same period. This reflects increased community awareness and demand for services as a result of UNICEF-supported, community-based outreach activities.

Through technical, communications and behaviour change support provided by UNICEF Egypt to MOHP, the average number of awareness-raising sessions on quality healthcare services and practices increased in target areas from 6.9 in 2015 to 14.1 in 2017. This substantial increase has strengthened the ability of MOHP and other healthcare staff to translate key health, nutrition and WASH messages to the public and significantly improved the reach of these messages to increase demand for quality services. Through the end of the projects in June 2017, 327 community health workers and their supervisors gained these skills.

To sustain an institutionalized role for community health workers in outreach activities, UNICEF Egypt trained 75 managerial supervisors from six governorates on how to support community health workers to make outreach activities more effective in light of the ministerial decree to

revise and update the strategy and role of community outreach services. A new manual was developed on how to mainstream gender issues in healthcare services, and 111 healthcare providers gained improved skills in gender-sensitive healthcare. The existing community health worker manual was updated to include counselling on nutrition for mothers and young children and how to better communicate. A total of 34 master trainers from six governorates became trainers of trainers on this new manual and will roll out training in their respective governorates. The community-based survey that community health workers use to track behavioural change is being updated in coordination with MOHP and Save the Children.

MOHP's community health worker strategy is being reviewed in coordination with partners from Save the Children, USAID, MOHP and UNICEF Egypt to foster the role of community health workers and establish sustainable mechanisms for community-based activities.

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

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF Egypt provided technical and financial support for strategic and technical discussions between the National AIDS Program (NAP) and maternal and child health (MCH) for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, which was launched in four governorates (Cairo, Alexandria, Giza and Qualiobyia) in May 2017.

During 2017, nine facilities were providing testing and counselling for pregnant women. More than 8,000 women were educated about HIV/AIDS, 5,900 were provided with pretesting information and 5,560 (70 per cent of the women reached) were tested for HIV. UNICEF Egypt also supported training and sensitization of 262 healthcare providers from MCH and NAP staff and CSOs on HIV/AIDS and prevention of mother-to-child transmission.

Through UNICEF guidance to strengthen the quality of the programme, a set of remedy actions were introduced to address the bottlenecks, including the gap between the number of women who were offered the opportunity to be tested and those who actually were tested. These included supervisory support to the nurses, the provision of pretesting information and education sessions, and training on proper registration techniques to avoid counting errors. A plan was also developed to strengthen the presentation and facilitation skills of health educators to improve the learning outcomes of weekly education sessions.

Although the number of MCH centres engaged in the pilot is under the target of 15 facilities, that was largely because the implementation pace was slower than planned due to challenges in coordination between three different departments within MOHP (namely the NAP, MCH and family planning, and community health) that hindered the inclusion of new MCH centres. However, the improved harmony among involved partner sectors along with the sense of motivation from achieving intended results will help better expand the model in the coming phases.

With UNICEF Egypt's support, 78 NAP staff from 14 government treatment centres improved their capacities in the procurement and supply management system of HIV/AIDS and patient retention in care, which helped 3,540 persons living with HIV, including 102 infants, access to quality medicines (compared with 2,300 persons in 2016). Thirty-four HIV-positive pregnant women received antiretroviral therapy to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission.

UNICEF Egypt's efforts in collaboration with CSOs and the NAP to increase adherence to treatment have helped more than 400 people living with HIV/AIDS in six governorates have better health outcomes and minimize the likelihood of transmitting infection to their partners, including through prevention of mother-to-child transmission efforts. The intervention package that UNICEF Egypt supported included treatment literacy, a buddy system, addressing stigma and discrimination in treatment sites and addressing economic challenges through transportation allowances.

With a vision to expand and scale up prevention of mother-to-child transmission efforts, lessons learned from the model programme will inform future steps. UNICEF Egypt has already initiated the expansion of the programme to other MCH centres and governorates that have the highest potential for yield based on mapping studies and linked to other outreach programmes targeting female partners of key populations and women living with HIV and AIDS.

**OUTPUT 5** New vaccines successfully introduced to national immunization schedule.

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

The MOHP expanded programme on immunization successfully introduced new vaccines for hepatitis B and switched from trivalent oral poliovirus vaccine to bivalent oral poliovirus vaccine at the national level. Coverage for new vaccines since the introduction of pentavalent to routine immunization reached 97 per cent in 2017, up from 0 per cent coverage in 2013 and exceeding the target of 90 per cent.

Delays in vaccine delivery were faced in the release of samples of procured shipments due to delays in the technical approval of the pharmaceutical unit in the ministry. UNICEF Egypt took a leading role in coordinating an integrated system across various ministerial departments and partners for vendor selection and testing requirements to avoid delays in vaccine procurement in the future.

To maintain Egypt as a polio-free country, UNICEF Egypt supported MOHP to conduct one round of polio subnational immunization days in April 2017 targeting 6 million children under 5, including both Egyptian and non-Egyptian children in high-risk governorates. According to MOHP reports, coverage reached 100 per cent. In addition, UNICEF Egypt provided technical and financial support to MOHP to plan and implement social mobilization and media campaigns to make communities aware of the polio campaign and the importance of immunizing their children. The selection of the target areas was managed by the MOHP expanded programme on immunization team for high-risk areas according to the identified high concentration of refugees and the possible transmission of cases in light of reports by WHO and UNICEF Egypt.

The annual procurement of 4.25 million doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine was discussed and agreed upon with the UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen, Denmark. The planned efforts for the introduction of the inactivated poliovirus vaccines will be closely coordinated between UNICEF Egypt, the MOPH expanded programme on immunization team and WHO for the donation of the new vaccines, which will be delivered by the UNICEF Supply Division in March 2018. Through UNICEF procurement services, MOHP secured expanded programme on immunization vaccines (bacillus Calmette–Guérin, measles, mumps and rubella, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, hepatitis B, bivalent oral poliovirus vaccine and pentavalent vaccine). These were used for the routine immunization of more than 2.7 million children under 18 months of age. In addition, the procurement of tetanus typhoid vaccine needed for the immunization of pregnant women during their antenatal care visits.



To upgrade MOHP's vaccine storage capacity and cold chain system, UNICEF Egypt completed the procurement and delivery of 20 walk-in refrigerators and six freezers to build a central vaccine storage for the ministry. Work is continuing to build the necessary infrastructure to accommodate the new equipment. MOHP is still working on the construction, but they are coordinating with UNICEF Egypt to ensure the establishment of the equipment once finished and to train team members on the optimal use of the provided supplies.

## **OUTPUT 6** Exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices improved.

### **Analytical statement of progress**

The 1,000 days stunting prevention model integrating ECD in primary healthcare documented an improvement in exclusive breastfeeding rates among children aged 4–5 months from 45 per cent in 2013 to 73.9 per cent in 2017. To support the development of standardized protocols and operationalize this model, UNICEF Egypt focused on expanding sustainable capacity building through training programmes in healthcare facilities. Based on gap analysis findings in nutrition services, standardized protocols for anaemia and micronutrient supplementation were updated, and two capacity-building packages for healthcare workers on micronutrient supplementation and growth monitoring were developed. Two hundred and forty health staff members gained skills to assess and monitor micronutrient needs. Lab assessment tools were updated to identify and respond to lab requirements, and individual level anaemia registers were created. One hundred and ten medical staff learned to monitor the growth and development of children aged 0–24 months to improve the detection of malnutrition. To expand the baby-friendly hospital initiative, 450 healthcare workers were trained to improve their capacities to support breastfeeding through the baby-friendly hospital initiative's 20-hour course conducted in 45 public healthcare facilities and four public hospitals. With support from the National Nutrition Institute and MOHP, infant and young child feeding guidelines were finalized to strengthen the capacity of healthcare workers to deliver nutrition counselling to the community.

The 1,000 days model's standardized protocols will be tested to document challenges in delivering quality nutrition services. UNICEF Egypt and partners' engagement continued to focus on the successful completion of the 1000-day modelling as a step toward its scaling-up at the national level.

At the policy level, UNICEF Egypt and the MOHP launched the *Nutrition Agenda for Action* and *Nutrition Stakeholder Action Mapping* reports to establish a national nutrition governance and accountability structure. The report recommendations are informing the update of the national nutrition strategy (2018–2030) that the Government decided to embark on to address the double burden of malnutrition. UNICEF Egypt in partnership with MOHP, relevant government stakeholders, WHO, WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are updating the strategy and its operational multi-stakeholder action plan. UNICEF Egypt, in partnership with the World Bank, is also working on a nutrition investment case, including costing of the 'first 1000 days' interventions, as a component of the national nutrition strategy.

Within the context of building capacity to improve the knowledge and capacity of healthcare providers in nutrition and ECD, UNICEF Egypt partnered with six national universities to update breastfeeding curricula within public health, paediatrics, obstetrics, community medicine and

nursing faculties, as well as to implement the university baby-friendly hospital initiative. This improved the skills of 261 nurses and 179 doctors on breastfeeding and ECD. These partnerships have been instrumental to ensuring sustainable improvements in the quality of service delivery through current and future healthcare practitioners. In partnership with the National Population Council, a health and nutrition training package was developed targeting university youth in 12 universities; 350 trainers were selected to ensure sustainable transfer of skills; and 1,500 pioneers are now skilled in peer-to-peer education. A digital platform was developed, and 120 students learned how to manage the platform.

