

Ethiopia

Part 1: Situation update in the country

Country context

The resignation of the former Ethiopian Prime Minister in February 2018, after widespread protests and unrest, ushered in the most significant reordering of political power in the country since 1991. The current Prime Minister, elected in April by the ruling four-party coalition Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, instituted reforms that have steered the country on a path to become a multi-party liberal democracy. Most notably, at the Eritrea-Ethiopia Peace Summit in July 2018, the President and Prime Minister signed a joint declaration to end the border conflict, restore diplomatic relations, and open the border after nearly 20 years of hostilities.

As part of the Prime Minister's efforts to strengthen political freedom and human rights, tens of thousands of political prisoners were released after the Parliament passed a law in July that granted amnesty to individuals and groups either under investigation or convicted of treason, crimes against the constitutional order and armed struggle. The Parliament also approved the recommendation to take three political opposition groups off the country's list of terrorist organizations: Oromo Liberation Front, Ogaden National Liberation Front and Ginbot 7. All three groups have since committed to a peaceful political process. The new Government took measures to strengthen the role of the civil society through amending the restrictive Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Law. The draft proposed removal of restrictions prohibiting certain types of CSOs from engaging in human rights advocacy and governance activities, with the amendments pending approval.

After the change to the country's top military leadership for the first time in 17 years, the Prime Minister also proposed significant changes in the government leadership. In October, the Parliament unanimously approved the appointment of proposed cabinet members. In addition, 20 new ministers and 55 new state ministers were appointed. For the first time, women make up 50 per cent of the cabinet, including the key position of Ministry of Defence. The Parliament also approved the country's first female President, who highlighted that gender equality will be a priority in her role as Head of State. Then in November, the Parliament swore in the country's first female Supreme Court President, a prominent rights campaigner who previously served as an advisor on women's rights at the United Nations (UN) Economic Commission for Africa.

The cabinet reshuffle reflected an ongoing reform of the country's security and intelligence sector. Most notably, the reforms included the creation of the Ministry of Peace, which will preside over critical commissions that previously reported directly to the Prime Minister, including the Federal Police Commission, the National Intelligence and Security Service (the Agency for Refugees and Returnee Affairs-ARRA is under this structure), the Information Network Security Agency and the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC). Political changes also took place at regional levels, with changes to top regional leadership throughout the year, including SNNP region (June), Somali region (August), Gambella region (October) and Afar region (December).

Ethiopia faces various demographic pressures, with an annual population growth rate of 2.6 per cent. The population increased from 84.8 million in 2012/13 to 94.4 million in 2017. With over 52.9 per cent of the population aged below 18 years, significant investments in the social sectors are required.

Despite this challenge, Ethiopia recorded its highest gross domestic product (GDP) per capita at US\$863 in 2016/17, more than twice the figure in 2010/11. In 2018, the Government put forth critical economic liberalization measures, including partial privatization of certain state-owned enterprises in non-financial sectors. In November, the World Bank approved US\$1.2 billion (US\$600 million grant and US\$600 million loan) in support of the Government's policies designed to accelerate economic growth and achieve its vision of becoming a lower-middle-income country by 2025, as well as revitalize the economy by expanding the role of the private sector. This included plans to gradually open the economy, introduce competition, and liberalize sectors dominated by state-owned enterprises.

Humanitarian situation

While 2018 was marked by unprecedented reforms and expansion of rights in Ethiopia, the social and political transformation also resulted in increased unrest and conflict across the country, triggering human rights violations. Issues related to ethnicity, identity and self-determination manifested in various parts of the country, linked with existing grievances over resources, land rights and power dynamics. Severe ethnic conflict broke out in July and August in the border zones of Oromia and SNNP regions, leading to large scale internal displacement of nearly one million people. This brought the total number of internally displaced people (IDPs) to 2.8 million in 2018, of whom about 1.4 million were newly displaced. Along international borders, some Ethiopians displaced by the conflict in Oromia region crossed into Kenya, and a large influx of Eritrean refugees entered Ethiopia following the reopening of the border crossing points between the two countries. In 2018, the number of registered refugees and asylum seekers reached 919,938.

Ethiopia remained vulnerable to the effects of climate change in 2018 and continued to experience droughts and floods. Despite improvements in rains and harvests in the first half of the year, 7.95 million people required food assistance and 307,604 children were diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition by November. In addition, 536,321 people (86,529 households) were displaced due to climate-induced causes across the country.

Ethiopia also experienced repeated disease outbreaks, such as acute watery diarrhoea, measles and scabies. Compounded by conflict- and climate-induced displacement, the outbreaks highlighted structural weaknesses in the health and sanitation systems. Despite improvements in the drought situation in parts of the country, after its mid-year review the national humanitarian appeal was over US\$1.4 billion, equivalent to more than 10 per cent of the Government's annual budget. The impact of the emergencies was especially apparent for children, particularly migrant children, displaced children, and those on the move, who were at heightened risks of exposure to exploitation and abuse due to lack of access to education and precarious living conditions.

Prompted by global efforts and commitments to address structural causes of crises following the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, the context in Ethiopia was increasingly defined by development programming and financing with a view to reduce humanitarian needs, risks and vulnerabilities. In 2018, the country's national planning document for the annual humanitarian

response, the Humanitarian Requirements Document, was replaced by the Humanitarian and Disaster Resilience Plan (HDRP). This represented a step towards a multi-year planning framework which links humanitarian response with longer-term prevention, recovery and systems strengthening. UNICEF Ethiopia contributed to the HDRP and its mid-year revision and supported the development of eight regional Emergency Preparedness Response Plans and the National Flood Contingency Plan. UNICEF Ethiopia's strong field presence allowed for intimate knowledge and response that considered regional diversity. The increasing humanitarian needs warrants a shift in humanitarian programming with a stronger focus on conflict preventive and sensitive approaches, prioritizing advocacy and capacity building efforts.

UNICEF Ethiopia provided dedicated technical support through the Emergency Unit, emergency sector focal points and cluster coordinators to lead, coordinate and respond to humanitarian needs across the country, reaching 5.5 million people with life-saving interventions. UNICEF Ethiopia's leadership and successful advocacy with NDRMC to integrate gender-based violence mitigation through clusters was a significant achievement. As data on disability is limited in Ethiopia, under UNICEF's building self-reliance programme, a quantitative and qualitative baseline was conducted in 2018 to assess the needs of people with disabilities in five refugee hosting regions. UNICEF Ethiopia complied with the requirements of the Emergency Preparedness Platform in accordance with the organisation's guidance.

Opportunities and risks for children

Ethiopia has been on an upward trajectory in its growth and development, achieving most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and significantly improving the lives of children and women. In propelling the country towards middle-income status, the Government and its development partners need to prioritize achieving the unmet MDGs and the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that address shortfalls related to health, nutrition, WASH, education, and child protection, and further reduce regional differences, urban/rural divides, wealth disparities, and gender inequities.

Overall, Ethiopia's approximately 50 million children remained at a high risk of living in poverty and having limited access to essential services in 2018. Despite Ethiopia's gains in poverty reduction, approximately 13 million Ethiopian children live in poor households. In addition, 38.4 per cent of Ethiopian children were stunted, only 39 per cent of children aged 12-23 months received all basic vaccination, and 67 in every 1,000 children die before their fifth birthday.

