

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Executive summary

Important achievements:

In line with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Iran supported the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MoHME) to launch the inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) in September 2015 at the national level. Some 1.8 million children were vaccinated with IPV procured through UNICEF Iran. Through a UNICEF Iran-supported national communication campaign about polio and specifically IPV, 60,000 health personnel, 60,000 paediatricians and 800,000 parents were informed about polio and were introduced to IPV.

With the support of UNICEF Iran, evidence generated from two nutrition studies and data from the National Food and Nutrition Surveillance System in six provinces were used by the MoHME to successfully establish a national programme for the management of vitamin D deficiency among adolescents. So far, the vitamin D needs of more than 2 million adolescent girls (aged 12-18 years) in all 32 provinces have been met through the provision of monthly mega-dose supplementation of vitamin D during the scholastic year.

UNICEF Iran has been supporting the Government's provision of alternative educational services through non-government organizations (NGOs), covering 3,862 Afghan children (1,882 girls and 1,980 boys) in primary education and life skills training, as well as 843 Afghan women in literacy, health and child protection, in 2015. The total number of children and women covered under this programme since 2013 was 7,378 and 1,138, respectively, in Tehran, Alborz, Fars, Qom, Gorgan, Khorasan Razavi and Semnan.

The UNICEF Iran partnership with the judiciary continued, especially in the area of capacity building on juvenile justice standards. Following positive law reform for children in conflict with the law between 2013 and 2014, capacity building interventions in 2015 resulted in a number of improved practices, including a new code of conduct for the police that defines standard behaviours when police deal with child offenders, victims and witnesses of crime.

In 2015, stabilizing and improving relationships with all national counterparts was a top programme priority. During the year, partnerships were re-established and significantly strengthened with 100 per cent of all biennial work plans signed between December 2014 and November 2015.

Collaborative partnerships:

As a result of an elevated partnership between the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare (MoCLSW) and UNICEF Iran in 2015, a number of joint initiatives were introduced, most notably a study visit by a high-level delegation from the MoCLSW, the Management and Planning Organization of Iran and the State Welfare Organization of Iran (SWO) to Mexico. The visit was instrumental in setting in motion important new developments, including the establishment of a working group on multidimensional poverty under the auspices of the

Ministry of Welfare and Social Security.

In 2015, a national seminar on 'Perspectives of Child Rights', organized jointly by the judiciary and UNICEF Iran in partnership with the High Council for Human Rights (HCHR), the Ministry of Justice and the University of Judicial Sciences, brought together 800 judges, lawyers, police officers and social workers, as well as several high-level officials, to discuss child rights from national and international perspectives.

In 2015, the global All-In Initiative was successfully launched in Iran (the lead country in the region). During an initial phase, an assessment was conducted on the basic status of HIV/AIDS prevention services for adolescents. The assessment identified seven strategic priority recommendations to address the needs of young people in Iran and called on the solid engagement of all stakeholders, including health and non-health partners and young people themselves, creating consensus on the definition of a youth-friendly model for service delivery to all young people and reinforcing the capacities of different national institutions/service providers.

Humanitarian assistance

The following is an overview of the emergency preparedness activities conducted by UNICEF Iran in 2015:

Nutrition: In 2015, with UNICEF Iran support and in consultation with other expert agencies, the MoHME was equipped with an upgraded standard national guideline for nutrition in emergencies. This national guideline was one of the first examples of its kind for upper-middle-income countries. In addition, the capacity of more than 70 national and provincial MoHME nutrition managers was enhanced through a training workshop and a desktop simulation exercise. As nutrition cluster lead on standby mode, UNICEF Iran developed and maintained an updated terms of reference and the Sectorial Contingency Plan for potential response in case of an emergency.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH): As WASH cluster lead on standby mode, UNICEF Iran has kept and maintained an updated terms of reference and the Sectorial Contingency Plan for potential response in case of an emergency.

Child protection: The child protection sub-cluster conducted its first meeting in February 2015 at the UNICEF Iran office with the participation of the Danish Refugee Council, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and UNICEF Iran (the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) also participated in subsequent meetings). The sub-cluster has reviewed and maintained its terms of reference and Contingency Plan. In partnership with the Iran Red Crescent Society (IRCS) Youth Organization, UNICEF Iran also supported a five-day training workshop on child protection in emergencies for 25 officials and experts from the IRCS, the Ministry of Interior, the National Disaster Management Organization, SWO, MoHME, UNHCR and the NRC. The training objectives included the following:

- Understand the general emergency context in Iran;
- Understand the impact of emergencies on children;
- Understand the scope and range of child protection interventions in emergencies.

Summary notes and acronyms

AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
BAFIA	Bureau of Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs
C4D	Communication for Development
CMT	Country Management Team
CoC	Code of Conduct
CONEVAL	National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy
CSR	corporate social responsibility
DCT	direct cash transfer
ECD	early childhood development
EMTCT	elimination of mother-to-child transmission
HACT	harmonized approach to cash transfers
HCHR	High Council for Human Rights
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HRIF	High Risk Infant Follow Up
ICT	information and communication technology
INEE	International Network for Education in Emergencies
IPV	inactivated polio vaccine
IRCS	Iran Red Crescent Society
MENARO	Middle East and North Africa Regional Office
MIDHS	Multiple-Indicator Demographic and Health Survey
MoCLSW	Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoHME	Ministry of Health and Medical Education
NBCRC	National Body on the Convention on the Rights of the Child
NGO	non-governmental organization
NICU	neonatal intensive care unit
NIDCAP	Newborn Individualized Developmental Care and Assessment Program
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PMT	Programme Management Team
PMTCT	prevention of mother-to-child transmission
PRIME	Planning, Research, Impact Monitoring and Evaluation System
SWO	State Welfare Organization of Iran
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

Evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy

UNICEF Iran partnered with the National Health Research Institute and advocated for the adoption of international standards in the execution of the Multiple-Indicator Demographic and Health Survey (MIDHS) carried out in 2015. Given the significance of the MIDHS as the principal source of data on fertility, maternal and child health, nutrition and mortality in Iran, UNICEF Iran worked closely with national partners to ensure better quality of data. During the reporting period, UNICEF Iran provided technical support for quality assurance through a

mission from the global Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey team as well as through international consultancies at the data processing stage.

South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation

UNICEF Iran supported eight government officials in a study visit to Mexico covering:

1. Household income and expenditure surveys;
2. Social development programmes (the Fight Against Hunger and the cash transfer programme, Prospera);
3. Evaluation of social development programmes and multidimensional poverty analysis by the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL).

The visit triggered some key initiatives, including the establishment of the Multidimensional Poverty Working Group under the auspices of the National High Council of Welfare and Social Security. Furthermore, the MoCLSW organized several cascade training workshops on the main themes of the study visit for MoCLSW personnel. The visit will be followed by an exchange visit by Mexico's CONEVAL to establish a longer-term working relationship on poverty analysis and the evaluation of social programmes and policies.

UNICEF Iran also supported a visit of nine officials from the judiciary, police, HCHR and Parliament to New Zealand to observe juvenile police programmes. This visit contributed to the implementation of Article 31 of the revised Penal Procedural Code (2015), which stipulates that "a juvenile police unit shall be established within the police with a view that law enforcement forces perform their duties towards children and adolescents in a good manner". The delegation has already contributed to the revision of the draft bill for establishing a juvenile police unit. The police in Tehran subsequently established juvenile police units. This type of unit will be established in other cities and provinces upon approval of the bill.

Gender mainstreaming and equality

Iran has had many significant achievements in regards to removing gender disparity in education and access to health care. Women comprise more than 60 per cent of all university graduates. Iran is one of the few countries to have reached the Millennium Development Goal 5 target of reducing the maternal mortality ratio by three quarters between 1990 and 2015; Iran saw an 80 per cent drop in the maternal mortality ratio between 1990 and 2008.

