Executive Summary

Egypt’s new President was elected in June 2014, which completed the second step of a three step political transition put in place in 2013. The final step, parliamentary elections, is scheduled for completion in early 2015. The new Government has prioritised the re-establishment of political and economic stability, which was reflected in the pace of actions taken during the year.

A priority of the Government has been social protection reform. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with the Partnership for Economic Policy, completed and released research on the potential impact of the ongoing energy subsidy reform on child poverty. The research aimed to provide evidence to inform policy making and is based on a macro-micro economic simulation of the subsidy reform plan and a series of social protection policy options targeting families with children.

Progress on the child survival agenda continued within the framework of the national Maternal and Child Health Acceleration Plan. With UNICEF support, the integrated perinatal care programme was expanded to include an additional 65,000 children and 175,000 pregnant and lactating women. In addition, the pentavalent vaccine was introduced into the routine immunisation system starting from February 2014, reaching 90 per cent coverage. As part of the regional response to the polio outbreak in Syria, two polio National Immunisation Days (NIDs) were conducted by the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), benefiting around 14 million children under five, with almost 100 per cent coverage. The new Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) was finalised, and the preliminary results place the under-five mortality rate at 27 per 1,000 live births, showing that progress is still possible.

The much-needed reform of child protection in Egypt regained importance on the national agenda after more than three years of political transition. With support from UNICEF, the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) led efforts to activate Child Protection Committees (CPCs), a key local-level protection mechanism defined in the Child Law to identify and respond to children at risk. A consultative process involving partners at central and sub-national levels led to the development of standard operating procedures (SOP) as well as an executive decree for the operationalisation of CPCs that is currently being enacted. This important development is a follow-up action of the 2013 NCCM and UNICEF assessment of child protection systems that recommended policy reforms aimed at defining roles and responsibilities in responding to children at risk and prioritising standard procedures for case management.

The Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS), supported by UNICEF and other partners, issued a ministerial decree to adopt care standards in orphanages, and a similar decree for social care institutions and local NGOs that house children at risk will be reviewed in 2015.

The launch of the study on “Multidimensional Child Poverty in Slums and Informal Settlements”, the result of a partnership between UNICEF and the Informal Settlements Development Facility,
generated significant policy dialogue with concerned ministries and governorates, which provided concrete evidence for developing a national strategy and related interventions to address child poverty in urban areas.

The study and subsequent programme interventions on urban child poverty led to the development of new partnerships centring on the newly established Ministry of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements and including Governorate authorities, line ministries and local non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Private sector partners were mobilised in support of the Children’s Rights and Business Principles initiative through a conference arranged by the Federation of Egyptian Industries. Partnership with the private sector was also strengthened to build on UNICEF’s global initiative with Barclays – Building Young Futures – to ensure work placements/internships for young people benefitting from the employability skills programme. The partnership with Rotary centred on the Water for Life initiative aimed at mobilising resources to establish water connections for poor households in Upper Egypt.

Shortfalls in programme implementation were experienced, notably in the scaling up of community schools (CS), which was suspended this year as the Ministry of Education (MoE) lacked adequate funds to employ teachers. The same challenge also faced the scaling up of community-based kindergartens to increase enrolment rates in pre-primary education. Efforts by the MoE at both central and governorate levels resulted in the finalisation of the contracting of teachers for the 30 schools established in 2013. A new programme for establishing 1,200 CS during the period 2015-19 is being finalised in cooperation with the European Union (EU) and the MoE. The MoE is working on mobilising the resources required to cover teachers’ salaries.

Humanitarian Assistance

The humanitarian response to the Syrian refugees in Egypt continued in 2014. Approximately 140,000 Syrians are registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), over 60,000 of who are under 18 years of age. They are free to live where they choose and to access health and education services. The majority live in the urban centres of Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta, although smaller numbers live in other governorates. Despite the improved stability in the country in 2014, the number of Syrians has not increased due to visa requirements, in place since 2013, and Syrians have been among the irregular departures of foreign nationals. More than 1,000 Syrian nationals, including children, were arrested from January to mid-September 2014, facing detention, deportation to third countries, or return to Syria. After several years away from home, families are struggling to cope and many are slipping into poverty.

UNICEF co-chairs the education and child protection coordination groups and is also an active participant in the health group.

As the Government of Egypt (GoE) allows Syrian children access to public education, the sector response strategy has focused primarily on creating space for Syrian children in public schools through strengthening institutional capacity, and creating community-based education opportunities wherever the public system could not accommodate Syrian children. MoE enrolment figures in December 2014 showed a total of 39,314 children enrolled in 25 governorates. Through UNICEF’s support, some 84 public schools received supplies (furniture, computers, sports and music instruments) to accommodate Syrian children and improve school environments, while more than 5,000 teachers and supervisors were trained to better manage
high-density classrooms and activate school activities that promote integration and cultural exchange among Syrian and Egyptian children. Altogether about 15,000 Syrian boys and girls are enrolled in public schools that have received supplies and teacher training from UNICEF, in seven governorates. An additional 500 Syrian boys and girls aged three to five were enrolled in community-based kindergartens, established in partnership with NGOs. UNICEF provided furniture, educational material and training for teachers.

UNICEF provided an education grant to 4,000 families reaching more than 8,600 Syrian children in Damietta and Alexandria, upon enrolment and regular attendance. The grant was designed to contribute to school fees, school uniforms, books, stationery and transportation.

A similar strategy of supporting public services to meet the needs of Syrian refugees was also adopted in the health sector. UNICEF assisted the MoHP to upgrade 102 primary healthcare units (PHUs) in 11 governorates with the highest concentration of Syrian refugees, serving a catchment of over 100,000 refugees in addition to Egyptian women and children. Support provided included health and medical equipment, health training and financial support to enable the package of maternal and child health (MCH) and nutrition services to be available to all Syrian refugees. Since January 2014, at least 1,800 women visited PHUs to receive antenatal care and reproductive health care services. In addition, around 5,823 Syrian children under five years of age received health, nutrition and growth monitoring services, of whom 116 were diagnosed as malnourished. Their parents received counselling for proper nutrition.

UNICEF supported the MoHP to hire Syrian community health workers (CHWs) to encourage refugees to use public health services. With UNICEF support, the MoHP conducted a series of training activities for CHWs and medical teams in target areas to provide quality health care services.

Egypt completed two rounds of polio NIDs in 2014, scheduled in response to cases in Syria. Over 14 million children under five were covered during each round, including approximately 14,000 Syrian children. UNICEF provided the vaccines as well as support for the communication campaigns for both rounds.

Child protection interventions for Syrian refugee children concentrated on community-based psychosocial support, specialised assistance to children in need of care and protection and legal assistance to those placed in detention.

In Alexandria and New Damietta, UNICEF partners ran 11 child-friendly spaces (CFS): eight in Alexandria, and three in New Damietta. Through recreational activities, parenting group discussions and non-specialised psychosocial interventions, 7,162 Syrian children were reached. Social workers responded to 1,066 new cases requiring specialised assistance, including specialised psychosocial support, referral and cash assistance to 351 vulnerable families. A total of 387 Syrian children detained in connection with irregular migration were documented and received legal assistance and material support.

UNICEF, as co-chair of the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) along with UNHCR, initiated the development of SOPs for the management of child protection cases. They are expected to harmonise case management practices among members of the CPWG.

**Equity Case Study**

Going beyond the average: the reality of child poverty in informal settlements.
As in most countries around the world, in Egypt children in urban areas enjoy better opportunities, better chances of survival and development, and better access to social services and infrastructure than their peers living in rural areas. This is true on average and for most children living in urban areas – but not for all.

Inequalities in urban areas are widespread, encompassing different dimensions of well-being, with many children and adolescents left behind, and not having access to opportunities available for most of their peers. Recent average trends for urban Egypt show stagnation or even deterioration in some domains of well-being, and suggest that inequality and deprivation widened. However, lack of disaggregated data and specific evidence hides both the nature and the extent of the disadvantage experienced by poor children in urban settlements.

To reduce the knowledge gap and to provide evidence for urban policies and programmes, UNICEF in partnership with the Informal Settlements Development Facility, and from 2014 with the Ministry of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements, produced and released a study on ‘Multidimensional Child Poverty in Slums and Unplanned Areas in Egypt’. The study adopts a multidimensional poverty analytical approach, focusing on the severe deprivation in key aspects of children’s lives, including health, nutrition, access to water and sanitation, housing, education and access to knowledge sources.

Informal settlements, especially slums, are the areas of disadvantage where child poverty is concentrated. The study shows that children living in slums are exposed to levels of poverty and deprivation similar to that experienced by children in the most deprived rural areas. According to the data for selected slum settlements in four major Egyptian cities, around 80 per cent of children are experiencing at least one form of severe deprivation in basic well-being dimensions, and more than 50 per cent of children are multidimensional poor, i.e. are severely deprived in two or more essential dimensions of child well-being.

Slums are, by definition, characterised by severe housing and infrastructural deprivation and are, at the same time both a manifestation and a result of poverty. Extreme poor housing – in the form of overcrowding and unsanitary dwelling and lack of access to water and sanitation – is a common experience for children in slums. Severe deprivation in nutrition is also at high levels for children under five. Deprivation in the education dimension is substantial and grows for adolescents, reflecting higher levels of drop-outs before the completion of basic education. Participation in pre-primary education is at very low levels. Basic health interventions for younger children (vaccination and care for common disease) are common, but at the same time important perinatal care interventions (ante and post-natal care, or delivery attended by skilled personnel) are missing for at least one mother in five. Around these living conditions, there is a reality of widespread poverty, with more than 40 per cent of children in slums who are monetary poor.

While not explored in the study, evidence from other sources points to widespread child protection problems, mainly in the form of exposure of children to different forms of violence, abuse, neglect and harmful practices, as well as involvement in child labour.

In unplanned areas too, children experience extreme deprivation and multidimensional poverty, but their prevalence is substantially lower than in slums. The monetary poverty rate is close to 20 per cent (half the level of slums), and the main factors behind multidimensional poverty are nutrition deprivation (for children under five) and education deprivation (for adolescents), along with water deprivation (in this case, mainly in the form of irregular supply).
The results of the study, complementing evidence from other sources, indicate priorities for interventions in slums areas, which require a coordinated policy approach and integrated actions. The ultimate objective of the policies to confront poverty in informal settlements is the elimination of slums, the upgrading of the settlements and the progressive elimination of poverty and deprivation. Interventions must be child sensitive, reflecting the vulnerability of children to poverty (in terms of the immediate impact, the long-term consequences and intergenerational transmission) and the potential impacts that the proposed programmes can have on children.

The complexity and articulation of child poverty and deprivation in slums demand coordinated and integrated efforts from different sectors, ranging from investments in urban and social infrastructure, investments in human and social capital, enhancements of the quality and reach of basic social services, promotion of behavioural change, social protection and child protection. Sustainability of the interventions is key, and should be ensured along with the involvement and participation of the communities.

The results of the multidimensional child poverty study identify major strategic areas for intervention in slums. These include (1) investing in housing infrastructure, water and sanitation and the environment; (2) developing and implementing child-sensitive social protection interventions; (3) enhancing access and quality of social services for children (health, education, child protection), and addressing the bottlenecks preventing appropriate access to and quality of these services; and (4) investing and promoting community development and social capital.

In late 2013, UNICEF Egypt started a child health programme in two slum areas in Cairo, in collaboration with the MoHP and Cairo Governorate. The programme focuses on access to quality perinatal care for mothers and children, child nutrition and water and sanitation, addressing key deprivations found in the child poverty study. The programme aims to increase community awareness of the services and enhance the quality of services.

In addition, UNICEF Egypt is entering in a new phase of the partnership with the Ministry of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements, with the aim of expanding the urban programme to additional locations as well as to the education and child protection sectors, responding to the third strategic area for intervention identified by the multidimensional child poverty study.

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

- ARV – Anti-retroviral treatment
- CAPMAS – Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics
- CFS – Child-Friendly Space
- CHW – Community Health Worker
- CMT – Country Management Team
- CPC – Child Protection Committee
- CPWG – Child Protection Working Group
- CRC@25 – 25th anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child
- CS – Community Schools
- DCT – Direct Cash Transfer
- DHS – Demographic and Health Survey
- ENCHR – Egypt National Human Rights Council
- EPI – Expanded Programme on Immunisation
- EU – European Union
In 2014, capacity development was a key feature in education and health, where successful programmes such as community-based education, inclusive education and integrated child survival are being mainstreamed into government systems and policy frameworks for scaling up.