More than half of the preschool-age children did not have access to pre-primary education to build a solid foundation for their school success. While attendance of primary education has improved, the transition from primary to secondary education remained a bottleneck, with rural students predisposed to dropping out of school and facing barriers in formal employment. Girls were at a disadvantage, with only 25 per cent of secondary school-aged girls attending secondary school. Ninety per cent of children aged under-five years did not have access to improved sanitation, with coverage far below the national average in some regions. The different dynamics in urban and rural settings and between regions necessitate strategies tailored to these contexts.

Socio-cultural beliefs and norms remained major drivers of gender inequality, and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and cutting and child marriage are still common. Four in 10 young women in Ethiopia were married or in union before their 18th birthday, with incidence of child marriage significantly higher in Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz and Somali

regions, at more than 50 per cent. Nationally, 65 per cent of girls and women aged 15-49 years have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, with the highest prevalence in Somali (99 per cent) and Afar (91 per cent) regions.

Children continued to be disproportionately affected by emergencies, including 2.6 million children and adolescents in need of emergency school feeding programmes and learning materials assistance. The increase in conflict and displacement in 2018 presented significant risks to many children. Out of the 2.8 million people displaced, approximately 1.48 million were children, of whom around one-half were girls. Children faced critical challenges, including separation from families and caregivers, risk of disease outbreak, malnutrition, gender-based violence, and limited access to education.

The ongoing political, economic and social changes presented both opportunities and risks for children and for advancing UNICEF's child rights agenda in Ethiopia. The political reforms provided opportunities for UNICEF to advance its work on public finance for children, including the incremental use of domestic resources to support social sector services, budget transparency, and social accountability. Findings from a UNICEF-supported 2018 study revealed that leveraging sectoral synergies at decentralized levels can enhance the achievement of child focused SDGs by investing per annum 22.8 per cent of GDP or US\$230 per capita. Further advocacy is needed to convince the Government to increase its domestic development resources and use SDG-related indicators to guide allocation of financial resources. UNICEF Ethiopia strategically pursued opportunities created by leadership changes in regional governments, especially in Somali and Oromia regions, to strengthen capacity for child-sensitive and equity-focused budgeting. The upcoming election in 2020 may limit UNICEF's opportunities to engage on child rights and advocacy issues due to decision-makers' potential reluctance to accelerate change in a time of transition. UNICEF will continue to closely monitor the political situation in 2019.

UNICEF Ethiopia also engaged the Government on fiscal reforms, with the aim to expand the tax base and increase resources available for domestic development financing. A 2018 study supported by the Ministry of Finance and UNICEF Ethiopia suggested that with the declining opportunities to rely on foreign assistance, the Government should mobilize more resources for public expenditure by developing the domestic debt market, unlocking private sector investment for capital projects, drawing more effectively on the domestic tax base, and engaging with the wider population in an open and transparent manner. The ongoing economic reforms and the Government's commitment to transparency could mobilize significant resources by attracting official development assistance, foreign direct investment, and contributions from the country's diaspora. Moreover, Ethiopia's structural transformation and reforms could provide increased skills development and employment opportunities for young people.

The political changes also resulted in a significant reshuffle of UNICEF Ethiopia's government partners at federal, regional and woreda level, and impacted programme implementation in some areas. The ongoing change of decision makers at all levels could limit UNICEF's opportunities to promote and protect children's rights.

While it was still early for opportunities to materialize, the anticipated increasing role of the private sector could provide new partnerships and funding opportunities for UNICEF. Beginning in 2017, along with UN partners, UNICEF has been engaging with the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce on issues related to child rights and business principles and seeks to – in a

convening capacity – expand and advance young people’s skills development.

The opening up of the political sphere, including increased involvement from CSOs, could allow the Government to strengthen the focus on the rights and well-being of children and young people in the next Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP III). The current framework does not include indicators on child marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting, despite Ethiopia’s commitment to ending both harmful practices by 2025. In addition, the GTP III could better tackle poverty by acknowledging the multidimensional nature of poverty that children are experiencing in the country and improving cross-cutting coordination among sectors for the provisions of basic services. According to a recent study undertaken by the Central Statistics Agency (CSA) and UNICEF, 88 per cent of Ethiopian children are multidimensionally deprived regarding access to basic services and at risk of not developing to their full potential. This has a negative impact on human capital and the Government’s effort to become a lower-middle-income country. The evidence generated on the positive impact of multidimensional child poverty alleviation on economic development will be shared in UNICEF’s ongoing policy advocacy.

The Prime Minister’s commitment to women’s empowerment provided critical advocacy opportunities for UNICEF Ethiopia. Throughout 2018, UNICEF engaged with the Prime Minister, the President, the First Lady, as well as ministers and new regional presidents to advocate for increased efforts for girls’ empowerment, with a focus on ending harmful practices and expanding quality secondary education. Changes in the human rights environment may also provide opportunities to advance critical child rights issues, such as revising the Family Law in regions where the minimum age for marriage is not yet stipulated at 18 years, and protection of internally displaced persons from violence and denial of health, nutrition, and education rights.

Lastly, the increasing frequency and complexity of emergencies in Ethiopia presented challenges for the implementation of regular and humanitarian development programmes. This requires UNICEF Ethiopia to strengthen its capacity to analyse conflict dynamics and carefully adjust programmes and advocacy approaches in line with evolving humanitarian situations to ensure conflict dynamics are not exacerbated, humanitarian principles are upheld, and peace-building interventions are considered. While adapting current programming, UNICEF Ethiopia will begin developing its next country programme, and these adjustments will be considered.

Part 2: Major Results including in humanitarian action and gender, against the results in the Country Programme Documents

Goal area 1: Every child survives and thrives

UNICEF continued to support the Government’s efforts in sustaining and improving the health status of children and women in Ethiopia in 2018, focused on realizing targets set out in the SDGs, including SDG 2.2 (end malnutrition) and SDG 3.2 (end preventable deaths of newborns and children under five). UNICEF’s efforts followed the priorities set out in the Ethiopia Health Sector Transformation Plan (HSTP) and the Growth and Transformation Plan II. Employing different change strategies, including in its role as co-chair of the health donor partners, UNICEF Ethiopia supported major reforms to health systems and led multi-sectoral efforts to achieve government priorities in health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Under the 'programming excellence for at-scale results for children' change strategy of the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021, UNICEF Ethiopia supported the Government's strategy on Equity in Maternal Child Health, prioritizing systems strengthening for hard-to-reach areas. With support from UNICEF Ethiopia, regional health bureaus and international NGOs, 49 mobile health and nutrition teams were deployed in Afar and Somali regions. They reached 391,844 people, mostly women and children, with medical consultations during 2018, including life-saving treatment for severe acute and moderate acute malnutrition. Due to UNICEF Ethiopia's continued advocacy and support, 94 per cent of health facilities provided treatment for severe acute malnutrition, a 4 per cent increase from 2017. From January to November, 307,604 children were admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition, 83 per cent of the annual target, with a cure rate of 90.5 per cent, a death rate of 0.2 per cent, and the defaulter rate of 1.4 per cent. A UNICEF-supported feasibility analysis was conducted to integrate commodities for the treatment of acute malnutrition into the portfolio of the Ethiopia Pharmaceutical Supply Agency..