Some of the areas in which gender parity has been considered in programming in 2015 include the following:

- The Ministry of Education (MoE), with UNICEF Iran support, produced a short documentary on its achievements over the past 35 years, with a specific focus on the successful Girls Education initiative, which resulted in 94 per cent attendance of girls in schools today;
- UNICEF Iran is working with the MoHME to develop public health guidance to promote physical activity among adolescent boys and girls. The guidance includes specific strategies for promoting physical activity among girls, given specific barriers for girls related to cultural/religious considerations;
- In collaboration with the Bureau of Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs (BAFIA) and national NGOs, UNICEF Iran has been supporting alternative educational services with a specific focus on girls' education in primary school and life skills training for refugee children. This has resulted in the school attendance of 3,862 Afghan children, including 1,882 girls. In addition, 843 Afghan women have benefited from targeted interventions.

The total number of children and women covered under this programme through five local NGOs in 20 centres since 2013 was 7,378 and 1,138, respectively, in Tehran, Alborz, Fars, Qom, Gorgan, Khorasan Razavi and Semnan.

Environmental sustainability

In discussions with national counterparts, 'children and the environment' has been identified as a priority area for the new Country Programme Document for 2017–2021. In 2015, UNICEF Iran therefore started to discuss the potential for working on environmental education and managing the impacts of environmental degradation on child health with national partners to identify potential entry points for future UNICEF Iran support.

Effective leadership

Office management committees functioned well. Weekly information sharing meetings and monthly staff meetings provided regular updates on priorities and resolved emerging programme and operations issues.

Office statutory committees' terms of reference and memberships were updated with the involvement of all staff. These committees have ensured the best use of funds in line with organizational rules, regulations and guidelines. The Contract Review Committee and invitation to bid limits were revised to improve the efficiency of processing procurement services. The Partnership Review Committee terms of reference was revised to reflect new corporate requirements.

To respond to recent global policies, UNICEF Iran established the Simplification Task Force, which has successfully simplified and even automated some processes such as vehicle provision and streamlined the attendance monitoring system, invitation to bid limit revision, etc. The Business Continuity Plan has been revised regularly to reflect changes in office personnel, as well as improvements made in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Disaster Recovery Plan, through the establishment of back-up connectivity with other United Nations agencies.

UNICEF Iran established the Audit Task Force in preparation for the internal audit conducted in November–December 2015 and completed the audit requirements on time. The final report of the audit is expected to be received in mid-January 2016.

The biennial work plans were revised during the year to reflect UNICEF Iran's changed priorities and updates to the way forward. During the year, UNICEF Iran also revised the main risks encountered and reflected these in the revised work plans and office priorities.

UNICEF Iran received guidance and technical support from the UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office (MENARO) on a number of programme areas to support the planning phase for the new Country Programme Document for 2017–2021. Visits from regional staff contributed to the acceleration of programme implementation and discussions with counterparts on new programme priorities.

Financial resources management

Throughout 2015, budget control, accounting and liquidation of cash assistance were carried out through monitoring of the respective performance indicators and discussing emerging issues during meetings of the Country Management Team (CMT), the Programme Management Team

(PMT) and the Operations Team. Management dashboard reports were effectively used to address the areas in need of improvement and to monitor the office's performance in comparison to comparable offices across the globe.

The Office Performance Management Report and the detailed implementation reports of each unit were used to assess the progress made towards budget allocation vs. utilization, the outstanding direct cash transfer (DCT) items and the needed actions towards liquidating DCTs outstanding for more than six months. Despite difficulties with cash management due to the sanctions imposed on Iran, UNICEF Iran managed to improve the process through additional measures. The monthly bank reconciliation was always carried out on time without any major delays.

As a result of continuous efforts to liquidate long-outstanding DCTs, at the end of the year, the total amount of DCTs outstanding for more than nine months was reduced to US\$8,200, .

The budget utilization levels were 99 per cent for other resources emergency, 97 per cent for other resources regular and 100 per cent for regular resources and integrated budget.

UNICEF Iran became compliant with the harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT) as of 1 November 2015, which made the cash disbursement processes lighter and more efficient. To support the process of implementing HACT, UNICEF Iran trained office staff and key counterparts with the support of the Field Results Group from UNICEF Headquarters, and Farsi version training materials and templates were shared with counterparts.

UNICEF Iran underwent an internal audit in the fourth quarter of 2015. The final audit report is expected in mid-January 2016.

Fundraising and donor relations

The overall fundraising situation of UNICEF Iran remains challenging. In 2015, UNICEF Iran only had one significant other resources fund from a bilateral donor (the Russian Federation), and additional fundraising from bilateral donors has so far not proven successful. UNICEF Iran continued to advocate proactively for thematic funds with MENARO. These funds have been crucial to supporting programme implementation.

Fundraising from the private sector remained severely constrained. UNICEF Iran has only recently been able to restart discussions with the Government to agree on standard practices to be followed for private sector fundraising. The unstable economic situation, coupled with the international sanctions and constraints on UNICEF Iran visibility, may still constitute important constraints on private sector fundraising for the future.

UNICEF Iran regularly updated its existing fundraising strategy paper but will be conducting an in-depth review and will develop a new fundraising strategy in 2016 to reflect the changes in the operational context and the potential opportunities for restarting private sector fundraising and to prepare the new Country Programme Document.

Evaluation

UNICEF Iran has a standard procedure for conducting evaluations and studies. As an established procedure, any evaluations and studies are discussed with the monitoring and evaluation unit to assess their relevance, costs and benefits. If the evaluation is considered to be a major one, then key aspects of the evaluation and its terms of reference are also shared

with the MENARO monitoring and evaluation section. Upon finalization of the evaluation report, the management response planning is developed by the responsible person. For the recommendations that are agreed upon by management, follow up actions are planned. The management response to the evaluation is introduced to the concerned partners, reflected in the EvalTrack portal and monitored and updated regularly.

No evaluations were conducted in 2015. The recommendations from the evaluations conducted in the previous years were reflected in the ongoing work plans with the judiciary, MoHME and SWO. The current UNICEF Iran programme on HIV was informed by the programme evaluation conducted in 2012.

The rolling Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan/Planning, Research, Impact Monitoring and Evaluation System (PRIME) is reviewed and prioritized on an annual basis, and its status is updated biannually.

Efficiency gains and cost savings

UNICEF Iran has taken various approaches to ensuring better utilization of office funds. In 2015, hosting the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on the UNICEF premises saved the office 16 per cent on rent and ancillary services, with a total cost savings of US\$55,700. Additional savings were achieved after revision of the office's Internet connectivity options. In the area of ICT management, UNICEF Iran moved from a 0.25 megabyte dedicated bandwidth very-small-aperture terminal connectivity at a cost of US\$6,640/megabyte per month in 2014 to 12 megabytes of dedicated bandwidth local connectivity at a cost of US\$100/megabyte per month.

Due to unstable market conditions, UNICEF Iran was not able to establish new long-term agreements. However, within the scope of the inter-agency long-term agreements with travel companies, UNICEF Iran saved 3 per cent in the cost of international tickets. UNICEF Iran also benefited from other established inter-agency practices such as the pre-assessed pool of translators/interpreters with fixed-rate services. The inter-agency common pool of pre-assessed suppliers and the Internet back-up system between the agencies also contributed to the work effectiveness and efficiency of UNICEF Iran; however, the associated monetary gain is difficult to assess.