The UNICEF-supported perinatal care and community-based health and nutrition programme continued to develop capacities of communities to promote better use of services, health-seeking behaviours and better child care. UNICEF’s investment in CHWs over many years has helped them to become an important force for change in their communities. During the year, over 700 trained CHWs conducted family visits and facility-based awareness sessions for mothers on key family practices for the perinatal period, early childhood, and nutrition for young infants. As a result, increased demand for services at the PHCs and positive behaviour changes of the target population were reported.

Promoting positive social norms and behaviours centres on development of non-violent child rearing, as well as female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) abandonment. Interventions aiming to influence behavioural change of families and influential religious and community leaders on positive parenting practices and FGM/C abandonment continued in six out of 11 districts in Assuit, resulting in over 23,000 persons declaring against the FGM/C practice. This work is backed up by policy-level efforts to advocate for the enforcement of existing child protection laws, strengthen capacity development of CPCs, promote violence-free schools and
development of a partnership with Al Azhar University and the Coptic Church to mobilise their networks of religious leaders around combating violence against children. Efforts were made with Al Azhar particularly to combat misperceptions of FGM as a religious requirement.

UNICEF cooperated with the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS) in the field of development and dissemination of social statistics, in particular those concerning children. UNICEF supported CAPMAS in the preparation and review of a national database featuring socio-economic statistics (using the DevInfo database released yearly) and in the preparation of a plan for the creation of a data lab for social and gender statistics to be activated in 2015.

**Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy**

UNICEF and the Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with the Partnership for Economic Policy, completed and released research on the potential impact of the ongoing energy subsidy reform on child poverty. The research aimed to provide evidence to inform policy making and is based on a macro-micro economic simulation of both the subsidy reform plan and a series of social protection policy options targeting families with children. The results show that the potential negative impact of the reform on the number of children living in extreme poverty is large, with an additional half million children at risk of falling into poverty. However, they also show that investing a moderate share of the fiscal space generated by the reform in child-sensitive social protection can substantially reduce the number of children living in poverty.

The results of the study were made available to the GoE, which is engaged in a major social protection reform process. UNICEF worked with the MoSS on the development and implementation of child-sensitive social protection policies.

During 2014, UNICEF participated in the implementation of the Egypt DHS (in partnership with the MoHP, the United States Agency for International Development [USAID] and the United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA]). UNICEF contributed to the contents of the survey by proposing modules on child labour, child discipline and additional questions in the standard DHS modules.

The survey’s preliminary results, focusing on child health and nutrition, were released in September 2014 and contributed to Egypt’s Millennium Development Goals (MDG) reporting. Data also informed UNICEF interventions with partners and were used for advocacy and information dissemination on Egyptian children.

In 2014, UNICEF Egypt also took part in the implementation of the Survey on Young People in Egypt with the final report expected in 2015.

The results of a survey on child multidimensional poverty in slums and unplanned areas was released and disseminated in collaboration with the Government.

UNICEF completed a major review of statistical data on child indicators available in Egypt, and produced and released the digest “Children in Egypt 2014", a comprehensive source of statistics on children. The intended audience includes national partners and the general public.

**Partnerships**

Partnerships with a range of stakeholders continued to be a key strategy, particularly in child protection where a wide range of government, civil society and religious partners were actively
engaged on issues related to violence against children and child protection reforms. Civil society and community-based organisations in the child protection sector continued to play an essential role in responding to the immediate needs of children and in advocating for children’s rights to protection. As a result, more than 280,000 people could be reached through awareness programmes on violence against children, close to 2,200 children in detention received legal assistance, and approximately 10,000 children in need of care and protection received specialised support. Civil society experience was also decisive in informing new child protection policies and in advocating for reforms in the child protection system.

UNICEF Egypt engaged with the private sector in a number of ways: for stimulating action around business practices, for extended programme reach and for resource mobilisation for the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programme. In partnership with the Federation of Egyptian Industries in Egypt and with support of UNICEF’s Private Fundraising and Partnerships division, a conference was organised that introduced the Child Rights and Business Practices global initiative to 200 companies. Private sector partnerships also leveraged various companies such as Carrefour and Starwood to ensure work placements with the private sector as part of the employability skills programme for young people funded by Barclays through UNICEF UK.

January witnessed the launch event of a three-year “Water for Life” partnership between UNICEF and Rotary, which is expected to generate funds to provide household water connections to poor families and the training of beneficiaries on positive hygiene practices. UNICEF managed to increase funds by 20 per cent from the private sector compared to 2013 through this partnership, where funds are raised via companies and Rotary clubs locally and internationally.

**External Communication and Public Advocacy**

The UNICEF Egypt advocacy plan for 2014, aligned with the UNICEF Global Communication Strategy, focused on putting the rights of the most marginalised and excluded children at the heart of the social and political agenda through maximising reach and engagement, particularly among youth and millennials. During 2014, UNICEF increased media coverage and promoted debate, using print, broadcast and social media on a number of child rights issues. The strategy of using social media as a way to engage children and young people continued to develop, and throughout 2014 UNICEF Egypt’s social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter) continued to grow, reaching 500,000 fans on Facebook and 12,000 followers on Twitter.

A special media campaign was organised for the 25th anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC@25). A gala event, held on 20 November, capitalised on the expanding diverse network of UNICEF partners and donors to raise awareness of CRC principles. Government officials, and representatives of the diplomatic corps, international organisations, civil society and the private sector attended the event. Groups of young girls and boys, some of who used to live on the streets, children with disabilities and children living in slum areas were invited to perform on stage for this event, with a programme of music, singing and circus acts.

Parallel to the CRC ceremony, a special campaign for CRC@25 was designed for the UNICEF Egypt Facebook page. The campaign ran throughout November to sensitise the public about children’s issues. Followers interacted with statistics reflecting on the status of children and learned about interventions and success stories. Facebook posts engaged the public in
imagining a better life for children. In addition, a photo workshop and exhibit was organised with a group of street children.

**South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation**

An objective of the child protection programme is to strengthen independent child rights institutions, as per the Concluding Observations on Egypt’s State Party Report on implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2011. UNICEF supported the establishment of a Child Rights Unit at the Egyptian National Council for Human Rights (ENCHR) and has an ongoing capacity building programme in order to make the Child Rights Unit an effective independent voice for children in Egypt.

In partnership with the office of the Children’s Ombudsman in Greece, four officers from the recently established Child Rights Unit in ENCHR undertook a study visit to Athens. The objective of the trip was to learn about good practices in the promotion and protection of children’s rights from a well-established Ombudsman office.

During this study visit, Egyptian officers learned about the establishment of the Ombudsman function in 2003 and its current structure of nine professionals, including lawyers, clinical psychologists, and communication specialists. The mission of the human rights institution is to mediate between citizens and public services, and local and private authorities with the following key functions: (1) reception of complaints from institutions or individuals including a special hotline; (2) monitoring of the implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child; (3) advisory role to the government on issues affecting children from a rights perspective; (4) promotion of child rights among children and care providers, especially in schools, to raise awareness on child rights to children and care providers; and (5) coordination and dialogue with civil society on issues related to children. All of these functions are within the mandate of the ENCHR.

The Greek experience highlighted the importance of formulating a strong mandate for children’s rights within a solid institutional framework. The importance of networking was also highlighted as a successful aspect of the Greek experience where the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children provided a useful network of peers with the potential to transfer expertise to other countries. This is an opportunity to be explored further when a team from the Children’s Ombudsman Office in Greece visits Egypt in 2015.

**Identification Promotion of Innovation**

UNICEF supported the MoHP in applying the Monitoring Results for Equity System (MoRES) to the perinatal care programme to identify, track and address key bottlenecks that hinder the effectiveness of neonatal and child health interventions, and ultimately the reduction of neonatal mortality and child malnutrition. Prior to the application of MoRES, routine administrative data were underutilised and not disseminated systematically, and there were few indicators for tracking bottlenecks for maternal and neonatal health services. Applying MoRES resulted in new indicators being added to the existing information system and improved use of data. In some cases, this enabled the Ministry, UNICEF and partners to identify and address previously unreported bottlenecks such as frequent stock-outs of iron/folate tablets and Vitamin A and the unavailability of physicians at government family health units (FHUs).

An important innovation was the introduction of the computerised data entry system and database at the FHU level, with built-in checks to reduce data inconsistencies, resulting in better quality data. The MCH information technology (IT) department at the MoHP was supported to
develop a simple Access-based database programme to allow data entry at both the FHUs and the district level, and to facilitate reporting to higher levels.

Data is collected monthly and transmitted to the district level and then onwards to the central MoHP. The system generates reports that highlight poorly performing indicators, and has built-in guidance on potential corrective actions, which facilitates decision-making at the FHU level. This feedback system allows rapid appraisal and improvement of FHU performance and fed into the national MCH acceleration plan. Analysing data at the FHU level, as opposed to aggregated data that had previously been analysed at the district level, allows for pinpointing of FHUs with sub-optimal performance. Localised decision-making can then correct these problems. Additionally, data can be analysed for time trends. Analysis of data not only provides key information on performance in individual villages or districts, but also provides insights into disparities and bottlenecks and possible ways to address them. The MoHP recognises the value of this system and is currently expanding it to other districts not currently participating in the Integrated Perinatal Health and Child Nutrition Programme (IPHN).

Service Delivery

Working towards equitable basic services is a key component of the Country Programme and is primarily done by strengthening the service delivery systems of the line ministries to enable quality services to reach marginalised children and their families. The introduction of MoREs in the perinatal care programme enabled UNICEF and the MoHP to systematically gather information on coverage and use of health and nutrition services in targeted areas. Outreach and educational activities were then conducted that resulted in improvement of service demand and utilisation by local communities, reflecting an increase in both demand and quality. Regular collection and use of data also contributed to improved accountability for quality and increased reach of services. For example, the coverage of postnatal visits by nurses within the first 48 hours after delivery increased from 54.1 per cent to 65.8 per cent in the same period.

In education, UNICEF supported the MoE to implement the new national strategic plan, which prioritises inclusive education as a strategy for improving the overall quality of services and developing a national system for inclusion of children with disabilities in public primary schools. This involves a radical shift in attitudes on the part of schools to transform practices to accommodate diverse needs, and also among the wider school community to break down stigma surrounding children with disabilities. The national strategic plan also emphasises the importance of multi-grade community-based education opportunities for reaching out-of-school children. UNICEF supported the service to be more effective through teacher training and adaptation of the national curriculum to community-based education, and also provided support to the supervision and oversight mechanisms.

In child protection, where service delivery systems are less developed than in the health and education sectors, UNICEF supported institutional capacity development of NGOs that play an essential role in responding to the needs of children and decentralised CPCs, and facilitated the development of networking and case management skills of government social workers. The reliance on NGOs to provide child protection services was apparent in the response to Syrian refugees, where most of the psycho-social support services were delivered by NGOs.

Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

Government partners, with UNICEF support, followed up on key recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2011): the development of a national strategy for children,
the establishment of an independent monitoring mechanism devoted to children’s rights; and strengthening of the coordinating role.

UNICEF supported the NCCM to develop a draft Strategy for Children and Motherhood covering the following areas: child and maternal health; education; birth registration and identity documents; protection from violence, abuse and exploitation; juvenile justice; social justice; and child participation. This draft is expected to be discussed with key stakeholders in early 2015. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ENCHR was signed in March. This MoU aimed to strengthen the recently established Child Rights Unit within ENCHR. Following a strategic review conducted in December 2013, UNICEF designed a capacity-building programme for the Child Rights Unit. In 2014, UNICEF facilitated a study visit for ENCHR to Greece to learn from the experience of the Ombudsman office in Athens on approaches for the promotion and protection of child rights, and to engage in training on national and international law related to children. ENCHR and UNICEF also engaged in advocacy and information sharing on issues related to detention of children in connection with political demonstrations.

In 2014, the coordinating role of NCCM was reinforced. UNICEF supported dialogue and coordination with civil society and government agencies on the implementation of the Egyptian Child Law with particular focus on CPCs and the Child Helpline. In addition, a document on proposed reforms of the child protection system was jointly prepared with NCCM. This document will be used to inform policy reform and the national strategy for children.

**Gender Mainstreaming and Equality**

The Country Programme prioritises the identification of gender disparities in data collection. It specifically targets gender disparity reduction in programme areas and addressing social norms and practices that create the underlying conditions for gender discrimination. Although the gender gap in basic education has closed considerably in Egypt, the majority of children who never enrolled in school are girls. The education programme continues to support the scaling up of the community schools model to increase access to quality education among highly disadvantaged children, particularly girls.

The UNICEF Country Office continued its support to the national FGM/C abandonment programme. UNICEF was a partner in the national effort to eradicate FGM/C and worked closely with national authorities, religious leaders, the media and communities to transform social norms around this issue.

Adolescent girls are a particularly difficult group to reach with development programmes, especially in rural settings where they have limited mobility. The Adolescent Programme has set clear targets for including girls in the three main areas of intervention: employability skills development, civic engagement and life skills through sport. The employability skills training obtained around 40 per cent participation of girls, while a specially designed programme for delivering life skills through sport in community schools managed to secure encouraging levels of girl participation.