In terms of strengthening policy and cross-sectoral integration, the establishment of the Food and Nutrition Council and the development of the SDG Zero Poverty and Hunger Strategy contributed to a favourable policy environment for nutrition. The Food and Nutrition Policy that prioritized stunting reduction was finalized in 2018 with technical support from UNICEF Ethiopia and called for joint efforts from various sectors to address the adequacy, safety and quality of food access. As a result of continued policy dialogue, the Ministries of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries, Trade, and Industry considered the inclusion of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions into their annual workplans.

UNICEF Ethiopia also worked with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to integrate health and nutrition interventions within the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), with urban and rural settings now mandating nutrition interventions for beneficiaries, including vitamin A supplementation, deworming, and malnutrition screening. As a leading partner in the optimization and expansion of Ethiopia's Health Extension Programme which aims to improve equity and strengthen the primary healthcare delivery system, UNICEF Ethiopia supported the production of more than three million mother and child health cards to link birth notification and registration with the immunization programme. UNICEF also supported the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) to develop the Roadmap for Ethiopian Children, with a focus on promoting early childhood development (ECD). In 2018, the ECD Technical Working Group included early stimulation into the Integrated Refresher Training for health workers. Additionally, the FMOH organized the first National Sensitization Workshop on Early Childhood Development, generating momentum for cross-sectoral coordination on ECD.

To foster integration and ensure efficiency, UNICEF Ethiopia continued to procure vaccines to Ethiopia and provide technical assistance to the Ethiopia Pharmaceutical Supply Agency for distribution and delivery through integrated supply chains for nutrition and health commodities. The vaccine cold chain was strengthened through procurement and installation of 6,000 solar refrigerators in selected health posts of more than 600 woredas of eight regions, with 70 per cent installed in new sites to reach unimmunized children. UNICEF Ethiopia and the World Health Organization (WHO) also facilitated an equity and coverage assessment to identify unimmunized children in 14 zones of SNNP, Oromia and Amhara regions, where 80 per cent of the country's unimmunized children reside. A UNICEF-supported bottleneck analysis of health system weaknesses for immunization delivery was conducted to help improve health systems response, especially at the community level. UNICEF Ethiopia also supported the FMOH to finalize the Comprehensive Integrated Nutrition Services implementation guideline in 2018.

This is a reference guide for frontline health workers to implement high-impact nutrition interventions for children, adolescents, and pregnant and lactating women. The signing of the memorandum of understanding between FMoH, NDRMC, UNICEF and World Food Programme (WFP) in April 2018 initiated the integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) programme, with 100 woredas selected and orientations conducted at national and regional levels, a key resilience measure. The revised guidelines with the updated mid-upper arm circumference criteria will lead to early detection and potentially increase the caseload in 2019.

For the 'gender-responsive programming' change strategy, UNICEF Ethiopia achieved key results in 2018. Adolescent girls' health outcome monitoring was enabled through disaggregation and compilation of routine data from the Health Management Information System (HMIS), communication for development (C4D) activities were conducted to address social and gender norms impacting maternal, child and adolescent health, and gender dimensions were highlighted during the Health Extension Programme optimization and expansion discussions. UNICEF, FMoH and partners also developed the adolescent and youth health training package and rolled out training for service providers.

As 741 of the country's 833 woredas are endemic for intestinal worms, UNICEF supported deworming of adolescents, positively impacting on their health and education.

Through UNICEF's convening role, the National Standards for Reusable and Disposable Menstrual Pads in Ethiopia was finalized, and UNICEF Ethiopia continued to work closely with FMoH and the Ministry of Education (MoE) to deliver the menstrual health and hygiene programme. In 2018, 11 new schools received menstrual health and hygiene support, bringing the total number of schools reached to 122. A supply chain review of the menstrual health and hygiene programme was conducted and yielded adjustments to UNICEF's approach, shifting to regional scale-up of reusable menstrual pads. With financial support from GAVI, FMoH introduced the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in Ethiopia in December with the aim to vaccinate over one million adolescent girls in the first year. UNICEF Ethiopia supported FMoH on communication approaches to enable successful uptake of HPV. This included the design and implementation of the National Social Mobilization and Communication Strategy for HPV introduction, and the HPV information, education and communication package.

Under the 'developing and leveraging resources and partnerships for children' change strategy, UNICEF Ethiopia influenced government planning and financing for children and women, and leveraged partnerships to improve service quality. Significant UNICEF technical assistance was provided to the midterm review of the HSTP in 2018. Notably, the UNICEF Ethiopia WASH programme led the planning process that resulted in fully costed and prioritized sanitation plans, which will guide ministries to set targets for sanitation investments at the woreda level and inform the work of the Government and development partners.

Furthermore, all woredas now have EPI micro-plans in place for prioritizing immunization in hotspot areas where there are significant numbers of unimmunized children aged under five years. UNICEF Ethiopia ensured 91 per cent coverage rates for integrated management of newborn and childhood illness services and integrated community case management services. In addition, basic emergency obstetric and newborn care units at 72 per cent of health facilities offered delivery services with functional newborn resuscitation equipment. With joint support from partners such as WHO, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, service quality has been enhanced through the revision of the national implementation

guidelines and trainings for integrated community case management and community-based newborn care. These investments will further reduce neonatal mortality.

In line with the 'fostering innovation in programming and advocacy for children' change strategy, 2018 saw the successful completion of the baby WASH field trials in four woredas of Amhara and Oromia regions, with others ongoing in SNNP, Somali and Afar regions. The project aims to reduce disease exposure of young children in their play and feeding environments and help prevent child stunting. Partnering with BBC Media Action, an innovative communication approach was used to develop radio dramas around baby and infant hygiene and rolled out via listening groups with the local health development armies.

To support the regional roll-out of FMoH's national quality improvement framework, UNICEF Ethiopia supported the first-year implementation of quality healthcare for newborn and women who were pregnant in five selected woredas of Amhara, Oromia, SNNP, Tigray and Benishangul-Gumuz regions across the continuum of care. Significantly, UNICEF Ethiopia supported the establishment of a mothers' referral mechanism in Oromia region to improve pregnancy and delivery outcomes, and the learning is expected to be used as benchmarks for similar initiatives in other regions. In Oromia region, the deployment of third-party monitors was also supported to improve quality of nutrition services for child health.

Relevant to the 'using the power of evidence to drive change for children' change strategy, UNICEF Ethiopia contributed to the data quality assessments of the HMIS and the District Health Information System (DHIS II) and supported the DHIS II scale-up. Four additional nutrition indicators were included in the HMIS and the DHIS II through UNICEF advocacy, increasing the number of nutrition indicators to 10. The Unified Nutrition Information System for Ethiopia was designed to provide data that is nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific, and UNICEF Ethiopia will support piloting in two woredas identified in the Seqota Declaration in 2019. UNICEF Ethiopia also advocated for use of the EQUIST tool to FMoH to enable further analysis of underserved populations and identify equitable strategies to save lives.

The Government is moving to include emergency response interventions in routine health services, and UNICEF Ethiopia and partners have assisted where possible to build on this resilience approach. In 2018, UNICEF Ethiopia piloted the Sustainable Outreach Strategy - a cost-effective resilience model to strengthen routine service delivery - in Somali region, and supported capacity building of woreda governments and primary healthcare units. The successful multi-sectoral response to the acute watery diarrhoea outbreak in collaboration with WHO, which reduced the number of cases tenfold in 2018, is another excellent example of a resilience model. In particular, hygiene promotion was supported in Afar region and in holy water sites where outbreaks have been known to occur.