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

### **Analytical statement of progress**

Since January 2017, a total of 7,199 Syrian women aged 15–49 years and 10,782 Syrian children under 5 received primary healthcare services through UNICEF-supported facilities and trained medical teams. Through October 2017, UNICEF Egypt and MOHP reached 16,175 children under 5 (124.4 per cent of the targeted children) with routine immunization and growth monitoring services and supported 876 antenatal care consultations. More children were reached because the planned target was based on registered refugees, while services were provided to both registered and unregistered refugees. MOHP appointed and improved the awareness-raising capacity of 185 Syrian community health workers in 10 governorates to work directly with Syrian families to raise health awareness and encourage them to use MOHP primary healthcare facilities. The target of 450 trained community health workers was not reached due to difficulties identifying enough Syrian refugee women who were willing and able to adhere to the requirements of the position, given time and economic security constraints.

UNICEF Egypt's contribution to the emergency response to the Syrian refugee crisis in Egypt in the health sector was mainly through technically supporting MOHP, strengthening the system's resilience and building the capacity of maternal and child healthcare service providers in existing public primary healthcare units in areas with high concentrations of Syrian and non-Syrian refugees, as well as the Egyptian host community. UNICEF Egypt provided technical and financial support to MOHP efforts in 120 primary healthcare units in 35 districts in 16 governorates. In conjunction with ministry efforts to improve the quality of care in primary healthcare facilities, community healthcare workers ensured that Syrian refugee children and their families would be aware of the services provided in these primary healthcare facilities, as well as their right to access them.

UNICEF Egypt initiated a holistic approach for the mainstreaming of child protection services in healthcare facilities in target areas through already established national child protection hubs. UNICEF Egypt and MOHP strengthened the capabilities of 38 selected primary healthcare units in 16 governorates to be able to cope with the increased number of people seeking primary healthcare services and psychosocial support through the already active primary healthcare units that are not yet specialized in psychosocial support to children and their family members. UNICEF Egypt re-launched the 'family clubs' initiative to prevent violence against children and ensure access to healthcare services for children in need. UNICEF Egypt provided specific support to the family clubs through recreational activities for younger children and life skills for adolescents; a positive parenting programme; identifying and responding to cases of children at risk or victims of violence, exploitation and abuse through enhanced national referral mechanisms; building the capacity of providers on child protection policies and codes of conduct; and utilizing staff from MOHP to undertake key child protection tasks, in cooperation with community leaders of different nationalities.

**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**

While Egypt has made progress increasing enrolment in pre-primary education, the enrolment rate is still below the SDG target of 60 per cent by 2030. Although pre-primary education is considered part of the general public education system, it is not mandatory. There are currently 14,273 nurseries serving 847,423 children aged 0–3 (8 per cent) and 11,064 kindergarten classes serving 1,219,995 children aged 4–5 or 6 (31.7 per cent). In 2013, a national quality assurance system for community-based education was not yet developed, however, Egypt succeeded in developing national standards in 2015. Nevertheless, despite a strong push on the equity agenda toward children with disabilities, there was no national system on inclusive education adopted by MOE as of 2017.

In 2017, a scalable model for increasing access to quality pre-primary education services for improved school readiness was developed. UNICEF Egypt developed a new partnership with the Arab Council for Childhood Development and the Arab Gulf Programme for Development to provide technical support to MOE to develop the model. Formulation and testing of this model is expected to bear lessons learned for the MOE to further increase the capacity of the ministry to expand pre-primary education in Egypt. Beyond early childhood education, UNICEF Egypt assisted the NCCM in establishing an inter-ministerial technical working group on ECD as a task force and a decision-making body for developing the national ECD vision. As a first step, UNICEF Egypt assisted NCCM in preparing to conduct a cross-sectoral ECD situational analysis, develop a national ECD strategy, develop national standards for early child learning and development and review national standards for nurseries. UNICEF Egypt and the World Bank established a partnership in 2017 to deliver the SABER assessment tool for ECD.

Despite Egypt's commitment to supporting people with disabilities, interventions and data on children with disabilities are still limited within the education sector. To assist MOE, UNICEF Egypt contributed to allowing access for children with mild disabilities in 19 public schools in 2017 through the provision of educational aids, training teachers and strengthening the school system. Cumulatively since 2013, UNICEF Egypt contributed to enhancing access for children with mild disabilities in 139 public schools (the exact number of enrolled children is not yet available). New partnerships were developed in 2017 among MOE, UNICEF Egypt, Ain Shams University and Alexandria University for delivering teacher training on designing and developing teaching and learning aids to improve the quality of teaching and learning in inclusive schools.

In 2017, UNICEF Egypt identified 663 new sites for community schools; no new community-based schools were launched, however. While the general enrolment rate in 2016–2017 for primary education in Egypt was high at 97 per cent, given the high rate of population growth, MOE is under significant pressure to expand its services both in terms of quantity and quality. UNICEF Egypt continued to leverage its long experience in scaling-up community-based primary education for out-of-school children in poor and rural communities.

UNICEF Egypt, MOE and other key stakeholders are currently conducting strategic discussions to identify a modified solution for the community-based model, given that MOE has adjusted its vision of community-based schools under the new education transformation, the Education 2.0 plan. This was a major challenge in 2017 where activities were not approved by the Government. In addition, due to institutional capacity limitations, the recruitment and

deployment of new teachers to the newly established community-based schools was deemed unsustainable.

Beyond the initial annual plan 2017 with MOE, UNICEF Egypt engaged in strategic dialogues with MOE on transforming the education sector (Education 2.0). More specifically, in late 2017, MOE requested UNICEF Egypt to build institutional capacity for the curriculum reform process from pre-primary to secondary education (KG 1–Grade 12) through integrating the life-skills and citizenship education framework, including developing learning outcomes, designing textbooks and teaching and learning materials, and reviewing the current teacher training framework. In order to respond to this request, UNICEF Egypt developed an institutional contract with CIEP in December 2017 for providing the requested technical support to MOE.

In 2017, UNICEF Egypt served as the new co-chair of the Education Development Partners Group and conducted four meetings along with the European Union and MOE for knowledge sharing. UNICEF Egypt took the lead in initiating the development of an Education Development Partners Group database to facilitate the harmonization of work by all partners.

As the co-chair of the Education in Emergencies Working Group with UNHCR, UNICEF Egypt continued to support the expansion of access to quality basic education for refugee children, with additional consideration of non-Syrian refugees and enhancing the equity agenda in education in emergencies in 2017. In 2017, UNICEF Egypt directly helped 7,334 Syrian and African refugee children receive education at community-based kindergartens, public schools and informal learning opportunities on life skills. An integration of life skills was adopted in 2017 to emphasize long-term skills development for older children (13–18 year olds) to adapt to labour market needs. One of the new initiatives from 2017 included capacitating school management and training teachers from nine public schools on inclusive education and designing and creating teaching aids that enabled Syrian refugee children with mild disabilities to access public schools.

Education interventions faced slow progress due to delays of government clearances, late annual work plan approval by MOE, which delayed the implementation of activities, weak and unreliable data, change in senior management and the new education reform process. UNICEF Egypt aligned its programme with MOE's new priorities and strengthened the partnership to improve the situation.

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

### **Analytical statement of progress**

In 2014–2015, the MOE assessment of school readiness in three governorates in Upper Egypt revealed that average school readiness among children graduating from kindergartens is 62 per cent, while the goal was to reach 70 per cent by 2017. Nevertheless, beyond the education sector, the Government made progress at the policy level by initiating inter-ministerial ECD interventions.

UNICEF Egypt assisted MOE by establishing a scalable model for kindergartens by expanding the number of quality teachers, which will lead to improved quality of pre-primary services. Furthermore, UNICEF Egypt assisted in enhancing the ECD system among the key stakeholders including MOE, MOSS, MOH and NCCM to further efforts to deliver holistic and integrated ECD services in Egypt.

In 2017, UNICEF Egypt developed a new tripartite protocol among UNICEF, MOE and the Arab Council for Childhood and Development to increase the number of quality kindergartens. The partnership aimed to develop a sustainable and replicable excellence model (professional development preschool) for improving children's school readiness through a school based-reform package. The first phase of the model tested in Giza Governorate reached 11 kindergartens with approximately 600 children aged 4–5, 22 school administrators or supervisors and 40 teachers. UNICEF Egypt provided technical support for enhancing the institutional capacity of the kindergarten teacher training centre through training of staff members on appropriate pedagogy and management.