An integral part of the perinatal care and community-based Health and Nutrition Programme is the implementation of ‘Arab Women Speak Out’ activities that aim to empower women within the social context of their local communities. During the reporting period, around 4,700 women attended 400 women’s group meetings and peer support groups organised by CHWs that addressed gender dynamics within the context of local communities and communicated health messages that addressed gender constraints, power relations and the decision making process.
within households. They encouraged engagement of both men and women in family health activities, decision making and sharing responsibility for children’s health. To better understand the role of gender dynamics on health service provision and utilisation, UNICEF started a qualitative study in areas targeted by the perinatal care programme, which is expected to be completed by mid-2015.

**Environmental Sustainability**

UNICEF Egypt did not undertake any activities on environmental sustainability during 2014.

**Effective Leadership**

The Country Management Team (CMT) continued to provide strategic direction, guidance, leadership and oversight to ensure the Country Programme is aligned with the changing requirements of the country and the planned results are achieved. The CMT’s priorities included the special review of staffing structure due to transition to the Global Service Support Centre (GSSC); closure of the 2013 internal audit recommendations; monitoring of Key Performance Indicators; risk control and self-assessment; business continuity; and staff learning and development. The office management and programme priorities were established through a consultative process as part of Annual Management Plan and accountabilities assigned to staff in work plans and the Performance Appraisal System (PAS).

As part of the CMT oversight and governance responsibility, reviews of progress/response to audit observations were done on regular basis. A tool was developed to measure/monitor Annual Management Plan indicators and Key Performance Indicators for office management covering both programme and operations areas, with indicators reviewed monthly and/or quarterly. In addition, a stronger system for monitoring field trips and tracking trip reports was put in place, in response to an audit observation. Statutory committees, e.g. CMT, Joint Consultative Committee (JCC), Contract Review Committee (CRC), and Central Review (CRB), remained fully functional and provided efficient oversight to ensure transparent processes and cost effectiveness in procurement of goods and services; recruitment and retention of competent staff; timely achievement of results for children; and risk management. The CMT and JCC also ensured a collegial working environment, and worked constructively to prepare the office proposal for cost reductions in preparation for the GSSC.

In 2014, the first comprehensive salary scale review in Egypt for many years was undertaken. UNICEF actively participated in the Local Salary Survey Committee (LSSC).

**Financial Resources Management**

The Programme Group and CMT regularly monitored contribution management; budget allocations; financial utilisation; and outstanding direct cash transfer (DCT) advances. In 2014, the financial utilisation against targets was a particular priority for the CMT and was closely monitored, as the targets and expenditure the year were more than double the figure for the previous year: US$ 19.3 million in 2014 against US$ 7.1 million in 2013. With regard to budget utilisations the rates were regular resources (RR), 93 per cent; other resources-regular (ORR), 94 per cent; and other resources-emergency (ORE), 100 per cent as of 31 December. Almost 100 per cent of the institutional budget was consumed.

Funds against expiring programme budget allotments (PBAs) were fully utilised.

The CMT regularly reviewed management performance indicators, including several related to
financial resources management such as utilisation rates, DCT balances and month-end bank balances.

DCT advances were monitored regularly, and as of 31 December 2014 there were 0 per cent outstanding for more than nine months, while outstanding DCTs of more than six months were at 2.2 per cent.

UNICEF Egypt set a target in March 2014 that month-end bank balances were not to exceed 30 per cent of total monthly replenishments. The new target was achieved every month.

Open travel authorisations (TAs) were monitored regularly to ensure trips were closed within 15 days of travel, and any unused budget amounts were released back for utilisation. As of 31 December, one TA remained open.

In addition, the CMT closely followed up responses to audit recommendations. The remaining 2013 Office of Internal Audit and Investigations (OIAI) audit recommendations were successfully closed in November 2014.

**Fund-raising and Donor Relations**

Other resource (OR) utilisation in 2014 was US$ 8,534,946 (programmable). This is higher than the Country Programme Document (CPD) OR ceiling for the year (US$ 7,111,000 including cost recovery), reflecting carry over from 2013, when programme activities were seriously affected by the political transition in the country. In addition, UNICEF Egypt utilised US$ 7,859,850 in other resources-emergency (ORE).

UNICEF Egypt has a written SOP for preparation of donor reports that was introduced following a 2007 audit. Reports are prepared by sections and submitted by the section chief to the Deputy Representative for quality assurance. The managers’ dashboard is an additional tool that is useful for staff to quickly see when their reports are due. All reports were sent on time, including two for which the reporting date was changed with approval of, or on request of, the donor. Reports were sent with feedback forms for donors to express their views on the quality of the reports, but feedback was rarely received.

Aspects of contribution management were monitored by the CMT, including receipt of new funding against the ceiling and completion of donor reports.

UNICEF Egypt continued implementation of activities under the fundraising strategy, including the preparation of donor toolkits and materials for fundraising.

The UNICEF Country Office maintained strong relationships with development partners and engaged at various levels in the official coordination bodies operating in the countries. The Representative attended the Development Partners Group (DPG) monthly coordination meeting and programme staff attended relevant sub-group meetings. Among other items, the UNICEF work on subsidies reform and urban child poverty was presented at the DPG meeting as well as regular updates on polio NIDs.

Four senior staff participated in a training activity organised by UNICEF Brussels and the Regional Office on working with the EU. In 2015, UNICEF Egypt will finalise a financial agreement with the EU for US$ 34.1 million for education and child protection.
Evaluation

In 2014, UNICEF Egypt did not conduct any evaluations of programmes or projects. During the year, efforts were made to implement and monitor the actions agreed in the management response to the Country Programme Evaluation conducted in 2013. At the end of the reporting year, most of the agreed actions had been implemented. The 2013 evaluation was rated by UNICEF Headquarters as highly satisfactory and provided solid guidance for UNICEF Egypt programmes.

As part of the actions recommended by the 2013 evaluation, UNICEF Egypt took a series of measures to strengthen internal monitoring and evaluation (M&E) functions. The results frameworks (for outcomes and outputs) were thoroughly revised, and annual and semi-annual milestones were developed to guide performance progress and review and to support future programme evaluations.

Detailed results and field monitoring mechanisms, data collection and reporting tools were developed for the Syrian Humanitarian Response Programme.

The practice of developing and monitoring log-frames in programme cooperation with implementing partners was further strengthened. This practice will be further consolidated in 2015. UNICEF Egypt is aiming to develop a consolidated database in-house, which would cover all programmes in 2015 for strengthening results-based monitoring, documentation and validation.

The 2014 annual Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) was updated quarterly, and monitored and reviewed by the CMT and the Regional Office. The IMEP is planned and developed to directly respond to the needs of the programme, for programmatic activities and to support advocacy, and/or contribute to enhancing knowledge on the situation of children in the country.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

Through working with other United Nations (UN) agencies, the UNICEF Country Office benefited from reduced hotel rates negotiated by the different UN agencies on behalf of the UN system in Egypt. Moreover, the various agencies share several long-term agreements (LTAs). A new LTA with American Express was issued in 2014 after an international bidding process handled by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the agencies in Egypt. The World Health Organization (WHO) went through a similar exercise and has another LTA with a different service provider, Excel. UNICEF signed agreements with both vendors to maximise resources and obtain better services for money.

Internal LTAs also helped to streamline contracting for frequently used services. New LTAs for Internet design and media advertising were issued in 2014, while LTAs for printing, design, translation, English editing, Arabic editing and still photography are under renewal.

In 2014, the office switched to using smart fuel cards from the Total company as those previously issued by CIB bank were phased out and no longer available for use by customers. The Total cards provide wider access for drivers to fuel the vehicles, as Total has expanded its network throughout the country. The cards solved the issue of cash payments as well as provided detailed reports of fuel consumption activities by vehicle.
Supply Management

The supply plan was prepared based on programme work plans linked with the distribution plan to facilitate direct delivery to end users. The supply procurement in 2014 totalled US$ 37,103,572, a significant increase over the previous year, when the value of supplies totalled around US$ 22 million. An additional US$ 1,037,935 was spent on procurement of contractual services.

Some US$ 12 million of the US$ 15 million increase in supply in 2014 can be accounted for by increased use of procurement services by government, with the remaining increase due primarily to emergency response in the education and health sectors.

Supplies required as part of the emergency response included around 34 million doses of polio vaccine, for two rounds of polio NIDs, medical supplies for primary health care centres serving Syrian refugee communities, and school furniture and equipment for schools with Syrian students enrolled.

The procurement services for the government mainly covered increased requirement for vaccines for the national Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) programme, including pentavalent, measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) and others. The regular programme continued to have modest supply requirements, mainly for the integrated child survival interventions, community-based and inclusive education and the adolescent programme.

UNICEF Egypt continued to provide procurement of anti-retroviral treatment (ARVs) for the National Aids Programme (NAP) of the MoHP. The total value of this procurement in 2014 totalled US$ 465,510. At the request of the NAP manager, UNICEF Egypt conducted a comprehensive assessment of the current procurement and supply management (PSM) plan and practices and then supported the MoHP to develop a comprehensive PSM enhancement plan.

Security for Staff and Premises

The overall security situation in the country improved in comparison to 2013 and UNICEF Egypt continued coordinating closely with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and other agencies. Warden trees were updated regularly and in 2014 two fire drills to test staff readiness were conducted.

Security of staff and premises remained of paramount importance to office management. In 2014 the UNICEF Country Office received special security funding from Headquarters that was used to replace the old CCTV system in the office and put in an order to install security doors at the entrance. The doors were expected to be delivered and installed by October 2014, however, due to a delay on the vendor side, the new target is now the first quarter of 2015.

Additionally, UNICEF Egypt arranged for a Women’s Security Awareness training activity, which was held in June 2014. The training covered all female staff and consultants in the office and was also offered to female UN staff from other agencies. A total of 60 UNICEF and UN staff were trained over a period of three days.

UNICEF Egypt is currently working to ensure that vehicles are compliant with the latest Minimum Operational Security Standards (MOSS) for Egypt by equipping them with UHF radios. The Office has also identified two taxi service providers in Egypt that provide secure taxi services with reliable vehicles tracked by GPS, thus providing improved secure and reliable service for staff.
To keep track of staff mandatory security certificates, UNICEF Egypt introduced a monitoring tool to advise staff of expiring certificates three months ahead of expiry dates.

**Human Resources**

No changes were made to the staffing structure, as 2014 was the second year of the Country Programme. The Office handled the recruitment for five fixed term positions and three short term recruitments during the year. The ongoing emergency response to Syrian refugees was strengthened by the recruitment of an international Child Protection Specialist handling both UNICEF emergency interventions and the coordination of the child protection sub-sector.

UNICEF Egypt ensured effective staff performance by placing high priority on the performance management process. The Office continued its high level of completion of performance assessments: 98 per cent of the 2013 performance appraisals were completed by the deadline in April 2014, while 96 per cent of the key performance and development objectives – Phase I Performance Appraisal System (PAS) – for 2014 were completed by the end of April 2014. Completion rate for international staff was 100 per cent for both 2013 PAS and 2014 PAS Phase I. Mid-year performance related discussions were conducted for all staff in August and September 2014 (100 per cent completion).

The Office maintained a rolling learning and development plan; the Human Resource Development (HRD) committee met one time in 2014 and systematically reviewed staff member development objectives, taking into account Office, Regional and Global learning priorities. Group learning activities were all implemented during the year.

The warden and alert systems were efficiently utilised during turbulent times to account for staff when needed and make sure that staff concerns/needs were assessed, and information shared in a timely manner.

UNICEF Egypt office is committed to UN Cares and implements the ten minimum standards on the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in the work place. A stock of Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) kits is kept with the Human Resources section unit for emergency use. Training activities were conducted for staff in December 2014 in both English and Arabic.

As the Office is also supporting the Peer Support Volunteers (PSV) system, two new members elected in 2013 will receive the training at the next available opportunity.

A flexible workplace arrangement policy is being implemented.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

UNICEF Egypt migrated to MS Outlook 2013 in May 2014. Staff are using MS Lync 2013 to join meetings, which has been found to be a reliable and cost-effective tool. The Egypt share point team site was activated in 2014, and it is now managed by the Social Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation section, which is the focal point for knowledge management.

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) unit made two ICT assessments for programme partners. The first was an assessment of the national child helpline, requested by the NCCM. Recommendations were submitted identifying the required equipment to ensure better operationality of the helpline centre. The second was an assessment for the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics to assess the current infrastructure and required
equipment to establish DevInfo lab at their premises.

The UNICEF Egypt Facebook page reached 500,000 fans and the Twitter feed had 12,100 followers. Both were managed by the communication team.