In response to the outbreak of vaccine-derived Polio Virus Type-2 declared in the Horn of Africa in 2018, UNICEF Ethiopia facilitated the completion of the National Emergency Outbreak Response Plan. UNICEF supported vaccine logistics and management of the two campaigns which both had over 95 per cent coverage, as well as communication and social mobilization.

UNICEF Ethiopia continued to advocate for investment in health systems for host communities and refugee populations, especially vulnerable children, through the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). This advocacy was coupled with interventions such as C4D, provision of emergency drug kits in acute situations, and distribution of long-lasting insecticide treated nets for over 250,000 children. Specifically, in Gedeo (SNNP) and West Guji (Oromia)

zones, a measles vaccination campaign for children aged six months to 15 years was conducted to halt the outbreak and achieved 91 per cent coverage. Newly arrived South Sudanese refugee children aged under 15 years were also screened and vaccinated for polio and measles. The sanitation strategy for internally displaced persons was finalized and is undergoing field trials in Siti zone of Somali region. In 132 sites of Somali, SNNP, and Oromia regions, UNICEF implemented an integrated C4D plan focused on nutrition, which helped reduce severe acute malnutrition admissions, promote institutional deliveries and exclusive breastfeeding, and increase antenatal care visits for women who were pregnant.

Goal area 2: Every child learns

The UNICEF Ethiopia Learning and Development programme contributed to achievements in the national Education Sector Development Plan V (2015-2020), which articulated the strategies by which the country will achieve SDG target 4.1 (all children learning) and 4.2 (early childhood education, ECE).

In 2018, UNICEF achieved notable results under the 'programming for excellence for at-scale results for children' change strategy. As a pre-condition to children's success across primary and secondary education, UNICEF substantively increased its technical and financial support to pre-primary education. MoE requested UNICEF to dedicate resources for early childhood education due to the considerable needs in Ethiopia, the ambitious national pre-primary education targets and UNICEF's global expertise. Through investments across six regions, 69,865 young children (46 per cent girls) directly benefited from UNICEF support, alongside 2,004 early childhood education staff.

UNICEF focused on expansion of accelerated early learning programmes delivered outside of the formal school structure, notably the child to child and the accelerated school readiness programmes. To strengthen young children's school readiness, UNICEF collaborated with the World Bank to adapt the accelerated school readiness curriculum for implementation within the formal pre-primary 'O' class, and the revised 'O' class pre-primary curriculum package was developed for implementation in 42 languages. Adaptation of the accelerated school readiness and child to child programmes was undertaken by UNICEF, Imagine1Day, and Ogaden Welfare Development Association for implementation within IDP sites in three regions and reached 6,822 displaced young children. These interventions are suited to displaced contexts as they do not rely on extensive infrastructure or require qualified pre-primary teachers. Programming for excellence was also evidenced in UNICEF's support to refugee inclusive education in five regions, where 309 refugee teachers commenced certificate or qualification courses in regional Colleges of Teacher Education.

Through construction of 112 temporary primary school classrooms in refugee camps of Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz regions, 17,920 children (34 per cent girls) accessed educational services. Construction was also initiated for 148 primary school classrooms, 41 secondary school classrooms and four host-refugee inclusive secondary schools. Primary schools in refugee camps participated in the national school standard assessment conducted by regional education bureaus to integrate refugee schools into the national education system. An assessment of education quality in refugee schools against 26 indicators informed the development of school improvement plans and the inclusion of refugee education priorities in 10 woreda education plans. These investments increased the consistency and effectiveness of refugee education and regional coordination, thus accelerating Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework implementation.

Under the ‘developing and leveraging resources and partnerships for children’ change strategy, the partnership with multilateral and bilateral donors within the pooled sector General Education Quality Improvement Programme (GEQIP) allowed for national scale-up of several pre-primary and primary education flagship initiatives. Of significance, UNICEF’s pilot assessment for learning initiative was taken to additional woredas and schools through GEQIP and integrated within Colleges of Teacher Education pre-service courses. Through multi-year Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework-related financing from the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and Education Cannot Wait, UNICEF Ethiopia provided technical and financial resources to MoE and ARRA to develop staff capacity in joint sector planning and management.

Moreover, in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNICEF extended its support to four regional education bureaus in the development and utilization of regional Education Sector Development Plan (ESDP) V results frameworks in 2018. The results frameworks were utilized for mid-term reviews of regional sector plans and supported the preparation of regional annual operational plans and results-based reporting. At the federal level, UNICEF provided technical and financial assistance for the national ESDP V mid-term evaluation, which provided an update against the national targets and resulted in strategic recommendations for MoE. This evaluation is also contributing to MoE’s finalization of the national education roadmap.

In line with the ‘using the power of evidence to drive change for children’ and ‘fostering innovation in programming and advocacy for children’ change strategies, woreda education offices and zonal ARRA offices built knowledge and skills on crisis-sensitive education data analysis with attention to the integration of refugee education within the national and regional education management information systems. UNICEF Ethiopia supported the piloting of a digitalized education data collection and management tool in 365 refugee and host community schools in Somali, Afar, Tigray, Benishangul-Gumuz and Gambella regions. The production of geographic information system-based school maps of the refugee-hosting woredas will allow the development of crisis-sensitive school development plans and identification of the most relevant sites for future school construction and services.

In support of ‘gender-responsive programming,’ UNICEF supported MoE in the development of the comprehensive gender in education strategy covering pre-primary to tertiary levels, to put in place systems to report school-related gender-based violence and to coordinate efforts between regional education bureaus and regional arms of MoWCY. Significantly, this work resulted in the cancelation of 88 child marriage cases in Oromia region. To understand the effectiveness of the School-Related Gender-Based Violence Code of Conduct, qualitative research was conducted in partnership with the London University College of Education, with the report endorsed by MoE and regional education bureaus in December 2018. It revealed a growing awareness on the Code, acting as a deterrent for school-related gender-based violence, enabling students to speak out about violence, increasing staff understanding of violence and implementation of referral mechanisms. In addition to menstrual health and hygiene in schools, efforts to encourage girls to remain in primary education were supported by life skills training through in-school gender clubs and capacity building of teachers on gender-responsive learning and pedagogy.

Drawing on the expertise of Volunteer Services Overseas Ethiopia (VSO-E), UNICEF supported the training of 622 primary school teachers of a planned 1,300 and 46 social workers (above the 30 planned) in conflict-affected regions on psychosocial and emotional learning.

This training was undertaken through the Colleges of Teacher Education in Oromia, Somali, SNNP regions, thereby ensuring sustainability of investment with the integration of course materials within pre-service teacher education programmes. Through UNICEF's humanitarian investments, 66,531 internally displaced children were reached in 2018. Considering the positive contribution of the training towards resumption of teaching and learning in conflict-affected regions, UNICEF will engage VSO-E to train additional 1,318 primary school teachers to support conflict-affected children's education in Somali, SNNP, Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz regions.

