Executive Summary

Egypt’s transition to democracy continued, culminating in the election of the country’s first democratically elected president. The operating environment remained volatile, presenting the Country Programme with both challenges and opportunities. Recent gains in the recognition of children’s and women’s rights, including the criminalization of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and the minimum age of marriage, have been subject to intense public debate and international human rights treaties ratified by Egypt have been challenged. However, the intensity of debates and engagement of young people and civil society have been encouraging.

It was against this backdrop that the 2013-2017 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and Country Programme Document (CPD) were developed, following two consecutive extensions from January 2012 to July 2013 to enable emerging issues and priorities of the new government to be reflected in the documents.

The child survival agenda was advanced during the year. Egypt was one of the early signatories of the ‘Call to Action: A Promise Renewed’ and has developed a road map to guide its implementation. The government is currently scaling up the perinatal care programme after a successful pilot project. Funding was secured from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to support the programme, which focuses on some of the most disadvantaged populations. The Monitoring of Results for Equity System (MORES) was introduced to analyze barriers and bottlenecks to reduce neonatal mortality in 26 villages.

UNICEF engaged with new and old partners - parliamentarians, government agencies, and civil society - to promote child rights and provide technical support to national partners in their advocacy to recognize child rights in the new Constitution. A draft strategy to protect and reintegrate street children was developed with the Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs (MISA) and is expected to be launched in early 2013.

A new social media strategy was implemented with new platforms on Facebook and Twitter providing user friendly information on the situation of children and adolescents in Arabic and English. In three months the newly launched platforms gained more than 18,000 followers and reached tens of thousands of young people.

The Country Programme continued to support data and knowledge generation with a particular focus on children in urban environments. The partnership with the Informal Settlement Development Facility continued and the study on child poverty in informal settlements is nearing completion. A joint partnership with the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP), Cairo Governorate, and Cairo University is currently assessing the urban health needs.

A new partnership with the Ministry of Finance aims to produce research evidence on the impact of fiscal policy changes on child well-being. This partnership will make available evidence and research tools to the Ministry of Finance to estimate the impact of different social protection policy reform options.

Constraints faced by the Country Programme emerged mainly from the ongoing transition which has caused disruptions to programme partners. Government institutions experienced multiple changes at senior and mid-level management levels. Delays in implementation with nongovernmental organization (NGO) partners have also arisen, mainly due to the lengthy process for obtaining government approvals for NGO agreements.

Country Situation as Affecting Children & Women

The political and institutional transition is still ongoing in Egypt after the January 2011 revolution. The year 2012 was marked by fundamental passages, which included the election of the parliament (then partially dissolved), election of the president, and approval of a new Constitution.

In November 2012, the government drafted a plan of economic reform, aiming to address some of the structural challenges of the Egyptian economy and fiscal policy, including reduction of the fiscal deficit, reform of subsidies, and increase of fiscal space. This institutional transition was accompanied by a second
consecutive year of economic stagnation. Projections for 2012 indicated a zero growth in gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, after -0.4% growth in 2011.\textsuperscript{[1]} Unemployment continued to grow and reached 12.6% in June 2012.\textsuperscript{[2]}

The economic stagnation deepened further increasing poverty trends. In 2010-2011, 26.4% of the child population (8.2 million children) was under the national lower poverty line, compared with 23.8% in 2008-2009, with an absolute increase of more than one million children in poverty.\textsuperscript{[3]} Monetary poverty is severe in rural areas, especially in Upper Egypt, where the poverty rate exceeds 50%. A trend of deteriorating family incomes for vulnerable groups is emerging from the results of a national food security survey focusing on vulnerable populations. In September 2012, 86% of vulnerable families reported that their incomes were insufficient to cover monthly needs.\textsuperscript{[4]} Moreover, around one-fifth of the vulnerable population is not included in the ration card programme for subsidized food, a result which confirms inadequate targeting of the social protection system.

The recent trends in child malnutrition are a matter of national concern. The Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) conducted in 2008 found that 29% of children under the age of five years were stunted.\textsuperscript{[5]} In 2012, the prevalence of stunting was close to one-third of children under five years old in selected slums and unplanned settlements in four major cities, confirming that chronic malnutrition is also widespread in urban areas.\textsuperscript{[6]}

Improving child survival and achieving Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 4 represented a development success for Egypt in the last 20 years. However, disparities are large, with children in rural Upper Egypt at substantially higher risk of mortality compared with the rest of the country.\textsuperscript{[7]} The preliminary results of a bottlenecks analysis identified the unstable availability of qualified doctors in primary care (supply bottleneck) and the late enrollment of mothers in antenatal care (demand bottleneck) as some of the key factors explaining the disadvantage in poorer areas.\textsuperscript{[8]}

In education, there are three major challenges: (1) the relative low participation in preprimary education (gross enrollment of 24.3% in 2011-2012, but with levels lower than 20% in many governorates), (2) a lack of quality teaching and infrastructure (class overcrowding is common; the average number of pupils per primary classroom was 43 in 2011/12) and the mismatch between the outcomes of the education system and the labour market demand (the bulk of unemployed are young people with a school degree above intermediate).\textsuperscript{[9]}

During the demonstrations and clashes of late 2012, hundreds of children were victims of violence; at least two were killed and many were arrested. Human rights groups and media reported that children were beaten and sometimes illegally jailed with adult prisoners. Street children have been particularly vulnerable in this context, while the systems to protect them were very weak and the juvenile justice provisions were not appropriately implemented.

Concerns persisted and eventually grew in the area of protecting children from violence and exploitation. Statistics on violence are scarce. Some evidence exists on violent disciplinary rearing practices; for example, data for 2009 show that 84% of children aged 2-14 are subject to disciplinary practices using corporal punishment.\textsuperscript{[10]} A 2006 study focusing on disadvantaged communities in Cairo and Alexandria found substantial levels of violent disciplinary practices in schools.\textsuperscript{[11]}

Data on FGM/C from 2008 indicates a 74% prevalence rate among girls aged 15-17 years. During 2012, the discussion around this harmful practice was intense. Some political leaders called for its decriminalization, and in one case, a public campaign to perform FGM/C was conducted in violation of the legislation. In response, government counterparts and many civil society groups criticized ongoing attempts to repeal the current legislation. The minimum age of marriage (currently 18) was also the subject of intense political debate with conservative voices advocating for lowering it.

In December 2012, the new Egyptian Constitution was approved after a long and difficult process of elaboration. Multiple voices have expressed concern at the absence in the text of any reference to international human rights treaties that Egypt has ratified. From a child rights perspective, the Constitution
contains important articles on children’s rights. However gaps have been identified, such as the lack of definition of the child, the non-inclusion of the best interest principle, and absence of explicit prohibition of discrimination and violence against children.

[1] IMF, World Economic Outlook  

Country Programme Analytical Overview

The sixth year of the Country Programme was in 2012, which was extended by 18 months due to the political transition in the country. The focus was on achieving the CPD results with some adjustments to meet the needs of the new country situation. These included providing technical support to and interacting with various partners (such as the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), NCP, parliament, and Egyptian child rights NGOs) in their efforts to have child rights reflected in the new Constitution. Other key priorities were joint work with MISA and Save the Children to develop a new strategy for street children; partnership with religious leaders on violence against children; as well as new initiatives to engage with young people and the newly formed Ministry of State for Youth and Ministry of Sports. Important new work on fiscal space and child-sensitive social protection began with the Ministry of Finance, while efforts were intensified with programme partners such as ISDF to generate data and knowledge on urban child poverty and health needs. These efforts will all continue as UNICEF wraps up the current Country Programme in the first half of 2013. It is also hoped that the DHS, which was postponed, will go ahead in 2013. UNICEF is a key partner to MOH and USAID in conducting the DHS.

The new Country Programme was developed, and will start in July 2013. The new Country Programme provides an opportunity to align UNICEF’s equity agenda with the themes of Egypt’s revolution–freedom, social justice, and dignity. As well, UNICEF would like to invest in building capacities of adolescents and young people who have shown in the most dramatic way possible their capacities for generating change. The areas of family, child, and gender equality have become more contested, but the opportunity to debate the issues with new partners is a challenge to be relished.

The new Country Programme has a great deal of continuity with the current one. However, strategy shifts aim at a more appropriate positioning in the Egyptian context as a lower middle-income country, but with a large child population, widespread poverty, and major disparities against most development indicators. This includes a more focused, impacted-oriented approach with a shift from pilot projects to mainstreaming and scaling up (such as in the perinatal care and community-based education programmes); and systems strengthening (such as in the child protection programme).

Central to the new Country Programme are improved knowledge generation and management systems, lessons learnt, and support to monitoring systems to inform policy advocacy and programme design. Such evidence-based advocacy, together with the engagement of policy makers and influencers, civil society, private sector, and the media, will help raise the profile of child rights in public discourse. Communication for
development (C4D) will also be a central strategy for addressing social norms and practices affecting children, such as FGM/C, child labor, trafficking, child marriage, and violent discipline.

**Humanitarian Assistance**

Towards the end of 2012, UNICEF took part in a Joint UN assessment of the situation of Syrian refugees and migrants who had entered Egypt. The assessment reported significant needs for women and children, and Egypt subsequently became part of the Regional Response Plan (RRP) for Syria. The RRP estimated that between 10,000 and 30,000 Syrians would require assistance up to June 2013. UNICEF appealed for US$700,000 for health, education, and child protection activities.

### Effective Advocacy

** Mostly met benchmarks **

The political events in Egypt resulted in the formation of new parties, groups, and individuals entering into positions of influence. During the year a new National Assembly and Shura Council were elected and a Constituent Committee was established to draft the new Constitution.

In collaboration with the Human Rights Committee of Parliament, the Egyptian Coalition for Child Rights (ECCR), a national platform gathering more than one hundred organizations working with children, organized a series of advocacy meetings with parliamentarians. They discussed children’s issues and promoted legislation and policies supportive of children’s rights to survival, development, and protection, among others. This important initiative was however interrupted by the dissolution of the National Assembly in June 2012.

UNICEF supported an experience sharing workshop with the International Children’s Centre (Turkey) and ECCR on constitutional reforms and child rights. Learning from the experience of Turkish child rights NGOs and the amendment to the Turkish Constitution, Egyptian NGOs prepared an advocacy paper and a strategy aimed at recognizing children’s rights in the new Constitution. One of the activities was a series of consultations with children. More than 400 children from 17 governorates presented practical suggestions to the Constituent Committee for full recognition of their rights in the new Constitution. ECCR also conducted several advocacy meetings with members of the Constituent Committee and civil society, and made regular public statements advocating for child rights in the Constitution.

Several government institutions also engaged with the Constituent Committee and UNICEF provided them with technical advice on child rights and international standards. NCCM, the coordinating body for child rights policy, led a series of consultations and briefings. Other influential institutions were the National Population Council and the Social Contract Center. In addition, discussions were also held with the National Council for Human Rights.

Key issues of concern discussed with government and other partners included critical notions missing from the draft Constitution, such as the non-definition of children, the absence of a clear prohibition of all forms of violence against children and related protection, the non-recognition of the best interest of the child, the non-reference to international human rights treaties or the State responsibility in realizing child rights, among others.

In October 2012, UNICEF launched its social media platforms on Facebook and Twitter, providing user friendly statistics and projections on the situation of children and adolescents in the country. Over three months the newly launched platforms attracted more than 18,000 followers and reached tens of thousands of people. Social media engaged people in interactive discussion on children’s issues with a focus on access to safe water and nutrition. Celebrities, including the UNICEF National Ambassador, have also been retweeting about children’s rights.
**Capacity Development**

*Mostly met benchmarks*

Capacity development is a central strategy for UNICEF in Egypt and was adopted in all programme components.

Capacity development of key partners in the areas of research, data analysis, and management included training seminars on child multidimensional poverty analysis and gender analysis for the national statistical offices. The first training resulted in the preparation of an update on statistics on child poverty.

UNICEF continued to support the implementation of DevInfo in the country with three major partners (NCCM/Observatory; MISA, and Central Agency for Public Mobilization & Statistics [CAPMAS]) and supported capacity development activities in this field. Seminars on DevInfo and social statistics were also organized with other national partners.

The mentoring training programme for MISA was completed. It was successful in building the technical and managerial capacities of 28 mentors in the Ministry who acquired effective results-based planning, monitoring, and reporting competencies.