The number of physical servers was reduced after the cluster migration with virtual machines that minimised the needed information technology (IT) support. Remote IT assistance was provided inside the office using the built-in windows tool and outside the office using team viewer.

During 2014, wireless hot spots in the office were replaced by CISCO access points 2602i in addition to a CISCO 887 ADSL router according to UNICEF standard, which provided better wireless coverage within the office.

**Programme Components from RAM**

**ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS**

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

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Support services to all programmes were on track throughout the year. The political and security environment improved during 2014, although some constraints affected the implementation of activities and the support provided. Office governance structures operated effectively. The CMT continued to meet frequently and provided strategic oversight to the programmes. Targets in areas such as financial management, human capacity development, staff safety, and efficiency of ICT systems, governance, reduction in overall operations costs and gaining higher efficiency were successfully met. Office systems, structures and resources were available and maintained to provide staff with an enabling and safe work environment.

**OUTPUT 1 Governance and Systems**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Office statutory committees continued to operate as per the terms of reference (ToRs), supporting office governance and accountability structures. The CMT met regularly and finalised the special review of the staffing structure, which was required because of the transition to GSSC, closure of the 2013 internal audit recommendations, monitoring of Key Performance Indicators, risk control and self-assessment, business continuity, and staff learning and development.

The business continuity plan was updated to maintain operational response capacity during crisis situations. The Office’s enterprise risk management (ERM) was also updated, with the risk library adjusted to the changing country situation.

All the 2013 internal audit recommendations were closed. In response to two main observations, a new tool was developed to measure and monitor Annual Management Plan indicators and Key Performance Indicators for office management. Covering both programme and operations areas, indicators were reviewed monthly and/or quarterly. In addition, a stronger system for monitoring field trips and tracking trip reports was put in place.
ICT systems were effectively managed as specified in global guidelines, with periodic maintenance performed on server systems and workstations. The office also successfully migrated to Outlook Exchange as per headquarters guidelines and roll-out plans.

In 2014 the first comprehensive salary scale review in many years took place in Egypt. UNICEF actively participated in the Local Salary Survey Committee (LSSC). The LSSC met with existing and new comparators to ensure quality data was collected and worked in close consultation with the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) salary specialist.

OUTPUT 2 Financial Resources and Stewardship

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Egypt continued to perform well against financial management indicators. Bank reconciliations were on track as well as other financial and accounting clearance activities to comply with corporate standards. All monthly closure activities and year-end activities were on track with clearing activities taking place within the time frames indicated by headquarters. DCTs were rigorously managed by sections, with close monitoring by the CMT. Consequently in 2014 there were no DCTs outstanding for more than nine months. As of 31 December 2014, DCTs outstanding above nine months were at zero per cent and DCTs outstanding over six months were at 2.2 per cent. Financial benchmarks in terms of cash flow liquidity, clearing of GL accounts, bank reconciliations, and NEP registers/inventory were consistently met, with activities completed in a timely manner.

In March 2014 UNICEF Egypt set a target that month-end bank balances should not exceed 30 per cent of total monthly replenishments, which is a higher standard than the corporate target of 50 per cent. The target was met every month after it was introduced.

The Office continued to advance with the harmonised approach to cash transfers (HACT). Training of staff and all implementing partners was completed, assurance plans were prepared and implemented, and HACT activities were included in work plans with the Government. HACT capacities will be further strengthened in 2015 when UNICEF Egypt will have the support of an international HACT specialist shared with UNICEF Sudan.

OUTPUT 3 Human Capacity

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The human resources function progressed well, providing support to the UNICEF Country Office in the areas of recruitment, staff training, and orientation of new staff joining UNICEF Egypt. The Local Training Committee coordinated staff training activities and provided feedback to office management. Gender statistics are as follows: 67 per cent female and 33 per cent males for the whole office, with a breakdown of 72 per cent female 28 per cent male for local staff and 33 per cent male 67 per cent male for international professional staff. The office prioritised staff security considering the political and security environment in Egypt. A two-day Women’s Security Awareness training activity was provided to all female staff. A total of 60 women staff and consultants for UNICEF and other UN agencies benefited from this training. Monitoring of expiry dates of security certificates was implemented to ensure staff are reminded three months before the expiry date of certificates. Additionally, two human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) training sessions, one in Arabic and one in English, were held in December 2014.
OUTCOME 2 Vulnerable mothers and children under age five have increased access to and utilisation of continuous and integrated primary health care services, particularly perinatal care, nutritional services, water, sanitation and hygiene, and quality prevention, care, support and treatment for HIV.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The preliminary results of the 2014 DHS Survey confirm the progress achieved by Egypt in improving child and maternal survival and health, but also the disadvantage of rural areas, in particular those in Upper Egypt.

The IPHN of the MoHP is part of the national effort to accelerate improvements and regional convergence on child survival and nutrition, and to make progress towards the commitment to child survival that Egypt took by signing the 'Promise Renewed' pledge. The programme, implemented with the technical and financial support of UNICEF, has been scaled up since 2012 from 160 to 260 rural villages, in six governorates (four in Upper Egypt and two in Lower Egypt). The IPHN, which is an integral component of the National MCH Acceleration Plan (2013-2015), aims to implement health care quality standards (focusing on antenatal, assisted delivery and postnatal care, as well as on nutrition) in FHUs and received UNICEF support in multiple ways, including capacity development and strengthening, equipment supply, innovation, knowledge generation and dissemination, and promotion of health care practices. In addition, UNICEF contributed to the establishment of a monitoring system focusing on results and equity, adapting the concepts of MoRES. The IPHN introduced a new system for perinatal and neonatal mortality surveillance in three governorates, pursuant to national scale up. The programme supported the development of an Agenda for Action to address malnutrition of children under five to be launched by the MoHP in 2015.

During 2014, around 65,000 children under five and 175,000 women (including pregnant and lactating women) were reached with the MCH services of the programme and other communication and empowering activities. According to the data from the MoRES in the areas covered by the IPHN, 93 per cent of births were attended by skilled birth personnel, 66 per cent of children received postnatal care within 48 hours of birth, and 99 per cent of children aged nine months received Vitamin A supplementation. Exclusive breastfeeding for six months increased by an absolute ten points (from 49 per cent in 2013 to 58 per cent in 2014).

To respond to the disparities existing in major urban areas in access to quality child and maternal care services, the urban health programme of the MoHP, Cairo Governorate and UNICEF that started in 2013 was consolidated. The programme provides integrated health, nutrition and hygiene promotion and WASH services in two deprived informal settlements in Cairo, and in 2014 reached 6,000 women and 3,200 children under five years of age.

In February 2014, Egypt initiated the use of the pentavalent vaccine as part of the routine immunisation system. UNICEF, which supported the MoHP in the process of introduction of the new vaccine, provided assistance for the vaccines in the procurement process (to cover needs until the end of 2015) and for a public awareness campaign to promote immunisation in general and the use of the pentavalent vaccine in particular. Two polio NIDs were organised by the MoHP (in April and in October) and received the support of UNICEF, including for vaccine procurement and for the communication and mobilisation campaign. According to an independent report, during the April NID, 96 per cent of children under five received the oral polio vaccine. Egypt remained polio free in 2014.

To inform the national efforts toward the elimination of Iodine Deficiency Disorders, a national
iodine survey (focusing on school children and pregnant women) is being conducted by the MoHP with the support of GAIN and UNICEF. The preparatory work was completed in 2014, and the field work, analysis and reporting will be completed in 2015.

During the year, 2,500 households were connected to the public water networks as part of UNICEF interventions in collaboration with National Holding Company for Water and Waste Water; an estimated 12,500 individuals in the governorates of Assiut, Sohag and Qena and in the selected poor informal settlements in Cairo benefited from these water connections. As part of the UNICEF-supported response to the Syrian refugee crisis in Egypt in 2014, 1,881 women and 9,368 children received health care services, counselling and growth monitoring in government PHUs. Over 12,000 Syrian children under five received the polio vaccine during the two NIDs organised in 2014. UNICEF supported the MoHP in strengthening (with training and equipment) the PHUs in the areas with higher concentrations of Syrian refugees.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
To help address regional disparities in child survival, the MoHP with UNICEF support implemented the IPHN in 160 rural villages in six governorates (four in Upper Egypt and two in Lower Egypt) starting in 2012. The programme aims to implement health care quality standards (focusing on antenatal care, assisted delivery, postnatal care and nutrition) in FHUs.

Progress was made in 2014 on consolidating the IPHN interventions by completing the training programmes on health care, hygiene and nutrition for 1,130 health providers, including 398 physicians, 372 nurses, 167 CHWs, 105 lab technicians and 88 data entry personnel. The IPHN also provided the equipment for 160 FHUs. In addition, around 200 medical staff from several health facilities were trained on baby-friendly accreditation and how to obtain it for their facilities. According to the programme records, around 65,000 children under five and 175,000 women (including pregnant and lactating women) were reached with maternal, neonatal and child health care services and other communication and empowering activities. Upon the request of the MoHP, the IPHN is being expanded to an additional four districts to reach 260 rural villages in 11 districts in the targeted six governorates.

With the support of UNICEF, the MoHP implemented a new monitoring system focusing on equity, based on MoRES. At the end of 2014, all the FHUs included in the IPHN used the self-performance monitoring and bottleneck identification tool and reported data regularly to the health districts and to the central MoHP level. The real-time data provided by MoRES enabled the identification of barriers to effective service delivery, to which the programme tried to respond (for example, in the area of growth monitoring, shortage of iron tablets and Vitamin A, or the high turnover of primary health care doctors). The MoHP is currently considering the scaling up of MoRES and its indicators beyond the areas covered by the programme.

With the support of UNICEF, the MoHP expanded the nutrition surveillance system to a total of 22 sentinel sites. Support included supplying the sites with anthropometric equipment, computers, installing of the software, and training of health providers on the WHO growth curves. The sites were functioning by the end of the year and data was collected regularly.

OUTPUT 2 Increased access to safe water and sanitation and improved hygiene practices among groups vulnerable to diarrheal disease in intervention areas
Analytical Statement of Progress:
The UNICEF WASH Programme – a component of the Child Survival and Development Programme – is implemented in partnership with the National Holding Company for Water and Water Waste and the relevant governorate Water Companies, and operates in Assiut, Sohag and Qena and in two poor informal urban settlements in Cairo Governorate. The WASH Programme aims to provide water-deprived households with water connections within their dwelling, through the operation of a revolving fund mechanism supported by UNICEF.

A total of 2,500 households were connected to the public water connection network in 2014, benefiting an estimated 12,500 people. This figure includes 1,014 household connections installed in two informal settlements in Cairo Governorate, reaching an estimated 5,070 persons. As part of this urban health programme, UNICEF also supported Cairo Governorate to improve the water and sanitation facilities in three schools (with an estimated 8,800 students).

In addition, with the support of UNICEF, 150 staff members of the water companies and local authorities were trained on how to manage and sustain the revolving fund mechanism. Training on hygiene practices was also provided to the water companies’ staff.

In the areas covered by the water connection programme, 70 CHWs, nursing supervisors and school teachers were trained to disseminate WASH messages to their communities, as part of the awareness component of the programme.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The MoHP and UNICEF worked together to improve family health, nutrition and hygiene practices through community-based health and nutrition interventions implemented in 65 rural villages.

In 2014, according to the programme monitoring system, 167 trained CHWs conducted 12,572 health, nutrition and hygiene education sessions attended by around 50,000 women. They also conducted over 120,000 home visits where the CHWs observed and tracked the behaviour change of the participating women and family members to ensure they acquired the health and hygiene behaviour as per the education sessions they received on the topics of hand washing, sanitation, food handling, post-natal care and breastfeeding practices.

UNICEF supported the training for CHWs and community volunteers, as well as supervision activities. The training enhanced the communication skills of the CHWs and community volunteers to allow them to convey the health messages to their community members and women in the target areas. That is in addition to enriching their information on health and behavioural practices to allow them to be able to provide the counselling when needed and identify situations when referrals to higher level for medical advice are required. The MoHP District Health Teams received training to enhance their supervisory skills to be able to support and guide CHWs in their daily work with their target population. A total of 770 CHWs and community volunteers received training in 2014 on the tools and skills to observe and assess behaviour change, to enhance their ability to use communication for behaviour change focusing on key family health, nutrition and hygiene practices.

Signs of positive changes in key health behaviours emerged from different data systems implemented along with UNICEF interventions, in terms of increase in the use of perinatal care
services and improvement in key child nutrition practices. According to the data collected by the CHWs with the ‘community-based behaviour monitoring tool’, among the women reached by the CHW activities, the percentage of those who delivered in health facilities grew from 65 per cent in 2013 to 74 per cent in 2014; the share of children who received all the compulsory vaccinations grew from 86 per cent to 90 per cent; and the share of mothers who consulted a doctor when the child had difficulty breathing went from 79 per cent to 84 per cent.