Supply management

The 2015 Country Programme supply component represented 17 per cent of the overall allocated budget. Sixty nine per cent of the supplies were procured locally and the rest was procured offshore through the UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen and an international bid (see below):

UNICEF Iran 2015	Value in US\$
Local procurement value	448,610
Offshore procurement value	200,834
Total	649,444

Value of all supply input (goods and services)	
Programme supplies	191,069
Operational supplies	72,197

Services	381,178
Total	649,444

Local market conditions remained challenging. The inflation rate remained high. Consequently, prices of commodities increased even further while the local market continued to experience some shortages of important commodities. In this environment, suppliers were providing quotations with short validity only, and it was not feasible to establish long-term agreements.

The procurement services that UNICEF provided in 2015 were worth US\$3,287,130, including US\$853,230 procured by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-managed Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria project. In 2015, UNICEF facilitated two shipments of inactivated polio vaccine worth US\$2,433,900 to the MoHME.

UNICEF Iran worked to deliver programme supplies directly to implementing partners, taking into consideration their warehousing capacities. This strategic action led to having a zero inventory balance at the UNICEF Iran warehouse as of 31 December 2015.

Through close collaboration with UNICEF Afghanistan, which was exploring alternative ways of procuring and delivering emergency supplies into Afghanistan, a service-level agreement was signed in 2015. The procurement of the first batch of teaching and learning material kits valued at US\$10 million, through UNICEF Iran to UNICEF Afghanistan, was initiated in October 2015. After the successful completion of this procurement, emergency supplies such as winter clothes, hygiene kits and family kits will also be procured.

Security for staff and premises

UNICEF Iran became 100 per cent compliant with the Minimum Operating Security Standards after turning the first floor of the office building into a safe haven. This was carried out with funding received from MENARO security funds. UNICEF Iran also replaced the stair grips in the building.

The security situation is stable in UNICEF Iran's programme implementation areas, and there was no implementation delay due to security threats. At present, all of the United Nations agencies in Tehran have a common radio room. The radio room functions seven days a week, 24 hours a day, throughout the year. All UNICEF Iran staff have a very high frequency radio for emergency situations.

To improve office preparedness for earthquakes, UNICEF Iran supported staff to participate in the earthquake response and natural hazard survival trainings that took place in Nepal. Staff will be briefed on the essential aspects of these trainings in 2016 to enhance their capacities for survival. In addition, all staff benefited from participating in an earthquake training organized by the United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS).

UNICEF Iran maintains emergency supplies (equipment and food) for 72 hours at the concentration point for staff members and their dependents in case of emergency.

Human resources

UNICEF Iran completed 10 regular post recruitments in 2015 (29 per cent of established positions), which was a higher number than previous years due to the availability of other resources funds.

Senior management and the Staff Association Executive Committee developed an Office Improvement Plan to address four main problematic areas identified in the Global Staff Survey. A retreat was held in May 2015 to address those areas. UNICEF Iran monitored its progress through a mini-survey and recorded improvement in two out of four areas.

The UN Cares team remained active in 2015. Among other activities, two HIV orientation sessions were provided to staff and their dependents, as well as a webinar on the post-exposure prophylaxis kit. Condoms were distributed among staff and ancillary staff. UNICEF Iran also launched the UN 'All In' initiative, which will be followed by training sessions for all staff.

The planning and mid-year Performance Appraisal System discussions were finalized prior to global deadlines. The Local Learning Committee routinely addressed the learning needs of the office, and a number of learning events took place in both emergency and non-emergency areas, including on earthquake preparedness and drivers' training. Online courses on ethics and integrity at UNICEF Iran and HACT were taken by all staff prior to global deadlines.

In 2015, two staff members at the managerial level (local and international) benefited from courses offered by UNICEF Iran at renowned educational centres. Two general service staff undertook internal and external stretch assignments. Several staff members used their entitlement for learning leave.

A visit from MENARO human resources staff enhanced UNICEF Iran staff knowledge in critical human resources areas and provided an opportunity for individual staff members to have face-to-face meetings to discuss issues of concern.

Effective use of information and communication technology

In 2015, UNICEF Iran benefited from using Microsoft Office 365 online and desktop services. ICT resource utilization efficiency improved through online file sharing using Microsoft OneDrive, with easy remote access to resources and reliable services.

In 2014, the office was using very-small-aperture terminal links as its main Internet connectivity, which was very slow and costly and did not permit the use of Microsoft Office 365. Local connectivity providers could not be used due to the heavy filtering system in Iran. After piloting a completely new approach to Internet connectivity in collaboration with other United Nations agencies in Tehran and Telecommunication Company of Iran in late 2014, in 2015, UNICEF Iran expanded its bandwidth at a lower cost, which improved Internet performance and allowed for quicker access to Microsoft Office 365, social/digital media, Internet protocol security tunnels to Headquarters, SharePoint and web browsing.

The ICT unit used the Microsoft Office 365 Outlook desktop application and developed a system of using Outlook forms to eliminate the paper-based Vehicle Request Management System. With the new digital system in place, UNICEF Iran saved on paper utilization and improved the efficiency of the work process, providing better management, monitoring and reporting tools to the administrative unit.

The disaster recovery new alternate location was identified and equipped with essential ICT equipment to enable its operation in emergency situations. The ICT part of the Business Continuity Plan was tested in 2015.

The ICT unit continued refining the ICT performance report created by UNICEF Iran to monitor ICT performance by the unit and management.

Programme components from the Results Assessment Module

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 By the end of 2016, benefits from improved integrated and inclusive social services through strengthened national and sub-national capacities for child development are increased

Analytical statement of progress:

In 2015, UNICEF Iran worked closely with national counterparts to improve capacity for the delivery of social services, following an equity-based approach. UNICEF Iran supported the MoHME to further promote the health and development of young children. Main achievements include: 1) launch of the IPV and the vaccination of 1.2 million children under 5; 2) the development of two models on management of under- and over-nutrition among children; 3) the provision of evidence on widespread vitamin D deficiency among children and adolescents, leading the MoHME to launch a new national vitamin D supplementation programme, which has covered the vitamin D needs of more than 2 million adolescent girls (aged 12-18 years) in all 32 provinces; 4) operationalization of the Newborn Individualized Developmental Care and Assessment Program (NIDCAP) for the provision of good quality health and developmental care services in neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) and special care nurseries; 5) the upgrade of the national Child Mortality Surveillance System; and 6) the upgrade of the National Integrated Management of Childhood Illness Programme and service package based on the newly updated WHO guidelines.

In the area of education, UNICEF Iran partnered with BAFIA and various Iranian NGOs to provide alternative primary education services to more than 3,500 disadvantaged Afghan children. UNICEF Iran also assisted the MoE to strengthen the quality of education in Iran. These efforts resulted in the preparation of a draft national model for quality education and a corresponding quality education measurement framework. UNICEF Iran also made progress on plans to implement the Iranian child-friendly school model and provided advice on education in emergencies.

In the area of child protection, progress was made with the MoHME for the care and protection of children in health centres through the national scale up of the pilot project, Code of Conduct (CoC) for Health Workers, and the training of more than 240 health workers on CoC. UNICEF Iran also assisted the IRCS to enhance national capacity for preparedness and response to child protection in emergencies.