Work on two professional diplomas on ‘Research and Evaluation’ and on ‘Public Policies and Child Rights’ with three universities in Egypt (Cairo, Assiut, and Helwan) was concluded in 2012. In 2011-2012, 96 students graduated from the Diplomas and Social Policy Course, and 61 students were enrolled for 2012-2013. The courses are now self-sustaining without UNICEF’s financial support.

In the education sector, capacity development efforts focused on supporting the Professional Academy for Teachers to strengthen the teacher training system. Needs-based quality training programs were designed and trainers were trained in pre-primary and primary community education, and inclusive education. Support was provided to the Ministry of Education to design a results-based monitoring system to monitor indicators of national standards for quality education. The system was piloted in two governorates to collect data on schools’ performance and progress towards national accreditation for quality education. The monitoring system will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of capacity development planning and implementation at the district and school levels.

The technical capacity of the MOHP was strengthened to design and pilot surveillance systems in nutrition and neonatal mortality. MOHP health providers in 14 sentinel sites in seven governorates have been trained on using weight scales, plotting growth charts, data recording, and reporting. MORES framework was introduced and applied in the MOHP system to identify barriers and bottlenecks using the existing administrative data in 26 Family Health Care Units.

The recommendations of the Nutrition Landscape Analysis (completed last year) began to be implemented with UNICEF’s support. This included support to establish a Nutrition Unit in MOHP, which is now in place with a remit to strengthen policies, programmes, and coordination.

**Communication for Development**

*Mostly met benchmarks*

To ensure sustainability of the community education programmes and communication for development (C4D) interventions, UNICEF recognized the major role of existing outreach networks, like the Ministry of Health’s Community Health Workers (known as *Raidat Refiyat*). UNICEF worked on building their capacities, improving their communication skills, supporting them with well-developed and tested messages and materials, and institutionalizing their supervisory and monitoring systems.

Since 2006 and with the detection of avian influenza in Egypt, C4D has been working with the MOHP community outreach programme to reach out to millions of rural families with lifesaving practices on avian
influenza prevention and healthy childhood and motherhood, in addition to hygiene, nutrition, and nonviolent rearing. This ongoing collaboration includes revising outreach workers’ job descriptions; developing training content; updating behavioral messages; designing and producing information, education and communication (IEC) packages; as well as institutionalizing an updated monitoring and reporting system.

In 2012, 6,000 comprehensive IEC packages and record cards were developed, pretested, and disseminated. Seven rounds of five-day master training of trainers (TOT) sessions, covering 400 supervisors, were undertaken. In addition, recording books for monitoring progress of behavior change were printed and are being used by 6,000 Raidat Refiyat, their supervisors, and 104 MIS coordinators at the governorate and district level. The system will support Raidat Refiyat to assess any behavior changes and key interventions undertaken as a result of their house-to-house visits. Over 13,000 community outreach workers will be trained over the next two years.

Upon completion of this plan, the updated information is expected to reach about 4.5 million rural families, especially those in the most deprived areas of Egypt. Improved mechanisms for community outreach will become routine as part of the MOH outreach system.

### Service Delivery

**Fully met benchmarks**

Direct service delivery is not a strategy utilized by UNICEF in Egypt. UNICEF’s support to strengthen service delivery systems is reported under the capacity building strategy.

### Strategic Partnerships

**Mostly met benchmarks**

Under the leadership of MOHP, new strategic partnerships are evolving around the mother and child survival agenda. UNICEF, USAID, and MOHP developed a new partnership in 2012 to promote the equity-focused agenda of perinatal care and nutrition in the most disadvantaged areas. This partnership centers on expanding the perinatal care pilot from 14 villages to 127 of the poorest villages; benefiting around 500,000 pregnant and lactating women, and 250,000 children under five years old. The partnership was further solidified by joint work in support of Egypt’s commitment to the Child Survival Call to Action. Existing partnerships also progressed well, including working with the World Health Organization (WHO) to pilot the Nutrition Surveillance System in selected sentinel sites, and with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for joint training of Community Health Workers.

The DHS 2008 found that infant mortality was increasing in urban governorates, which is opposite to the trend in other areas. As a result, the MOHP and UNICEF initiated a new partnership with the Cairo Governorate and Cairo University to investigate urban health needs with the intention of accelerating MDG 4 and 5 achievements in urban slum areas.

The partnership with the Informal Settlement Development Facility (ISDF), the government body dealing with the improvement of slums areas in Egypt, continued. On the basis of the results of a study on child poverty in informal settlements (which is being finalized), UNICEF and ISDF will work together to discuss what actions and interventions are needed to contrast poverty and deprivation among children in the most disadvantaged urban areas.

A new partnership has also been developed with the Ministry of Finance for supporting the creation of research evidence on the impact of fiscal policy changes on child well-being. This partnership aims to make evidence and research tools available to the Ministry of Finance to estimate the impact of different policy reform options.
Religious leaders are playing an instrumental role in influencing prevailing social values. Building on past experience of engaging with religious leaders, UNICEF continued its partnership with key religious leaders through Al Azhar University and the Coptic Church. The partnership aims to create a network of religious advocates for combating violence against children and promote values of nonviolence among their constituencies. The drafting of the two main publications on the Islamic and Christian Position on violence against children is well advanced and should be launched in 2013. The next phase will be to disseminate the main theological messages to more than 10,000 Imams and Priests throughout the country.

**Knowledge Management**

*Mostly met benchmarks*

In 2012, UNICEF continued to support the generation of strategic information and analysis on the situation of children. The study on child multidimensional poverty in slums was conducted in partnership with the ISDF of the Egyptian Cabinet. The final report and dissemination of the results are expected in the first half of 2013 and will give insight into child poverty in some of the poorest urban communities.

In collaboration with UNAIDS, the HIV Stigma Index survey was completed. Study results provided much needed information on the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV (PLHIV), particularly in accessing treatment, care, and support. The study results also highlighted knowledge gaps among PLHIV, particularly with regard to reproductive options once diagnosed HIV positive and being parents of HIV positive children. Data obtained from the study will support enhancing programme design and advocacy efforts for ensuring universal access to prevention, treatment, care, and support for PLHIV.

UNICEF supported three national partners (CAPMAS, MISA, and ENCRO/NCCM) to produce statistical databases using the DevInfo technology to report and disseminate key data on children. The work for two of these databases (CAPMAStat 1.0 and MISAInfo) was completed in December 2012 and data will be publicly available in early 2013. The third database (ToofulaInfo) is being finalized and will be a reference database of ENCRO, the Egyptian National Child Rights Observatory.

UNICEF continued activities aimed to obtain child-focused statistics from existing national surveys, and promoted the secondary analysis of the 2009 Egyptian Family Conditions Survey and the 2010 Survey of Young People in Egypt. The data obtained from the secondary analyses are being organized in two DevInfo databases and are the basis of a series of knowledge products prepared by UNICEF, whose release is planned for early 2013. The new DHS was postponed for a further year to 2013.

UNICEF conducted a review of the Country Programme experiences and practices during the cycle to identify those projects and activities which should be documented as ‘Innovations’, ‘Good Practices’, ‘Lessons Learned’ or ‘From the Field’. The documentation of the relevant Country Programme experiences will be prioritized by the different units.

Two studies were conducted, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MOE), MISA, Arab Council for Childhood and Development, and Faculties of Education, to assess the capacity development needs of the MOE community-based education (CBE) department, and local NGOs providing CBE services. The results of both studies will inform the process of capacity development planning for strengthening CBE systems to be implemented in the next Country Programme.

Knowledge management accountabilities within the office have been established. Each section has a focal point, and relevant staff members have key assignments relating to knowledge management.
Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation

Mostly met benchmarks

The new Country Programme and equity - Primacy will continue to be given to the most disadvantaged children and adolescents living in rural areas of Upper Egypt, where disparities are greatest. Priority will also be given to urban equity issues, particularly urban child survival and children without family care in Cairo and Alexandria. The Country Programme will focus on building the capacity of primary duty bearers (including relevant government ministries), and supporting families to provide a more protective environment for children.

UNICEF will focus on three interrelated causes and consequences of inequity: (1) governance factors including inadequate policies, legislation, and investment; (2) system factors including fragmented, inaccessible, and low quality social services; and (3) societal factors including harmful social norms and practices, and limited participation in decision making.

The new Country Programme, as well as minor adjustments to the current Programme, were informed by the Concluding Observations to Egypt's report to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) Committee. Issued in late 2011, the Concluding Observations are the basis for a new national strategy on children which is under preparation by the NCCM.

Gender Equality

Mostly met benchmarks

Gender equity is a key concern of the current Country Programme and will remain so in the new Programme starting mid-2013.

The education programme supported scaling up the community schools model to increase access to quality education among disadvantaged children, particularly girls. The community schools established by the Girls Education Initiative, which had been led by NCCM, were transferred to the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education has now included community-based schools, such as UNGEI and the community schools that UNICEF supported, under a new community-based education (CBE) department, and it is also part of the national education reforms. UNICEF will continue to support CBE in the new Country Programme beginning in July 2013. The focus will be on strengthening the capacity of the CBE department at the national and subnational levels through training of teachers and school inspectors to support the UNGEI in seven governorates to bring quality education to girls and boys in disadvantaged areas.

Adolescent girls, particularly those residing in rural settings, have less time for socialization compared to their male counterparts. As a strategy to address the gender inequality in girls’ access to sport and physical activity and life skills, UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Education and Ministry Of State for Youth in Assiut Governorate to initiate sport for development activities, targeting rural adolescent girls. Encouraging rural adolescent girls to engage in sport and physical activity, not only fulfills their right to play and recreation as promoted by the CRC, but also acts as an entry point through which other rights are addressed. Sport and physical activity will be used to address the marginalization of rural girls, stimulate their healthy development, promote gender equality, as well as build their self-esteem, life skills, and leadership skills. Younger adolescent girls will be reached through community schools and older girls through youth centers and clubs.

Conservative voices in the country have challenged some of the recent legal protections for girls, particularly those relating to early marriage and criminalization of FGM/C. The Country Programme continued to advocate for the rights of girls and to support national partners in their efforts to ensure the legal rights of girls are respected. In the area of children in conflict with the law, boys are more disadvantaged than girls. During the political transition, boys were arrested and detained, and UNICEF supported civil society organizations to provide the boys with legal assistance.
Environmental Sustainability

Initiating action to meet benchmarks

UNICEF does not have significant work in this area in Egypt. However, one of the three strategic results of the new UNDAF, which was prepared in 2012, is on environmental and natural resource management. UNICEF has identified a contribution to this outcome which builds on its comparative advantage; research on the impact of climate change on children. Additional components on environmental sustainability will be added to the ongoing work on CBE and the adolescents' life skills programme.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

As part of UNICEF’s support to civil society organizations to advocate for the inclusion of child rights in the new Constitution, the office supported experience sharing with NGOs in Turkey. Through the UNICEF office in Ankara, ECCR was linked with the International Children’s Center in Turkey and supported a workshop on constitutional reforms. ECCR then went on to draft an advocacy paper and strategy aimed at recognizing child rights in the new Constitution.
**Narrative Analysis by Programme Component Results and Intermediate Results**

**Egypt – 4500**

**PC 101 - Young child survival and development**

**Constrained**

**PCR 4500/A0/03/107:** Children under five in targeted areas have access to quality health, nutrition, and WASH services provided by YCSD Government of Egypt (GOE) partners.

**Progress:**

The Perinatal Care programme implemented by MOHP with the support of UNICEF ensured that 60,000 women of childbearing age and children under five years old have better access to quality perinatal care services in the targeted areas of Upper Egypt. The quality of perinatal care services improved in these targeted areas due to built-up capacities of 64 physicians and 120 CHWs who were skilled to provide counseling and support for early breastfeeding for mothers in high risk areas. The number of children who were examined by the Integrated Management of Neonatal Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) protocol increased by 15% in targeted areas; and 92% of health facilities in Egypt are now implementing the IMNCI protocol. During 2012, 1,500 households have improved access to water supply as a result of the household water connections programme using a revolving fund methodology in the three Upper Egypt governorates. The Holding Companies for Water and Wastewater established Revolving Fund Units in the three governorate water companies. These units have been trained to manage and sustain the revolving fund mechanism.