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

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF continued supporting persons living with HIV to have consistent access to high-quality medicines through procurement of ARVs and follow-up testing through the National AIDS Programme.

In the reporting period, 1,703 persons living with HIV received treatment. Among them were 17 pregnant women receiving ARVs to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission; 15 infants born to HIV-positive women who were receiving ARV treatment as prophylaxis against mother-to-child transmission; and 49 refugees.

UNICEF, with an NGO partner, researched the challenges to adherence to ARV treatment and the reasons for poor adherence, and also initiated interventions to address the structural and economic barriers to compliance with treatment. The study was the initial step within a comprehensive initiative that is now in place and includes treatment literacy seminars targeting people living with HIV, their families and health care providers. In addition to these treatment literacy activities, a buddy system (companion volunteer) and a reminder system are being established to enhance the adherence of people living with HIV to dispensing and uptake of the medication.

A high-level national technical consultation was conducted in partnership with the MoHP to discuss ways to integrate HIV prevention from mother to child within the well-established antenatal care system in MCH centres. A key outcome of the consultation was the development of a set of recommendations to inform a nationally adapted framework and key milestones towards the development of a national Elimination of HIV Mother-to-Child Transmission Protocol and Guidelines to pilot in 2015.

A partnership was established with the Centre for Development Services to provide a package of health, psycho-social and economic support to HIV-positive children and adolescents (and mothers). Activities were planned for the first quarter of 2015

**OUTPUT 5** New vaccines successfully introduced to national immunisation schedule

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The pentavalent vaccine was officially introduced in Egypt’s national routine immunisation schedule, and immunisation with this vaccine started in February 2014.

UNICEF provided support to the MoHP in different stages of the introduction of pentavalent, including the services for procuring vaccines, supporting the development of EPI guidelines and staff training. UNICEF also contributed to a national awareness campaign to promote immunisation in general and the use of pentavalent. According to an ex-ante estimation produced by the PARC research centre, the media plan for the campaign had the potential to
reach 96 per cent of Egyptian children’s caregivers.

During 2014, UNICEF provided procurement-service support to the MoHP to procure 17 million doses of pentavalent to cover the supply needs for 2014 and 2015. UNICEF also provided technical and financial support for the improvement of the cold chain and for the establishment of a MoHP-owned vaccine storage facility (cold room). The MoHP allocated land to establish the cold room, which will be fully equipped by July 2015 when the MoHP has completed the building.

OUTPUT 6 Exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices improved

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF-supported nutrition activities aimed to improve exclusive breastfeeding and optimal infant and young feeding practices. In collaboration with two national NGOs, UNICEF supported the MoHP to expand the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) in both in public and private hospitals.

During the reporting period, the initiative was extended to 15 general and district hospitals and 70 FHUs in 14 targeted governorates. The participating facilities adopted and advocated for BFHI policies, and created women’s support groups, making them eligible for BFHI certification. A total of 406 doctors and 453 nurses were trained to enhance their skills and knowledge to provide counselling on proper breastfeeding and young child feeding practices. Around 2,000 sessions for women’s support groups were attended by more than 10,000 pregnant and lactating mothers to promote early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding for six months.

UNICEF in collaboration with ELCA (Egyptian Lactation Consultant Association) completed a study on the “Compliance with the code of marketing of breast milk substitute in Egypt”. The findings were presented to the MoHP and other related parties to advocate for implementation of the Code and the enactment of prohibitive legislation to combat Code violations. As a follow-on action to the study recommendations, 20 meetings in 14 governorates attended by 570 officials were conducted to improve participants’ knowledge of the Code. Support to the MoHP will continue to monitor reduction of Code violations, including strengthening of related legislations.

UNICEF continued its support to the recently established Nutrition Unit within the MCH department of the MoHP to lead nutrition activities at the primary health care level. A draft “Nutrition Agenda for Action” strategy paper was developed to guide the MoHP in scaling up nutrition interventions, particularly within the MCH sector.

UNICEF, in partnership with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and the National Nutrition Institute is supporting the MoHP in conducting a national iodine survey to identify the current nutritional iodine status among school children and pregnant women nation-wide, and elicit progress towards eliminating Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) in Egypt. The survey results will inform the National IDD Programme on progress achieved to date at the national level towards the elimination of iodine deficiencies in Egypt. This will have implications on the way forward and activities needed to support the sustainability of the programme.

OUTPUT 7 UNICEF emergency response for women and children’s health is secured
Analytical Statement of Progress:
The UNICEF contribution to the emergency response to the Syrian refugee crisis in Egypt in the
health sector consists mainly in supporting the MoHP in strengthening the capacity of MCH
services, through existing public health services, in areas of major concentration of Syrian
refugees.

In 2014, capacity building and procurement of medical equipment were provided to 89 PHUs in
ten governorates of Egypt where Syrian refugees are concentrated to ensure access to a
comprehensive and quality package of primary health services by Syrian women and children.
In 2014, 1,881 women had access to antenatal and reproductive health care services at FHUs.
In addition, around 9,368 Syrian children under five years of age received health, nutrition and
growth monitoring services.

Awareness sessions reflected the need to develop and integrate the nutritional messages in the
health sessions, which is an area for development and support to be provided to the Ministry in
the future.

UNICEF supported the MoHP in the implementation, procurement, and media coverage of two
NIDs conducted in April and October 2014, with special attention given to the coverage among
Syrian children. More than 12,000 children under five years of age were reached in the
designated areas.

Field monitoring reports indicated that Syrian women are not encouraged to access health care
facilities in their catchment areas. Further investigation of the issue highlighted the preference of
Syrian families to be visited and counselled by fellow Syrian community workers, in addition to a
lack of knowledge of the available services and facilities.

To address the issue, the programme supported the MoHP with outreach and capacity-building
interventions by training 30 Syrian CHWs in target districts on outreach, communication skills
and dealing with trauma and violence cases. A modified training curriculum was developed and
delivered to CHWs to help them better serve Syrian families in the target areas. UNICEF is
currently working with the MoHP to compile a comprehensive training curriculum to be adopted
by the Ministry for potential expansion.

During 2014, UNICEF undertook steps to support the MoHP in improving their M&E function,
data collection reporting and documentation tools, techniques and process. UNICEF supported
the MoHP in developing an information software system to document data centrally on the
number of Syrian women and children under five years of age receiving primary health care
services at the public PHUs.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Enhancing quality of education and improving equitable access to school, especially for the
most disadvantaged and marginalised, is a key priority for Egypt. UNICEF contributed to these
results mainly through system strengthening, capacity building and knowledge generation.

In 2014, the MoE finalised and disseminated the National Strategic Plan for Pre-university
Education Reform (2014-2030). The plan, which aims at the sustainable development of the
pre-university education sector, has a specific focus on enhancing quality and equity in access to school. UNICEF contributed to the process of preparation of the plan with technical support, in critically reviewing the achievements of the previous strategic plan, assessing the current situation and identifying the challenges ahead.

A new standard-based teacher’s performance assessment tool is available to the MoE along with an information system on performance gaps and training needs. This result was achieved with the support of UNICEF.

In the community-based education sector, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation (NAQAA) to develop national standards for quality community-based education. These standards will be disseminated nationwide for use in all community schools in 2015, which will help promote participatory school improvement interventions in all aspects of the school. The standards will help validate existing community-based education services and facilitate planning for future efforts to provide a safe and enriching learning environment. The development of an information system is in progress to promote informed decision making for education reform at the central and local levels.

Gross enrolment in pre-primary education reached 29.6 per cent in the school year 2013/14. Despite the progress registered in recent years, the participation rate is still low. To enhance access to pre-primary education, particularly among disadvantaged children, UNICEF provided supplies and teacher training to scale up school and community-based kindergarten models; 25 kindergartens were established and prepared to accommodate children with disabilities. A total of 736 children aged four to five were enrolled, including 29 children with disabilities.

UNICEF continued its support to the MoE for scaling up inclusion of children with disabilities in public primary schools. The emphasis was on strengthening systems for early diagnosis for enrolment, student learning assessment, and teachers’ professional development.

UNICEF supported inclusive education pilots at pre-primary and primary stages, providing education opportunities for 1,972 children with disabilities. In addition to establishing resource rooms in 120 pilot schools, UNICEF also provided technical assistance to the MoE in building a national system for inclusive education, including early diagnosis and enrolment measures, teacher training, and student learning assessment. Tool kits were developed and school-based task forces were formed and trained to test the tools in pilot schools.

To strengthen the teacher training system, school-based training units in 120 pilot schools were supported, through training-of-trainers workshops for 618 teachers and supervisors on active learning and inclusive education and provision of training material and equipment.

UNICEF, in collaboration with the MoE, conducted two main studies to generate knowledge in support of planning and decision making. The first study assessed school readiness among children entering primary education in Upper Egypt. School readiness domains included: linguistic, cognitive, physical, social, mathematical, scientific and critical thinking. The results of the assessment will be used as a baseline to inform the pre-school education reform planning and programme interventions. The second study defined different profiles of out-of-school children and those at risk of dropping out of pre-primary and basic education. These study results will help guide planning for the curriculum and professional development reform interventions at pre-primary level as well as planning the scaling up of community education interventions to meet the different needs of out-of-school children.
As the GoE allowed Syrian children the same access to education as Egyptian children, UNICEF provided technical support to the MoE and NGOs to create space for Syrian children in public schools and to create community-based education opportunities for pre-primary education.

A total of 14,943 Syrian boys and girls in the seven governorates with the highest concentration of Syrian refugees (Qalubia, Giza, Cairo, Damietta, Alexandria, Sharkia and Menofia) benefited from UNICEF interventions, including provision of supplies, furniture, classroom extensions, and teacher training to improve the learning environment. To support integration of Syrian children in schools, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the MoE to promote school activities to facilitate cultural exchange through music, arts and games. In addition, UNICEF provided education grants to Syrian families to enable them to enrol their children in schools. The education grant ranged from US$ 52-US$ 131 according to the number of children per household enrolled in schools. The grants contributed to school fees, school uniforms, books, stationery and transportation.

To minimise bottlenecks obstructing access to education for Syrian children, 394 middle managers in 25 governorates were trained to develop a better understanding of refugee children’s right to quality education and MoE rules and regulations.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF supported the MoE to scale up school- and community-based kindergarten models through knowledge management and capacity-building interventions. School- and community-based kindergartens were established ready for inclusion of children with disabilities, and knowledge was generated to guide pre-school reform interventions to improve teacher performance and school readiness.

During the reporting period, UNICEF continued to inform decision-making processes at the central and school levels for improved pre-primary education. A study was completed that assessed children’s school readiness, covering 3,274 children from 98 governmental and non-governmental kindergartens in three districts of Assiut, Sohag, and Qena, and showed the impact of current early childhood education programmes on children’s school readiness. The school readiness report revealed an average score for school readiness of 62 per cent, with a range between 59 per cent in Assiut and 62 per cent in Qena. The results of the assessment are used as baseline for programme interventions.

To improve teachers’ performance, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the MoE to develop a standards-based teachers’ performance assessment tool and database. These will be utilised to enhance effectiveness and efficiency of professional development policies and interventions throughout the pre-school sector.

Twenty-five new government kindergartens in Assiut, Sohag and Qena were established to pilot inclusion in pre-school education. The classrooms serve 736 children, of whom 29 are children with disabilities. Contracting of 50 teachers is being processed by the MoE.

Time lag delays affecting data collection and implementation were experienced specifically in attaining MoE approvals and sufficient allocations of financial resources to employ teachers for the newly established kindergartens.
OUTPUT 2 Out-of-school girls and boys have improved access to quality community-based primary education in intervention areas

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The programme component addresses barriers to access quality education through generating knowledge about out-of-school children’s profiles and bottlenecks to school participation, establishing community schools and quality assurance measures to enhance school retention and completion. There is a particular focus on education of girls.

At the policy level, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation (NAQAA) to develop national standards for quality community-based education. During the reporting period, the standards were approved by the NAQAA Board of Trustees and made ready for dissemination. A plan for launching the standards and dissemination nationwide was approved by NAQAA and the MoE to be implemented in Q1/2015. There were some delays in the process due to changes in NAQAA management.

The accreditation process will help promote a participatory school improvement process that examines all aspects of the school. Further, it will help in validating existing community-based education services and planning for future interventions to provide a safe and enriching learning environment while maintaining an efficient and effective system to sustain the community school model. The development of an information system was initiated to promote informed decision making for education reform at policy and local levels.