OUTPUT 1 By the end of 2016, the policy and system capacity of early childhood development (ECD) stakeholders at national and sub-national levels to implement, monitor and evaluate a quality and accessible national Integrated ECD programme, with specific focus on most vulnerable girls and boys, is enhanced

Analytical statement of progress:

On the basis of the national strategic plan of action for immunization and in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the cold chain management trainings, UNICEF Iran and the MoHME jointly developed a self-learning package for national and provincial technicians. In

addition, UNICEF Iran exceptionally covered the supply needs for the vaccination of 4 million children under 5 against polio. In line with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and with the support of UNICEF Iran, the MoHME launched the IPV at the national level in September 2015. Some 1.8 million children received the IPV, which was procured through UNICEF procurement services. A national communications campaign to raise awareness and sensitize different target groups about polio and specifically IPV using target-specific print, multimedia and web-based materials was held in September 2015. Through this campaign, 60,000 health personnel and 60,000 paediatricians were informed about the global polio end game programme, national strategies in this regard and the launch of IPV. Some 800,000 parents were re-informed about polio and introduced to IPV through trained health staff. The Vaccine Switch Plan was developed with UNICEF Iran support and shared with MENARO. Throughout this process, the technical capacity of four national immunization experts from the MoHME was refreshed through participation in the global vaccine TechNet, as well as regional polio end game meetings.

Following the endorsement of the national ECD policy by the National High Council of Health, in 2014–2015, the MoHME, with UNICEF support, operationalized and completed a series of ECD and child health initiatives, including: 1) screening and referral of children with developmental disorders using Ages and Stages Questionnaires – to date, 1 million pre-school children have been screened for developmental disorders; 2) upgrading the national Child Mortality Surveillance System; 3) upgrading the National Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses Programme based on the newly updated WHO guidelines; and 4) enhancing the leadership and managerial capacity of the 50 members of the National ECD Secretariat through the provision of a short training course.

Child injury is the second most common cause of death among Iranian children. To address the deadliest types of child injuries among children aged 1-18 years, the MoHME, with UNICEF Iran support, developed a Communication for Development (C4D) strategy to help children avoid hazardous habits and behaviours. This was done based on a communication situation analysis in the seven provinces with the highest rates of injuries in recent years. UNICEF Iran will participate in the implementation of the C4D strategies in these seven provinces.

OUTPUT 2 By the end of 2016, the capacity of relevant stakeholders at national and sub-national levels to implement, monitor and evaluate quality and accessible programmes for promotion of breastfeeding for under-two children is enhanced

Analytical statement of progress:

Approximately 50 per cent of children under 2 years in Iran currently do not benefit from proper feeding practices, which represents a risk to their health. In 2014, the MoHME and UNICEF Iran identified several socio-cultural factors that could be influenced to improve breastfeeding practices in Iran. In addition to the joint bottlenecks analysis, and with the support of an international C4D expert, the national breastfeeding C4D strategic programme was developed in 2015 and is currently being finalized. The main focus of this strategic programme is to introduce and launch a national initiative called Only Mothers' Natural Milk, which will be mainly implemented through establishing the Urban Baby Love Ambassadors Initiative (urban volunteers for the promotion of appropriate infant and young child feeding). In addition, the capacity of more than 180 healthcare personnel, academicians and national and sub-national experts in the area of C4D programming for the promotion of breastfeeding was enhanced during this process. Meanwhile the knowledge of this group was used to inform the breastfeeding behavioural bottleneck analysis.

To better understand and tackle barriers related to existing legislation on the promotion of breastfeeding and its implementation, a national survey was implemented and reported on with UNICEF Iran support. The result of this survey depicted stakeholders' compliance with the Breastfeeding National Law in randomly selected facilities in 10 provinces. According to the survey, more than 50 per cent of working lactating mothers were deprived of their rights as lactating women. In addition, more than 50 per cent of pharmacies were not adhering to all provisions of the law on the marketing of breast milk substitutes. Between 30 and 80 per cent of health personnel in the public and private sector, across categories, did not have sufficient knowledge of their obligations under the law. Using the results of the survey and in order to improve the enforcement of the law, the MoHME developed and validated a monitoring framework.

UNICEF Iran supported the establishment and capacity enhancement of a national training and skill lab centre for breastfeeding counselling. So far, 70 national potential master trainers have been identified through a series of theoretical and practical examinations. UNICEF Iran has struggled to identify an International Board Certified Lactation trainer to undertake the master training on breastfeeding counselling services. Cultural differences and language barriers have been among the main causes of this constraint. UNICEF Iran is therefore trying to identify an Iranian certified trainer to tackle this barrier and hold the training in 2016.

OUTPUT 3 By the end of 2016, the policy and system capacity in the area of nutrition and food security at national and sub-national levels to implement programmes targeting the most vulnerable boys, girls and women is enhanced

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF Iran's tripartite partnership with the MoHME and academia resulted in the completion of two applied studies: 1) the National Integrated Micronutrient Survey; and 2) a pilot project on the fortification of school milk with vitamin D. These studies, together with the results of the National Food and Nutrition Surveillance System in six provinces, revealed that more than 90 per cent of children and adolescents are suffering from vitamin D insufficiency and deficiency. With UNICEF Iran support, this chain of generated evidence was used to successfully advocate for the establishment of a national programme for the management of vitamin D deficiency among adolescents. So far, the programme has covered the vitamin D needs of more than 2 million adolescent girls (aged 12-18 years) in all 32 provinces, through the provision of monthly mega-dose vitamin D supplementation during the school year.

With UNICEF Iran support, the implementation of four other applied studies are almost finalized, including: 1) evaluation of the national multidisciplinary nutrition programme; 2) assessment of zinc supplementation effectiveness for the prevention of stunting among children under 2 years in Tehran; 3) the fifth national periodic iodine monitoring among schoolchildren; and 4) assessment of the effectiveness of iodine supplementation for the prevention of iodine deficiency disorder among pregnant women with restrictions on salt consumption. The results of these studies will be used to inform policy decisions by the MoHME to tackle priority nutritional health concerns. The surveillance system is currently undergoing a review to respond to the additional evidence needs of the MoHME for nutrition programming.

UNICEF Iran supported the MoHME to complete both the implementation and evaluation of two models: 1) a model on the management of malnutrition in Bandar Abbas, where more than 200 health personnel (90 per cent female and 10 per cent male) have been trained on the new guidelines, and more than 40,000 children under 5 years (with equal distribution of girls and

boys) benefited from upgraded services in growth monitoring and referral; and 2) a model on the management of overweight and obesity among primary school age children in Tehran. The MoHME and UNICEF Iran plan to roll out the services in the most deprived provinces. In addition, in 2015, the MoHME and UNICEF Iran designed a school-based model for the prevention of obesity, which will be implemented in 2016. With UNICEF Iran support, the national guideline for nutrition in emergencies has been developed, and the capacity of more than 70 national and provincial MoHME nutrition managers was enhanced through a training workshop and a desktop simulation exercise.

OUTPUT 4 By the end of 2016, the knowledge and system capacity of the MoHME at national and sub-national levels in the area of follow-up care for high-risk infants and children and surveillance is enhanced towards reduction of neonatal mortality

Analytical statement of progress:

The MoHME established the High Risk Infant Follow Up (HRIF) care model in the East Azerbaijan Province. During the pilot phase, 426 out of 652 eligible premature neonates (65 per cent) benefited from HRIF services. UNICEF Iran supported the MoHME to evaluate the coverage, effectiveness and quality of HRIF services and contributed to the improvement of the service package. The MoHME is currently developing a plan to roll out HRIF services to at least 50 per cent of NICUs in Iran. The relevant roll-out training is planned for 2016.

During 2013–2015, with UNICEF Iran support, the MoHME adopted the NIDCAP initiative. As a follow up activity, UNICEF Iran supported the MoHME to establish a national fellowship programme on NIDCAP for the personnel of four reference NICUs in Tehran, Shiraz and Tabriz as centres of excellence. So far, two rounds of onsite training and coaching using international master trainers were completed, and the technical and skill capacity of more than 350 experts from different disciplines working in NICUs or linked to the management of the premature neonates was enhanced through holding international workshops.