Goal area 3: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

In 2018, the UNICEF Ethiopia child protection programme and results framework were restructured during the mid-term review to align with Goal 3 of the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and relevant global developments in child protection, including the development of a theory of change for preventing and responding to violence against children. Goal area 3 is also aligned with the SDGs, notably ending child marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting (5.3), ending all forms of violence and trafficking of children (16.2) and promotion of legal identity through birth registration (16.7). These targets are relevant to the Ethiopian context, and in line with the Government's priorities articulated in the GTP II. The increase in conflict-affected IDPs and the protection issues identified through inter-agency assessments reinforced the need to ensure risk-informed response implemented through existing government structures.

As a result of the restructuring, the number of programme outputs was reduced from seven to three:

1. Strengthened child protection systems (community and formal) that deliver integrated multi-sectoral services (including social welfare, justice and which are HIV sensitive) in development and humanitarian settings to protect children, including adolescents from violence, exploitation and abuse;
2. Strengthened prevention and protection services to address child marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting;
3. Strengthened birth registration services as part of a civil registration and vital events system.

Key policy results achieved in 2018 with UNICEF support were the draft National Case Management Framework, and the occupational standards, certification/assessment tools and curricula developed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, which established the normative framework for six low- and mid-level occupations including social work.

Concerning strengthened data on children, between January and October 2018, 3,922 girls and boys who experienced violence were reached by health, social work and justice/law enforcement services provided through one stop centres, referral pathways, child-friendly benches and diversion centres.

For the child protection response to conflict-affected internally displaced persons, UNICEF Ethiopia achieved success in availing 'regular' government platforms and service providers (with funds mobilized by UNICEF) to introduce case management and referral pathways. This approach will be used as UNICEF embarks on a project to support children on the move in five regions and in Addis Ababa. UNICEF supported the family tracing and reunification of 3,731 children in Oromia, SNNP and Somali regions between February and November. With UNICEF

support, 538,983 children aged under one year had their birth registered with civil authorities between July 2017 and June 2018 according to the Federal Vital Events Registration Agency annual report, 15.5 per cent of the estimated annual births.

Among the key change strategies applied to deliver results in 2018 was 'programming excellence for at-scale results for children,' to further focus and rationalize programme activities and resources to align with the theories of change. Successful UNICEF advocacy at federal and regional levels, notably with the Ministry of Finance, resulted in a reduction in the number of annual workplans from 65 to 25. This was also part of efforts to move away from low value and high transaction-oriented workplans that impede results at scale. The Ministry of Women, Children and Youth was mandated to lead on outputs one and two and the Federal Vital Events Registration Agency to lead on output three. This work to bring more integration to the programme is work-in-progress. In Benishangul Gumuz region, successful UNICEF advocacy and technical support resulted in a clear division of labour and activities aligned to the mandates and roles of the concerned agencies. In the other regions and at federal level, consolidation efforts are ongoing.

To strengthen the key change strategies of 'gender-responsive programming' and as an example of 'harnessing the power of evidence as a driver of change for children,' UNICEF Ethiopia worked closely with the Data and Analytics division at Headquarters, MoWCY, and the National Alliance to End Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting to produce Ending Child Marriage: A profile of progress in Ethiopia. The data-driven report showed where acceleration is required at all levels towards reaching the Government target of eliminating child marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting by 2025 and SDG target 5.3 by 2030. UNICEF used the findings for advocacy with senior officials in Afar and Somali regions to revisit ongoing efforts and accelerate programming. At federal level, UNICEF used the findings during high-level advocacy with senior officials to champion support for the protection and development of adolescent girls. The data was also included in the federal-level costing exercise of ending child marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting. UNICEF continued to disseminate messages on ending child marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting through a popular weekly radio program. With support of Global Affairs Canada, UNICEF and MoWCY aired segments on gender-based violence on national television.

Concerning the strategy of 'harnessing the power of evidence,' strengthening routine administrative data collection is considered an important intervention, particularly as a means to strengthen results-based management. This included placing more attention and technical support to the availability and quality of data collected for the outcome indicator on the 'numbers of children who have experienced violence reached by health, social work or justice/law enforcement services.'

As an example of the strategy 'United Nations working together effectively,' following joint technical support and advocacy from UNICEF and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the 'Directive for registration of vital events by Federal Registering Organs, No. 6/2010EC' was revised to align with international standards and good practices. The initial version of the Directive made it mandatory for both refugee parents be present to register the birth of a child. As most refugees are women and children, with fathers not always present in Ethiopia, this requirement would have impeded the birth registrations. Moreover, it served as a gendered barrier to registration, impeding women's efforts to register their children's birth.

Concerning humanitarian response, UNICEF Ethiopia's strategic approach to support children on the move, including conflict- and IDP-affected girls and boys, yielded positive results through mainstreaming emergency efforts via 'regular' services of the arms of MoWCY at woreda, zonal and regional levels. While capacity gaps remain, this approach required the statutory agencies for child protection to undertake core protection work. UNICEF Ethiopia's resources helped to supplement the workforce and services under the government authorities. UNICEF also engaged in successful advocacy with the concerned bureaus to recognize their capacity limitations and the supportive role that NGOs can play through standard operating procedures with government agencies.

Goal area 4: Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

The Government considered SDG 6.1 (universal access to safe drinking water) and SDG 6.2 (access to equitable sanitation and hygiene) as key targets for the development of GTP III. In line with the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and continuing the focus on climate resilience and improved quality of water, sanitation and hygiene, the UNICEF Ethiopia WASH programme concentrated on improving the sustainability and functionality of water systems in 2018.

For the 'programming excellence for at-scale results for children' and 'gender-responsive programming' change strategies, UNICEF Ethiopia supported the humanitarian-development nexus, with a focus on multi-village water schemes that support long-term resilience of drought-prone communities. The Public Rural Utility model – moving from voluntary WASH committees to large-scale multi-village water schemes – was endorsed by Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy and introduced in Somali, Afar and Amhara regions for trialling in pastoralist and agrarian settings. While a long-term investment, the Utility model with business plans and tariffs related to expenditure will be more sustainable.

In terms of the Urban WASH programme, one water scheme was handed over to the government of Wukro town in Tigray region. Seven others in Somali, Oromia and Amhara regions are close to completion. In total, 360,905 new users will be supplied with safe water in 2018. For institutional WASH, UNICEF Ethiopia worked with MoE to support the new gender-responsive WASH in Schools strategy and revise the WASH in Schools construction manual, including a new manual on facility maintenance. Sixty-three schools (60 planned) and 10 health facilities in eight regions were reached with gender-friendly WASH interventions with UNICEF direct support in 2018. A total of 49,755 adolescent girls and 49,451 adolescent boys benefited under the menstrual health and hygiene programme. UNICEF also supported 565 kebeles (750 planned) in eight regions to become open defecation free, with 343,089 new users of safe sanitation.

Under the 'developing and leveraging resources and partnerships for children' change strategy, through UNICEF Ethiopia's partnership with the USAID Lowland WASH project and Oxfam International, several hundred remote borehole sensors were installed for trialling in Afar and Somali regions. The capacity of regional water bureaus in Afar and Somali was built to use the open source mWater monitoring system and inventory maintenance. The first round of 'rainy season' sustainability checks of WASH facilities yielded positive findings: national data suggest the non-functionality rate reduced to 10.8 per cent from 23 per cent in 2017. The findings will help direct resources to areas with gaps in management, water safety planning and spare parts supply. As a contributing partner to the Consolidated WASH Account, UNICEF successfully leveraged public finance to target and benefit children's needs.