**On-track**

**IR 4500/A0/03/107/002:** Child immunization is performed according to the Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) standard protocols in selected districts in Upper and Lower Egypt Governorates.

**Progress:**

MOHP conducted Polio NIDs. The NIDs programme was conducted with full support of UNICEF regarding social mobilization, as well as technical support, monitoring, and evaluation that helped to reach 98% coverage nationwide of 12 million children under five years old. Multiple consultation meetings were conducted between UNICEF, MOHP, and WHO/EMRO to plan for the upcoming Egypt EPI five-year plan (2013–2016). The partners agreed on the need to introduce new vaccines (i.e. Hib-influenza, rota virus, and Pentavalent vaccine) and find solutions to overcome the financial constrains that hinder vaccine introduction, as well as review the routine immunization schedule accordingly.

The data review process was started to develop the materials required for the EPI guidelines. The materials are planned to be printed and distributed in the first half of 2013 to guide health workers at all levels on the EPI.

UNICEF is supporting MOHP to procure DTP and Pentavalent vaccines.

**On-track**

**IR 4500/A0/03/107/003:** Five thousand households in rural areas in three Upper Egypt Governorates have improved access to potable water through enhanced awareness raising skills of staff of the three holding companies.

**Progress:**

During 2012, a total of 1,500 households gained access to water supply in three Upper Egypt governorates and Revolving Fund Units were established in the three governorate water companies.

A Revolving Fund Unit was established in the Sohag Water Company to maintain proper management and sustainability of the revolving fund. Capacity of the unit members was built up in the financial and administrative management of the revolving fund. An additional nine villages in two districts were covered by the project in Sohag Governorate. Also, a Coordination Committee was formulated from representatives of
the Sohag Water Company and Sohag Governorate. This committee holds a monthly meeting in order to monitor the progress of the project.

For Assiut, a consultant was contracted to establish and build the capacity of the Revolving Fund Unit within the Assiut Water Company. An additional ten villages in two districts were selected to benefit from the project in Assiut Governorate, and 1,000 households were selected to benefit from the water connections.

Activities will be expanded to cover nine more villages in one new district in Qena Governorate.

**On-track**

**IR 4500/A0/03/107/004:** Health facilities targeted in seven disadvantaged governorates provide nutrition services that promote IYCF, and iodized salt with increased utilization by the most disadvantaged

**Progress:**

The five-year national plan for promoting breastfeeding is being implemented in 7 government and 7 university hospitals, in addition to 30 PHC and family health units in 7 governorates. In 2012, 231 doctors and 243 nurses and CHWs acquired the knowledge and skills to support mothers to breastfeed and to conduct mother support groups with direct links to the health facility. Participating facilities were monitored and continuously assessed. Self-assessment of these facilities was also finalized. The final assessment and accreditation of these facilities under the Baby Friendly Hospitals Initiative will be conducted in the second quarter of 2013.

The social mobilization campaign for iodized salt has been finalized and will be rolled out in early 2013. This campaign will target three out of the seven high risk governorates (i.e., Menya, Beni Sweif, and Menofiya). Training material for the CHWs (*Raedat Reefyat*) was developed and training for the community intervention is planned to start with the campaign in 2013. About 2,700 *Raedat Reefyat* were trained on promoting the utilization of iodized salt as part of the campaign.

Support to the IDD secretariat continued, where the secretariat assumed an important coordination role among partners (e.g., MOHP, NNI, Salt Industry, and others). In total, 60 MOHP inspectors were trained to monitor the quality of salt in these governorates. The plan is being expanded to monitor small salt packing plants in high risk governorates. UNICEF facilitated the procurement of potassium iodate and salt testing kits for the MOHP. The unified iodized salt logo is being implemented by five of the major manufacturers. The communication and advocacy strategy was finalized, and implementation will start in three governorates in January 2013.

Support was also provided to MOHP to monitor vitamin A utilization by reporting on distribution and developing forecasts for the coming year. Also, UNICEF facilitated the procurement of vitamin A through global procurement services.

**On-track**

**PCR 4500/A0/03/108:** Families and health staff who have adopted key ACSD-related care practices (i.e., prevention, health and hygiene care seeking behaviors, and home-based care) in the targeted areas of Upper Egypt are supported

**Progress:**

As a result of the outreach and behavioral change communication activities, there was improved antenatal care coverage to 70%, increased skilled birth attendance to 91%, increased delivery in health facilities to 82%, and increased postnatal visits within 48 hours to 88%. In addition, there was improved iron tablet compliance; diarrhea management using oral rehydration solution; and percentage of women receiving tetanus toxoid immunization. These behavioral changes were attributed to training more than 120 CHWs on delivering essential messages related to maternal and child health and nutrition. As well, 231 medical doctors and 243 nurses and CHWs were trained on breastfeeding counseling and how to conduct mother support groups. In order to prepare for the scale up, more than 40 master trainers were trained to roll out the training to another 300 CHWs in 4 districts in Upper Egypt. Official registers were redesigned to helo CHWs
Progress:

In order to promote neonatal and child care best practices in the targeted areas, and based on UNICEF past experience in community-based activities in rural Upper Egypt, three main strategies were adopted: (1) face-to-face and interpersonal communication; (2) peer learning and support group methodologies; and (3) creating a supportive environment for behavior change.

These strategies were implemented through: (1) outreach activities conducted by CHWs to deliver face-to-face messages; (2) support group meetings for pregnant and lactating mothers to exchange learning amongst women in safe learning environment; (3) creating supportive environments (e.g., men were involved in discussions related to family health issues through Dawar or community meetings and through outreach and home visits).

Another activity was implemented to empower women to make decisions about her family’s health; called Arab Women Speak Out (AWSO).

CHWs were trained to monitor behavior changes and report on findings every six months. Core behaviors to report included: antenatal care at least four times, skilled birth attendants, initiation of breastfeeding in the first hour after birth, exclusive breastfeeding for six months, proper complementary feeding, hygiene practices, and home management of diarrhea.

Progress:

In targeted villages of the three governorates (Qena, Sohag, and Assiut) a field assessment was conducted in full collaboration with the department of Raedat Refeat (or CHWs) within the MOHP. The number, capacity, and scope of work of Raedat Refeat were assessed. Based on this assessment, additional CHWs were deployed as volunteers to support community and outreach activities. A training and capacity building programme was developed to improve the skills and knowledge of these CHWs. Training activities were completed for a core of CHW training of trainers (TOT) teams from Sohag, Qena, and Assiut; and step down training for all CHWs in the targeted villages was completed. More than 120 CHWs were trained on the essential messages related to maternal and child health and nutrition.

As part of strengthening the system of Raedat Refeat within the MOHP, new registers were developed in coordination with the C4D section. The registers will help CHWs better organize their outreach activities and monitor behavior change among targeted families. The new data gathering system is being tested for future scale-up. To prepare for the scale-up, more than 40 master trainers were trained to roll out training to another 300 CHWs in 4 districts in Upper Egypt.

PCR 4500/A0/03/109: Systems and models are adopted by GoE in the areas of perinatal care, IDD, chronic malnutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) for YCS (i.e., modeling, system strengthening, evidence base knowledge management)

Progress:

MOHP. with support from UNICEF and other donors. introduced IMCI protocol to more than 95% of health
facilities at the national level. The Perinatal and Neonatal Mortality Surveillance System (PNMSS) pilot has expanded in Sohag and Qena Governorates in addition to Assiut. The Perinatal Care programme of Excellence (PCPE) model is expanding with equity-focused approaches to reach out to the most disadvantaged in 170 villages in 6 governorates. On the basis of the recommendations of the LA study, a Nutrition Unit was established at the MOHP to coordinate and monitor the implementation of nutrition programmes in Egypt. The MOHP has appointed the MCH Director General to manage this Unit. The Nutrition Surveillance System (NSS) was established in 7 governorates covering 14 sentinel sites in rural and urban areas. Expansion of the number of sentinel sites will be accomplished in 2013 by including all villages in the PCPE programme in Upper Egypt, as well as some villages in Lower Egypt. The MORES framework for Strategic Result Area 2 (SRA 2) on neonatal mortality reduction was implemented with full engagement and leadership from MOHP. As well under the leadership of MOHP, new strategic partnerships are evolving with the Cairo Governorate and Cairo University in the area of maternal, neonatal, and child health (MNCH) to accelerate MDG 4 and 5 achievements in urban slum areas.

Progress:

The MORES framework for SRA 2 on neonatal mortality reduction was implemented with full engagement and leadership from MOHP. The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Task Force were developed and approved by the MOHP with representation from the field. Four sets of indicators were developed (on antenatal care, skilled birth attendance, postnatal care, and nutrition) to identify the bottlenecks, guided by the Level 3 monitoring model. The tools for administrative data were field tested and fully applied in the 14 pilot villages where the PCPE was implemented. Administrative data was collected from 14 villages in Upper Egypt. The data analysis identified some bottlenecks related mainly to the shortage of human resources, shortage in some supplies (especially iron tablets), and inadequate growth monitoring of children under five years old. A qualitative study will be conducted in order to better understand different factors behind these bottlenecks. The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) is planned for 170 villages and in the first quarter of 2013.

The Urban Child Survival study was initiated following formal establishment of the Steering Committee headed by the Cairo Governor. Cairo University was contracted for the needs assessment. The Inception Report on the study was completed. The partnership between the Cairo Governorate, MOHP, Cairo University, and UNICEF to manage this intervention was established, and meetings were held to agree on the scope of the study, outcome, and its linkage to service delivery improvement in the selected locations. Two locations were selected for the study and field testing of the research tools has started.

Progress:

In 2012, twelve new villages were introduced to the Perinatal Care programme in the governorates of Assiut, Sohag, and Qena. Around 75 health providers were trained in the 12 new FHUs. Sixteen performance indicators were collected and analyzed. Supervision from all levels took place, in addition to the field visits from MOHP central officers and UNICEF staff. To further strengthen the perinatal care services at FHUs, through the national IMCI program more than 50 doctors and nurses were trained on case management using IMCI protocol. This resulted in applying the protocols for case management.

The PNMSS pilot was expanded in Sohag and Qena Governorates, in addition to the Assiut Governorate. A total of 22 sentinel sites are now implementing the PNMSS. Health staff from the new sentinel sites were trained, and materials were distributed to collect data regarding perinatal and neonatal mortality. To complement this facility-based surveillance system, verbal autopsy was introduced in 23 villages. CHWs and
nurses were trained to conduct verbal autopsies for perinatal death cases in order to better understand different community determinants related to these deaths. More than 330 neonatal deaths were reported. Early neonatal deaths represented 42% of cases, stillbirth 40%, and late neonatal deaths 18%. Data showed that high percentages (73%) of perinatal deaths were not officially reported to the vital registers. Data analysis of the reported 2,806 deaths from the hospitals revealed that perinatal deaths are under reported, and the primary causes indicated that obstetricians need more training in accurate reporting.

**On-track**

**IR 4500/A0/03/109/006: Coordinated National Strategy and institutional mechanisms are created for addressing chronic malnutrition with focus on deprived/poor areas.**

**Progress:**

The Landscape Analysis study, which assesses the national capacities and readiness to scale up coordinated nutrition interventions, was concluded in 2011 and launched in 2012. Results show the willingness and commitment of MOHP to accelerate action on nutrition. As part of the recommendations of the study, a Nutrition Unit has been established in MOHP as per the ministerial decree to coordinate and monitor the implementation of nutrition programmes in Egypt. MOHP has appointed the MCH Director General to manage this Unit.

The NSS was established in seven governorates (Qalubiya, Gharbiya, Fayoum, Ismailia, Alexandria, Qena, and Red Sea) covering rural and urban centers (14 sentinel sites). UNICEF provided the needed equipment, including weighing scales, stadiometers, and hemoglobin measuring equipment. Trained staff started collecting the data. Monitoring the implementation and on-the-job training continued during the year. The first consolidated quarterly report will be published by MOHP in the first quarter of 2013. The number of sentinel sites will be expanded in 2013 by including villages in the PCPE programme in Upper Egypt, as well as some villages in Lower Egypt.