In order to monitor the effectiveness of NIDCAP to enhance the quality of care at NICUs from a developmental care perspective, as a baseline, UNICEF Iran commissioned a national assessment of the status of developmental care in 25 randomly selected NICUs across the country. According to the results of the study, the developmental score of the NICUs was 37 per cent, on average, compared with the 70 per cent minimum acceptable level, according to the NIDCAP scoring system.

In order to monitor the overall process of rolling out NIDCAP in Iran, the National NIDCAP Committee was established and functional. Upon nationwide rollout of NIDCAP, UNICEF Iran expects up to 80 per cent of premature neonates will have a higher chance of survival and will be able to catch up with their development milestones.

OUTPUT 5 By the end of 2016, institutional capacity of MoE is enhanced to implement child-focused, inclusive quality education plans for boys and girls in primary and lower-secondary education

Analytical statement of progress:

A major bottleneck in promoting quality education has been the lack of an institutional structure to devise, implement and evaluate quality education plans. With technical support from UNICEF Iran, the Quality Education Committee, comprised of technical experts from primary education, secondary education and the MoE Center for International Affairs, was established

In May 2015, UNICEF Iran supported the second round of the workshops on ‘Capacity Development for Enhanced Quality Education Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation’, which took place in Tehran. Twenty-five experts represented the High Council for Education, departments within the MoE, research entities and universities. The workshop focused on the theoretical and technical aspects of developing an Iranian model of quality education, completing the framework that was drafted in the previous workshop. It included: developing indicators, particularly indicators for qualitative domains; identifying methodologies and data sources for measuring indicators; and planning a quality monitoring and evaluation system. The outcome of the workshop equipped MoE participants to develop a contextualized Iranian model of a monitoring and evaluation system for quality education. The model was presented in an Education System Steering Committee chaired by the MoE. As part of the Sixth National Development Plan, the MoE mandated the Quality Education Committee to develop clear guidelines for systematically evaluating the quality of education for relevant departments within the MoE.

OUTPUT 6 By the end of 2016, the Iranian child-friendly school model is developed to improve quality of education in selected primary and lower-secondary schools

Analytical statement of progress:

With UNICEF Iran support, the MoE produced a 30-minute documentary movie on the Ministry’s achievements, focusing on the successful Girls Education initiative, supported by UNICEF Iran. This documentary is considered an important stepping stone as an advocacy tool for the child-friendly school approach in Iran. After a period of constrained activity, in consultation with the MoE, UNICEF Iran is planning to conduct a workshop on the concept and principles of child-friendly schools for MoE experts in 2016. The plan for the study tour was altered due to the inability of the host countries to accommodate the visit (Thailand and Morocco were unable to host the delegation). The study visit to a country with successful experience in implementing the child-friendly schools approach will be planned for the second quarter of 2016.

OUTPUT 7 By the end of 2016, institutional capacity of the government counterparts is enhanced to implement equity-based programmes and strategies to increase access to quality primary education for refugee/migrant boys and girls.

Analytical statement of progress:

In 2015, the Government committed to providing access to education for all Afghan children, regardless of their legal status in Iran. However, the most disadvantaged Afghan children continue to face challenges in accessing formal primary education. In collaboration with BAFIA and national NGOs, UNICEF Iran has been supporting alternative educational services, which in 2015 covered 3,862 Afghan children (1,882 girls and 1,980 boys) in primary education and life skills training, as well as 843 Afghan women in literacy, health and protection of children. Notably, under this programme, the total number of children and women reached by five local NGOs in their 20 centres since 2013 was 7,378 and 1,138, respectively, in Tehran, Alborz, Fars, Qom, Gorgan, Khorasan Razavi and Semnan. Lengthy procedures to get the approval for working with NGOs has impacted the work with local NGOs, slowing down implementation of the programmes. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, which aims to bring working Afghan children back to school while promoting the CSR of small businesses, is ongoing. So far, UNICEF Iran has completed the documentation of the previous CSR project, which provides detailed information about work processes, success stories, lessons learned, innovations and good practices.

In addition to the documentation of the CSR project, UNICEF Iran developed a guideline to

harmonize methods of implementation, analysis and documentation of the CSR programme. The new CSR programme with the NGO Kiana is in progress to target 150 disadvantaged Afghan working children and 100 employers in Alborz Province.

Furthermore, in collaboration with BAFIA, UNICEF Iran provided support to build the capacity of 33 project managers and social workers of nine NGOs on project management and documentation, which strengthened capacities to implement child-focused programmes.

OUTPUT 8 By the end of 2015, institutional capacity of the education sector for improved disaster risk reduction and disaster management is enhanced to ensure immediate resumption of quality education for all boys and girls after emergencies

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF Iran supported the MoE disaster risk reduction section to host and convene a training on the International Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies in March 2015. Twenty experts from MoE departments attended this training, which was facilitated by an independent consultant and an education-in-emergencies specialist. The training enhanced the knowledge and skill capacity of participants on disaster risk reduction approaches, including contingency planning, comprehensive school safety and coordination. Participants engaged in a simulation of an earthquake scenario and an exercise to begin the contingency planning process as well as analysed national policies and coordination structures related to disaster risk reduction themes.

In addition, as an applied result, the training concluded with the drafting of the 'INEE Minimum Standards for Iran' document. As the main coordinators, planners and implementers of education emergency preparedness and response in Iran, experts from the MoE served as the main contributors and authors of the INEE standards for Iran. Through a consultative process, the 'INEE Minimum Standards for Iran Handbook' has been finalized and is available. The global 'INEE Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies Handbook' was translated and published in collaboration with NRC Iran.

OUTPUT 9 By the end of 2016, institutional capacities of key stakeholders are enhanced for implementation and coordination of effective programmes for the prevention of violence against children, taking into account national context, i.e. laws and regulations

Analytical statement of progress:

The capacity of the MoHME for national scaling up of the pilot project, Code of Conduct for Health Workers, was enhanced through conducting 12 training-of-trainer workshops on the CoC for 240 health workers in 12 medical universities in Kermanshah, Hamadan, Lorestan, Mazandaran, Semnan, Fars, Hormozgan, South Khorasan, Bushehr, Ardabil, Isfahan and Tehran provinces. These master trainers will conduct cascade trainings on CoC for Health Workers in major hospitals covered by the above-mentioned medical universities in 2016.

The capacities of IRCS, the National Disaster Management Organization, the Ministry of Interior, SWO and the MoHME were enhanced on preparedness and response to child protection in emergencies in a five-day workshop on child protection in emergencies for 25 mid-level managers. This will be followed by efforts to strengthen national coordination on child protection in emergencies through the establishment of a national child protection in emergencies working group in 2016.

The working plan between UNICEF Iran and the SWO was signed in June 2015. The child

protection components of this working plan focus on improving services for disadvantaged children, children at risk of maltreatment and children without caregivers. In December 2015, the SWO agreed to prepare a plan for improving services for children without caregivers.

In 2014 and early 2015, National Body on the Convention on the Rights of the Child organized four technical sessions with the participation of experts from the Government/NGOs, universities and religious institutions on the role of religious leaders in the prevention of violence against children, focusing on discrimination, neglect, early/forced marriage and sexual abuse. The final report of these sessions, including concrete recommendations and actions, will be printed and published in the first quarter of 2016.

OUTCOME 2 By the end of 2016, the most vulnerable children and women enjoy increased benefits from inclusive social welfare and poverty reduction policies and programmes through strengthened national and subnational capacities.