UNICEF Egypt also provided technical assistance on ECD across different sectors to respond to the problem of fragmented services and to improve the ECD system overall. A partnership was established in 2017 between UNICEF Egypt and the World Bank to deliver the SABER assessment tool for ECD. The SABER tool is being used to assess the quality of the existing ECD system in the country and further initiatives, policy formation and dialogues for improvement in the coming years. UNICEF Egypt also provided technical assistance to prepare a holistic ECD national strategy to guide and support the scaling-up of integrated quality ECD services nationwide. To inform this process, UNICEF Egypt assisted the preparation of a cross-sectoral ECD situational analysis and the development of national standards for child early learning, growth and development. To strengthen intersectoral coordination, the governance structure promoted by UNICEF Egypt was adopted by NCCM. In 2017, an inter-ministerial technical working group led by NCCM was formed to guide and support the process for developing the holistic ECD national strategy.

To improve access to quality of services, UNICEF Egypt technically supported the review of the national standards for nurseries in cooperation with the Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group. UNICEF Egypt and MOSS agreed to develop and scale up a home-based nursery model. Strong institutional barriers to cross-ministerial work, lack of reliable data, and the change in NCCM senior leadership delayed the implementation of activities in 2017. UNICEF Egypt will continue to technically support the Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group and promote research on ECD to generate data.

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

### **Analytical statement of progress**

Egypt made significant progress towards increasing access to primary education, with gross enrolment rates reaching almost 98 per cent. Progress was also made in regard to community-based education: 123,672 previously out-of-school children were enrolled in 5,000 schools. A slower increase in the number of new schools, and accordingly the absorption capacity for out-of-school children, was observed during the past two years.

Due to current challenges in the recruitment and placement of teachers, UNICEF Egypt could not achieve its target for 2017, to open 30 new community schools in two governorates (Assiut and Sohag). MOE was unable to provide teachers to the target community schools, and therefore the opening of the new schools was suspended. The lack of available teachers is due to limitations in government resources, which resulted in a hiring freeze on new government appointees and civil servants. The reallocation of teachers to community schools is not always feasible given the special nature of the remote and hard-to-reach areas where community schools are located. UNICEF Egypt is working with MOE to identify and agree on ways forward

to address the problem of limited resources and ensure education for out-of-school children.

UNICEF Egypt collaborated with MOE, NGOs and WFP during this reporting period with generous funding from the European Union. MOE staff contributed to the identification, needs assessment and inspection of new sites according to national standards for community-based education. NGOs provided their data on out-of-school children in target areas and the availability of community-donated sites. WFP shared information on their target locations, training programmes and monitoring tools. This collaboration resulted in knowledge sharing, coordination of interventions and resource management to ensure cost effectiveness and avoid duplication of efforts.

Meanwhile, UNICEF Egypt developed several alternative options to address the needs of out-of-school children, which will be discussed with MOE and the European Union in the near future.

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

### **Analytical statement of progress**



During the reporting period, UNICEF Egypt supported MOE by establishing resource rooms and training the workforce to scale-up inclusive education to fulfil the country's commitment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as to align with the SDGs. The number of inclusive schools increased from 20 in 2013 to 139 in 2017. The exact number of enrolled children is not yet available.

As one of the main United Nations partners delivering activities directly to children with disabilities, UNICEF Egypt continued to provide technical and financial support, primarily at the school and community levels, to increase access and improve the quality of inclusive education.

In 2017, 19 schools (9 in Alexandria, 10 in Sohag) received resource room supplies and teacher training. In 2017, under the new partnership with Alexandria University, 389 teachers were trained in 172 schools in six governorates (98 men, 291 women) on designing and developing teaching and learning aids. Cumulatively, UNICEF Egypt contributed to increasing access to mainstream education for children with disabilities in 139 schools (9 in Alexandria, 40 in Assiut, 40 in Cairo and 50 in Sohag).

To enhance workforce performance improvement, UNICEF Egypt also signed a Memorandum of Understanding among Ain Shams University, MOE and UNICEF to strengthen MOE's teacher training system. UNICEF Egypt will provide technical assistance to support the implementation of comprehensive training packages to meet the professional needs of MOE teachers, social workers, psychologists, principals and deputies, including a training package on the role of school management on effective school administrative and financial management. Jointly with the Centre for Curricula and Instructional Material Development, a plan was developed to build teacher's guides for ensuring the provision of inclusive school activities with a focus on children with disabilities.

To ensure sustainable performance improvement, school-based performance improvement centres were identified in four schools (one in Alexandria and three in Sohag) and their supplies were procured for delivery by the first quarter of 2018. In addition, 23 new schools were selected, jointly with MOE, in two governorates (11 in Matrouh and 12 in Gharbia) where supplies (diagnostic assessment and education materials) are will be delivered in early 2018. Performance improvement centres and supplies are expected to effectively enhance the quality of in-class teaching and learning.

UNICEF Egypt collaborated with MOE to stipulate the responsibilities and accountabilities of resource room teachers and committee members (the disability diagnosis committee and awareness-raising committee, which were established in 2016) to identify children's disabilities in a timely manner and reduce stigma toward children with disabilities and strengthen the inclusive education system at school and community levels.

Delayed approval of the annual work plan in July 2017 resulted in the delayed start of activities and postponed the full achievement of the planned results. UNICEF Egypt will ensure early submission of future annual work plans to avoid delays.

**OUTPUT 4** Syrian refugee children age 3–14 have improved access to quality education in government and community based schools.

**Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, UNICEF Egypt adopted a ‘one refugee’ approach, where vulnerable refugee and migrant children, regardless of nationality or legal status, were supported to meet their basic needs.

In 2017, 3,938 Syrian and 2,747 African refugee children accessed pre-primary education opportunities through education grants. The education grants served to ease the families’ financial burdens and extend early childhood education access to refugee children in Egypt. An additional 869 children aged 3–5 accessed pre-primary education through the 30 UNICEF-supported kindergarten classrooms. Community-based kindergartens created opportunities wherever the public system cannot accommodate refugee children. Furthermore, as Egypt is increasingly becoming a country of strategic importance for child migrants and child refugees, the education programme strengthened the capacity of 58 unaccompanied and separated children (ages 13–18 years) through life-skills training (41 boys and 17 girls).

The capacity of 61 Syrian and 52 African refugee teachers was strengthened through training to improve the quality of in-class teaching and learning (42 Syrian female teachers and 52 African refugee teachers [26 women and 26 men]). Trainings for the Syrian refugee teachers benefited 869 pre-primary-age children in the 30 UNICEF-supported kindergarten classrooms. Furthermore, the capacity of 51 Egyptian teachers was strengthened through training on inclusive education, focusing on the integration of children with mild disabilities into public schools.

During the last quarter of 2017, new partnerships were established with Save The Children and Gozour Foundation. Both partnerships served to diversify the pool of partners for UNICEF Egypt to improve the quality of teaching and learning for both Egyptian and Syrian children, introduce extra-curricular activities and capacitate community schools to accommodate non-Arabic-speaking refugee children.

The challenge in 2017 was reaching refugee primary-school-age children enrolled in public schools. A key issue was the delayed signing of the 2017 annual workplan, which hindered UNICEF’s access to public schools. In addition, the introduction of the NGO law led to longer procedures for obtaining clearances for NGO implementing partners to carry out agreed work.

As part of UNICEF Egypt’s equity approach in 2017, support was expanded to all vulnerable refugees, with a specific focus on African refugees, who experience additional discrimination regarding access to pre-primary education and formal primary schools. In addition, special emphasis was placed on engaging refugees in non-formal life-skills learning opportunities as well as on increasing equity by targeting refugee children with mild disabilities.

In line with the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2017–2018 and as a credible partner to MOE and co-chair of the education in emergencies working group in Egypt, UNICEF Egypt will continue to support the expansion of access to basic education to vulnerable refugee children by strengthening the public education system, supplemented by community-based approaches. To enhance equity, UNICEF Egypt will continue to work on inclusive education with MOE, as part of the ongoing regular programme.

**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 2017, Egypt took a number of decisive steps toward the establishment of a functioning case management system in the country. NCCM and UNICEF Egypt conducted a costing exercise showing that US\$10–20 million are required annually for the functioning of a national child protection system, of which US\$ 7–10 million are necessary for a child protection social work workforce dedicated to child protection. Progress has also been made towards creating a child protection unit within MOSS to address the limited availability of social workers in the country in the long run by increasing numbers of social workers linked to the unit. The establishment of a national task force on EVAC was a significant development for ensuring government accountability on the issue. A strategic framework on EVAC for Egypt was drafted in 2017, fostering greater political buy-in of key government counterparts.

The reporting period saw an expansion of services and increase in coverage. UNICEF Egypt and partners delivered integrated child protection services to refugee, migrant and Egyptian children and families through 11 family centres, family clubs based in 40 primary health units, 20 district CPCs and 33 schools. The programme achievements surpassed the planned targets.

The programme benefited participants, as evidenced through their regular attendance, and verified through monitoring visits and community feedback mechanisms where children and families reported improvements in the child's health, well-being, and increased ability to overcome difficulties. Psychosocial programming benefited over 50,000 children, youth and adolescents through recreational activities, life skills, sports, drawing and theatre. Specialized physical and mental health services were provided to over 10,000 beneficiaries through the multi-sectoral case management and referral system. The improved functioning of this case management system and referral mechanism is a key result of this year's activities. To prevent violence against children at home and school, positive parenting programmes were provided to nearly 15,000 men and women.