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**PC 102 - Quality education**

**Met**

**PCR 4500/A0/03/110: Increased access of boys and girls (aged 4–14) to quality education with focus on reaching children in disadvantaged areas**

**Progress:**

UNICEF worked on increasing the access of boys and girls (aged 4-14) to quality education and achieved the following results: (1) improved children’s developmental readiness to start primary school on time, especially marginalized children, (2) reduced gender and other disparities in relation to increased access, participation, and completion of quality basic education, and (3) improved education quality with an emphasis on Child Friendly Schools principles.

Implementation of the AWP is generally on track despite the fact that MOE witnessed several changes of ministers and senior staff during 2011-2012. In addition, the delays encountered by MISA in granting approvals for NGOs to receive funds from UNICEF caused further delays in launching new activities in 2012.

To increase access to quality preprimary education, 225 community-based kindergartens (KGs) were established, licensed, and handed over to MOE. Documentation of the KG project, including lessons learned, was developed for dissemination. A quality assurance tool was developed and revised according to the national standards to assess children’s developmental readiness to start school. MISA, supported by UNICEF, continues to mainstream the parenting education manual through its KGs and Rural Child Clubs nationwide. The two studies conducted to assess capacities of MOE CBE sectors and NGOs providing education services will help guide MOE plans as well as UNICEF in planning for the next Country Programme. MOE CBE needs include revisiting the job descriptions of CBE sector staff members, improving communication channels between central and local levels, and documenting different procedures governing the operations of the
sector. NGO needs include capacity building on networking and community mobilization.

To improve the quality of the community education, a multigrade curriculum for grades 1-6 was developed and mainstreamed nationwide, serving approximately 50,000 students. Mainstreaming child friendly elements in schools to improve the quality of education has been steadily progressing in Assiut and Sohag. The total number of UNICEF supported schools that have been accredited by the National Quality Assurance and Accreditation Authority has reached 64 schools. In addition, 12 more schools qualify for accreditation and are in the process of receiving accreditation, thus realizing 126% of the target indicator and serving approximately 20,000 students.

**Progress:**

A quality assurance tool (Child Development Tool – CDT) was revised according to the updated national standards for quality preprimary education and tested in Assiut, Sohag, and Qena. The tool assessed school readiness at primary entry in the development domains of social, language, cognitive, and motor skills. Data analysis and report writing is still in progress. The final report is expected in January 2013. To enhance quality education in community KGs, technology in teaching and learning was integrated by providing 64 computers and training 98 KG teachers. MISA, in collaboration with UNICEF and NGOs, continued to disseminate parenting education messages nationwide. With support from UNICEF, 175 MISA supervisors were trained to expand the dissemination of parenting education.

**On-track**

**IR 4500/A0/03/110/006:** Multigrade curriculum developed and a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system designed to enhance capacity of the community based education sector to reduce disparities in access and completion of quality education (with a focus on disadvantaged girls).

**Progress:**

The multigrade curriculum, including teachers' guides and students' books for grades 4-6, was developed for the first and second school semester in 2012-2013. MOE printed the curriculum and disseminated it nationwide to serve 50,000 students enrolled in community education. Implementation of activities to support the capacity of CBE were delayed due to the lengthy process for receiving MISA approvals. In preparation for designing the supervisor’s training and the M&E system, the job description for CBE supervisors and quality standards for community schools are currently under development. A study to assess the capacity of the CBE sector was conducted in collaboration with MOE, and a proposal for a capacity building plan was developed based on the identified needs. These needs included revisiting the job descriptions of CBE sector staff members, improving communication channels between the central and local levels, and documenting procedures governing sector operations.

**On-track**

**IR 4500/A0/03/110/007:** Elements of Child Friendly Schools mainstreamed in primary schools in disadvantaged areas in nine governorates.

**Progress:**

Mainstreaming the elements of Child Friendly Schools to improve the quality of education progressed steadily, though it was challenged by the high uncertainty amongst staff at MOE about the new government vision for education reform. This situation has caused reluctance of some schools to continue the reform and accreditation process. With UNICEF’s support, change facilitators (MOE staff at the governorate and idara levels who support school improvement planning and accreditation) continued to provide technical assistance to schools in seven idaras (administrations) in Assiut and Sohag. As well, the facilitators liaised with the National Quality Assurance and Accreditation Authority to coordinate school inspection missions, follow up on
recommendations, and ensure quality is maintained in accredited schools.

A quality standard-based MIS system to support decision making was developed and is being tested in Assiut and Sohag. The implementation of activities related to student unions and psychosocial support in schools was delayed due to the lengthy process of receiving MISA approval. A hundred schools were trained in the student union election process, and the needs assessment process for developing a psychosocial support program in schools was initiated; however, the implementation of both activities was extended until June 2013. Twenty primary schools in Assiut and Sohag continued piloting inclusion of children with special needs, serving 463 children with learning difficulties and mental disabilities. All children passed their exams and were moved up to the following grades.

**PC 103 - HIV/AIDS and adolescent development**

- **PCR 4500/A0/03/113**: Capacities of individuals, most at risk young people, government and non government entities enhanced to prevent HIV infections, assure protection and care for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS

**Progress:**

UNICEF’s HIV programme was designed to complement key strategies defined in the National HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework, while addressing technical areas outlined in the Division of Labour and UN Joint Programme of Support on HIV/AIDS. The HIV programme took a comprehensive approach to building the capacity of partners to reach at-risk young people and enhancing HIV knowledge among key populations. The programme also designed interventions to provide care and support to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

In reaching the most-at-risk young people, interventions concentrated on children living in street situations and sex workers. The design of these interventions was based on evidence from various behavioral surveillance surveys (BSS), including UNICEF’s 2007 BSS among children in street situations. Studies confirmed the existence of a concentrated epidemic among key populations, while highlighting a multitude of risky practices among populations prioritized by UNICEF and the first cases of HIV detected among children in street situations. Beyond specific interventions targeting children in street situations, UNICEF has been providing technical assistance to a taskforce on HIV/AIDS and street children, with the goal of preventing new HIV infections among this target group. UNICEF also partnered with a youth-led organization to build the capacity of 460 peer mentors to enhance HIV knowledge among 11,400 young people through schools, youth centers, and NGOs in the coming six months. UNICEF also supported its partners to develop target-specific manuals and learning materials to enhance the sustainability of the initiated response.

UNICEF has been supporting HIV prevention among sex workers for several years, due to the significant number of young women found among this population. The capacity of the implementing partners has been built significantly, and the supporting donor, the Drosos Foundation, is now confident to provide future funding directly to the NGO.

The capacity and management structure of Egypt’s only NGO led by PLHIV was enhanced through technical assistance. Care and support to women and children infected/affected by HIV/AIDS was delayed to prioritize enhanced structuring within the NGO prior to implementation. Data to support future advocacy and evidence-based programming was generated by implementing the Stigma Index, which was a result of enhanced capacity of a research team on issues related to stigma and discrimination surrounding HIV and relevant research methodologies.

- **IR 4500/A0/03/113/001**: A total of 2,000 young people and most-at-risk populations, in at least two governorates, equipped with adequate knowledge and skills to protect themselves from HIV infection.
**Progress:**

Efforts to equip at-risk populations with skills and knowledge to prevent HIV concentrated on children in street situations and vulnerable women. As well, new interventions were started to also reach young people in general. Building upon previous interventions and the results of focus group discussions with children and NGO staff, enhanced approaches for conveying HIV information were implemented. Given the lack of specialized tools and strategies for addressing HIV among children in street situations, results of the discussions guided the design of an interactive approach for supporting HIV activities among this population. The adapted approach of using games and theatre resulted in efficient participation among four NGOs and street-based outreach. Targets were exceeded by reaching children in street situations through partner NGOs.

There were delays in implementing UNICEF’s HIV prevention intervention among female sex workers due to stringent measures for gaining the required government approvals for NGOs, and fear and insecurity among the outreach workers. Implementation over three months concentrated on capacity building of two NGOs and street-based outreach to sex workers and their clients. Women visiting the drop-in centre were provided with detection and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, psychosocial, and legal services. Government approval was granted to implement voluntary counseling and testing at the drop-in centre, which should significantly increase the number of sex workers who are tested for HIV.

Enhanced HIV awareness among young people was initiated in five governorates, and expanded to include schools in addition to youth centers and NGOs. The project aims to reach 11,400 young people using a comprehensive skills-based approach to equip them with HIV knowledge to educate their peers. Capacity building is also being conducted with 90 staff from NGOs, youth centers, and schools to enhance their HIV knowledge and awareness on the need to support HIV prevention among young people.

**Constrained**

**IR 4500/A0/03/113/002**: People living with HIV (PLHIV), in at least two governorates, equipped with the knowledge and skills to cope with basic medico-psycho-social issues related to living with HIV, including prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT).

**Progress:**

Enhanced treatment options for PLHIV were guaranteed through UNICEF’s support of the national response, by procuring antiretroviral medications and essential supplies for detecting and monitoring HIV treatment, as a sub-recipient of the Global Fund to Fights AIDS, TB, and Malaria. Efforts to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV included procuring all of the required medications.

The capacity of Egypt’s only NGO led by PLHIV was enhanced, while also addressing various management and structural issues within the NGO. As a result of UNICEF’s technical assistance, a strategic plan, NGO by-laws, human resources structure, and monitoring system were developed. UNICEF supported the NGO in designing an intervention on care and support for women and children infected/affected by HIV/AIDS, with an emphasis on eliminating mother-to-child transmission. However, start up of the project was postponed due to difficulties in obtaining government approval for the NGO.

The need for enhanced data for evidence-based programming and supporting advocacy for the rights of PLHIV was addressed by completing the Stigma Index. Study results provided essential information on the stigma and discrimination faced by PLHIV, particularly in accessing much needed treatment, care, and support. Due to previous experiences of stigma and discrimination, one in four PLHIV will not reveal their HIV status to medical providers when accessing services. Furthermore, the study results also highlighted knowledge gaps among PLHIV and the need to prioritize care and support, particularly on vertical transmission among women. Data obtained from the study indicated that only 29% of women living with HIV have knowledge of the fact that it is possible for an HIV-positive woman to have a healthy child.
**On-track**

**IR 4500/A0/03/113/007**: Communication materials and strategies for targeting young people with HIV awareness, developed and disseminated/implemented to address the needs of key populations.

**Progress:**

Efforts to enhance HIV awareness and the sustainability of HIV prevention efforts with UNICEF partners included the development of HIV awareness raising materials, specifically targeting at-risk children, young people, and staff members working to support HIV prevention among these children. Interactive games that were specially developed and implemented under UNICEF’s HIV prevention intervention among children in street situations were incorporated into a manual for NGO staff and are being pretested. Content for brochures and posters for enhancing HIV knowledge was also developed, and the materials are being finalized by a graphics designer. The capacity of partners is being built on how to use these materials, as a strategy for supporting the sustainability of UNICEF’s interventions.

The HIV programme also produced materials to support peer education of young people. The materials were printed into a comprehensive kit to be used by the peer educators.

Materials for enhancing awareness on the current status of the epidemic were disseminated through social media on World AIDS Day. As part of the World AIDS Campaign, UNICEF contributed to the UN Joint Team Efforts in conducting a Media Academy to enhance effective reporting of HIV in the media, advocacy using key celebrities and UN Goodwill Ambassadors; and conducting a campaign to educate young people on HIV in eight universities.

**PC 104 - Child protection**

**On-track**

**PCR 4500/A0/03/111**: National Child Protection System capable of providing services at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels to children at most risk (including risks of violence and FGM/C) is strengthened.

**Progress:**

UNICEF pursued its efforts to implement the child protection provisions of the Child Law and launched an assessment of the child protection systems in Egypt. These efforts were complemented by interventions to prevent violence against children, including FGM/C.

After many years of strong partnership with civil society and community-based organizations in implementing Child Protection Committees (CPCs), an important gain under the amended Child Law of 2008, UNICEF focused its efforts in ensuring their sustainability. This was accomplished by successfully engaging with subnational authorities and bringing the CPCs back into the agenda of the key national partners, such as NCCM and MISA. In this context, the government allocated funds for implementing CPCs in five governorates. An evaluation of the Child Helpline was also conducted in cooperation with NCCM. This will guide the strategy to support the Child Helpline as a national identification and referral mechanism for children in need of care and protection, as well as link the Child Helpline to child protection mechanisms such as the CPCs.