Analytical statement of progress:

As a result of the expanded partnership between the MoCLSW and UNICEF Iran, in 2015, a number of joint initiatives were introduced. Most notably, in 2015, in line with its policy advocacy goals, UNICEF Iran facilitated a study visit to Mexico by a high-level delegation including the MoCLSW, the Management and Planning Organization of the Office of the President and the SWO. The visit was instrumental in setting in motion some important initiatives, including the establishment of the Multidimensional Poverty Working Group under the auspices of the High Council for Welfare and Social Security. Within the framework of this Working Group, UNICEF Iran is working closely with the MoCLSW to construct an optimal measurement index for multidimensional poverty analysis at child and population levels. Constructing a methodologically sound index for the measurement of multidimensional child poverty, enhancing national capacities to regularly monitor the situation of child poverty and building consensus around the cause of child poverty reduction are important milestones towards the achievement of this outcome.

Furthermore, the study visit was key to initiating a dialogue between the MoCLSW and UNICEF Iran on the importance of institutionalizing evaluation in the social sector. UNICEF Iran and the MoCLSW have agreed to conduct an evaluation of a social programme as the first step towards enhancing the evaluation functions of the MoCLSW.

The revived partnership between the MoCLSW and UNICEF Iran also gave momentum to efforts to enhance targeting practices under MoCLSW social protection programmes. During the reporting period, UNICEF Iran introduced the Out-Of-School Children initiative concept and methodology to national stakeholders, including experts from various government departments, as well as representatives from the civil society organizations active in the protection of children living and working on the street. UNICEF Iran will continue to support MoCLSW capacity to identify and target out-of-school and other disadvantaged children, as well as to design effective social protection schemes.

OUTPUT 1 By the end of 2016, national capacities for data collection, analysis and evaluation of child and women headed household situation, deprivation and disparities are strengthened.

Analytical statement of progress:

Building on the previous years' capacity building programmes, in 2015, UNICEF Iran organized and supported the participation of a delegation of eight government officials, including from the MoCLSW, in a study visit to Mexico. The visit covered the following thematic areas:

1. National statistics: socio-economic surveys such as household income and expenditure surveys;
2. Social development programmes in Mexico, especially the Fight Against Hunger and the targeted conditional cash transfer programme, Prospera;
3. Evaluation of social development programmes and multidimensional poverty analysis (the work of CONEVAL).

The visit was instrumental to setting in motion some key initiatives, including the establishment of the Multidimensional Poverty Working Group under the auspices of the National High Council of Welfare and Social Security. UNICEF Iran acts as a member of this Working Group, where measuring and monitoring child poverty is one of the main items on the agenda. Furthermore, the Department of Social Welfare of the MoCLSW organized several cascade training workshops on the main themes of the study visit for MoCLSW personnel. These training workshops have transferred the knowledge and experience of Mexico in the areas of social protection, poverty monitoring and analysis and evaluation of social policies and programmes to participants.

Under the auspices of the Multidimensional Poverty Working Group and in close partnership with UNICEF Iran, the MoCLSW is in the process of constructing poverty indexes to measure multidimensional poverty within the general population as well as among children. In 2015, two technical consultancies that were commissioned in partnership with UNICEF Iran, presented two sets of proposed indicators and methodologies to measure multidimensional poverty at general population and child levels. UNICEF Iran will continue to support this process in 2016 by enhancing national capacities to monitor child poverty and mobilizing international expertise to further examine and improve the proposed methodologies.

Furthermore, in close partnership with the National Institute for Health Research, UNICEF Iran has been providing technical support for quality assurance purposes to the MIDHS 2015. The survey is underway, and UNICEF Iran is providing technical support on data processing, analysis and reporting.

The Government approved the completion/closing of the study on child protection priorities in Iran. The study spans 11 provinces and provides a comprehensive view of child protection priorities in Iran based on a thorough review of legislation, policies and practices, and potential areas that may require strengthening. The study is expected to be finalized in early 2016, and the key findings and strategic recommendations of the report will inform policy-making/programming in child protection.

OUTPUT 2 By the end of 2016, child-sensitive social protection mechanisms and initiatives are strengthened at the national and sub-national level, targeting the most vulnerable children and families, including women-headed households

Analytical statement of progress:

The revived partnership between UNICEF Iran and the MoCLSW gave momentum to efforts to enhance targeting practices under MoCLSW social protection programmes. During the reporting period, UNICEF Iran introduced the Out-Of-School Children initiative concept and methodology to national stakeholders, including experts from various government departments, as well as representatives from the civil society organizations active in the area of protection of children living and working on the street. In 2016, UNICEF Iran will continue to support MoCLSW

capacity to identify and target out-of-school and other disadvantaged children, as well as design effective social protection schemes.

OUTPUT 3 By the end of 2015, national capacities for development of a child poverty reduction strategy, including relevant implementation mechanisms are enhanced

Analytical statement of progress:

The MoCLSW, in close collaboration with UNICEF Iran, is in the process of constructing poverty index(s) to measure multidimensional poverty within the general population as well as among children. In 2015, two technical consultancies that were commissioned in partnership with UNICEF Iran presented two sets of proposed indicators and methodologies to measure multidimensional poverty at general population and child levels. In 2016, UNICEF Iran will continue to support this process by mobilizing international expertise to further examine and improve the proposed methodologies. Once an optimum definition and methodology are adopted at the national level and data and analysis are available on child poverty, efforts will be focused on designing and developing a national response strategy for the reduction of child poverty.

OUTCOME 3 By the end of 2016, national and sub-national organizations and institutions have increased capacities to develop, implement and/or strengthen programmes, systems and policies to improve health, development and access to opportunities for and with adolescents and young people.

Analytical statement of progress:

The UNICEF Iran partnership with the judiciary continued, especially in the area of capacity building on juvenile justice standards. Additional capacity building interventions resulted in other improved practices. For example, a code of conduct for the police was drafted, finalized and printed to define standard behaviour of police dealing with child offenders, victims and witnesses of crime. A bill for establishing juvenile police units was also drafted. It defines the objectives, duties and responsibilities of these units.

On the HIV prevention front, in 2015, UNICEF Iran assisted the MoHME to develop its technical capacity through the identification of the most successful, high-impact measures for preventing the further spread of the global pandemic. Consistent with the organization's equity-focused approach, such measures were tailored to the most-at-risk groups of adolescents. In this regard, Iran, as the lead country in the global All In initiative in the Middle East and North Africa region, has developed and launched a comprehensive community-based minimum service package targeting the most-at-risk adolescents to be rolled out in five provinces. So far, the programme model has been launched in two provinces, Kermanshah and Fars.

Efforts in build capacities for prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV resulted in the development of toolkits, training manuals and reference documents for service providers. So far, 170 PMTCT centres have been established and are functional in 10 marginalized areas of 10 provinces. In addition, UNICEF Iran has enhanced the institutional knowledge on Prong 4 of the National PMTCT Programme by supporting the participation of national master trainers in an internationally known fellowship programme.

In regards to the promotion of healthy lifestyles, with UNICEF Iran support, a national model utilizing community-, school- and family-based interventions was developed and is being implemented. UNICEF Iran also enhanced the knowledge capacity of the MoHME on the status of adolescent well-being by conducting the survey on childhood and adolescence surveillance

and prevention of adult non-communicable disease. The data will be essential to policy decisions and programming.

In the area of prevention of Amphetamine Type Stimulants use, the knowledge and skill capacity of large groups of academicians and experts involved in drug prevention programming was enhanced on the utilization of media and school-based prevention methods and the use of randomized controlled trial methodology through active participation in different sessions of the Addiction Science Congress, facilitated by a UNICEF Iran-recruited international expert.