Jointly with the communication team, the EVAC media campaign on positive parenting (Awladna) on broadcast media and social media reached a total of 88 million hits on social media with 3.5 million engaged users throughout the campaign.

UNICEF Egypt provided technical and operational support to NCCM to activate the CPCs as stated in the child law and for key advocacy initiatives at the national level. During the reporting period, UNICEF Egypt provided support for the finalization of draft guidelines for the protection of the rights of child victims and witnesses of crimes, led by MOJ and the Office of the Public Prosecutor and in collaboration with the MoI, NCCM, MOSS and CSOs.

MOJ, MOSS, Terre des Hommes, Aramex International and UNICEF Egypt established a partnership that aims at providing rehabilitation and training opportunities to children in conflict with the law. Aramex and UNICEF Egypt signed an agreement based on which 40 children in conflict with the law received professional skills training in the company's facilities, followed by an induction period in the workplace. The project provides beneficiaries with increased opportunities for future employment.

In a significant advocacy effort, as part of promoting the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, addressing the concluding observations and tackling the issue of children's access to justice, UNICEF Egypt facilitated the visit of the Chairperson of the Committee of the Rights of the Child to Egypt. As part of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan, between January and June 2017, UNICEF Egypt expanded its outreach and support to Egyptian, migrant and refugee children and parents in 16 targeted governorates, including strategic migration hubs. UNICEF programmes reached over 50,000 children and nearly 15,000 parents and caregivers.

UNICEF Egypt engaged a number of actors to make progress on child protection. WFP, ILO, IOM and UNHCR made significant contributions to setting up child protection systems and responding to child protection concerns arising from the humanitarian crisis. Work with UNFPA and UNDP enabled a joint approach to addressing female genital mutilation/cutting in the country, as the three agencies worked with key government counterparts responsible for the issue. The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and the European Union, directly supported UNICEF Egypt programmes, while also contributing to child protection systems work through other partners.

While progress was made on many fronts, an ongoing freeze on the recruitment of civil servants posed challenges to the establishment of a social services workforce in Egypt. Partnerships with NGOs remained constrained as some of them did not receive the necessary authorization to be fully operational.

It has become increasingly clear that a focus on CPCs without an adequate focus on creating an accountable social service workforce will not yield sustainable results. In 2018, the UNICEF Egypt child protection programme will prioritize support for the establishment of an accountable and sustainable social service workforce. This is being done in collaboration with MOSS, which is the main governmental body mandated to ensure social care, protection and development for Egyptian families and children. MOSS relies heavily on thousands of caregivers, particularly social workers, for the provision of its various services for vulnerable and at-risk families and children. These caregivers are in direct contact with beneficiaries across the diversified MOSS functions; UNICEF will continue to strengthen its partnership with MOSS to support this approach. For mainstreaming child protection in the school system, a new package that fully aligns with the new MOE priorities will be prioritized.

**OUTPUT 1** Specialized child protection services at national and subnational levels are strengthened.

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

The programme focuses on institutionalizing the child protection system as stipulated in the national 2008 Child Law. A costed institutional and operational model was developed in 2017 for the establishment of CPCs and enabled the Government to take steps toward establishing a national child protection system. The model was adopted by NCCM and institutionalized in the governorates of Sharqiya, Assiut and Aswan, with operationalized CPCs and case management functions at central and district levels. The activation of CPCs requires that social workers are available to support their work. In this context, the costing exercise conducted in 2017 was an important milestone in the sense that it can pave the way to establishing a sustainable social workforce.

The Government has played a leadership role in establishing structures and systems (NCCM for CPCs) and enhancing the capacities of the workforce (MOSS for the social workforce).

Challenges remain, however, especially at the implementation level; namely in relation to the fact that, although the Child Law provides for a legal framework with NCCM as the focal body for CPCs, it does not provide for an implementation body and a workforce to provide protective services on the ground. The majority of the workforce (social workers) are within the MOSS structures and collaboration between the NCCM and MOSS needs to be strengthened. UNICEF Egypt is consistently working to ensure collaboration of social workers within NCCM and MOSS and the establishment of standardized operating procedures.

In 2017, UNICEF Egypt in partnership with MOSS developed a strategic and operational plan to mobilize a social work workforce and establish a case management system for children at risk and for children within various MOSS services and systems. In addition to the above-mentioned costing exercise for institutionalizing child protection systems in the country, UNICEF Egypt is supporting NCCM to scale up the operationalization of the CPCs and incorporate case management functions within the child help-line through various NGO partners. UNICEF Egypt technical support led to the formulation of standard operating procedures for case management within CPCs and the child help-line, which was finalized based on close collaboration and consultation with various stakeholders.

The results achieved are due to the strong collaboration among sector stakeholders, including development partners (WFP, the Italian Embassy and the European Union) and the Government. Collaboration with governorates and districts led to the successful establishment of child protection committees at the governorate and district levels.

One major adjustment that is currently underway is enhanced support to MOSS as a focal ministry to strengthen the case management services and collaboration with civil society. This is primarily because while NCCM has the structures in the form of the CPCs, it does not have the workforce and this gap has generated challenges. The initial plan of mobilizing social workers directly through NGOs is being revisited, as MOSS' involvement is critical to ensuring that the social workforce being mobilized is accountable and has the authority to intervene in complex child protection cases.

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

### **Analytical statement of progress**

Under the leadership of NCCM, a national EVAC task force was established in January 2017. The task force was operational during the year with the membership of governmental and non-governmental partners. UNICEF Egypt provided technical support and facilitated meetings and workshops to support the work on EVAC. Global specialized expertise was brought in to support the development of a national EVAC strategic framework, including the development and adaptation of a theory of change in the strategic framework, that provides a clear conceptual framework around strengthening child protection systems and promoting positive social and behavioural change. Those actions are also paving the way for the endorsement of a national programme on positive parenting. The work done in terms of a multimedia campaign reaching millions of people contributed to creating a more conducive environment for discussing the issue with stakeholders.

In 2017, over 9,000 community members, including girls and women, participated in community dialogues, over 7,000 families made public declarations in support of the abandonment of female genital mutilation/cutting and nearly 20,000 girls received related services. Finally, nearly 350 educators were trained and mobilized and over 10,000 young peers in targeted governorates were mobilized.

NCCM proactively moved the EVAC agenda forward, though some constraining factors delayed progress. Some of the partner NGOs did not obtain timely credentials, thus delaying their active engagement in the work. Work with MOE did not progress as planned due to the need to do further work to ensure that the child protection component is fully aligned with the Education 2.0 government agenda. Due to the delay, the launching of formative research on parenting practices had to be postponed and will be conducted next year.

In the framework of the Awladna Campaign, UNICEF Egypt in coordination with NCCM produced an advocacy toolkit (six booklets) for different stakeholders such as policymakers, parliamentarians and civil society, to raise awareness on positive parenting and pave the way for a national parenting programme. For the second phase of the Awladna EVAC campaign, the content of the communication material on peer violence and bullying was drafted.

UNICEF Egypt forged a partnership with governmental and non-governmental partners for addressing the high prevalence of female genital mutilation/cutting in the country. A partnership with UNFPA and UNDP enabled a more coordinated approach to fighting female genital mutilation. In the area of EVAC, a wide range of actors, including parenting experts, private sector actors, the National Council for Women, members of Parliament and the lawyers syndicate were brought together. Given the challenges in integrating EVAC into the education system, a new strategy for aligning the issue as part of the government Education 2.0 agenda is being explored for implementation in 2018.

**OUTPUT 3** Justice for children systems increasingly adopt family and community care alternatives for children in contact with the law.

### **Analytical statement of progress**

Since January 2017, the number of children in contact with the law benefiting from access to legal aid services increased from 278 to 997 children. In addition, the percentage of children benefiting from non-custodial sentences increased from 10 per cent to 20 per cent in 2017. The continued technical and financial support from UNICEF Egypt to its NGO partner in Cairo and Alexandria resulted in this increase in numbers. Also, partnership between UNICEF Egypt and government partners facilitated the interaction between NGOs, legal services and the judicial system.

An innovative initiative providing vocational training and rehabilitation for 40 children previously in conflict with the law was launched in 2017. This pilot project is part of an agreement between the Embassy of the Netherlands and the Government of Egypt; it was implemented in collaboration with a private sector organization, Aramex International, along with support from UNICEF Egypt partners – namely, MOJ, MOSS and Terre des Hommes.

In terms of procedures and services for children in contact with the law, the final draft of the national guidelines on child victims and witnesses of crimes and restorative justice was launched and endorsed by MOJ and the Office of the Public Prosecutor. The latter further supported the guidelines by issuing legally binding instructions aiming to activate the role of



public prosecutors in the implementation of a restorative justice approach and regular monitoring of detention facilities. Moreover, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UNICEF Egypt, MOJ and the Office of the Public Prosecutor that entailed a detailed action plan for the required judicial reforms supporting implementation of the guidelines.