A mapping of child protection systems in Egypt, conducted in cooperation with NCCM and IDSC, is nearing completion. The aim of this mapping is to identify gaps, issue recommendations, and develop a road map to strengthen child protection services.

In the area of violence prevention, UNICEF along with other UN agencies and donors, contributed to the National Joint Programme for the Empowerment of Families and Abandonment of FGM/C, led by the National Population Council. Technical support was also provided to develop unified strategies on abandoning FGM/C.

UNICEF increased its efforts to prevent medicalization of FGM/C. A series of trainings for medical staff on FGM/C, initiated in 2011, was expanded with 78 workshops in 8 governorates that reached 2,199 medical practitioners. Community-based activities were conducted in six districts of Assiut Governorate. To date, the
project has reached over 6,000 people through small- and large-scale awareness functions.

On-track

IR 4500/A0/03/111/003: Government-led child protection committees and social workers are able to fulfill their mandate in identifying and responding to children at risk with a focus on low coverage areas in three governorates.

Progress:

In the course of implementing CPCs, two work plans were signed for the first time with the governorates of Alexandria and Assiut. Advanced discussions were also held with Cairo Governorate for a similar collaboration. The purpose of these work plans was to ensure government ownership and commitment at the subnational level to establish decentralized child protection services. Furthermore, strong linkages between government services and community-based organizations are being developed to identify children at risk. Community-based child protection interventions supporting the CPCs’ mandate were pursued in Alexandria and Assiut in collaboration with civil society and community-based organizations.

In Alexandria, 5,286 cases of children in need of care and protection were identified; 4,932 of whom were referred to governmental and non-governmental service providers. Children at risk received health and educational services and social welfare entitlements. A quarter of the children identified and referred to service providers were cases of violence, abuse, and neglect. In a positive development, CPC meetings took place under the umbrella of the governorate.

In Assiut, 17 village committees encompassing 247 members were formed, out of a target of 20 committees. The project is also working with MISA at the village level (social unit and family counseling bureaus). Several meetings and orientation sessions were conducted for MISA staff regarding the child protection mechanism and harmful practices such as FGM/C in targeted villages.

At the national level, a task force was formed under the umbrella of NCCM bringing together UNICEF and international NGOs in an effort develop CPCs in a harmonized way. A strategy to support CPCs is being drafted and reviewed by the task force, and is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2013.

On-track

IR 4500/A0/03/111/004: Equity-focused knowledge generated from mapping of child protection systems, surveys and policy dialogue, informs government action and promote child friendly policies.

Progress:

A mapping of the child protection systems and services covering national and subnational levels was launched in cooperation with NCCM and the governmental think tank Information and Decision Support Centre (IDSC). After central level interviews with officials and practitioners, field research was completed in July 2012 to collect inputs from officials, community members, and children. The draft report is due in March 2013. A paper and recommendations on juvenile justice in Egypt were finalized and discussed with key stakeholders.

The census on street children study was not a priority by UNICEF’s counterparts. Rather, they stressed the importance of developing a strategy and action plan for MISA to support children without care and children in the street. (See IR6.1)

UNICEF engaged with parliamentarians, government agencies, and civil society to promote child rights and provided technical support to partners for recognizing child rights in the new Constitution. The Constitution was approved by referendum in December 2012, and included important articles that recognized children’s rights. However, significant gaps in the Constitution prevailed, such as the non-recognition of the best interest of the child principle, prohibition of violence against children, and reference to international human rights treaties ratified by Egypt. Also of concern is the vague definition of safeguards against child labor which contradicts parts of the Child Law.
In addition, consultation with 425 children (aged 10-18) from 17 governorates was conducted in which they articulated their views regarding the Constitutions and presented it to the Constitutional Committee.

**On-track**

**IR 4500/A0/03/111/005:** Legal assistance, complaint and response systems are in place at central level to respond to violations of child rights, with focus on vulnerable and marginalized boys and girls.

**Progress:**

UNICEF ensured the provision of free legal aid to children in contact with the law. By the end of November 2012 and with UNICEF’s support, the Egyptian Association for the Advancement of Childhood Conditions (EFACC) provided legal aid to 1,388 children in Cairo (75%) and Alexandria (25%) out of a target of 1,500 children. Of these children, 412 of them received a final sentence (i.e., detained, referred to probation or released), representing around 30% of total. In addition, 40% of the cases were kept in the court without further investigation, and 10% received a suspended trial as result of the young age of the accused or other technical reasons. Around 173 cases were presented to the prosecutors’ office/court in relation to the November 2012 civil unrest and demonstrations. In total, 95 child victims were defended by lawyers. Further assistance will be needed for psychosocial rehabilitation through referrals. An independent analytical study on legal aid for children started in December 2012 and the final report is due at the end of February 2013. Training of 14 lawyers took place through the Lawyers’ Syndicate with the aim of strengthening the legal system to defend children in accordance to the Child Law.

In collaboration with the Regional Office (RO) and headquarters (HQ), UNICEF organized a TOT to promote child protection and combat child trafficking. The 25 participants from Sudan and Egypt included government officials, civil society representatives, and UN agencies. The training programme examined the issue of child trafficking from prevention, protection, and policy perspectives. In addition to rolling out the training programme at the national level, UNICEF is supporting NCCM to develop a case management and best interest determination system for child victims of trafficking.

UNICEF also engaged with the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) and will support establishing a Children’s Unit within the organization.

**On-track**

**IR 4500/A0/03/111/006:** Gender-sensitive communication strategies and partnerships developed to contribute to abandoning of harmful practices to children and promoting non-violent education.

**Progress:**

**Promotion of the abandonment of FGM/C**

UNICEF refocused its strategy through the following threefold approach.

The first approach was training health professionals to counter medicalization of FGM/C. MOH conducted 78 workshops in 8 governorates for 2,199 medical practitioners (1,003 physicians; 1,196 nurses and CHWs) over the period of 2011 and 2012. UNICEF, UNFPA, and the National Population Council (NPC) also launched a public advocacy initiative with the Egyptian Federation of Gynecology & Obstetrics reaffirming that FGM/C cannot be justified for medical reasons and upholding criminal legislation banning such practice.

The second approach was UNICEF supporting NPC, the government agency leading FGM/C programmes, in developing a communication strategy for family empowerment and FGM/C abandonment. The draft strategy covers issues in relation to family poverty, family social norms, and parenting techniques; and it will be formally launched in early 2013.

The third approach involved community mobilization for the abandonment of FGM/C and other forms of violence against children. The implementation is taking place in 6 districts in 22 villages covering approximately 317,000 families. A holistic child protection and rights approach is being used, along with the statutory Child Protection Mechanism (CPM) at the district and governorate levels to identify, refer, and monitor children at risk.
Quantitative and qualitative study on violence against children
A research agency was selected to conduct a qualitative assessment of community practices and social determinants influencing violence against children, and a quantitative survey on violence against children. The objective is to produce quantitative and qualitative research on violence against boys and girls. The research will start in late December 2012 and the final report is expected by August 2013.

On-track

**PCR 4500/A0/03/112: Children at risk of violence in Upper Egypt and those living on the streets of Greater Cairo are protected and have access to better quality and sustainable reintegration and rehabilitative services.**

**Progress:**

Building on previous years’ experiences, UNICEF pursued its support to street children around three main areas of intervention: (1) family reintegration; (2) protection on the street and drop-in centers; and (3) prevention. At the policy level, a national workshop was held with MISA to develop a national strategy for street children.

UNICEF continued its support to children in street situations through a network of NGOs, with a focus on family reunification. Family reunification units were established by three partners and 215 children were reintegrated with their families. This was a significant achievement accompanied by strengthened case management practices involving children and their families.

Street work and drop-in centers reached at least 2,000 children with a comprehensive package of services. Outreach teams were reinforced during periods of political unrest to take street children away from the areas of clashes.

Another significant development was the introduction of prevention interventions. A special component was added to the work of the family reunification units, where social workers supported families of children at risk to obtain economic, social, psychological, and legal support. Intensive follow up was also undertaken to ensure that children were being kept away from street life.

A workshop to develop a national strategy for street children was organized in collaboration with MISA and SCI. The strategy covers prevention, protection, and public awareness and is expected to be launched in the first quarter of 2013.

On-track

**IR 4500/A0/03/112/003: Child protection services are able to reach, protect, and reintegrate street boys and girls in Greater Cairo to address social exclusion.**

**Progress:**

Protection and reintegration services for children without family care, particularly those living on the streets, made significant steps towards increased government commitment and comprehensive service provision. At least 2,000 children were reached through a programme including transit care in drop-in centers, protection work on the streets, family reunification, legal aid, and sports. Additionally, significant work with street children addressed HIV/AIDS, in response to IR 7.1.

At the reception centers, children received rehabilitative services including the following: individual PSS sessions for 440 children; group PSS sessions for 134 children; sports activities for 158 children; and art workshops for 235 children.

UNICEF dedicated more effort to work with street children’s families and families at risk of separation. Partner NGOs identified and supported 265 families who received legal, social, economic, and psychological assistance. Of these families, 130 attended awareness sessions, 49 received governmental services, and 23 managed through counseling and monitoring to keep their children for more than three months away from street life.
The different actors were coordinated, especially through the newly established National Network for organizations supporting street children. In 2012, UNICEF produced a television spot in coordination with the National Network and NCCM. This spot was meant to raise public awareness on the issue of street children.

### PC 105 - Social policy, advocacy and partnerships for children’s rights

- **On-track**

**PCR 4500/A0/03/114**: Adolescents possess the necessary knowledge and skills for healthy and productive lifestyles and active citizenship, with improved and supportive policy environment.

**Progress:**

The three key programmatic elements to support adolescents were: (1) building the life skills and employability skills of young people, (2) promoting their active civic engagement, and (3) generating new data and evidence for policy and programming.

Building the life skills and employability skills of young people was achieved in ten governorates. Peer education was the main methodology targeting two age groups, adolescents (aged 13-18) and youth (aged 19-24), through youth centers and NGOs, with a focus on adolescents (65%) and females (46%). Plans are underway to reach out more to vulnerable young people and to institutionalize these interventions with government partners.

On civic engagement, support was mainly for the civic education programme implemented in partnership with the Ministry of State for Youth (previously National Council for Youth) to equip young people with key knowledge, attitudes, and skills towards their active citizenship. The main elements that led to the programme’s success were the governmental partner’s ownership of the programme, the methodology used of qualifying youth trainers to implement the programme with their peers, and the use of active learning techniques. Moreover, partnerships were built with youth NGOs to support adolescent- and youth-led initiatives in community development.

Generating new evidence on the situation of young people was essential due to the lack of reliable national data. The Survey of Young People in Egypt (SYPE) was a landmark study led by NPC and IDSC, and supported by UNICEF. The SYPE results are widely used for policy and programming for young people. Other knowledge products included the development of four statistical profiles with an equity focus on adolescent girls, urban adolescents, young people in the lowest wealth quintiles, and vulnerable young people across key human development indicators; as well as the Mapping of Child and Youth Participation report.

- **On-track**

**IR 4500/A0/03/114/001**: Existing mechanisms such as youth centers, NGOs, and student unions provide structured opportunities for the civic engagement of adolescents and youth in eleven governorates.

**Progress:**

The strategy for implementing the civic education programme, in partnership with the Ministry of State for Youth, was changed in 2012 to allow for more outreach through youth centers and public universities. Civic education workshops focusing on rights and responsibilities, participation, and active citizenship were conducted by youth trainers in 33 youth centers in 11 governorates and in 11 public universities; reaching 4,065 adolescents and youth by the end of September 2012. The civic education programme was also mainstreamed as part of the work plans of the Civic Education Centers and linked to the Ministry of State for Youth. Complementing the civic education programme, a national competition to support adolescent- and youth-led initiatives was announced mid-2012 in partnership with the Ministry of State for Youth, under the slogan of Sharek or Participate. From the 99 initiatives received from adolescents and youth groups across 16 governorates, 12 groups were selected by an expert review team (i.e., winners of the competition) to be financially supported and mentored to implement their initiatives.