OUTPUT 1 By the end of 2016, the capacity of the Government and stakeholders for the enhancement of HIV prevention and response based on the requirements of adolescent and youth programming is increased

Analytical statement of progress:

In 2015, the global 'All In' initiative was launched in Iran, and Iran was the lead country in the region. For the first phase, an assessment was carried out on the basic status of HIV/AIDS prevention services for adolescents. The assessment identified seven strategic priority recommendations. Key among these were the revision of the Needle-syringe programmes components addressing the needs of young people in Iran; the solid engagement of all stakeholders, including health and non-health partners and young people themselves; the creation of consensus on the definition of a youth-friendly model for service delivery to all young people; and the reinforcement of the capacities of different national institutions/service providers. In addition to this, a national consultative workshop was held to present the results of the assessment to a large group of health and non-health stakeholders from the Government and NGOs as well as a group of adolescents. This workshop contributed to the drafting of a national action plan to accelerate efforts in HIV/AIDS prevention among adolescents under the All In umbrella.

In line with this global initiative, UNICEF Iran supported the development of a comprehensive community-based minimum service package targeting the most-at-risk adolescents to be rolled out in five provinces. So far, the programme model has been launched in two provinces, Kermanshah and Fars. In addition, UNICEF Iran enhanced the capacity of more than 35 national and sub-national HIV/AIDS managers on the modalities of effective communication for the reduction of stigma and discrimination in HIV/AIDS prevention programmes for adolescents.

To address the needs of the most-at-risk young people in Iran and with the aim providing evidence to improve programming, a protocol on the Integrated Bio-behavioural Surveillance Survey was developed and submitted as a tool to assess the status of HIV/AIDS and risky behaviours among the most disadvantaged young people in Iran. In line with this activity, the technical capacities of 80 practitioners and policy makers on high-impact interventions for adolescents in HIV prevention and treatment were enhanced.

UNICEF Iran actively participated in World AIDS Day 2015 and conducted significant advocacy on the All In programme. A number of high-profile UNICEF Iran supporters attended the ceremony, and the advocacy activities received massive coverage in the media. For the first time, UNICEF was invited to deliver a speech on this occasion.

OUTPUT 2 By the end of 2016, targeted institutions dealing directly with children in contact with the law have increased capacity for applying juvenile justice and restorative justice programmes.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The 2015–16 work plan with the judiciary was signed in June 2015.

In 2015, a national seminar on 'Perspectives of Child Rights', organized jointly by the judiciary and UNICEF Iran in partnership with the HCHR, the Ministry of Justice, and the University of Judicial Sciences and Administrative Services, brought together 800 judges, lawyers, police officers and social workers, as well as several high-level officials, to discuss child rights from national and international perspectives. During this event, the access of all children of foreign immigrants to education regardless of their residence status and the need to establish juvenile police units were emphasized by the Ministry of Justice and the judiciary, respectively.

UNICEF Iran's persistent advocacy and capacity building efforts over the past 15 years have contributed to the recent positive developments in Justice for Children . Many of the provisions of the 2003 Juvenile Justice Bill, which UNICEF Iran supported, have found expression in the revised Islamic Penal Code (2013) and the revised Penal Procedural Code (2015). UNICEF Iran facilitated the visit of nine Iranian officials from the police, judiciary, HCHR and Parliament to New Zealand juvenile police programmes in November 2015. A bill for establishing juvenile police units was drafted as per the provisions of the revised Penal Procedural Code . It is expected to be finalized and approved in 2016. In anticipation of this bill, a juvenile police unit was established in Tehran in December 2015 using female police officers.

OUTPUT 3 By the end of 2016, an educational service package for prevention of new HIV infections among children exists across all four elimination of mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) components

Analytical statement of progress:

Despite some delays in the roll out of the services at the community level and upon completion of the study visit to the PMTCT programme in Tunisia, the National Programme on EMTCT proceeded as planned. In 2015, more than 88,000 rapid tests for HIV were run for more than 36,000 pregnant women. Out of these, 54 positive confirmed cases were identified. In order to further enhance the quality of services, UNICEF Iran has established a monitoring system at three levels (national, antenatal care clinics and reference hospitals) for this national programme. Together with the experts from MoHME, UNICEF Iran conducted a rapid gap analysis to identify tools, processes, standards and knowledge gaps to enhance implementation within the 16 medical universities that were initially involved. UNICEF Iran also acted as the co-convenor of the EMTCT programme area. UNICEF Iran led several technical discussions and fostered a close collaboration under the Joint Programme of Support, especially with the World Health Organization (WHO).

Major challenges encountered during the implementation included: challenges in reaching the pregnant women; shortages in the rapid test supply; and sustainability of the rapid test supply chain. In 2014, UNICEF Iran and the MoHME jointly embarked on developing the necessary tools by: 1) identifying gaps in the package currently delivered; 2) finalizing monitoring checklists and reporting and registration mechanisms; and 3) developing toolkits, training manuals and reference documents for service providers. In 2015, an educational toolkit composed of four manuals on PMTCT for trainers, service provides, trainees and mothers was developed.

With the support of UNICEF Iran, the skills and knowledge of a group of seven national paediatrician master trainers on Prong 4 of the PMTCT program (provision of care and

treatment to positive cases) was enhanced through participation in two tailor-made fellowship courses on management of HIV/AIDS among children and adolescents held in Thailand.

OUTPUT 4 By the end of 2014, knowledge-base to develop a multi-sectoral plan and related C4D plan for mainstreaming youth (with gender and age analysis) lens in programming is available

Analytical statement of progress:

Given the high levels of youth unemployment in Iran, UNICEF and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports initiated a collaboration to better understand challenges in youth employability. Joint efforts led to the drafting of a comprehensive study on youth employability in 2014..

OUTPUT 5 By the end of 2016, the capacity of the Government to promote healthy life styles and resilience-based drug abuse prevention among adolescents and youth (boys and girls), with a specific focus on social health and prevention of traffic accidents is enhanced

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF Iran and the IRCS completed joint research on behavioural causes of traffic accidents to develop a model for road safety. Using this model as a basis, a youth participatory model for awareness raising on road safety among adolescents, youth and the general public is currently under development.

To promote healthy lifestyles, the MoHME developed public health guidance to promote physical activity among adolescent boys and girls, which included specific strategies for the promotion of physical activity among girls, considering the cultural practices. Based on this document, Kashan University of Medical Sciences is engaged as a pilot site with key cross-sectorial stakeholders such as the Government of Kashan, the MoE, the IRCS and municipalities. An action plan for the promotion of physical activity was developed that included community-, school- and family-based interventions. This was done with the participation of local communities, specifically adolescents and key stakeholders. The implementation of the plan began in 2015 with UNICEF Iran support.

In 2015, UNICEF Iran invited an international expert to facilitate some sessions of the Ninth International Congress of Addiction Sciences, focusing on drug prevention in primary healthcare, media and school-based prevention programmes. Alongside the Congress, through active participation in a training workshop, the knowledge and skill capacities of 27 academicians and experts involved in drug prevention programming were enhanced on the utilization of randomized controlled trial methodology. UNICEF Iran is presently supporting the development of a minimum service package on drug use among disadvantaged adolescents. The draft service package is under review.

With UNICEF Iran support, the knowledge capacity of the MoHME on the status of adolescent well-being was enhanced through conducting a survey on childhood and adolescence surveillance and prevention of adult non-communicable disease. The data will be essential to policy decisions and programming. Documentation of the survey methodology, the draft final report and the secondary analysis of the findings are in process.

OUTCOME 4 Programme planning, coordination and management

Analytical statement of progress:

Fifteen biennium work plans (2015–2016) have been signed and were under implementation in 2015.

Internally, UNICEF Iran achieved a satisfactory level of coordination through regular PMT and CMT meetings. Key documents that constituted the basis for coordination were the following:

- The supply plan;
- The communication plan;
- The C4D work plan;
- The fundraising strategy.