In addition, UNICEF Egypt capitalized on the visit of the Convention on the Rights of the Child chairperson to Egypt to share the findings from the previous year's report on a case analysis identifying the trends of national authorities in dealing with children in contact with the law. The results were used for evidence-based advocacy and resulted in the Office of the Public Prosecutor officially acknowledging the challenges facing children in contact with the law as cited by the report.

Building on these achievements and in partnership with MOJ and the Office of the Public Prosecutor a series of four capacity building workshops were conducted to train prosecutors and judges on issues related to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, national guidelines and alternative measures, and will be continued in 2018. In April 2017, key officials from MOJ and the Office of the Public Prosecutor conducted a study tour in Norway, which provided hands-on experience for and resulted in the development of concept note for a pilot project on reconciliation with the Office of the Public Prosecutor. Consultations for finalization and endorsement of the document will start in early 2018.

Juvenile justice programming continues to face challenges in regard to the availability of data, particularly data on child victims and witnesses of crimes. UNICEF Egypt supported government efforts to overcome this challenge by automating the judiciary system in Egypt. UNICEF Egypt support included infrastructural support to the Office of the Public Prosecutor in target governorates to expedite the automation process and hence future access to data required for programming.

**OUTPUT 4** National and subnational 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**

Through UNICEF Egypt's technical and financial support, 20 national partners had their capacities developed to run sustained programmes and tools supporting HIV prevention, care and support. This increase in the number of capacitated partners from three in 2013 to 20 by end of 2017 is a result of UNICEF Egypt's efforts and investment in the careful selection and capacity-building of networks of CSOs that helped to include a larger number than was planned, including CSOs working with children living on the street, HIV-positive children and adolescents and networks of people living with HIV/AIDS. This successfully resulted in more than 1,682 vulnerable children and adolescents reached with prevention and treatment services. The beneficiaries included children and adolescents living on the street, who are at risk of injection drug use and sexual exploitation, and HIV-positive children and adolescents. This is below the target of 4,000 children due to limited funding for outreach activities.

UNICEF Egypt capitalized on the expertise of child protection experts in the field and the high credibility of medical students' associations and developed their capacities to roll out the training to more grassroots CSOs. The aim was to establish and implement HIV prevention and care programmes in their respective organizations that target the most at-risk children and adolescents, including those living with HIV.

Although the target number of partners (13) has already been exceeded, a new Egyptian NGO law has put more restrictions on CSOs' ability to receive funds and conduct research, limiting the ability of UNICEF Egypt to expand to more partners and reach the planned number of children with services. In response to this challenge, UNICEF Egypt initiated work with community networks of volunteers to maintain the momentum of this expansion in communities and institutions trained on HIV prevention.

In this regard, UNICEF Egypt has provided technical and financial support to networks of people living with HIV/AIDS (Eagles) with a vision to establish and maintain an effective, supportive, positive community where vulnerable HIV-positive children and adolescents along with their caregivers can access information and support. The aim is also to provide them with the opportunity to meet with decision-makers in the NAP to convey concerns and complaints to ensure that their voices are heard at senior management level. With UNICEF Egypt's advocacy for partnership-building among networks of people living with HIV/AIDS (Eagles) and various strategic partners (including fever and general hospitals, treatment sites, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and CSOs) an increasing number of vulnerable women and children received a variety of HIV-sensitive or -specific services.

UNICEF Egypt worked to establish a multisectoral partnership among concerned parties (MOHP, MOYS, MOSS, CSOs and others) to reinforce national commitment, ownership and sustainability and continue to expand partnerships.

## **OUTPUT 5 Emergency**

### **Analytical statement of progress**

The reporting period saw an expansion of services and increase in coverage. UNICEF Egypt and partners delivered integrated child protection services to refugee, migrant and Egyptian children and families through 11 family centres, family clubs based in 40 primary health units, 20 district CPCs and 33 schools. The programme achievements surpassed the planned targets.

The programme benefited participants, as evidenced through their regular attendance, and verified through monitoring visits and community feedback mechanisms where children and families reported improvements in the child's health, well-being, and increased ability to overcome difficulties. Psychosocial programming benefited over 50,000 children, youth and adolescents through recreational activities, life skills, sports, drawing and theatre. Specialized physical and mental health services were provided to over 10,000 beneficiaries through the multi-sectoral case management and referral system. The improved functioning of this case management system and referral mechanism is a key result of this year's activities. To prevent violence against children at home and school, positive parenting programmes were provided to nearly 15,000 men and women.

A child safeguarding mechanism was extended to 33 schools. UNICEF Egypt accessed 33 detention centres and provided humanitarian assistance and advocacy to 287 children detained connection with irregular migration, of whom 131 were unaccompanied and separated children. As a result, the duration and frequency of children's detention has been significantly reduced. UNICEF Egypt worked towards supporting and strengthening the national system to improve child protection responses and to accommodate refugee and migrant communities. UNICEF Egypt, through a strategic partnership with the MOHP, mainstreamed child protection in 40 primary health

units through the creation of attached family clubs, which offer additional child protection services to those children and families seeking health services. UNICEF Egypt's networking and advocacy efforts for children in immigration detention has led to a reduction in child detention, while UNICEF Egypt provided technical and financial support to partners.

UNICEF Egypt co-chaired the child protection working group and is active in other thematic forums. UNICEF is supporting NCCM in its role of leading the national child protection system and making it more inclusive of the needs of children on the move, in coordination with NCCM, IOM, UNHCR and other relevant actors.

UNICEF Egypt's implementing partner has struggled to secure a formal partnership with MOE to expand into government schools. Due to governmental protocols, CPCs are constituted by high-level officials, which limits the capacity and willingness of CPCs to respond to child protection issues. They need to be supported with social workers. It has been challenging to attract non-Syrian and non-Arab beneficiaries. There is a need for greater engagement and mobilization of these communities. Access to detention centres remains challenging. Sexual and gender-based violence interventions need to be strengthened and expanded.

Enhanced community engagement brings low-cost, high-impact results and will be enhanced for greater support of vulnerable cases, such as unaccompanied and separated children and sexual and gender-based violence victims. Family members have requested more innovation and diversity in the programmatic offerings by partners. The programme will strengthen its sexual and gender-based violence response and explore community-based mechanisms for fostering unaccompanied and separated children within their communities.

**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**

A key result of this programme is the successful buy-in from relevant ministries leading to programmatic elements of ongoing programmes –the Meshwary project and the civic education student unions– being mainstreamed and even adopted by various channels of relevant ministries. Through expanding the project into two new governorates and through the Government's commitment to continue in five governorates where UNICEF Egypt's support has phased out, greater numbers of adolescents and youth from disadvantaged communities have increased their opportunities for life skills, employability and entrepreneurial skills.

In addition, increased strategic cooperation and complementarity between MOYS and MOE has enabled greater leveraging of programmatic synergies for the benefit of the youth participants. In the civic education student unions programme, 13,164 adolescents and youth have been trained across 370 schools in active citizenship and civic engagement. Through this integral partnership, which brings together the two ministries along with UNICEF Egypt, adolescents and youth have increased opportunities for civic engagement and leadership development by undertaking training and developing their own initiatives. In 2017, the programme expanded to include 60 new schools in three governorates; thus, 1,264 students (544 boys and 720 girls) from the new schools became engaged in the programme. The student unions department of MOE is committed to mainstreaming a manual developed within the programme that provides guidelines on implementing adolescent-led initiatives.

Through the Meshwary project, a skills development and employability training package was developed and delivered to 38,295 youth and adolescents. In 2017, the skills development package provided 7,379 adolescents and 5,948 youth with social and economic empowerment skills. In addition, 8,327 young people gained knowledge on career development, career prospects and planning through career support services. A cadre of MOYS staff delivered the training to other governorates beyond UNICEF Egypt's coverage area, suggesting that a key result of the project is the increased capacity and technical skills of the ministry to provide skills development and new opportunities for adolescents and youth. MOYS has further demonstrated its commitment to the future sustainability of this initiative through incorporating the activities into its three-year strategic plan and continuing the project with its own resources beyond the lifespan of UNICEF Egypt's funding.

In addition, Meshwary has been selected as a model project to use in the piloting phase of a national monitoring and evaluation system to be initiated by MOYS in 2018–2019. The training package delivered in Meshwary will also be used as a foundational capacity-building course for young people applying to undertake other training programmes delivered by MOYS. Furthermore, an evaluation of Meshwary was finalized in 2017. Chiefly, the evaluation has informed the programmatic focus of the adolescent programmes in the upcoming country programme document. Additionally, the findings and the main recommendations of the evaluation formulated the basis upon which a new partnership with USAID will support an adolescent empowerment project over the next four years.

UNICEF Egypt provided support for both policy-level initiatives and partnership at the ministerial level, as well as ground-level implementation of programmes through partner organizations. Support was also extended to scaling up capacity-building initiatives and in strategic planning. UNICEF Egypt also equipped youth centres affiliated with the ministry to be career guidance centres.