UNICEF also continued its support of the Egyptian Youth Federation, as part of the strategy to build
capacities of youth institutions as channels for adolescent civic engagement. In 2012, six new youth NGOs joined the Federation. This is a clear indication of the increased role and outreach of the Federation as a result of UNICEF’s support which included building the capacity of the Federation itself to develop a five-year strategic plan, as well as conducting capacity building workshops and exchange visits for member and non-member youth NGOs. Twelve youth NGOs, and members and non-members of the Federation, participated in a child participation workshop and nine grants were provided to Youth NGOs to promote child and adolescent participation within their structures.

**Progress:**

The Adolescent programme initiated a Sport for Development programme for marginalized children and adolescents with the support of the International Inspiration legacy programme of the London Olympics. By the end of October 2012, 196 street children were engaged in sport activities. Plans are underway to engage rural girls in the programme with a life skills and physical activity intervention to be implemented through community schools and youth centers. Special manuals are being designed to support the work with the street children and the rural girls.

In addition, the evaluation of UNICEF’s work on employability skills development is currently underway to guide future interventions in this regard. The evaluation report is expected during the first quarter of 2013.

**IR 4500/A0/03/114/002:** At least 80% of targeted young people of both sexes possess knowledge and life skills to lead healthy and productive lifestyles with a focus on marginalized young people.

**Progress:**

Several knowledge products were completed in 2012 to address the knowledge gap on adolescents and youth in Egypt. Four statistical policy profiles on adolescent girls, urban adolescents, young people in the lowest wealth quintiles, and vulnerable young people across key human development indicators were produced using an equity lens. The profiles were based on the 2009 data of the Survey of Young People in Egypt that was supported by UNICEF. Furthermore, the final report for the Mapping of Child and Youth Participation in Egypt was produced that included the mapping and analysis of 155 child and youth initiatives. The mapping was undertaken in collaboration with ENCRO-NCCM.

On policy, an open space workshop was conducted in May 2012 with the purpose of engaging Egyptian youth NGOs and youth groups around a dialogue on the National Youth Policy. The workshop was conducted in partnership between UNICEF, the National Council for Youth, and the Egyptian Youth Federation. The 71 workshop participants engaged in a participatory process using the open space methodology to discuss issues they feel are of priority to be highlighted in a National Youth Policy. A report on the open space workshop and priority issues discussed by the young people was prepared and shared with the National Council for Youth for consideration during the formulation of the planned National Youth Policy. This initiative has not yet been translated into concrete results. UNICEF will continue working on the National Youth Policy in the future, building on previous consultations.

**IR 4500/A0/03/114/006:** Policy advocacy on young people’s issues is informed by an enhanced knowledge base and updated statistics disaggregated by sex, age and geography.

**Progress:**

The quality of M&E systems and the use of solid data and analysis evidence are still a challenge in the country. Progress was made for UNICEF key partners, including CAPMAS, MISA, NCCM, ENCRO, and MOHP.
With the support of UNICEF, MISA and ENCRO-NCCM have established new management and information systems and M&E Units, while MOHP was provided with tools for the CHWs to monitor behavioral changes in key family health practices. MISA also has a new communication strategy that was approved and endorsed.

Progress was also made with new databases with child-sensitive data. In 2012, CAPMAS completed CAMPASStat, a new DevInfo adaptation which updates the EgyptDevInfo database released in 2008. MISA completed preparation of MISAInfo with data from the 2009-2010 Statistical Yearbook. The finalization of ToofulaInfo at ENCRO-NCCM (which will be accompanied by a report on the national set of child right indicators) was delayed due to several changes in ENCRO management during the year.

The Egypt Network for Research and Evaluation was officially registered and with the support of UNICEF organized a series of seminars on M&E issues.

UNICEF and MOHP also started piloting MORES for the Perinatal Care programme, establishing a new set of indicators to be monitored, and creating new data collection tools. The administrative data component of the new system has already started.

IR 4500/A0/03/115/001: Three management information systems and monitoring systems in government entities at the national and subnational levels are established and functioning, and three statistical databases (Dev Info-based) on children's issues are released, shared with the public, and updated regularly.

**Progress:**

UNICEF supported four government entities (MISA, NCCM, ENCRO, and CAPMAS) to establish and operate management information systems, and develop statistical databases on children.

With UNICEF’s support, results-based planning and monitoring systems were established at ENCRO and NCCM (with the creation of specific units), and are ready to be established at MISA. NCCM has a new Monitoring Unit (with five specialized M&E officers) which, with the support of UNICEF, completed the evaluation of the Child Helplines. This new unit started developing new Monitoring Frameworks for NCCM’s programmes. Twenty-eight MISA officials in five governorates enhanced their capacities and skills through a comprehensive 25-day training to become mentors in results-based planning, monitoring, and reporting. As well, a toolkit for mentoring was completed.

The MISA Statistical Yearbook was updated to cover the areas of social care, protection, and development with disaggregated data. The 2010 Yearbook is already printed; and the 2011 Yearbook is completed, but not printed. A DevInfo adaptation of the Statistical Yearbook 2009-2010 (MISAInfo) was also completed with data on the different MISA programmes.

UNICEF supported ENCRO in finalizing a national framework of Child Rights Indicators (with a supporting report) and in the preparation of Child Rights Indicators database (ToofulaInfo) to be updated yearly. However, changes in the ENCRO management are delaying the completion and release of the database.

A new DevInfo database, CAPMASStat 2012, was released by the Population Statistics and Census Sector in CAPMAS with the technical support of UNICEF. The database includes the most recent data on indictors covering various sectors, which CAPMAS collects from primary sources, analyzes, and publishes.

IR 4500/A0/03/115/002: Development actors in Egypt including national and international partners have a strengthened research and evaluation function.

**Progress:**

To strengthen the national capacities towards country-led M&E and to enhance the culture of evidence-based programming and policy making, the Egyptian Research and Evaluation Network (EREN), supported by
UNICEF, was officially registered and has an elected board of 7 members and 170 GA members. To boost community discourse on evaluation issues and in coordination with EREN, 79 civil servants and civil society members had their capacities enhanced by participating in professional development seminars on the following topics: Outcome Evaluation, M&E and Effectiveness in Development, Evaluation of Public Policies, and Outcome Harvesting. In coordination with the Communication Section, two training seminars for journalists were also organized on ‘Partnership Between Media and Research Centers’ and ‘Ethical Reporting and Coverage of Children’s Issues’ in collaboration with the Press Syndicate. As well, 26 researchers and development practitioners from NCCM and other national partners are equipped with knowledge and skills on the ‘Basics of Scientific Research and Data Collection Tools for Qualitative and Quantitative Studies’. Learning results are being piloted in their specific organizations.

For the first time in Egypt, EREN established a Web site on research and evaluation that is currently populated with information on research in the country. It is expected to launch the Web site by March 2013. Finally, to assist national partners to enhance their knowledge on evidence-based policies, two major books on M&E were translated from English to Arabic, one produced by UNICEF entitled “From Policies to Results” and the other on “Most Significant Change”. These books added to several United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) tools on quality evaluation and utilization focused evaluation.

The first batch of child- and youth-led researchers (aged 14-24) were graduated. The country-led M&E Conference was cancelled due to ongoing transition in the leadership of various key national partners.

**On-track**

**IR 4500/A0/03/115/004**: UNICEF Egypt Country Office (ECO) has implemented RBM VISION-based planning, programming, and M&E.

**Progress:**

All UNICEF internal work plans were revised against the Virtual Integrated System of Information (VISION), as well as results-based and equity-focused standards. Two professional development sessions were conducted with all programme staff: one on VISION planning including ‘Equity marker’, ‘Gender equality marker’, and organizational targets; and one on developing a unified monitoring system to measure achievement of results. Under the supervision of the Deputy Representative, all work plans with government partners were revised. Programme structures and budgets were adjusted and uploaded in VISION in coordination with the Budget Monitoring Officer. All UNICEF results frameworks were developed jointly with the sections and approved by Deputy Representative.

The Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) was regularly monitored and shared with PMG, the Country Management Team (CMT), and the RO. IMEP implementation reached 78% for 2012, with a delay in producing two evaluations and one study due to administrative complexities and the sociopolitical situation in the country. The quality assurance mechanism for revision of research and evaluation was maintained to qualify proposals and reports against UNICEF and UNEG standards.

The ‘equity review’ of UNICEF’s programmes continues and is combined with the support to the implementation of the MORES pilot. The pilot phase of MORES for the UNICEF supported Perinatal Care programme advanced with the data collection from administrative sources, while data collection for the other data components (i.e., qualitative data, survey data) is under preparation.

**Met**

**IR 4500/A0/03/115/007**: Strengthened capacity of national information organizations to report on children’s issues from a rights-based approach.

**Progress:**

Building on UNICEF’s cooperation with the Press Syndicate, one workshop was conducted on ‘Ethical
Reporting and Coverage of Children's Issues' in February 2012. The workshop targeted journalists and reporters from diverse newspapers, magazines, and social media to learn about the fundamental standards of reporting on children’s issues. The workshop reflected a programmatic need to scale up partnerships with media agencies, faculties, and press syndicates to help develop a sustainable capacity building programme for media in Egypt. This initiative was conducted in coordination with the SPME Section.

**Progress:**

Since preparing the Child Multidimensional Poverty study in 2008, the new proposed methodology and data which put children at the core of the analysis received attention from national partners working on children’s issues and influenced analytical approaches and programme strategies. The National Child Rights Observatory at NCCM adopted the methodology as a key reference for its research programme. The Strategy for the Plan of Action for Children makes reference to the Child Multidimensional Poverty Framework. The Observatory is completing (with some delay) a national database on child right indicators (TufoolaInfo) which should represent a key source of statistical information on Egyptian children for all those working on child rights and well-being issues. With support of UNICEF, CAPMAS produced in late 2012 an update of the child poverty statistics. The key results were already published in a press release, and full publication is expected in 2013.

In 2010-2012, UNICEF supported a pilot of Conditional Cash Transfers in selected disadvantaged villages in rural Upper Egypt. The pilot included research which introduced a child development component in the policy. The pilot was discontinued in Spring 2012 due to external constraints, but UNICEF is supporting the American University in Cairo to document the lessons learned from that experience, which will inform future innovative social protection policies for children. In December 2012, UNICEF started the process of innovative research (involving macro- and microeconomic simulation) to produce a study on fiscal space and social protection reform. The Ministry of Finance is a key partner in this project, which also includes the participation of CAPMAS, MENARO, and the PEP research network.

A study on child poverty in urban slums and unplanned areas is being finalized to show the extent of disparities existing in urban areas. It will provide evidence for the implementation of social programmes to support the living conditions of the most disadvantaged urban children.

The process of institutionalization of two university diplomas (one on ‘Children’s Rights and Social Policy’ and the other on ‘Research and Evaluation’) advanced with the completion of the first cycle and the graduation of 96 students. The second cycle (2012-2013) started in late 2012. A formative evaluation of the diplomas has been completed by the concerned universities. These diplomas are expected to increase the availability in the country of adequate skills to support evidence and child rights informed policies and programmes.

**Progress:**

UNICEF implemented in-house daily media monitoring to update programmes on the children’s situation in Egypt. In addition, monthly trend analysis monitoring was conducted for UNICEF’s social media followers’ profile. UNICEF contributed to the regional Media Award, and Egypt won first place in the radio category.

Highly attended round table discussions and a press conference advocating for girls rights were conducted jointly with NCCM and other UN agencies. Special multimedia materials and video documentation were produced to project girls’ views on issues of their concern. The FGM/C fact posted on UNICEF’s social media
sites got more than 480 shares from more than 20 local and regional Facebook pages. UNICEF also contributed to the global launch of the State of the World’s Children 2012 report by producing video footage for the “2 Lives: 2 Miles Apart” documentary series.

**On-track**

**PCR 4500/A0/03/117:** Strengthened national capacities and societal attitudes to further advocate for a culture of respect for women and protection and participation of children

**Progress:**

Media code and a media regulatory mechanism that monitors the projection of women’s image in the media are established in the National Council for Women (NCW). The Media Unit has been established as part of the NCW’s main structure and main budget after being handed over to them. An AI Risk management strategy was finalized in coordination with IDSC and intergovernmental coordination was established to mitigate AI risks. The course on behavioral change was implemented for one year with Al-Ahram Canadian University. Diverse courses are being implemented by civil society partners.