In line with the 'leveraging the power of business and markets for children' change strategy, a global agreement with Lixil was signed in 2018 to improve access to basic sanitation for 250 million people globally by 2021. Ethiopia was selected as a focus country to introduce the SaTo pan, a cost-effective product to improve latrine quality and limit disease transmission. A memorandum of understanding was signed with FMoH to support the introduction of the SaTo pan, which is relatively affordable compared to the available concrete slabs. A peer-learning exchange was arranged with support from the UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) for a FMoH team to learn from Kenya on the SaTo pan roll-out.

In parallel, UNICEF Ethiopia supported FMoH to accelerate the coverage of improved sanitation and the detailed sanitation planning was completed with support from the OneWASH National Programme (OWNP). These micro-plans led to fully costed plans for community and institutional WASH, with the aim to achieve the national GTP II target of 82 per cent by 2020 and the SDG target of universal access by 2030. During the first quarter of 2019, UNICEF Ethiopia will support FMoH to rollout data maps based on the micro-plans to every region and develop detailed implementation plans.

On climate resilience, UNICEF Ethiopia worked closely with the Government and OneWASH partners to develop Phase II of the OWP, with a clearer focus on climate resilience and humanitarian WASH. This work was driven by the 'fostering innovation in programming and advocacy for children' and the 'using the power of evidence to drive change for children' change strategies. Efforts were made to ensure accurate financial data, drawing on information and data from recent national sanitation microplanning. Geo-hydrological mapping combined with remote sensing commenced in 39 drought-prone woredas to target potential drilling sites for deep groundwater, and the finalized maps of new drilling sites are expected in the first quarter of 2019. This will be supported by rigorous environmental and social impact assessment to minimize potential degradation of the fragile environment. The multi-village schemes have seen a reduction in seasonal water trucking in several regions. Where possible, new water schemes were installed with solar pumping systems and the WASH programme has moved towards rehabilitation and expansion of existing schemes using solar power.

As WASH cluster lead, UNICEF Ethiopia coordinated and implemented response activities, and its direct support focused on durable solutions for internally displaced persons and communities in need, particularly the construction of new water supply systems and rehabilitation and extension of existing systems. UNICEF Ethiopia was a major contributor to the sector's emergency response, with an allocation of over US\$20 million from the total cluster mobilization of US\$51 million (over 40 per cent). As of November, more than 5.5 million people had received life-saving water supply interventions, including the distribution of household water treatment chemicals. More than 2.7 million people were reached with hygiene promotion and 35,851 people benefitted from emergency sanitation interventions. Humanitarian information management for data collection, analysis and reporting was supported by UNICEF Ethiopia through deployment of full-time staff in Addis Ababa and at regional levels. WASH emergency infographics were prepared every month to support stakeholders to make informed decisions in planning, implementation and monitoring.

Goal area 5: Every child has an equitable chance in life

In line with the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and the Country Programme 2016-2020, UNICEF Ethiopia strengthened evidence-generation, advocacy, and support to implementation of policies and programmes in 2018 to reduce inequities in the country.

For the 'developing and leveraging resources and partnerships for children' change strategy, UNICEF Ethiopia continued to work with the Government and partners to advocate for increased and targeted public budget for children. Through UNICEF and partners advocacy, MoE adjusted its 2018/19 budget call, adding a separate budget line for ECE, reallocating sub-sector budgets towards secondary education, and improving the balance between capital and recurrent expenditures. An analysis conducted by UNICEF Ethiopia and the Ministry of Finance from 2017 indicated that public budgets were pro-poor, prioritizing social sectors with a commitment to improve the coverage and quality of public services. Public expenditure for social sectors as a share of total expenditure was 26.5 per cent for education, 7.7 per cent for health and 6.6 per cent for water and energy in 2017. Compared to last year, the 2018/19 federal budget increased by 13 per cent for health and 28 per cent for water and energy, and a reallocation of funds for ECE was completed in the education budget.

UNICEF Ethiopia's advocacy focused on evidence generation for investments required to ensure an equitable chance at life for all children. A child-specific SDG study conducted by UNICEF in 2018 showed that to benefit from the demographic dividend and achieve child-related SDGs, Ethiopia needs to accelerate investments from US\$40 per capita to US\$230 per capita by 2030, or 22.8 per cent of GDP. For this to be a reality, ongoing fiscal reforms are imperative, and an increase in tax revenue can be a strategy to increase public sector investments. UNICEF Ethiopia also supported the Ministry of Finance on the elaboration of the research agenda for fiscal policy reforms, with a roadmap discussed with partners to be implemented from 2019. UNICEF also supported social protection pilots implemented under the PSNP, designed with a solid research and evidence generation component. The impact evaluations emphasized the collaboration between key service providers to improve provision of quality social protection.

UNICEF Ethiopia also supported the 'fostering innovation in programming and advocacy for children' and the programming excellence for at-scale results for children' change strategies. During 2018, 4.78 million children were covered by the PSNP and approximately 1.7 million households benefited from urban and rural safety nets. UNICEF Ethiopia continued to support the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to rollout the National Social Protection Policy and improve operations of PSNP temporary clients (women who are pregnant or lactating) and direct support beneficiaries (chronically vulnerable, disabled, and elderly populations). Preparations for rolling-out the cash-plus programme through linkages with health insurance in Addis Ababa (urban) and in Amhara region (rural) were completed. In addition, UNICEF Ethiopia provided support to the PNSP contingency budget in 2018 to expand its scale, reaching 1.29 million beneficiaries, of whom over half were women, affected by climate-related shocks.

At regional levels, UNICEF continued to advocate for systems strengthening to improve access to services for PSNP beneficiaries. Significantly, the SNNP regional government expanded the UNICEF-supported integrated nutrition cash-plus programme to two additional woredas with its own budget. During 2018, UNICEF Ethiopia partnered with the World Bank, the Addis Ababa municipal government and its local bureau of labour and social affairs to improve linkages between the community health insurance and the Urban PSNP programme. A UNICEF-commissioned study in 2018 on the urban destitute population advocated the importance of including people who are homeless or living with disabilities in the Urban PSNP programme. By strengthening the social workforce and increasing linkages between social service schemes, UNICEF Ethiopia supported local governments to reach more beneficiaries through social

workers and health extension workers.

To accelerate the 'gender responsive programming' change strategy, UNICEF Ethiopia supported MoWCY, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and the Ethiopian Institute of Ombudsman to promote and monitor the implementation of the UN and African Committee's Concluding Observations and Recommendations on child rights. Support was also provided to the dissemination of the National Children's Policy, development and implementation of the child friendly framework, and enhancement of child and adolescent participation in local planning. UNICEF Ethiopia continued to support the MoWCY to strengthen its coordination and implementation capacity, as well as the generation and consolidation of data and evidence towards the institutionalization of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls at all levels. Through UNICEF Ethiopia's partnership with the African Development Bank, capacity to implement the monitoring system and the national gender database within the GTP II framework was strengthened.