A number of civil society actors such as the Abdel-Wahab Abdel-Mohsen Foundation for Culture, Arts and Development, private sector companies including Aramex, and government counterparts have played a significant role in pushing the agenda on adolescents and youth across this programme. Through Abdel-Wahab Abdel-Mohsen Foundation for Culture, Arts and Development, artistic and vocational workshops were provided to young people on boat building, wall preparation and thread crafts. In addition, Aramex provided on-the-job training to beneficiaries of the Meshwary project to expand their exposure to the career world and their career prospects.

The partnership with MOYS expanded to address issues of children on the move, female genital mutilation/cutting, and child marriage. The joint programmes implemented in collaboration with MOYS constitute an entry point for UNICEF Egypt's emergency response. Having civic education facilitators affiliated with MOYS in North and South Sinai lays the groundwork for providing potential support to young people in areas affected by the recent attacks in Rouda Area in Arish.

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

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

Through the civic education student unions programme, implemented jointly by MOYS and MOE, 13,164 adolescents and youth were trained in active citizenship and civic engagement from 2013–2017. In 2017, the programme expanded to include 60 new schools in three

governorates, bringing the total number of schools in the programme to 370; 1,264 students (544 male and 720 female) from the new schools became engaged in the programme in 2017.

Through this engagement, students gained knowledge and skills on participation, including active participation in student union elections and activities, civic engagement in school and planning and implementing their own initiatives. From the students who were trained, 70 per cent of them (896 students, 346 boys and 550 girls) went on to lead and develop their own initiatives. In 2017, 32 adolescent-led initiatives were implemented by these students, bringing the total number of initiatives achieved to 39. Using various platforms within the schools, including school broadcast, school media committees, announcements made at morning assembly, election campaigning and awareness-raising sessions on active citizenship, the programme managed to reach all students enrolled in the 90 schools targeted across 2016 and 2017, totalling 63,826 students.

Additionally, the civic education department of the MOYS had adopted the curricula of the civic education programme since 2006; in 2017, the department continued implementation of the programme at the national level. Consequently, a total of 3,145 students (585 adolescents and 2,560 youth) gained knowledge and skills on different civic participation issues, including rights and duties, citizenship, young people and the state.

UNICEF Egypt contributed to this project by providing technical support, training and the overall scale-up of the MOYS civic education programme. UNICEF Egypt developed a training manual on adolescent-led initiatives, which was then rolled out to schools through training of school managers, social workers, teachers, and civil education facilitators. This manual has now been mainstreamed in the framework of the civic education student unions programme. UNICEF Egypt has continued supporting a partnership between MOYS and MOE to expand the scope of the MOYS programme to include activation of and support to MOE student unions.

A key challenge for the programme was providing seed funding to support adolescent and youth initiatives. The ministry was unable to find any viable financial mechanism through which to channel funds to individuals. As such, the number of adolescent and youth initiatives was 39 against the planned target of 50. While this occurred in 2016, it continued to affect implementation and total target achievement in 2017.

While UNICEF Egypt tried to agree to a mechanism with MOYS for channelling seed funds, no such mechanism was identified and as such the funds had to be reprogrammed within the ministry to other programme activities. Consequently, a sustainable model for adolescent engagement and empowerment, through the use of available resources in their communities and schools and by equipping them with the skills needed for resource mobilization, was adopted.

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

### **Analytical statement of progress**

Meshwary ('My Journey') project provides a skill-development training package to young people in poor and low income districts within five governorates with high rates of irregular outward migration. The skills development package in 2017 provided 7,379 adolescents (3,902 boys and 3,477 girls) and 5,948 youth (2,442 young men and 3,506 young women) with social and economic empowerment skills. This package includes interpersonal skills for the workplace,

such as communication and team work, as well as presentation skills, performance in interviews, writing resumes and entrepreneurial skills. From the programme's inception in 2013 until 2017, a total of 38,295 young people (20,450 adolescents, 11,715 boys and 8,735 girls; and 17,845 youth, 9,046 young men and 8,799 young women) were trained through the Meshwary skills development programme.

Under the career guidance component of the Meshwary project in 2017, a total of 8,327 young people (3,302 young men and 5,025 young women) gained knowledge on career development, career prospects and planning through career support services, including one-on-one career guidance workshops and sessions on job interviews and resume writing. Since 2013, the career guidance component has reached 18,738 young people (7,813 young men and 10,925 young women).

Through the Meshwary project, UNICEF Egypt provided training to a cadre of 80 staff from MOYS – in 2017, 35 new staff were trained as trainers, and 45 existing trainers were trained to be master trainers. The master trainers then rolled out the programme, extending it to other governorates beyond UNICEF Egypt's coverage areas. These trainings included not only ministry staff, but also young people in the same sessions, who will provide support to the master trainers during the training with young people. This demonstrates a key contribution from UNICEF in terms of providing capacity-building and technical support to the ministry.

In addition, UNICEF supported the development of a three-year strategic plan to assist MOYS to sustain and further expand the project nationally. Through the 2017 annual workplan between UNICEF Egypt and MOYS, in 2017 MOYS demonstrated its commitment to the sustainability of the Meshwary project by committing its own financial resources beyond UNICEF Egypt's financial phasing out of governorates.

This project relies on a high degree of collaboration with private sector actors, such as Aramex, Starwoods, Tatweer and Abdel-Wahab Abdel-Mohsen Foundation for Culture, Arts and Development. These actors were involved in providing on-the-job training opportunities and vocational training to young people. Other United Nations agencies were also involved in organizing joint youth-related activities in the country.

One of the key challenges in 2017 was the introduction of the new NGO law requiring NGOs to go through a burdensome process to obtain government approvals to start the implementation of projects.

In 2017, an evaluation of the Meshwary project was finalized. The main findings and recommendations from the evaluation will inform the programme design and focus areas of the upcoming programme cycle and offer strategic options for scaling-up the programme and integrating emerging issues, such as female genital mutilation/cutting, child marriage and irregular migration.

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

### **Analytical statement of progress**

An evaluation of the Meshwary project was conducted in 2016 and finalized in 2017. The evaluation of the Meshwary project was commissioned and managed by UNICEF Egypt. The survey of adolescent time use was developed by UNICEF Egypt. UNICEF Egypt also supported

MOYS in the development of their strategic plan, under the Central Directorate of Youth Programmes and Trainings. The main findings of the evaluation are that Meshwary followed a participatory and knowledge-based approach to adequately respond to the Egyptian context. The project was acutely relevant on both a local and a global scale. Reaching a high level of female participation was one of the strengths of the project. The engagement of adolescents with disabilities speaks to the project's ability to reach the most marginalized. The project is sustainable and scalable, and it is crucial to mention that MOYS has ensured the continuity of the programme.

Among the main recommendations of the evaluation were the need to capitalize on the project's outreach as an entry point to the upcoming programmatic and mainstream skills development to reach more young people. The evaluation also noted that the targeting of beneficiaries should be based on evidence. Creating cadres of master trainers from the staff of MOYS and master peer educators from qualified beneficiaries was also highlighted in the recommendations. A coherent mechanism whereby the ministry institutionalizes the referral service; the integration of interactive methods using sports, arts and other activities; and the need to redesign the monitoring and evaluation system to ensure decentralization were among the main recommendations of the evaluation.

To help guide adolescent development and participation programming in the upcoming programme cycle, a survey focusing on adolescents use of time was developed by UNICEF Egypt. The survey was reviewed and endorsed by CAPMAS, the official statistical agency of Egypt. The findings of the survey will be used to identify platforms where young people spend most of their time in order to direct programmatic interventions to the most targeted and strategic sites. In 2017, a strategic plan was finalized for MOYS' Central Directorate of Youth Programmes and Trainings with the support of UNICEF Egypt. The strategic plan will guide and inform the implementation of the Meshwary project after UNICEF Egypt phases out. The plan aims at providing MOYS with a clear vision, an executive plan and tangible milestones to assist the ministry in sustaining Meshwary and other relevant programmes implemented by the Central Directorate.

The strategic plan and the evaluation of Meshwary were conducted in collaboration with MOYS, which is the key government partner for UNICEF Egypt's adolescent programming. In addition, UNICEF Egypt sought the endorsement of CAPMAS in the survey development. There is a need for a comprehensive national youth strategy in Egypt. Through the UNFPA- and UNICEF-proposed joint programme in 2018, UNICEF Egypt will contribute to the national youth strategy, which will help guide policies and advocacy efforts in relation to adolescent and youth development.

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

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, UNICEF supported the advancement of child rights by focusing on the ongoing social protection reform to reach more children in vulnerable families; by producing and making available new analysis and data on issues relevant to children; by ensuring refugee children and their families can meet their basic needs; and by raising awareness and sensitizing different stakeholders on violence against children and positive parenting (e.g. nutrition).