A social media initiative was undertaken that represents UNICEF’s advocacy for public awareness on child rights. UNICEF Egypt launched its Facebook and Twitter outlets providing user friendly statistics and projections on the situation of children and adolescents in the country. The social media sites are periodically updated and systematically raise issues that concern child rights, and hence became popular in a short time (18,000 followers). Facebook and Twitter are also used to produce media analysis that gives UNICEF daily evidence about views and attitudes towards issues on women and children.

The Fundraising and Communication Strategy for corporate partners was finalized and is being used to invest in fundraising mechanisms and partnerships. Four Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were signed with large corporations (Coca Cola Africa Foundation, Etisalat Misr, Masrawy’s Safha fel sharei, and IBM) to support early childhood development programmes. Private sector partnerships covered 20% of the funding gap during the period from 2010-2012. Although it is challenging in the current economic situation in the country, UNICEF endeavors to reach the private sector partnership target.

**On-track**

**IR 4500/A0/03/117/002:** Increased public knowledge on child rights and CRC with adopting an equity-based approach.

**Progress:**

As part of its social media strategy, UNICEF launched its Facebook and Twitter outlets providing user friendly statistics and projections on the situation of children and adolescents in Egypt.

Over three months the newly launched platforms received more than 18,000 followers and reached tens of thousands of people, engaging them in interactive discussion on children’s issues with a focus on access to safe water and nutrition. Celebrities including UNICEF’s National Ambassador have also been re-tweeting key messages.

Through this platform, UNICEF also provided live coverage of Egypt’s celebration of the first International Girl Child Day. There was direct interaction with the audience on opportunities and challenges facing girls in the country. UNICEF’s social media reporting was also picked up by media outlets.

**On-track**

**IR 4500/A0/03/117/007:** Main messages on survival and protection of children are developed, packaged, and disseminated to stakeholders including mothers, adolescents and children

**Progress:**

‘Health Information for Every Egyptian Family’ educational flip charts on family protection and healthy lifestyles were developed, printed, and distributed. The materials supported 6,000 CHWs (Radiat Refiat) to deliver lifesaving information to the most deprived families in rural Egypt.
Publishing the Egyptian version of the ‘Facts for Life’ is yet another channel to promote messages on hygiene, nutrition, and health care to Egyptian people. The Experts’ Committee technically reviewed the draft document which is expected to be endorsed by March 2013.

The Facts for Life messages on hygiene, nutrition, and antiviolence have also been integrated in a child friendly edutainment package. The messages were delivered by trained personnel through games, stories, and songs to an estimated 27,000 children (aged 4-6) attending 444 kindergarten classrooms in Alexandria and Sohag governorates. A post-assessment of the intervention implemented during 2011-2012 was completed, and lessons learnt and recommendations were shared with MISA to endorse the expansion plans.

Fine-tuning of the social marketing campaign and action plan to increase of consumption of iodized salt in high risk governorates in Egypt is under way. Phase 1 will begin in three governorates in the first quarter of 2013.

A pre-intervention assessment of community resources and social determinants influencing violence against children was completed. Results and recommendations from the research will be used to guide and support the C4D interventions for combating violence against children in Egypt in 2013-2014.

As part of the UNICEF Social Media Strategy, a Web-based portal will be launched in January 2013 in partnership with Masrawy, a private sector partner. The portal will promote children’s issues among the public, especially young people.

**Progress:**

The main activity for this result, that is the University Movie Festival, was postponed to 2013 due to the ongoing political situation in Egypt.

**Progress:**

Two new philanthropic partnerships with the private sector were agreed, one with the Coca Cola Africa Foundation to provide 1,000 household water connections in Assiut, and the other with Etisalat Egypt to provide 1,000 household water connections in Qena. The lack of water connections and its negative effect on health was communicated via press coverage for the Coca Cola Africa Foundation, and a launch event for Etisalat, followed by a press release that was disseminated widely in the print media. Discussions have taken place with those partners for multiyear partnerships around access to water for deprived families.

A new in-kind partnership with IBM was developed to support the Early Childhood Education programme by providing 78 KidSmart Computer Units to UNICEF supported community KGs in the most disadvantaged areas in Assiut Governorate. UNICEF provided training for the teachers to use KidSmart.

UNICEF’s partnership with Masrawy was revived around an on-line portal targeting young people and informing them of child rights issues in an interactive way. This portal, *safha fel sharei*, will also be a platform for complementary off-line activities and on the ground engagement linking on-line debate and off-line volunteerism.

Nahdet Misr (Walt Disney’s license holder) remains a partner to support UNICEF’s advocacy efforts. The company supported Global Hand Washing Day by printing information on hand washing in their different publications, reaching almost 300,000 readers from different age groups.
The Starwood-UNICEF partnership continued. The Check Out for Children Funds and the Road to Awareness initiatives generated funds to support 300 KGs with education materials and computers to help children develop their cognitive, motor, and psychosocial skills and their readiness for school.

Funds received from in-kind partnerships was US$217,000 and from philanthropic sources was US$633,548.
Effective Governance Structure

The Annual Management Plan (AMP) was prepared and submitted to the UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office (MENARO) in a quality and timely manner, after review and finalization by the CMT. Timely, participatory, and quality development of the section and office-wide AMP ensured that the objectives and priorities were well defined and understood by all staff.

The AMP included the key objectives for 2012. It also included the Egypt Country Office’s (ECO) statutory committees list which was updated in line with UNICEF rules and regulations to ensure adequate governance structures and oversight, monitoring, and reporting mechanisms are in place to achieve the planned results. The composition and Terms of Reference (TOR) for the governance committees were reviewed by the CMT prior to approval by the Representative. The roles assigned to staff members to perform their delegated responsibilities were mapped in VISION as per the UNICEF rules and regulations and ensured proper segregation of duties.

The nine recommendations from the external audit conducted in November 2011 were all closed (seven closed in December 2011, one in March 2012, and one in June 2012). The internal audit planned for 2012 was rescheduled for 2013. Nevertheless, the CMT continued to monitor the status of implementing the recommendations from the Self-assessment Risk Control exercise and the previous internal and external audits to ensure the office maintains good standing with the audit recommendations and observations.

The CMT led ECO’s response to the results of the global staff survey and worked closely with the staff association. Three key work processes that needed to be revised for improved efficiency and effectiveness were identified. The CMT also recommended conducting a local staff survey to further clarify some of the global staff survey findings and help develop an action plan to address staff concerns.

The ECO staff retreat/team building exercise was developed and planned in close collaboration with the Staff Association and took place in September 2012.

ECO committees conducted oversight activities in line with the established TORs and maintained, to the extent possible, the frequency of meetings. CRC met regularly, usually every Wednesday (30 meetings held in 2012 and 58 cases reviewed). The PSB met four times, HRDC three times, CMT nine times, JCC four times, ICT Governance Committee three times, Publications Review Committee twice, and the Programme Group meeting was held on monthly basis.

The CMT regularly reviewed ECO’s management indicators for programmes and operations. Close monitoring of those indicators was key to strengthening the linkages between programme and operations, and ensuring the office maintains a high standard of performance, particularly against the management indicators. The CMT had a key role in developing and finalizing the office’s response to the global staff survey, finalizing the AMP, revising DAT/Table of Authorities (Role Mapping), and preparing the CPD and UNDAF. The CMT also monitored VISION implementation and took necessary action, were needed, to ensure staff benefited from the ongoing VISION training opportunities. These activities were important for the successful and smooth implementation of VISION.

Strategic Risk Management

ECO reviewed a carefully selected set of indicators at the monthly CMT and Programme Group Meetings to assess the risks associated with programme implementation (both internal and external). Risks and mitigation procedures were also discussed at the weekly section heads meeting, and whenever required. Risk assessment was one of the main considerations in reviewing the work processes. The office analyzed and identified areas of risk, and proposed risk mitigation actions to ensure risks were properly managed and efficiency and effectiveness gains were achieved. Management’s risk tolerance was reflected in the VISION role mapping and delegation of authority to various office staff.
The results of the Self-assessment Risk Control exercise conducted in 2011 were continuously monitored and updated for increased effectiveness and efficiency gains. The risk library was updated in 2012 in line with the current internal and external risks assessments. The revised risk library was one of the main inputs for updating the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) in October 2012.

The security situation in Egypt continued to be fluid in 2012. There were many occasions during the year when mass demonstrations had implications on staff mobility, and required implementing alternative working modalities following a risk assessment by senior management or on a case-by-case basis. The BCP was tested several times as staff had to work and deliver from home, with access to office and information technology (IT) resources as intended in the BCP.

All staff were issued with laptops. Staff on the critical staff list and Wardens were issued with office mobile phones. USB modems were issued to critical staff, and Thuraya satellite phones with docking stations were issued to senior management. Thuraya satellite phones were also available for field travel to locations with no proper mobile network coverage. The office used the Send Word Now (SWN) application to quickly and reliably send security alert messages at no additional cost. SWN messages can be sent out by the Representative or the security focal point (Chief of Operations) from their computer or mobile phone (e.g., Blackberry).

Evaluation

ECO has a comprehensive IMEP based on UNICEF global standards, which was updated on a quarterly basis with a complete analysis, and shared with PMG and CMT on periodic basis. IMEP was also shared with key partners as well as the evaluation and research network in Egypt. All studies and evaluations comply with UNEG and UNICEF standards and criteria disseminated by the RO and HQ. TORs for all evaluations and key studies were shared with RO for revision and clearance, and evaluators were selected against an impartial and objective bidding process. Orientation and follow up with selected consultants took place with both the concerned specialized programme as well as the M&E programme. Two in-house capacity building sessions were conducted for the Programme Management Team to refresh their knowledge on M&E plans and standards, and on results-based reporting. All research and evaluations were conducted in collaboration with national partners through which authorization for data collection was issued.

Within the framework of preparing the new Country Programme, a Country Programme Evaluation (CPE) in accordance with UNICEF and UNEG Evaluation Policy was decided for three programmes (YCSD, Child Protection, HIV/AIDS) and one sub-programme component (School Improvement and Inclusion). In addition, the following six studies and surveys were initiated in 2012:

- Multidimensional Child Poverty in Egypt’s Slums and Unplanned Areas
- Mapping of Child Protection Systems and Services
- Rapid Assessment of Health and Nutrition Situation in Selected Urban Areas in Cairo Governorate
- Mapping of Child and Youth Participation in Egypt
- Study on HIV/AIDS Stigma Index
- Post-assessment and Lessons Learnt from the NCW-UNICEF Initiative

Officially accredited by the Supreme Council of Higher Education, a professional Diploma on Research and Evaluation was institutionalized in the universities of Assiut and Helwan, with 49 students graduated in 2012 and 62 enrolled for academic year 2013. Thirty-three government officials and civil society partners enhanced their knowledge on the ‘Scientific Approach to Evaluation and Data Collection Techniques’ through an intensive 12-day workshop.

EREN, supported by UNICEF, was officially registered as the first evaluation association in Egypt with 7 board members and 170 members. EREN established the first research and evaluation Web site in Egypt; although,
it still being populated with information and expected to be launched by March 2013. Seven members of EREN participated in global and regional evaluation meetings in Thailand, Turkey, and Lebanon. Endeavoring to enhance the culture of evaluation and promote evidence-based policies with national partners, ECO in collaboration with EREN had two key books translated from English to Arabic: “From Policies to Results” (produced by UNICEF HQ) and “Most Significant Change”. As well, ECO added to evaluation tools and standards.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

Connectivity for data/voice/video traffic continued to be acquired through leased lines from a local Internet service provider (ISP), which provided ECO with credible and reliable service at competitive costs. A wireless network is also available in the office and is placed completely outside the office local area network (LAN). A bidding process was conducted in 2012 to provide internet connectivity services.

The hardware upgrade plan was prepared and implemented in a timely manner to ensure that the office equipment is in line with the life cycle recommended by the ITSSD guidelines.

As part of the BCP preparedness activity, ECO was also equipped with iDirect, BGAN, and Thuraya phones. Remote connectivity was made available to all staff via a virtual private network (VPN).

The ICT Disaster Recovery Plan (ICT-DRP) is part of the BCP and was prepared following the standard template and guidelines. Emergency scenarios were well defined with mitigation measures for each work process. The ICT-DRP was updated and maintained throughout the year.

All new ITSSD guidelines and roll outs were implemented in a timely manner.