In line with the 'using the power of evidence to drive change for children' change strategy, UNICEF Ethiopia, in partnership with research and government institutions, contributed to 18 studies, surveys and research, and one evaluation in 2018. Evidence-generation was expanded in the two critical areas of climate change and urbanization, which informed UNICEF's work related to the PSNP and resilience building. The research study titled 'Generation El-Nino: The long-term impact on children well-being' was recognized as one of the 12 best research paper by UNICEF's global Office of Research in Innocenti. It led to important recommendations, including the development of a comprehensive strategy for building children's resilience across sectors and strengthening institutional and strategic foundations for child-sensitive disaster risk management. Despite increased investments, eliminating child poverty and inequities remained difficult in Ethiopia.

The UNICEF-supported multidimensional child poverty report conducted in 2018 by the CSA showed that more than 95 per cent of children were deprived in two to six dimensions (nutrition, health, water, sanitation, housing and education) in 2016. Moreover, geographical inequalities persisted in fulfilment of children's basic needs and rights. The percentage of multidimensionally deprived children in rural areas (94 per cent) was more than double that of children in urban areas (42 per cent). In terms of access to education and information, gender disparities in deprivation were significant for children aged 5-18 years. A higher percentage of adolescent girls were illiterate (51 per cent girls compared to 40 per cent boys) and deprived of comprehensive knowledge of HIV prevention and transmission (76 per cent girls compared to 64 per cent boys). The finalized report will be launched in 2019 and used as baseline for SDG target 1.2 on child poverty.

The achievements noted would not be possible without the generous support of UNICEF Ethiopia's top donors, including the Governments of the Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Collaboration with UN agencies also contributed towards the results achieved, particularly with the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on emergency response, with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on strengthening child protection systems, with World Bank and WHO on operationalizing the Nurturing Care Framework, and with WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on implementing nutrition interventions.

Part 3: Lessons learned and constraints

Conflict- and drought-induced displacements overstretched the humanitarian response capacity in Ethiopia, further limiting the capacity of implementing partners and affecting the service delivery of UNICEF Ethiopia's regular programming. Thus, UNICEF Ethiopia worked closely with the Government to develop resilient, risk-informed approaches to improve their preparedness to respond at scale and with quality. The need for cross-sectoral integration was repeatedly highlighted due to structural weaknesses exposed in established systems in various sectors. This required high-level advocacy, adapted service models for remote populations, integrated commodity supply chains, flexible staff deployment and surge budgets, and emergency preparedness planning. In particular, UNICEF highlighted the impact of humanitarian crises on children, with key messages disseminated through social and mainstream media and donor visits, resulting in needed funding for humanitarian response.

Goal area 1: Every child survives and thrives

Political instability and civil unrest negatively impacted on routine health system implementation by hindering access to the programme sites, limiting health workers' capacity to provide services, and hampering ability of affected populations to seek and access healthcare services. Poor infrastructure in the country also creates obstacles to access the most underserved areas. Better coordination with partners at national and sub-national levels should be a focus to improve programme implementation and outcomes for vulnerable populations. In addition, joint advocacy from UNICEF Ethiopia programme sections should be carried out to highlight the weaknesses identified within the health system during emergency response, including issues of staff vacancies and commodity stock-outs.

Human resource consistency and capacity remained a major bottleneck for health services. Low salaries and poor working conditions led to high staff turnover. In 2018, UNICEF funded seven emergency technical assistants to supplement service gaps and build capacity of existing health staff. This situation is unsustainable and needs further reflection with the Government to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

The health service delivery model in Ethiopia, particularly for immunization and micronutrient supplementation, are moving from one-off campaigns to long-term routine delivery to achieve scale and sustainability. Given the complex humanitarian environment, both campaigns (rapid results in emergency situations) and routine delivery are needed, and neither should divert attention and resources from the other. More efforts are needed to achieve integrated programming and ensure sustainable service delivery for child health. Public health gains, particularly for maternal child health, nutrition and baby WASH, require cross-sectoral collaboration for integration into ongoing sector initiatives. For example, increasing dietary diversity among children and women who are pregnant requires UNICEF to also support food and nutrition security through promoting nutrition-sensitive value chains for agricultural products, thus reducing the overall burden of acute malnutrition in line with the SDG Zero Poverty and Hunger strategy.

Ensuring service quality remained a challenge and requires continual system monitoring, adherence to best practices, and further investment. As the expansion of the Health Extension Programme moves forward, there remains a need for ongoing advocacy, policy dialogue and technical assistance between the Government and its partners for developing acceptable quality services for all sectors. Challenges remain in community engagement, including the development of accountability and supervision systems for HEWs. The women's development armies are overburdened by unclear multi-sectoral mandates, which also hinders community

engagement. UNICEF plans to review community engagement through the optimization of the Health Extension Programme in 2019. Some gender-related challenges need to be highlighted, specifically the heavy work burden, inadequate incentive structures and poor work environment of the predominantly female workforce.

Goal area 2: Every child learns

The ethnic conflicts in Somali, Oromia, Amhara, Gambella and Benishangul Gumuz regions in 2018 hampered implementation of the learning and development programme. The educational needs of displaced children and young people resulted in a shifting of human resources to the humanitarian response. The complexity of the IDP context also translated into challenges in designing medium- and longer-term education interventions in conflict-affected regions.

There were delays in the timely recruitment of regional cluster coordinators due to the limited availability of professionals with expertise in this area. This challenge was partly overcome by seeking NGO partners operating in these regions to re-deploy their staff to serve in the regional education cluster coordinator capacity, with financing from UNICEF Ethiopia. In 2019, the Learning and Development programme will formalize standing arrangements with key NGOs in the education emergency cluster for rapid deployment of sub-national cluster coordinators.

The national Gender Parity Index for primary education did not meet the ESDP V target for 2016/17, dropping to 0.90 from 0.91 in the prior year, despite investments through GEQIP to improve girls' participation in general education. Underpinning the limited enrolment of girls are the persistent social and gender norms which place low value on girls' education, leading to delayed enrolment and high drop-out rates.

The research on the effectiveness of the School-Related Gender-Based Violence Code of Conduct noted positive results, though several areas require further attention in 2019. The research indicated that violence experienced by students was not reported through the system, and few reports reached the gender-based violence school committees for investigation. Students were reluctant to report violence due to the perceived lack of support and case confidentiality. It also showed views amongst staff on the scope of the Code of Conduct varied, with certain staff possessing a narrow interpretation of violence (excluding corporal punishment and bullying, and violence against boys). A management response plan to the research findings will be implemented in UNICEF's focus woredas in 2019, as addressing violence within school environments remains a critical pre-condition to children - particularly girls - completing primary education and transitioning to secondary education. UNICEF Ethiopia will also aim to link the relevant reporting and referral mechanisms for gender-based violence of MoE and MoWCY in 2019 to ensure appropriate facilities and quality services are in place.

The infrequent learning assessments implemented in Ethiopia, particularly in lower primary education, has made it challenging to ascertain direct correlation between UNICEF's investments and improved learning outcomes of children. In late 2018, UNICEF Ethiopia initiated a partnership with the National Examination and Assessment Authority and ARRA, seeking to develop and implement a Holistic Early Grades Learning Assessment in 2019 across refugee hosting regions, including a measurement of students' 'transferable' skills, such as academic persistence and problem solving.

The MoE has increased expectations for UNICEF engagement within pre-primary education in 2019, which will translate into support for the development of a costed expansion plan for the

pre-primary education sub-sector.