The year 2017 witnessed an acceleration in the implementation of social protection reform in Egypt. MOSS led the coverage expansion of the Takafol and Karama cash transfer programme to reach an estimated 2 million families. UNICEF Egypt has been cooperating with MOSS in the different phases of the social protection reform; building on earlier engagement in this area, UNICEF's support includes evidence generation and technical advice. Over the course of 2017, UNICEF Egypt technical and financial assistance was instrumental to upgrading the programme monitoring and evaluation system. UNICEF Egypt also supported the design and implementation of a service readiness assessment that provides an analysis of the availability and quality of services linked to the conditions that beneficiaries need to adhere to in order to be enrolled in the Takafol and Karama programme.

In 2017, the availability of and access to up-to-date, disaggregated child rights data was enhanced in Egypt. UNICEF Egypt supported CAPMAS in the design and development of two new databases, one on the SDG indicators and another on child rights indicators. The launch of the databases increased access to readily available data for stakeholders and the public at large. UNICEF Egypt also supported studies and analysis on key child rights issues to inform policy and programme design. The main studies supported and disseminated in 2017 – the child digest and the multidimensional poverty study – provide a thorough overview of child-related indicators available in the country, as well as insights into the trend of these indicators over the past few years. CAPMAS and UNICEF Egypt developed the analytical papers 'Impact of Population Growth on Youth Employment and School Education' and 'Time Use for Adolescents and Youth in Egypt'.

UNICEF Egypt, jointly with UNHCR, supported a cash grant reaching an estimated 118,000 vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees during the winter season; the transfer programme is referred to as 'winterization assistance.' UNICEF Egypt's US\$1.5 million contribution to the programme is being used to increase the amount of the grant from US\$25 to US\$34, which is the minimum amount (minimum expenditure basket) required to meet the beneficiaries' basic needs throughout the winter season. Winterization expenses are expected to meet a temporary, seasonal increase in beneficiaries' needs, consumption and debt repayment as well as a dip in income opportunities.

More than 100 million people were reached in Egypt and beyond with messages on protecting children from violence, ECD and good practices related to positive parenting via multimedia national and 'glocal' campaigns.

An estimated 500,000 people were sensitized through cascade capacity building and awareness-raising sessions in support of national efforts to reduce violence against children. Over 1,200 youth leaders and university students have increased capacity to disseminate 'facts of life' messages to strengthen healthy nutrition behaviours, through the University Pioneers Network established in 2017.

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

### **Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, UNICEF Egypt, in partnership with CAPMAS, expanded access to up-to-date disaggregated data on social indicators related to children's rights. Greater availability of indicator data contributes to informing policy and shaping national dialogue on child rights. Two

indicator databases were designed and developed based on the DevInfo technology: EgySDGInfo and EgyChildDigest.

The EgySDGInfo database provides up-to-date socio-economic data to monitor and report on the SDGs. The database allows for queries of indicators by global, regional and national frameworks, namely the SDGs, African Agenda 2063 and Egypt's Sustainable Development Strategy 2030. The database also provides data on the United Nations priority populations—people with disabilities, the elderly, children and women. The database served as basis to produce Egypt's first report on the SDGs. To ensure sustainability, UNICEF Egypt provided technical assistance and on-the-job training to relevant partner staff in the management of the database data and metadata.

The Egypt SDG Observatory dashboard and its mobile application were developed as part of a joint programme with the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator. These products greatly enhance the availability of and access to child rights SDG indicator data through user-friendly platforms. The platforms were made available to the public.

The EgyChildDigest provides easy access to the data published in *Children in Egypt*, a statistical compilation of child well-being indicators. In addition, UNICEF Egypt and partners developed a mobile application to further increase access to data in the statistical digest; the application was made available to the public starting in December 2017.

CAPMAS and UNICEF Egypt jointly developed the analytical paper 'Impact of Population Growth on Youth Employment and School Education'. The paper is the result of a capacity-building initiative with 15 CAPMAS researchers who received learning-by-doing training to analyse results of surveys and census data and produced the analysis for the paper. A second paper was developed with CAPMAS entitled 'Time Use for Adolescents and Youth in Egypt'. The two analytical papers have been completed and are currently being translated for publication.

In addition, UNICEF Egypt supported the training of 11 researchers on SPSS data processing and analysis. As a result of this training, CAPMAS and UNICEF Egypt will develop one analytical paper on gender-based violence and one on child disciplinary practices. The papers are expected to provide inputs to policies, programmes and decision-making on these two crucial subjects.

In order to assess the situation of children of Egypt at national and subnational levels and provide baseline estimates for the SDGs on children, UNICEF Egypt successfully lobbied for the integration of several modules from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 6 into the upcoming Egypt Demographic and Health Survey 2018; the modules included focus on child protection, health, nutrition, ECD and education.

While work on data and evidence production and dissemination progressed well in 2017, within the context of a strong partnership with the relevant national institutions, progress had to be paced to allow for full compliance with strict domestic regulations related to access to and use of data and microdata.

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

### **Analytical statement of progress**

The availability of and access to up-to-date data and evidence on children's rights was increased by the *Children in Egypt* report and the child multidimensional poverty report that became available in 2017. *Children in Egypt*, launched in March 2017, was developed by the Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation, MOSS and CAPMAS with financial and technical support from UNICEF Egypt. The report was widely disseminated and the data presented at the event received wide coverage in multimedia outlets, including a UNICEF-led 10-day social media campaign estimated to have reached more than 1 million people.

In 2017, UNICEF, MOSS and CAPMAS finalized and disseminated the main results of the *Understanding Child Multidimensional Poverty in Egypt* report, which provides data on the extent of non-monetary poverty among children living in Egypt. The study provides evidence on deprivation and vulnerability of Egyptian children disaggregated by age group, region and contributors to child poverty. The analysis and findings of the report are expected to contribute to shaping the Government's and partners' actions to promote and protect children's rights with the aim of developing linkages to complementary interventions with the Takaful and Karama programme and to better targeting specific geographical locations and children in different age groups with more tailored interventions. Child poverty statistics are now included in the CAPMAS reporting plan.

The dissemination of data and findings from the two studies is instrumental to increasing awareness of the key stakeholders and the public at large on the extent to which children's basic rights are being met and the large gaps and disparities that exist in the provision of and access to basic services.

In 2017, UNICEF Egypt stepped up its support to the Government of Egypt's social protection intervention, the Takaful and Karama programme, with the objective of strengthening the programme's capacity to effectively reach Egypt's poorest families and their children. To this end, UNICEF Egypt established a partnership with the International Poverty Centre in Brazil. A new monitoring system is being developed that, based on the data collected in the targeting process, produces reports on the profile of beneficiaries, thus enhancing the understanding of policymakers and programme managers about the socio-economic situation of the beneficiary population. UNICEF Egypt also supported improvements in the system that allow for monitoring beneficiaries' adherence to the programme conditions related to health- and education-seeking behaviours.

In 2017, UNICEF Egypt, in collaboration with MOSS, launched a study that provides insights into the availability and quality of social services (health and education) whose access is among the conditions to receive the cash benefit from the Takaful and Karama programme. In 2017, the study methodology was agreed to and finalized; data collection was completed in the selected schools, health centres and beneficiary households; and data were cleaned for analysis. The findings of the study are expected to shape programme design and implementation modalities in relation to the way conditions are implemented.

**OUTPUT 3** Strategic partnerships are forged and strengthened to positively influence social beliefs of families, caretakers and communities related to childcare and gender perceptions.

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

The publication 'Peace, Love and Tolerance' was widely disseminated and is estimated to be reaching 500,000 people through a cascade of capacity-building and awareness-raising

sessions in support of national efforts to reduce violence against children in Egypt. The publication launch occurred in the framework of a partnership between UNICEF Egypt, Al-Azhar University and the Coptic Orthodox Church. The production of a docudrama series on the publication's messages will further expand its reach. UNICEF Egypt also provided financial and technical support for the launch of the first interfaith intergenerational dialogue on violence against children.

Over 1,200 university students were trained to disseminate 'facts of life' messages to strengthen healthy nutrition behaviours, as part of UNICEF Egypt's financial and technical support to the National Population Council in establishing the University Pioneers Initiative. The support provided included capacity-building on research and peer-to-peer education skills; developing a comprehensive information package, 'The Family Guide,' and a dedicated website; and training the Medical Students Development Association as a coordination body, including developing their skills in audio-visual documentation. Government counterparts' turnover is causing delays in programme implementation and additional time and financial resources investment will be required to sustain the initiative.

An estimated 12.3 million students (MOHP report) were reached with a deworming campaign that used IC materials produced by UNICEF Egypt. In addition, UNICEF Egypt supported MOHP with the production of multimedia materials on nutrition, a series of short films portraying real stories on breastfeeding mothers in Egypt and multimedia IC materials on the 1,000 Days model, distributed through primary health units in partnership with WFP – and on the Dengue fever outbreak in the Red Sea area in October 2017.

UNICEF Egypt also led the participatory process to develop a strategic communication model for community mobilization on positive parenting as a driver of change to reduce violence against children and enhance children's early development. The model will be integrated into the national ECD strategy to contribute to reducing acceptance of practices that are harmful to children, such as child marriage and female genital mutilation. The model aims at reshaping the knowledge framework, including changing social expectations regarding positive parenting and gender equality, publicizing these changes in attitudes, expectations and behaviours and reinforcing the new norms through rewards, sanctions and opportunities to conform. Institutional turnover and limited positioning of NCCM at the institutional level might result in some delays, especially in relation to coordination and implementation.