UNICEF continued to advocate for the importance of scaling up community schools to reach out-of-school children and discussed with relevant line ministries (Education and Finance) the possibilities for allocation of adequate funds to recruit additional teachers as required. A new proposal for establishing 1,200 community schools during the period 2015-2019 was being finalised in cooperation with the EU and the MoE. In collaboration with the Sawiras Foundation, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF continued to support 1,672 out-of-school children aged 6-14 enrolled in community schools in Assiut, Sohag, Fayoum, Minya and Sharkia Governorates through teacher training and facilitating peer support among teachers to enhance transfer of newly acquired knowledge and skills to the classrooms.

To promote knowledge generation, UNICEF and the MoE jointly conducted a study on out-of-school children to develop a better understanding of their profiles and bottlenecks that obstruct their enrolment in schools. The study will be launched in early 2015. The study will inform future plans for scaling up the community school model.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Scaling up of inclusive education in public primary schools progressed through strengthening systems for early diagnosis for enrolment, student learning assessment, and teachers’ professional development.

During the reporting period, 30 new schools were prepared to integrate boys and girls with inclusive education. UNICEF provided these schools with resource rooms, with a total of 120 public schools enrolling 1,943 children with disabilities in three governorates: Cairo, Assiut and
Sohag. UNICEF supported the MoE to conduct orientation sessions for school staff and parents to promote inclusive education in public schools.

UNICEF collaborated with the Faculty of Education of Assiut University to conduct a needs assessment of 90 schools. The results were disseminated to the MoE at the central level and to the relevant governorates. The needs assessments were used to prepare development plans to enhance MoE capacity to address the needs of disabled children.

To strengthen the MoE system to mainstream inclusion of children with disabilities in public schools, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the MoE to develop a tool kit for diagnosing disabilities and to test it in 120 schools. School committees for diagnosing disabilities (social workers, school principals, Board of Trustees members, teachers, psychologists) were formed in each school and trained.

Examination specifications for different disabilities and learning assessment tools for five subjects (Arabic, Math, Science, Social Studies and English) were developed and a plan for training teachers and supervisors was approved for pilot implementation in 120 schools. Further, 618 teachers and supervisors in the schools were trained on active learning and inclusive education. A plan was developed for producing activity manuals for teachers to demonstrate teaching techniques in different subjects for different disabilities; final approval from the MoE was pending at the end of 2014.

UNICEF collaborated with the MoE to technically review the Ministerial decree governing a national system for inclusion in public schools to establish a clear vision and division of roles and responsibilities among involved parties. The lack of clarity on these issues is a key bottleneck in the process of mainstreaming inclusive education nationwide.

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

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF supported the MoE and NGOs to provide access to appropriate, quality education for Syrian children aged 3-14. As the GoE allows Syrian children the same access to education as Egyptian children, the sector response strategies included: 1) creating space for Syrian children in public schools through increasing institutional capacity, and 2) creating community-based education opportunities wherever the public system cannot accommodate Syrian children. UNICEF is using a mix of strategies to achieve the target.

According to MoE enrolment figures, in December 2014, 39,314 children (aged 4-17) were enrolled in 25 governorates. A total of 14,943 Syrian boys and girls aged 6-14 were enrolled in UNICEF-supported primary public schools in the school year 2013/2014 in seven governorates with the highest concentration of Syrian refugees (Qalubia, Giza, Cairo, Damietta, Alexandria, Sharkia and Menofia). A total of 84 public schools received supplies (furniture, computers, sports and music instruments) to accommodate Syrian children and improve the school environment. Training was provided to 5,323 teachers and supervisors to allow them to better manage high-density classrooms and activate school activities that promote integration and cultural exchange among Syrian and Egyptian children. A rapid assessment involving 80 students to solicit feedback on the application of the new classroom management techniques revealed that students became more engaged in the learning process and that communication between teachers and students had improved significantly.
To support the integration of Syrian children in schools, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the MoE to promote school activities to facilitate cultural exchange through music, arts and games. To date, 1,061 children (775 Syrian, 286 Egyptians) participated jointly in different school activities in 27 schools in New Damietta, Ezbet El Bourg, New Cairo and El Obour.

To minimise bottlenecks obstructing access to education among Syrian children, 394 middle managers in 25 governorates were trained to develop a better understanding of refugee children’s right to quality education and MoE rules and regulations.

In addition, UNICEF provided education grants to 4,065 families reaching 8,613 Syrian children in Damietta and Alexandria upon enrolment and based on regular attendance. The education grant ranged from US$ 52-US$ 131 according to the number of children per household enrolled in schools. The grant was designed to contribute to school fees, school uniforms, books, stationery and transportation.

Twenty-seven kindergarten classrooms were established in partnership with NGOs enrolling 759 Syrian boys and girls three to five years of age in the 2014/15 school year. UNICEF provided furniture, educational material and training for 54 teachers. Challenges that hindered achieving planned target included the delay in receiving government approvals for NGOs to receive funds from UNICEF; Syrian families’ mobility among governorates; Syrian families’ preference for enrolling their children in Syrian private educational centres; and the inability to pay the kindergarten fees, which are considered high for some Syrian families.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2014, after more than three years of political and institutional instability, government bodies took positive steps towards an incremental reform of the child protection system in Egypt. MoSS, NCCM and the MoE, with UNICEF financial and technical support, engaged in important policy reforms. Most of these reforms were informed by a mapping of child protection systems conducted by NCCM and UNICEF in 2013.

In partnership with NCCM, UNICEF facilitated the drafting of an executive decree containing measures for the implementation of the CPCs. The drafting process included extensive consultations with key ministries, local authorities, and civil society and development partners. The draft decree, which is currently in the approval process, defines roles, responsibilities and key functions of local authorities and central government with regard to local-level child protection. In coordination with national and international child protection partners, UNICEF co-led a process of harmonisation of technical assistance to CPCs and related training programmes.

With Save the Children International and UNICEF technical support, MoSS issued a decree in June 2014 on standards of care in orphanages. A total of 302 orphanages were assessed against those standards at the national level in the second half of the year. Another decree on standards in residential care institutions working with children at risk and juvenile offenders was submitted for MOSS approval. In addition, a policy proposal for the establishment of a specialised child protection workforce, non-existent in Egypt, was discussed with MoSS. In the area of children in street situations, a framework for the outsourcing of child protection services to NGOs was submitted as a transitional alternative to the absence of designated government staff and child protection programmes. This proposal stresses the importance of government
In Alexandria and New Damietta, UNICEF and partners ran 11 CFSs for Syrian refugee children. With UNICEF funding, in Alexandria, eight CFS were run by Caritas and Community Development Associations. In New Damietta, Terre des Hommes opened three new CFSs.

These positive developments contributed to creating an enabling environment for the protection of children in Egypt. Their actual implementation remains a critical challenge in the absence of adequate financial and human resources, insufficient coordination among stakeholders and overreliance on NGOs for the provision of services.

At the local and community levels, UNICEF pursued the direct provision of services to children through NGO partners. These services respond to the immediate needs of children and constitute important models – operating within the framework of the Child Law and national policies – that inform policy reform.

During the year, community-based child protection networks attached to statutory CPCs conducted interventions for 7,383 children (3,854 boys, 3,529 girls) in Alexandria and Assiut. In Cairo, services for children in street situations reached 2,210 (1,326 boys, 884 girls). Legal aid was provided in Alexandria and Cairo to 1,805 children (1,618 boys, 187 girls) in criminal cases and cases related to political demonstrations. HIV-prevention activities among high-risk groups reached 152 children.

Despite the positive developments, major challenges remain for an effective child protection system in Egypt. Civil society organisations continue to fill the gaps left by lacking government services. Such initiatives are commendable but are dependent on external funding and do not lead to enhanced state responsibility in ensuring children’s right to protection. UNICEF engagement with the GoE focuses on addressing this fundamental problem.

Prevention of violence against children concentrated on FGM/C abandonment. In Assiut community programmes, 24,892 persons and 2,636 community leaders announced their abandonment of FGM/C. Two important shortfalls can be highlighted. First, there are persistent trends of unsuccessful prosecution of FGM/C perpetrators in a country where, according to 2008 data, the majority of girls undergo these practice at the hands of doctors. Second, the reliance of the National Programme to Combat FGM/C on external funding does not contribute to its actual institutionalisation within government systems. In 2015, UNICEF, in partnership with government counterparts, will pursue and strengthen advocacy efforts to address these two important shortfalls.

The Child Protection Programme pursued its work on HIV prevention among most-at-risk children. UNICEF completed a qualitative study in collaboration with 12 NGOs working with children in street situations. The study aimed to understand the changing dynamics, living conditions in the streets and emerging behaviour patterns to assess the implications on their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. The study findings and recommendations will inform programme planning and design in 2015.

In Alexandria and New Damietta, UNICEF and partners ran 11 CFSs for Syrian refugee children. With UNICEF funding, in Alexandria, eight CFS were run by Caritas and Community Development Associations. In New Damietta, Terre des Hommes opened three new CFSs.
Through recreational activities, parenting group discussions and non-specialised psychosocial interventions, 7,162 children were reached. Social workers responded to 1,066 cases requiring specialised assistance, which included specialised psychosocial support, regular family visits, and referral to legal aid. Cash assistance was provided to 351 families. In addition, 387 children detained in connection with irregular migration were documented and received legal assistance and material support.

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

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The Child Protection Programme worked at the national level, supporting policy reform, and at the subnational level, strengthening statutory child protection mechanisms. Local-level interventions remained essential models to inform policy reforms and respond to immediate needs of thousands of children in need of care and protection.

At the national level, UNICEF provided technical assistance to NCCM for drafting of an executive decree defining measures for the implementation of the CPCs. The drafting process included consultations with stakeholders. The draft decree defines roles, responsibilities and key functions of local and central government.

Under MoSS leadership, NGO partners and UNICEF contributed to the assessment of 302 orphanages in line with standards issued in June 2014. This assessment will inform actions to improve quality of care in orphanages.

Upon a MoSS request, UNICEF submitted a policy paper suggesting the establishment of a framework of cooperation between MoSS and NGOs to address the absence of government programmes and services for street children. This proposed partnership aims to ensure government accountability for the provision of essential services for street children (i.e. outreach, rehabilitation and reintegration) and outsourcing of those services to NGOs whenever government institutional capacities do not exist. In addition, a strategy to develop a cadre of professional social workers specialised in child protection was also developed and discussed with MoSS. The strategy includes the formulation of policies to recognise child protection social work and to develop a national curriculum and a certification system.

At the subnational level, in partnership with two NGOs, the programme pursued its community-based child protection interventions within the CPC framework in Alexandria and Assiut, responding, in the second half of 2014, to 1,773 children in need of care and protection through referrals. UNICEF supported NCCM in establishing a counselling unit attached to the Child Helpline and a legal unit to deal with serious child protection cases (rape, maltreatment, kidnapping), reaching 146 children.

Three partner NGOs pursued the provision of services to street children, responding to 831 new cases (499 boys, 332 girls) through outreach interventions, and psychosocial programmes in drop-in centres. A total of 81 children were reunified with their families. Family visiting and psychosocial support programmes reached 574 families to help prevent family breakdown and support reunification. Within the framework of these partnerships, a new strategy to ensure systematic linkages with government entities and transfer of knowledge to government entities was developed.
Partnerships, knowledge and strategies for the prevention of violence against children are developed

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In addition to its longstanding commitment to the FGM/C abandonment programme, UNICEF engaged at policy and community levels in preventing and responding to violence in schools as well as developing positive parenting tools.

Regarding FGM/C abandonment, at the national level, the National Population Council and UNICEF convened a communication for development forum involving media experts in briefings on family strengthening and child protection with the aim of ensuring better media reporting of these issues. In Assiut Governorate, programme reports indicate that 2,636 community leaders and 24,892 persons announced their abandonment of FGM/C following UNICEF-supported awareness activities on the harmful effects of violence against children and FGM/C on children, including media campaigns and school activities in 80 communities in 20 villages.

On preventing and responding to violence in schools, at the national level, UNICEF developed and submitted to the MoE a draft policy guidance document for the full implementation of the May 2014 decree on Maintaining Order and Discipline in School. This draft defines roles, responsibilities and concrete mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence in schools.

UNICEF, in partnership with a coalition of NGOs, developed a joint conceptual framework that will guide programmes to prevent and respond to violence in schools, through common objectives, vision and priority areas of intervention.

At the subnational level, the partnership with Terre des Hommes in Assiut started its preparatory phase by conducting a self-assessment of 15 targeted model schools on the incidence of violence and the capacity to create a safe environment for children. An advisory committee chaired by the Governor was formed, involving key stakeholders, with the aim of making decisions on issues related to children’s safety in schools.

A draft manual was completed on promotion of positive parenting. A testing workshop for the manual took place with key stakeholders. This manual is expected to be used in community-based programmes nationwide by MoSS.