UNICEF Ethiopia has drawn on these lessons to inform its results and staffing structures to ensure adequate technical expertise is made available, particularly in the field offices.

Goal 3: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

The key challenges in 2018 were the gaps in humanitarian funds for child protection in emergency and the limited capacity of federal and regional partners, particularly in child protection and gender-based violence response in humanitarian settings. To address this, specifically for the IDP response, UNICEF staff were deployed to the affected regions. They worked directly with government officials to support family tracing and reunification, as well as documentation needed to help ensure minimum quality standards were in place and children were being protected from violence and exploitation. Partnership agreements with local and international NGOs were implemented to help address capacity limitations of government partners. UNICEF also sought to strengthen the engagement and leadership of the MoWCY in the Child Protection Gender-Based Violence Sub-Cluster.

Another challenge was the absence of mechanisms for collecting comprehensive and disaggregated data on children being referred to and receiving protection services. As a key lesson learned, UNICEF Ethiopia is commissioning a capacity assessment of the child protection system to align with latest global developments and to help ensure the efficacy of its technical and financial investments in the immediate and longer-term. As the country prepares to embark on roll-out of a national case management framework for child protection, including refugee and IDP children, and children on the move, it is evident that there are gaps in mandates and roles of key actors, for which the system needs to set accountabilities to ensure children are protected from harm. It is anticipated that this assessment will provide government partners and UNICEF Ethiopia with evidence and recommendations to inform policy and programmatic decisions and investments.

Despite UNICEF advocacy, justice for children work is still done through a project office, impeding sustainability. Efforts being led by UNDP to review the overall justice sector, including justice for children, are expected to help inform strategic directions of the Government and UN agencies in 2019.

Change in the MoWCY leadership in 2018 resulted in modification to the strategic approaches, which required more investments in advocacy for key protection issues. Notably affected was the finalization of the national costed roadmap to end child marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting. UNICEF secured additional human and financial resources to support the adjustments, and allocated staff time for advocacy to help ensure the robustness of the costed roadmap.

Despite advocacy and technical support provided by UNICEF Ethiopia, the African Centre for Statistics and other development partners, the lack of a comprehensive assessment and strategic plan aligned with the lessons learned and guidelines from the Africa Programme for Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics impeded systematic planning and investments. For example, the requirement of payment for certificates in some regions and the mandatory presence of both parents for birth registration discouraged families from registering their children and served as a gendered barrier to birth registration. Moreover, registration among pastoralist communities was also impeded. These issues will remain

advocacy priorities in 2019.

Goal 4: Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

The first round of the WASH sustainability checks highlighted the need to concentrate on quality and continued follow-up, which will be a key focus for UNICEF Ethiopia in 2019. The security situation in several regions constrained implementation, particularly in Oromia and Somali regions. As such, these two regions were excluded from the sustainability checks.

Support from the UNICEF Kenya and UNICEF ESARO was instrumental in pushing forward the sanitation agenda, particularly through the global Lixil agreement. Due to the challenging business environment in Ethiopia, Lixil initially experienced difficulties in setting up manufacturing in the country. A key lesson learnt was the need to involve the Ministry of Industry and Finance at the onset of discussions for the establishment of the manufacturing hub. With robust marketing, the SaTo pan has the potential to be a game-changer in the uptake of improved sanitation. With due to the rising costs of constructing concrete slabs in Ethiopia, there is an opportunity to present the SaTo pan as a cost-effective alternative.

The menstrual health and hygiene and baby WASH programmes both moved forward in 2018 and will require close cross-sectoral collaboration to integrate with ongoing health, nutrition, and education initiatives. The supply chain review for the menstrual health and hygiene programme showed the need to shift from localized production to supporting national supply chain networks for effective regional scale-up.

The role of the private sector has been enhanced through the 'Build-Capacity Build-Transfer' (BCBT) contracting modality to improve efficiency in service delivery. The capacity building component of the BCBT pilot triggered sector reforms: specifically, the Public Rural Utility model was identified as a promising model to manage multi-village water supply schemes implemented by the Government and UNICEF.

Key lessons learned in 2018 were regarding the integrated approach for service delivery in small and medium towns and the potential for urban-rural integration. Integrated solutions, such as focusing on a comprehensive package of interventions and linking WASH service delivery and behaviour change communication led to better living conditions and health improvements in urban towns and the adjacent satellite villages. In addition, development of business models for water and sanitation services for Utilities and public private operators, such as business plans for solid and liquid waste management and public latrines, led to improved planning and greater long-term sustainability of facilities. As Cluster lead, UNICEF Ethiopia enhanced the humanitarian-development nexus by showcasing climate-resilient WASH interventions, which are now included in phase II of the OneWASH National Programme. UNICEF also maintained strong linkages with technical experts from Brazil through South-South cooperation, leading to the completion of condominium sewage treatment facility under the Urban WASH programme.

UNICEF will draw on these lessons and constraints to inform its programming in 2019.

Goal 5: Every child has an equitable chance in life

In social protection, findings from an operation research in 2017 on the cash-plus pilots commissioned by UNICEF Ethiopia provided evidence on the need for a systems approach with a combination of cash transfers and service provision to improve multiple outcomes with

respect to nutrition, health, education and child protection. Despite strengthening the systems approach, given the frequent rotation of local service providers and community health workers, there is a need to continuously build capacity of frontline workers at woreda and kebele levels. Capacity building efforts included institutional development of the social welfare workforce and rollout of self-learning tools on nutrition, gender and social development. This will ensure adequate coordination mechanisms and proper implementation of the PNSP and cash-plus pilots. Moreover, timely transition of pregnant beneficiaries from public works to the temporary direct support scheme remained a challenge. For this, coordination between health extension workers, the agricultural extension workers and social workers needs reinforcement and continuous support to ensure pregnant women receive adequate support.

A key lesson learned in 2018 through the partnership with the Ministry of Finance was that results for children can be significantly improved through politically-aware engagements with sector ministries. The timely engagement by UNICEF Ethiopia with line ministries on the annual budget preparations, in a changing political context, can ensure their budget calls reflect understanding about children and the financing needs for child-focused and prioritized programmes. In addition, the importance of a macro view of current and past investments in the social sectors was highlighted, with children's issues able to guide and inform policy discussions. It became evident that a deeper understanding of the contribution of federal and regional government budgets is important to have a complete picture of public investments for children in Ethiopia. In terms of child and adolescent participation, there is a need for streamlined, integrated and engaging approaches for enhancing child participation given the improving political space in the country and the potential of this work to build active citizenship in all spheres of life.

In terms of evidence generation and use, UNICEF promoted strong partnerships with national research institutions to conduct research and studies on child-rights and poverty, including CSA, National Planning Commission, Ethiopian Development Research Institute, MoWCY, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. These partnerships resulted in strong ownership of research findings and reinforced national capacities. UNICEF also developed partnerships with international research institutions to support training and capacity building of national researchers. The partnership between the Economic Policy Research Institute, CSA and UNICEF consolidated national capacity to understand multidimensional child poverty in Ethiopia, its drivers, and the ways to address the issue. In 2019, UNICEF Ethiopia will prioritize support to the Ministry of Finance on the research roadmap of fiscal policy reforms.

The lessons learned and solutions to challenges described above will contribute to defining the shifts in the 2019 work plans and the strategic directions for the new country programme.