UNICEF Egypt, in partnership with the NCCM, is leading the process of establishing a network of positive parenting experts serving the life cycle of 0–18 years of age. The vision, mission and action plan for the network have been developed. The network is expected to support ECD and EVAC programmes.

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

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017 alone, a total of 88 million users are estimated to have been reached through UNICEF Egypt social media with messages related to addressing violence against children as part of the EVAC or 'Awladna' campaign, the first national multimedia campaign focusing on positive parenting. In addition, 12 million people were reached through television and radio. In 2017, the EVAC campaign videos and public service announcements on positive parenting reached

around 3,000 people, including Syrian refugees approaching the public health units. The public service announcements were shown as part of the child protection positive parenting programme provided at family clubs established within the public health units. The EVAC or Awladna campaign was very successful, as testified by the fact that it won the Communications Award of the Directorate General for the Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission in March 2017.

UNICEF Egypt also promoted the inclusion of children with disabilities. In March 2017, UNICEF Egypt supported the Awladna International Art Forum for the Gifted, empowering some 1,000 children with disabilities and raising awareness on their rights. This first international art festival received substantial media coverage in 39 newspapers and broadcast media.

Throughout the month of September 2017, UNICEF Egypt launched the first round of a series of social media campaigns on ECD featuring one of UNICEF Egypt's Ambassadors. The one-month social media campaign titled 'Early Moments Matter' reached an estimated 14 million people with high engagement, amounting to some 25 million impressions. In the context of the UNICEF global campaign 'Early Moment Matter', this 'glocal' campaign included an ECD public service announcement promoting best practices for early stimulation of children aged 0–4 years with a focus on the importance of 'calling things by their names' in front of children, to foster their healthy cognitive and psychological development. Two UNICEF Egypt's ambassadors participated in the global launch of the ECD report at the Headquarters of the United Nations. Their participation was shown on national media platforms and boosted the ECD messages across multimedia outlets.

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

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF Egypt, jointly with UNHCR, supported a cash grant reaching an estimated 118,000 vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees during the winter season; the transfer programme is referred to as 'winterization assistance.' UNICEF Egypt's US\$1.5 million contribution to the programme is being used to increase the amount of the grant from US\$25 to US\$34, which is the minimum amount (minimum expenditure basket) required to meet the beneficiaries' basic needs throughout the winter season. Winterization expenses are expected to meet a temporary, seasonal increase in beneficiaries' needs, consumption and debt repayment as well as a dip in income opportunities.

## **OUTCOME 7** Cross-sectoral costs

### **Analytical statement of progress**

Support activities remained on track, providing services and support for programme implementation in the areas of financial management, human capacity development, staff and office safety, efficiency of ICT systems, administrative support and supporting office governance systems for oversight and ensuring a more efficient and cost-effective programme and service delivery. These efforts were addressed throughout the year and monitored at section and PMG level and by the CMT (on a monthly basis) through the review of UNICEF Egypt's key performance indicators in all of these areas.

In 2017, the political situation in Egypt was, comparatively, far more stable than in recent years, with the political process going forward for new presidential elections in 2018. Security-wise, the United Nations is not directly targeted and most incidents targeted police, military installations and troops, as well as Muslim and Christian religious locations. In 2017, UNICEF Egypt appointed a dedicated security officer at NOB level (temporary appointment), which was regularized into an full-time position in the October Programme Budget Review, to be filled in 2018.

HACT implementation and assurance plans faced implementation challenges. As of 23 November, 7 of 19 planned spot-checks were carried out and the remaining were in progress; 49 programme visits were completed against a target of 65; and 12 planned audits were in progress. UNICEF Egypt's office systems, structures and resources were available and maintained to provide staff with an enabling and safe working environment.

On administrative services, alternative space and seating arrangements were paramount and were established to accommodate increasing staff numbers pending UNICEF Egypt's assessment of space needs and a decision to move to a new office location. Support for local events (both for office functions and programme services) increased in 2017. Other efforts continued to reduce costs and realize cost efficiencies from measures and arrangements established in 2016.

In 2017, UNICEF Egypt reported on the 2016 environmental footprint assessment. In 2016, per staff carbon dioxide emissions were at 3.3 tons, compared with 2.6 tons in 2015. This increase was due to an increase in staff numbers in 2016 compared to 2015 and an increase in utility rates.

Human resources support was enhanced during the year with additional contracted professional human resources services. The human resources team handled an increased volume of recruitment, supported the HRDC and provided support needed during the preparations and finalizing of the CPMP and Programme Budget Review for the 2018–2022 CPD.

On financial management, UNICEF Egypt recruited a new NOB finance officer in September after the re-assignment of the previous NOB. Also, a general service 6 finance assistant position was added back as part of the Quadrennial Support Budget Review to strengthen the finance functions in many offices; the recruitment of that position is nearly finished. The finance team is also supporting the roll-out of eZHACT, which went live at the end of October 2017, and followed up on monthly and year-end closure activities to ensure key performance indicators were within acceptable corporate standards.

## **OUTPUT 1 Cross-sectoral staff**

### **Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, eight staff members were funded from the programme budget under the cross-sectoral staff costs output. These are two staff members in supply, one budget officer, an administrative officer, two drivers, one reports specialist and one programme assistant (deputy representative's office). Activities under this IR supported the achievement of UNICEF Egypt targets in supply and logistics, budget monitoring and administrative support.

The procurement actions handled by the supply unit in 2017 totalled US\$13,778,442, divided as below:

- Local procurement: totalled US\$2,304,555 out of which US\$649,438 was for local programme supplies and US\$1,576,241 was for procurement of services (institutional contracts).
- Offshore procurement: totalled US\$210,562  
Procurement service for the Government totalled US\$11,263,305
- Operational supplies: totalled US\$78,876

UNICEF Egypt finalized video production LTAs, translation LTAs, editing LTAs, still photography LTAs and printing LTAs to facilitate work processes, improve efficiency and reduce transaction costs.

In 2017, there were 19 contract review committee meetings in which 35 cases were presented and reviewed. As for the performance review committee, 17 meetings were held, with 29 cases presented and reviewed. Following a lengthy and persistent follow-up from the unit, UNICEF Egypt received a VAT refund of US\$100,000, which represents 80 per cent of the claimed amount with further follow-up to clear and secure the refund of the remaining 20 per cent.

In 2017, UNICEF Egypt reported on the 2016 environment footprint assessment. In 2016, per-staff-member carbon dioxide emissions were at 3.3 tons, compared to 2.6 tons in 2015. This increase was due to increases in the overall size of the office and higher utility rates. In November 2017, UNICEF Egypt replaced all halogen light bulbs used in light fixtures with LED light bulbs that use almost 80 per cent less power. The results of these changes will be reflected in 2018.

Allocated funding under this IR supported and complemented UNICEF Egypt operational support activities in administration, finance, ICT, logistics and United Nations coordination activities (specific to the RCO function) and some cross-cutting HACT support activities. The progress under this IR complements that under IRs 7.1 and 7.2



## **OUTPUT 2 Operational**

### **Analytical statement of progress**

Support activities remained on track, providing services and support for programme implementation in the areas of financial management, human capacity development, staff and office safety, efficiency of ICT systems, administrative support and supporting office governance systems for oversight and ensuring a more efficient and cost-effective programme and service delivery. These efforts were addressed throughout the year and monitored at section and PMG level and by the CMT (on a monthly basis) through the review of UNICEF Egypt's key performance indicators in all of these areas.

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## Document centre

### Evaluation and research

Title	Sequence Number	Type of Report
Assessing AWLADNA campaign outreach	2017/005	Research
Situational Analysis of Private Sector Engagement in Egypt	2017/004	Survey
Understanding Child Multidimensional Poverty in Egypt	2017/003	Study
Children in Egypt 2016: A Statistical Digest	2017/002	Research
The Evaluation of Meshwary Project Phase II	2017/001	Evaluation

### Other publications

Title
FGM/C video
ECD PSA by Ahmed Helmy
UNICEF Egypt celebrated the International Breastfeeding Week by a series of 10 videos
UNICEF Egypt's Ambassador Actress Donia Samir Ghanem's visit to Mostaqbalna KG community center, for Syrian refugee children
AWLADNA Campaign Videos
AWLADNA Campaign Publications
AWLADNA Campaign Publications

### Lessons learned

Document Type/Category	Title
Lesson Learned	El-Burullus 4th Annual International Art Symposium for Drawing on Walls and Boats

### Programme documents

Document Type	Title	Name
CPD	UNICEF Egypt CPD 2018-2022	2017-PL19-Egypt-CPD-ODS-EN_Final approved by Executive Board.pdf
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan 2013–2017 between the Government of Egypt and UNICEF	Egypt_CPAP_2013–2017.pdf
CPD	Egypt Country Programme Document 2013 - 2017	Egypt_CPD_2013–2017.pdf