The lack of a comprehensive national programme to prevent violence against children in Egypt in all its forms remained a major challenge, leading to ad hoc interventions. UNICEF completed research on violence against children, the findings of which will be used to advocate for a long-term programme that includes a national parenting programme, sustained media awareness, life-skills promotion among children, and child protection policies in schools.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The capacity of national institutions and civil society was strengthened through three partnerships to promote and protect child rights through advocacy and system strengthening initiatives.

Following the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding with ENCHR, a capacity-building programme for its Child Rights Unit was developed for promoting and monitoring child rights in
In partnership with the office of the Children’s Ombudsman in Greece, UNICEF sponsored four officers from the ENCHR Child Rights Unit for a study tour to Greece to learn about good practices in the promotion and protection of children’s rights, including: functions of independent human rights institutions for children; promotion of rights; dialogue with civil society; establishment of a complaint mechanism; and monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. UNICEF also supported the Unit with procurement of ICT equipment and with capacity building on national and international law pertaining to children.

At an operational level, UNICEF engaged with ENCHR on regular briefings on the situation of detained children in connection with demonstrations, and shared information of key alleged child rights violations. ENCHR informed UNICEF about its commitment to conduct an investigation on this issue. The outcome of this investigation is unknown.

UNICEF co-chaired the Egyptian Coalition on Children’s Rights (ECCR), a coordination platform composed of 25 international NGOs and UN agencies. During the reporting period, the most important achievements included the implementation of a common vision and joint efforts in the area of juvenile justice, protection of children without family care and support to the implementation of CPCs. Following a serious crime involving two minors, ECCR successfully advocated against the calls for repealing provisions in the Child Law and imposing harsher sentences on children involved in serious crimes. ECCR advocated for a comprehensive reform of the juvenile justice system, stressing the importance of rehabilitation of juvenile offenders instead of harsher sentencing.

The main challenges encountered during the reporting period were the lack of a strong mandate at ENCHR to protect and promote child rights in an independent manner, and the persistent challenges facing civil society organisations in realizing long-term policy changes for children.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Egypt and civil society partners provided legal representation to children detained in connection with demonstrations and regular criminal cases. Documentation of grave abuses and systemic issues in the juvenile justice system led to advocacy initiatives recommending policy reforms.

In partnership with the Egyptian Foundation for the Advancement of Childhood Conditions (EFACC), free legal aid was provided to 232 children in Alexandria and Cairo in criminal cases. Twenty-four monitoring visits to children in illegal places of detention supported informed legal actions for the protection of these children. Analysis of a random sample of 144 children detained in Cairo in November indicated that 35 per cent of them were younger than 15, and close to half of the total number of children were detained on begging and vagrancy grounds, a clear violation of the Egyptian Child Law. In addition, 82 per cent of the children had been detained in locations such as police stations that are not legally recognised as places of detention for children. In December 2014, a comprehensive analysis of the gaps in the juvenile justice system with policy recommendations was submitted to the NCCM for follow up.

The situation of children detained in connection with demonstrations remained a major concern. In this context, UNICEF and EFACC provided legal assistance to 393 children in detention. At the end of the year, at least 156 of these children remained in detention. In addition, UNICEF and partners documented and monitored the cases of five children sentenced to death, an
illegal measure in national law, in cases related to violent attacks against police stations in August 2013. Visits to places of detention, and interviews with children and their families informed appeals to the relevant courts, and formal complaints to the prosecutor’s officer resulted in new judgments for four children.

In December, UNICEF conducted an assessment of the role of social workers in the justice system for children in Egypt aimed at identifying concrete and achievable ways in which their role can be strengthened. The assessment involved children, civil society, government officials and practitioners. Some of the main findings included: low morale resulting from low pay; disconnect between undergraduate studies and actual work; and low recognition of their function in the justice system. A final report with recommendations is expected to be submitted to government partners early in 2015. This assessment will inform UNICEF technical cooperation with the MoSS and the Ministry of Justice.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
During the reporting period, the programme made progress in strengthening partnerships and in generating knowledge to inform future programming for reducing risks and vulnerability of young populations to HIV/AIDS, sexual violence and exploitation.

The capacity of four NGOs working with children in street situations was strengthened to equip these children with the skills, knowledge and abilities necessary to protect themselves from HIV. Over the reporting period, 152 children at risk (103 boys and 49 girls) were reached by these HIV-prevention activities.

UNICEF conducted a qualitative exploratory study in collaboration with 12 NGOs working with children in street situations and key experts. The study aimed to understand the changing dynamics, living conditions in the streets and emerging behaviour patterns of this group and to assess the implications on their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. The study’s findings and recommendations will inform programme planning and design in 2015.

UNICEF developed an HIV training manual for NGO staff who work with children in street situations. The manual gathers a set of awareness and protection messages, interactive games and activities. The purpose is to strengthen the capacity of national and subnational partners to engage in addressing HIV prevention among children in street conditions by providing them with this tool in 2015, along with training on how to use it properly. This will also help to standardise the approaches and information package, which is important in a conservative community such as Egypt.

UNICEF contracted the Centre of Development Services to implement a series of interventions to address psychosocial, economic and health needs of HIV-positive children and adolescents and their families.

Children living with HIV/AIDS were helped to have consistent access to high-quality medicines through UNICEF’s continued procurement support to the National AIDS Programme.
Output 6 Emergency

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The programme worked in close coordination with UNHCR and local NGOs within the framework of the Regional Response Plan in three main areas: (i) psychosocial support; (ii) protection of refugee children in detention; and (iii) strengthening child protection coordination. UNICEF, as co-chair of the CPWG along with UNHCR, launched the development of SOPs for the management of child protection cases. A consultative process initiated the documentation of existing practices, gaps and opportunities for better referral mechanisms. The SOPs are expected to harmonise case management practices among members of the CPWG.

In the reporting period, 11 CFSs were operational in Alexandria and New Damietta. Through UNICEF’s funding, seven CFS were run in Alexandria by Caritas and community development associations. In New Damietta, Terre des Hommes opened three new CFSs. Through recreational activities, parenting group discussions and non-specialised psychosocial interventions, 3,592 Syrian boys and girls were reached. Social workers responded to 558 new cases requiring specialised assistance, which included specialised psychosocial support, referral to legal aid and cash assistance to the most vulnerable families (health, emergency cases and school fees). In addition, 387 children detained in connection with irregular migration were documented and received legal assistance and material support.

The lack of government psychosocial programmes to support refugee children led to overreliance on NGOs for the provision of services. The long process of government approval for projects run by NGOs – reaching up to nine months – and the lack of implementing partners with outreach capacity and commitment to refugee issues could only be addressed after a long process of selection of suitable partners. In this context, a mapping of potential partners for Greater Cairo was conducted. Two new partnership agreements were signed in December 2014. The first agreement involves the Arab Organisation for Human Rights, covering interventions in 10th of Ramadan City (North Eastern Greater Cairo). The second agreement was signed with Terre des Hommes to implement activities in 6th of October City (Western Greater Cairo). These new partnerships are expected to reach close to 8,000 children, youth and parents through non-specialised psychosocial support, child protection interventions and specialised support, parenting education and life-skills promotion among adolescents.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Evidence from national routine data collection and survey data confirms the challenges that Egyptian adolescents and youth face in their transition from childhood to adulthood, especially for entering in the labour market and in exercising citizenship. To address these challenges, UNICEF interventions in support of the national partners aimed to contribute to building life skills and employability skills of young people, increase civic engagement opportunities for young people, and contribute to the generation of research and data evidence to inform policy and advocacy.

During 2014, steps were taken towards the institutionalisation of the Life skills and Employability Programme, which is implemented by the MoYS as one of its youth training programmes in youth centres in five governorates, in partnership with Barclays Bank, as part of the global partnership of Building Young Futures. UNICEF provided overall support to the programme, which was enriched during the year with the development of special curricula for adolescents.
(aged 13-17 years) and youth (aged 18-24). In addition, 5,091 young people completed the programme in 2014, bringing the cumulative number to 7,181 since July 2013. A series of linkages were initiated between the graduates of the programme and job and work placement opportunities in the private sector, such as Carrefour, Meridian and Barclays Bank.

Important progress was registered in the institutionalisation of the Civic Education Programme, with the MoYS covering the full cost of its implementation in 2014. Since July 2013, a total of 7,418 young people have enhanced their knowledge and skills for active citizenship by attending the programme’s workshops and activities on rights and responsibilities for participation and active citizenship. Selected youth-led initiatives are planned for 2015. In supporting the institutionalisation and the sustainability of the programme, UNICEF provided strategic technical support in building capacity of young trainers and designing the programme contents to targeted young people.

The preliminary results from the Survey on Young People in Egypt (SYPE) were presented in December 2014. The final data set and the complete report with the results will be made available in the first half of 2015, contributing evidence for policy and advocacy on young people, on issues including civic participation, family formation, health and health behaviours, education achievements, and labour market participation. The survey was designed as a panel, including those young people who participated in the 2009 SYPE, therefore allowing for an analysis of the life trajectories of young people in the last four to five years. UNICEF, along with other donors, financially supported the survey and provided technical advice. It was implemented by the Population Council and the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics.

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

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In July-December 2014, 661 young people (430 adolescents aged 13-17 and 231 youths aged 18-24) enhanced their knowledge and skills for active citizenship through the participation in the Civic Education Programme implemented by the MoYS, with UNICEF support. A total of 7,418 have completed the programme since July 2013, on-track with the planned target. In addition, seven youth groups were trained and received financial assistance to implement youth-led initiatives in their communities. These initiatives will take place in the first half of 2015.

The Civic Education Programme is implemented through a series of workshops covering areas of rights and responsibilities in civic participation and active citizenship, and conducted at youth centres and universities. UNICEF provided technical support in building the capacity of young trainers and in designing the content of the workshop and planning. In the second half of 2014, the Programme’s schedule for the first six months of 2015 was prepared (including the planned outreach) and agreed with the Ministry. The civic education manual will be updated to better reflect the current social context and address more vigorously the concept of tolerance and citizenship.

UNICEF Egypt is developing plans with partners to expand the civic engagement interventions with adolescents through the existing structure of school student unions, starting with the next school/academic year. The aim is to make student unions an active and effective avenue for promoting participations and civic engagement.
OUTPUT 2 Adolescent girls and boys and youth, with a focus on disadvantaged communities, are equipped with key life skills and employability skills in preparation for their transition to adulthood.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Life Skills and Employability Skills Programme is a capacity-building programme implemented by the Ministry of Youth and Sport (MoYS), in partnership with Barclays Bank, as part of the global partnership of Building Young Futures. UNICEF provided technical and financial support, with the aim of institutionalising it within a governmental entity.

The life skills and employability curriculum for adolescents and youths was developed and implemented in five governorates with potential for scale up. In July-December 2014, 538 adolescents (13-17 years) and 2,034 youths (18-24 years) enhanced their life, employability and entrepreneurial skills by participating in the programme. A total of 7,181 young people have successfully completed the programme since July 2013, on-track with the planned target. Analysis of pre/post survey data shows that 90 per cent of beneficiaries of the first part of the programme acquired at least five key life and employability skills addressed by the programme from a total of ten measured skills. Linkages were also established between graduates of the programme and job and work placement opportunities in the private sector such as Carrefour, Meridian and Barclays Bank, resulting in 17 youths getting jobs or work placements during the reporting period. Moreover, to support outreach, two new NGO partnerships were initiated at the end of 2014 to reach out to marginalised youth within this programme in 2015.

As part of the interventions on Sport for Development, during the reporting period, the MoYS initiated the process of designing a capacity-building curriculum for community coaching (including key elements of life skills promotions among adolescents). UNICEF supported this initiative, which shows potential for scaling up through building capacities of coaches working under the umbrella of the Ministry at the national level on the necessary skills. In addition, a specially designed manual on physical activity with life skills targeting adolescent girls was mainstreamed by the MoYS in its national “Women and Girls” programme.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
New data on the situation of youth and adolescents are available in Egypt, after the presentation of the preliminary results of the Panel Survey on Young People in Egypt (SYPE), carried out by the Population Council and the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics, with the support of a number of UN agencies including UNICEF. The survey was designed as a panel including the young people who took part in the 2009 round of data collection. Similar to the SYPE 2009, the results of this panel have the potential for wide-reaching application and influence for policies.

The 2014 SYPE will update the state of knowledge on adolescents and youth in Egypt after the revolution and identify issues of importance to young people in the country’s new political environment. UNICEF provided financial and technical support in preparing the survey questionnaires, discussing the methodology and reviewing the results. The final SYPE report is expected in the first half of 2015.