All servers were migrated to virtual machines as the new standard.

The VEEAM application was implemented as the new standard software for backup.

Obsolete laptops were disposed in line with the PSB guidelines, and replaced with new ones. As per the PSB recommendation, equipment that was obsolete, but in working condition, was donated to implementing partners. ICT support was provided, when needed, to put the equipment into operation.

ICT was engaged in ICT for development activities during 2012. A mission was conducted to assess the need for Microsoft Office training for government counterpart staff at all levels (including FHU, District, and Directorate), understand their IT infrastructure, and prepare a TOR for the training.

MS Office 2010 training sessions were delivered in 2012 to interested staff by the ICT Officer.

The ICT Assistant attended training on ICT Emergency Preparedness and Response in Cairo hosted by WFP. The ICT Assistant also attended an extensive training in Uganda on advanced emergency telecommunications.

The ICT Governance Committee continued its activities to ensure that management of the ICT function conforms to the UNICEF ICT strategy, and that ICT policies, procedures, standards, and guidelines are adhered to.

UNICEF is an active member of the UN Interagency ICT Working Group. In 2012, the Operations Management Team (OMT) assigned the Working Group the task to prepare the TOR to develop an on-line consultant roster database, evaluate the technical proposals, and present recommendations.
Fundraising and Donor Relations

The Fund Mobilization Strategy (covering the extension of the Country Programme) was finalized and approved by the CMT. All donor reports were sent on time. The office was successful in mobilizing other resources (OR) funds by signing a new agreement with a major donor for US$5.4 million to be disbursed in two installments, and generating US$6.96 million (programmable) against a target of US$7 million for the year. Two PBAs were requested for extension. At the end of the year, Egypt became part of the regional emergency appeal for Syria, although no funds have been received to date.

Management of Financial and Other Assets

The External Audit conducted in November 2011 concluded with nine recommendations. Seven were closed by December 2011 with the remaining two closed in March and June 2012. The status of the previous audit recommendations, risk-control self-assessment, and the OIA report on global audit recommendations were regularly reviewed to ensure ongoing implementation and compliance. Budget management, cash forecasts, and donor report submissions were part of the indicators reviewed by both the monthly Programme Management Group and CMT.

UNICEF’s financial policies were revised in 2012 for compliance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). UNICEF ensured that the newly revised policies were introduced to all staff, and the accurate and proper interpretation was provided if and when needed.

With the implementation of VISION many changes had to be introduced to the way UNICEF conducts business. These included changes to the procedure for preparing and submitting bank reconciliations, and monitoring to ensure transactions are posted to the correct accounts. ECO invested a lot of effort to ensure that the bank reconciliation was accurately and timely submitted in VISION, and the intermediate GL accounts were regularly reviewed, reconciled, and action taken to clear them in a timely manner. There were no pending transactions in GL 1310190, 2001110, and 2000110 at year-end, except for those initiated by HQ and pending their corrective/clearing action.

ECO continued to consistently use the bank optimization Web page for reporting on month-end balances, replenishment requests, and cash forecasts, which has been closely monitored at the monthly PG and CMT meetings. This effort helped to maintain the high quality accuracy of the cash forecasts and the month-end bank balances which remained within the benchmark throughout the year.

The DAT/TOA was revised during the second quarter of the year, and maintained throughout to account for minor staffing changes. The role mapping exercise was carried out after careful review of the relevant guidelines and the roles assigned to each position. VISION was smoothly implemented, and there were no Segregation of Duties (SOD) conflicts from the first run of the SOD conflict report.

The outstanding Direct Cash Transfer (DCT) balance over nine months was maintained below an acceptable level, and as of December 31, 2012 there were no DCTs over nine months.

The measures taken to implement VISION and introduce UNICEF’s revised financial policies ensured that there was no interruption, and actually smooth implementation, of the VISION and IPSAS systems in 2012. This has significantly increased the effectiveness and efficiency in the response time and quality to programme needs, allowed better management and allocation of resources, and reduced the number and cost of transactions.

Supply Management

Supply procurement in 2012 totaled US$1.92 million, of which US$1.33 million was procurement for MOHP. The remaining US$593,000 was for the supply component of the Country Programme, including US$247,109.72 for HIV medications and test kits for the National Aids Programme.
Offshore procurement represented 41% of the supply components in terms of value.

Procurement services for MOHP were primarily for the procurement of vitamin A for the national programme. The government has also requested support for the procurement of DPT and Pentavalent vaccines which will take place in 2013.

ECO finalized and submitted the supply plan in a timely manner. 86% of the planned items were processed and procurement action was taken. 9.5% of the planned items were not requested due to changes in the government’s demands. 4.5% of the planned items were not requested by the concerned programme section.

All supply requisitions issued but not included in the supply plan were authorized and procurement action was taken within two weeks of authorizing the supply requisitions.

The Supply Unit continued working with implementing partners for capacity assessment and capacity building, by conducting two procurement capacity assessments for partner NGOs.

Thirty CRC meetings were held in 2012 and 58 cases were discussed. Minutes were finalized and shared with concerned colleagues in a timely manner. The concerned sections followed up on the implementation of the CRC recommendations to provide quality assurance for the contracting process.

**Human Resources**

Of the 2011 PAS, 94% were completed by the deadline in April 2012. As well, 94% of the key performance and development objectives for 2012 Phase I PAS were completed by the end of April 2012. The completion rate for international staff was 100% for both the 2011 PAS and 2012 PAS Phase I. Mid-year performance related discussions were conducted for all staff in September 2012 (100% completion).

ECO handled recruitment cases for five positions in 2012: GS-5 PA Education, GS-6 PA YCSD, GS-7 Senior Budget Assistant, NOB WASH Officer, and P2 Adolescence Development officer (JPO). In addition to this, ECO also managed two TA recruitments during the year for Programme Assistant positions. ECO hosted two colleagues from other Country Offices in the region on stretch assignments.

ECO maintained a rolling Learning and Development Plan. The HRD Committee met three times in 2012 and systematically reviewed staff member development objectives, taking into account the office, regional, and global learning priorities.

Group learning activities were implemented during the year, including defensive driving skills for drivers, and VISION training. A staff retreat was conducted with the theme of team building. All staff completed the mandatory Basic Security in the Field II (BSITF II). Training on the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT), including developing assurance activities and conducting spot checks was held to ensure staff have the required skills to carry out their revised assigned functions. Training on Microsoft Office 2010 was also provided to interested staff members.

ECO also conducted training for all staff on the following topics:

- Performance discussion and management (i.e., interaction between supervisor and supervisee, etc.)
- Sexual harassment and abuse of authority (i.e., mechanisms for reporting, role of Staff Association, Peer Support Volunteers, management, etc.)
- Briefing on division of labor and responsibilities between the Staff Association and Peer Support Volunteers
- Main HR policies affecting staff and learning and development opportunities (training was facilitated by the Regional Chief of Human Resources)

The warden and alert systems were efficiently utilized to make sure that staff concerns and needs were
assessed, and that information was shared in a timely manner.

ECO is committed to the UN Cares and implemented the ten minimum standards on HIV in the workplace. The office also maintains a stock of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) kits with the Human Resources Unit for emergency use.

As ECO also supported the Peer Support Volunteers system, two new members were elected in 2012 and will receive the training at the next available opportunity.

A flexible workplace arrangement policy is being implemented. Seasonal flu vaccines were provided to interested staff members and their recognized dependents.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

ECO continued to implement the Greener Office Initiative to reduce electrical costs. Floor wardens were tasked to switch off lights and air conditioning as needed, and energy saving equipment was used for lighting. The use of Webex sessions reduced the travel costs to attend training workshops. ECO issued bidding for the provision on internet services, which resulted in an estimated savings of 40% from the existing cost.

ECO maximized the use of available resources to cut on costs. For example, Microsoft Windows 2010 training was conducted by the ICT Officer and used the office and implementing partner’s premises for training workshops. Office internet access hotspots were deployed to meeting locations outside the office to avoid excessive internet connectivity costs. ECO made 75% of the office telephone calls using the VOIP system.

The long-term agreements signed between ECO and service providers for printing, design, translation, English editing, Arabic editing, and still photography have significantly reduced the transaction costs, and resulted in improved efficiency and effectiveness.

Many of the activities for HACT implementation have been completed, including the draft Assurance Plans for all Implementing Partners, and training for ECO staff on conducting spot checks. The four Excom agencies are expected to coordinate the HACT rollout and implementation at the start of the new Country Programme cycle in July 2013.

OMT, which was chaired by UNICEF in 2012, led an exercise to identify an offshore insurance company to provide comprehensive vehicle insurance in case of accident and theft at very competitive rates—almost 25% of the cost of the local comprehensive insurance. OMT also identified a service provider to install GPS tracking system on office vehicles, which is particularly useful in case of vehicle theft. Many UN agencies in Egypt, including UNICEF, benefited from these options to provide additional security for official vehicles from the risks of theft, and mitigate the risk of paying excessive amounts of customs and taxes in case of vehicle theft.

Changes in AMP & CPMP

The Annual Management Plan (AMP) for 2013 will include the following adjustments:


(2) Closure of the current Country Programme in mid-2013, and the commencement of the new Country Programme on July 1, 2013.

(3) Preparation for the 2013 Internal Audit which was postponed from 2012.
### Summary Notes and Acronyms

- **AMP** – Annual Management Plan
- **BCP** – Business Continuity Plan
- **BFHI** – Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative
- **BSS** – behavioral surveillance survey
- **C4D** – communication for development
- **CAPMAS** – Central Agency for Public Mobilization & Statistics
- **CBE** – community-based education
- **CHW** – community health worker
- **CMT** – Country Management Team
- **CPC** – Child Protection Committee
- **CPD** – Country Programme Document
- **CPCM** – Child Protection Mechanism
- **CRC** – Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **DCT** – Direct Cash Transfer
- **DHS** – Demographic and Health Survey
- **ECCR** – Egyptian Coalition for Child Rights
- **ECO** – Egypt Country Office
- **EPI** – Expanded Programme of Immunization
- **ENCRO** – Egyptian National Child Rights Observatory
- **EREN** – Egyptian Research and Evaluation Network
- **FHU** – Family Health Unit
- **FGM/C** – female genital mutilation/cutting
- **GDP** – gross domestic product
- **GOE** – Government of Egypt
- **HACT** – Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
- **HQ** – headquarters
- **ICT** – information and communication technology
- **ICT-DRP** – Information and Communication Technology Disaster Recovery Plan
- **IDSC** – Information and Decision Support Centre
- **IEC** – information, education, and communication
- **IMEP** – Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
- **IMNCI** – Integrated Management of Neonatal Childhood Illnesses
- **IPSAS** – International Public Sector Accounting Standards
- **ISDF** – Informal Settlement Development Facility
- **IT** – information technology
- **IYCF** – infant and young child feeding
- **KG** – kindergarten
- **MDG** – Millennium Development Goal
- **M&E** – monitoring and evaluation
- **MENARO** – Middle East and North Africa Regional Office
- **MICS** – Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
- **MISA** – Ministry of Insurance Social Affairs
- **MNCH** – maternal, neonatal, and child health
- **MOE** – Ministry of Education
- **MOHP** – Ministry of Health and Population
- **MORES** – Monitoring of Results for Equity System
- **MOU** – Memorandum of Understanding
- **NCCM** – National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
- **NCHR** – National Council for Human Rights
- **NCW** – National Council for Women
- **NGO** – nongovernmental organization
- **NPC** – National Population Council
- **NSS** – Nutrition Surveillance System
- **OMT** – Operations Management Team
OR – other resources
PCPE – Perinatal Care Programme of Excellence
PLHIV – people living with HIV
PMTCT – prevention of mother-to-child transmission
PNMSS – Perinatal and Neonatal Mortality Surveillance System
RO – Regional Office
RRP – Regional Response Plan
SOD – Segregation of Duties
SRA – Strategic Result Area
SWN – Send Word Now
SYPE – Survey of Young People in Egypt
TOR – Terms of Reference
TOT – training of trainers
UNDAF – United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNEG – United Nations Evaluation Group
UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
USAID – United States Agency for International Development
VISION - Virtual Integrated System of Information
WASH – water, sanitation, and hygiene
WHO – World Health Organization

Document Centre

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