OUTCOME 6 Social policies, programmes, public opinion and social norms are strengthened to promote and advance child rights.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
After more than a year of intense discussion, with the approval of the 2014/15 budget law, the GoE initiated a major reform of its social protection system. The Government is implementing the first phase of a progressive reduction of energy subsidies and starting the design of new cash transfer programmes, one of them for poor families with children.

In this context, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Finance to produce evidence of the potential impacts of the energy subsidy reform on child poverty and of the potential effect of investing part of the savings generated by the reform on child-sensitive social protection. The research shows that, if no compensatory measures are put in place, the subsidy reform is likely to produce a sharp increase in the number of children living in monetary poverty. However, even a moderate investment made on child cash transfers would lead to an overall decline of child poverty. The research results were presented in a public seminar at Cairo University and in a technical meeting at MOSS, and were also made public.

MOSS is in charge of developing the new cash transfer policies. In the second half of 2014, two programmes were announced: a cash transfer for elderly and individuals with disability (Karama) and a conditional cash transfer (CCT) for poor families with children (Takafol). UNICEF Egypt, along with the World Bank and other agencies, is supporting the Egyptian government in this effort, especially in the development of the cash transfer programme for children. UNICEF supports MOSS in reviewing of the CCT design and establishing effective monitoring and impact evaluation mechanisms.

The launch of the study on Child Multidimensional Poverty in Slums and Unplanned Areas – undertaken by UNICEF and the Ministry of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements – opened a new phase in the Country Office urban programming, with a planned expansion of interventions in informal settlements for the education and child protection programmes, in addition to the operational urban health programme.

During 2014, a series of statistical initiatives were advanced in Egypt with the support of UNICEF. UNICEF supported and influenced the contents of the 2014 Egyptian DHS, conducted in collaboration with the MoHP, USAID and UNFPA. The preliminary results of the DHS were released and contributed to the country reporting for the 2015 MDGs on child survival, nutrition and health. UNICEF Egypt continued its support to CAPMAS, resulting in the 2014 update of CAPMAsStat, a national social statistics database, and to the definition of the plan for a data lab on social and gender statistics.

UNICEF Egypt completed a major review of statistical data on child indicators available in Egypt, and produced and released the digest “Children in Egypt 2014”, a comprehensive source of statistics on children, for national partners and for the general public. UNICEF reviewed the internal knowledge management systems and started the preparation of its intranet (Team Site, including a document repository on research and data on children), which is expected to be launched in early 2015. In parallel, UNICEF Egypt strengthened its internal M&E system, by reviewing the overall M&E framework and establishing programme milestones.

With the aim of influencing social norms to combat violence against children, UNICEF Egypt continued its strategic partnership with Al-Azhar University and the Coptic Church in developing publications outlining the position of religious leaders on violence against children. Positive behavioural messages on hygiene, nutrition, health and non-violent practices were integrated in the Egyptian edition of Facts for Life, produced in collaboration with the MoHP, and in the
edutainment kits distributed and utilised in 4,200 kindergarten classrooms, in collaboration with MOSS.

The NIDs organised by the MoHP (with a coverage of 97 per cent of children under five) benefited from the awareness campaigns supported by UNICEF to provide information about the NIDs and encourage participation. An awareness campaign was conducted to inform the public about the introduction of the new pentavalent vaccine and the importance of vaccination in general.

The UNICEF Egypt social media platforms were strengthened and contributed to the information about the major issues affecting children and initiatives undertaken by UNICEF Egypt during the year, especially those related to CRC@25. By the end of 2014, the UNICEF Egypt Facebook page reached over 500,000 thousands ‘likes’. Within the framework of the CRC events, a photography workshop for street children was conducted and a widely attended gala event was held on 20 November, with the launch of the related photo exhibit.

UNICEF Egypt continued the strategic partnership with Rotary in support of the household water connection programme “Water for Life.” Two hundred Egyptian companies attended a session on the implementation of the ten global child rights by UNICEF Private Fundraising and Partnerships Division.

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

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
During the reporting period, key statistical data and analysis on children’s issues were made nationally available with the support of UNICEF Egypt.

The preliminary results of the 2014 Egypt DHS (EDHS, developed in partnership with the MoHP, USAID and UNFPA) were released, and new data on child survival, health and nutrition are in the public domain, contributing to the Egypt’s MDG reporting and informing national health programmes. The launch of the final report, which will also include data on child labour, child discipline, child protection etc., is expected in the spring 2015. The new data will allow enhanced analysis of child multidimensional poverty and deprivation to be conducted by UNICEF in collaboration with CAPMAS and other partners.

The analysis was completed of a subnational Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) conducted as part of the monitoring system of UNICEF and MoHP’s perinatal care programme. The key findings report was released and the results of the survey are available to the MoHP and the UNICEF Child Survival and Development unit to inform their interventions.

The UNICEF Egypt statistical digest ‘Children in Egypt’ was released on the Country Office website, providing national partners, UN agencies and the general public with a comprehensive set of updated statistics on children’s issues.

The collaboration continued with CAPMAS on the preparation and management of a national database featuring social statistics (CAPMASStat using the DevInfo technology). The release of the 2015 update of the database is planned for the first quarter of the year. CAPMAS is planning the creation of a DevInfo data lab, focusing on social and gender statistics.
The internal UNICEF Egypt M&E functions were strengthened with the completion and adoption of an updated M&E framework, inclusive of programme milestones. An indicators framework and field monitoring data collection and reporting tools were completed for the Syrian Humanitarian Response interventions, and development was started on other standard monitoring mechanisms and tools for all UNICEF Egypt programmes, building on that experience.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In June 2014, the results of the research on the potential impact of the energy subsidies reform on child poverty and of alternative child-sensitive social protection measures were officially released. The study, a result of the partnership between the Ministry of Finance and UNICEF, shows that the removal of fuel subsidies could have high costs in terms of child poverty, but also that the fiscal space generated by the reform offers the opportunity of investing in effective cash transfers for children. In the second half of the year, MoSS started preparation of a new conditional cash transfer (CCT) programme for poor families with children. UNICEF, along with the World Bank and UNDP, is supporting MoSS in this effort, in particular contributing to the review of the policy design and in building effective monitoring and impact evaluation mechanisms. The Government planned to start the disbursement of the CCT in spring 2015, initially covering a half million households in three governorates of Upper Egypt.

With the official launch of the study on ‘Multidimensional Child Poverty in Slums and Unplanned Areas’ (October), evidence on the nature and size of poverty experienced by children in urban slums is available to the Egyptian Government to inform its policy. UNICEF Egypt consolidated its partnership with the Ministry of Urban Development and Informal Settlements and, as a follow up of the study, is discussing the expansion of its urban programme to education and the child protection sectors (in addition to the health component already activated).

Preliminary consultations and initial drafting work for a national strategy for children was done under the coordination of the NCCM, with the technical and financial support of UNICEF. The new strategy is expected to reflect the provisions of the new Egyptian constitution on children’s rights and the benefits of data, research evidence and documentation of international experiences made available by UNICEF.

As part of the review of the internal knowledge management function, UNICEF Egypt prepared the complete frame of the office team-site (intranet) and created a document repository featuring data, research and other documents relevant for the work of the UNICEF Country Office.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Partnerships continued with governmental and non-governmental counterparts through communication for development (C4D) strategies to promote positive practices and influence social beliefs related to child care, rights and gender perceptions.

Two documents were developed to present religious evidence in support of non-violent practices for children in Islam and Christianity through the partnership with Al Azhar University.
and the Coptic Church. The documents will be finalised and launched in 2015.

In partnership with the National Population Council, a Family Empowerment Media Forum advocating for the abandonment of FGM/C was created. Evidence that supports the abandonment of FGM/C is used in ongoing community interventions involving religious, social and media representatives.

Information on the two polio NIDs held by the MoHP in April and October was disseminated by media public information and awareness campaigns supported by UNICEF. The significance of the campaigns is confirmed by the high immunisation coverage (97 per cent of Egyptian children under five in April) assessed by a post-campaign independent monitoring report. However, the report also shows the existence of islands of low coverage (i.e. districts with coverage levels below 80 per cent), which deserve a special focus for forthcoming initiatives and awareness campaigns. Around 90 per cent of Egyptian caregivers had heard about the campaign before the beginning of the NIDs.

A public awareness campaign to promote immunisation in general and the use of the pentavalent vaccine (introduced in Egypt in 2013) was also produced in collaboration with the MoHP and aired for a month, with high frequency, on the highest audience TV and radio channels. According to the ex-ante estimate produced by the PARC research centre, the media plan of the campaign had a potential to reach 96 per cent of Egyptian children’s caregivers.

The Egyptian version of Facts for Life, integrating behavioural messages on hygiene, nutrition, health and non-violence, was produced in collaboration with the MoHP and will be launched and disseminated in 2015, targeting health educators, NGO workers and volunteers. The same messages were integrated in an edutainment kit, produced and disseminated in 4,200 kindergarten classrooms in five Egyptian governorates (estimating to reach around 150,000 children aged two to six years of age).

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

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The UNICEF Egypt social media platforms (including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube) continued to expand, contributing to informing Internet users and the general public about children’s rights, the situation of Egyptian children and the activities of the UNICEF Country Office. Social media posts were often reflected in other media and in the press. By the end of December 2014, the UNICEF Facebook page had received over 500,000 ‘likes’.

UNICEF Egypt actively engaged in initiatives marking CRC@25, with the aim of raising national awareness and engagement on children’s rights, putting emphasis on the rights of children living on the streets or slums and on children with disabilities. A gala event was organised on 20 November, with the participation of members of Government, and representatives of the diplomatic corps, international organisations, civil society and the private sector. A special Facebook campaign was also organised for CRC@25, engaging the public in imagining a better life for children. Within the framework of the CRC celebration, a photography workshop for street children was conducted that resulted in a children’s photography exhibition that was displayed at various CRC@25 events.

A new Internet page, produced in partnership with the external partner Masrawy, was launched to empower youth initiatives, offering an open platform to share information and promote non-
profit youth initiatives and offer volunteering opportunities. At the end of 2014, the web page featured 45 youth initiatives (in Cairo, Alexandria and Upper Egypt) and received around 25,000 visits.

**OUTPUT 5 Strengthened private sector partnerships**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF Egypt engaged with the private sector in a number of ways: stimulating action around business practices, extending programme reach and mobilising resources for the WASH programme.

In partnership with the Federation of Egyptian Industries Egypt and with the support of the UNICEF Private Fundraising and Partnership division, a conference was organised to introduce the Child Rights and Business Principles Initiative to 200 companies. Private sector partnerships also leveraged various companies such as Carrefour and Starwood to ensure work placements/internships were part of the employability skills programme for young people funded by Barclays through UNICEF UK.

During the reporting period, UNICEF continued its partnership with Rotary-Egypt, around the initiative “Water for Life”. In 2014, 830 households in three Upper Egypt governorates (Assiut, Sohag and Qena) benefited from safe water connections through funds raised from the private sector. The target is 2,500 households in 2015.

In support to the “Water for Life” initiative, the UNICEF Country Office developed a communication and fundraising strategy, to be implemented in 2015.

**OUTCOME 7 Cross-sectoral costs**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Cross-sectoral costs are composed of two elements, staff and operational costs, which cannot be funded by the institutional budget. Staff funded under the cross-sectoral costs component made significant contributions to the overall results of the programme during the reporting period. The value of all supply procurement increased from $22 million in 2013 to over $37 million, and contributed to significant results in polio immunisation, the national EPI programme and emergency response to Syrian refugees in the health and education sectors. Supply staff also contributed to a comprehensive assessment of the procurement and supply management function of the National AIDS Programme.

Programme activities expanded significantly in 2014. This is reflected in the financial expenditures, which more than doubled from the previous year, requiring even closer budget monitoring and reporting to ensure that financial utilisation targets were met.

Budget monitoring activities were strengthened during the year. The UNICEF Egypt throughput in 2014 was over US$ 19.3 million, in comparison to US$ 7.1 million in 2013. In addition, the emergency response funding, with a multitude of grants with short expiry dates, required careful monitoring. Monitoring of financial utilisation against targets was a particular priority for the CMT, which required strengthening of the information reports provided to CMT members.

**OUTPUT 1 Cross-sectoral**
Analytical Statement of Progress:
Five staff are funded from the programme budget under the cross-sectoral staff costs output: two staff in supply, one senior budget monitoring assistant, an administrative officer and a driver.

Document Centre

Other Publication

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<td>Edutainment KG kits for promoting nutrition, hygiene and non-violence (kit for age 2-4 years and kit for age 4-6 years)</td>
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<td>Iodised salt messages on posters, flyers, shop danglers, shopping bags, children’s face masks, sweatshirts, caps, flash memory sticks and salt shakers</td>
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<td>Poster, Flyer and edited TV Spot to promote Polio NIDs (April and October rounds)</td>
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