OUTPUT 1 The knowledge of relevant stakeholders on child rights and UNICEF's mission in Iran particularly its focus on most vulnerable boys and girls is enhanced

Analytical statement of progress:

In 2015, UNICEF Iran developed its Rolling Management Plan for 2015–2016, updated PRIME and enterprise risk management and launched HACT. The audit was conducted in November–December 2015. UNICEF Iran held a mid-year review in July 2015. Over the year, the main objective has been to keep a stable and improving relationship with all national counterparts. After some initial impasse, 2014 closed on a good note, and partnerships were re-established and improved significantly with the signature of biennial work plans between December 2014 and November 2015 (100 per cent of the WP are signed).

In preparation for the 2017–2021 Country Programme Document, UNICEF Iran developed a Country Programme Document roadmap, discussed priority areas with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and started discussions with technical counterparts. In addition, MENARO supported the development of the Country Programme Document through a number of visits by regional advisors as well as ongoing technical support. An internal Country Programme Document retreat was held with MENARO support, where the evolving context and the preliminary suggestions for UNICEF 2017–2021 results were discussed.

In 2015, three C4D trainings were conducted. Some 30 government experts and academia researchers from different provinces were trained on the C4D methodology and design of C4D strategies.

Fortunately, no major emergencies arose in Iran in 2015. However, as a contingency measure, UNICEF Iran and WHO developed a preparedness plan to counter potential outbreaks of polio. In addition, UNICEF Iran undertook a review of its emergency preparedness plan and updated the Early Warning Early Action portal by mid-2015. UNICEF Iran also led the process of updating the education, nutrition, WASH and child protection contingency plans and participated in regular United Nations Disaster Management Team meetings.

However, despite aggressive fundraising activities, UNICEF Iran still suffers from significant funding gaps, mainly due to international limitations on funding opportunities. With the potential removal of the sanctions, the context is expected to gradually change in a year or two. UNICEF Iran will prepare a new fundraising strategy in 2016.

OUTPUT 2 External relations: UNICEF staff and partners are provided tools, guidance and resources for effective communication on child rights issues with stakeholders

Analytical statement of progress:

In 2015, UNICEF Iran increased its visibility on social and digital media. A total of 50 web stories in English and Farsi on joint programme activities with the Government were posted on the UNICEF Iran website, with about 800 daily average hits. Related Facebook posts and tweets on

these stories reached approximately 5,000 people . In line with the UNICEF global digital transformation strategy, a Twitter account was created for UNICEF Iran, which further expanded the public and media outreach. The Twitter account has 122 followers.

UNICEF Iran also continued to advocate on child rights through print publications. A total of 1,500 Convention on the Rights of the Child booklets, and a total of 2,800 Convention on the Rights of the Child child-friendly booklets were distributed in workshops, schools and NGOs upon request for training on child rights.

The mobile application on violence against children was developed by UNICEF Iran and NBCRC. It will be launched after the approval of the judiciary and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A training for communication staff on establishing and managing an online photo database on WeShare was successfully carried out.

Special events included:

1. On World AIDS Orphans Day, UNICEF Iran hosted a group of children from an AIDS NGO with which UNICEF Iran staff were engaged in discussions with children/families and NGO staff on challenges and progress related to raising awareness on HIV/AIDS;
2. A trip of high-level staff from MENARO to Iran from 5-8 January 2015 was fully covered by the national media;
3. A trip of high-level staff from MENARO to Iran from 5-7 October 2015 was fully covered by the national media;
4. UNICEF Iran participated in United Nations Seventieth Anniversary celebrations on 12 October 2015.

OUTCOME 5 Human capacity

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF Iran conducted the annual revision of the following documents: role mapping; work flow processes; list of committees and respective terms of references; enterprise risk management; Early Warning Early Action; and the Business Continuity Plan.

Office statutory committees met regularly and contributed to effective and efficient decision making in office management. Both the CMT and PMT regularly examined standard management indicators. Staff members were kept up to date on recent developments and office plans during the weekly all-staff information sharing meetings. The office established several task forces and committees with Staff Association representation on different issues and contributed to enhancing the consultative and participatory nature of decision making processes.

The final report of the internal audit, which came up with 14 recommendations in the draft report, is expected in January 2016.

Over the last several years, political developments challenged the capacity of UNICEF Iran to attract the required financial resources (other resources) for the implementation of the Country Programme. Fundraising was regularly discussed as a standard agenda item for the PMT and CMT. UNICEF Headquarters approved a US\$200,000 institutional budget allocation annually for the period of 2014–2015 to support UNICEF Iran to redirect the freed up regular resources funds towards programme implementation.

UNICEF Iran management and the Staff Association established an Office Improvement Plan based on the 2014 Global Staff Survey results to address the priority areas for improvement and recorded noticeable improvement in two out of the four lowest rated areas in the Staff Survey Report.

OUTPUT 1 Governance and systems exist to support the direction of country operations.

Analytical statement of progress:

The annual revision of the office management committees as well as their terms of reference, work flow processes and the Table of Authority were discussed and revised collectively with the participation of all staff members. The enterprise risk management and Early Warning Early Action platforms were updated by mid-year based on the all-office discussions and inputs.

The two-year 2014–2015 Management Plan was revised and developed into the 2015–2016 plan. It reflected changes in office priorities and risk ratings and included the office governance documents and processes essential for the office's performance. The various components, such as composition and mandates of office statutory bodies, the planning calendar and role mapping were revised a few times.

In 2015, UNICEF Iran also updated PRIME, the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan, the Business Continuity Plan, the Office Security Plan, the organogram and the Resource Mobilization Plan.

UNICEF Iran underwent an internal audit in November-December 2015. The final report is expected to be received in mid-January 2016.

To be able to adopt the updated and upgraded ICT corporate systems and packages, UNICEF Iran, with the support and assistance of MENARO, managed to upgrade its Internet connectivity and backup systems at a lower cost compared with 2014.

OUTPUT 2 Stewardship of financial resources creates the conditions to pursue country operations.

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF Iran monitors the financial implementation rates during CMT and PMT monthly meetings. By the end of 2015, for the US\$8,210 DCTs outstanding for more than nine months, which represented 2.8 per cent of total outstanding DCTs, UNICEF Iran submitted a write-off request to the UNICEF Division of Finance and Administration in the last quarter of the year.

Notwithstanding the challenging and sensitive operational environment in Iran, UNICEF Iran became HACT compliant as of 1 November 2015. The staff and partners were trained before the adoption of HACT. The risk rating of the partners was based on high risk assumption where micro-assessment was necessary, taking into consideration the country context. The Assurance Plan was developed accordingly. UNICEF Iran reported on the achievements in this area through the HACT online portal. The adoption of HACT contributed to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of cash assistance-related processes.

The office established a simplification task force that contributed to achieving simpler and more cost-effective processes in different areas of office operations such as the attendance

monitoring system, the Invitation to Bid increase limit, the automated vehicle request and provision system, etc.

The financial systems and accounts were kept in sound condition through timely and accurate completion of the monthly bank reconciliations as well as account clearing practices.

UNICEF Iran is making additional efforts towards creating a 'greener' atmosphere by taking further steps to reduce energy consumption and paper utilization and make more efficient use of ICT equipment.

OUTPUT 3 Human resources have the capacities, skills, morale and motivation to support country operations.

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF Iran had a high rate of staff rotation in 2015 (29 per cent of established posts) for various reasons.

One hundred per cent of the end-year 2014 performance evaluation reviews, the planning phase of 2015 performance evaluation reviews and mid-term revisions were completed within the UNICEF global deadlines.

The annual learning plan was developed by the Local Learning Committee to address the office/staff capacity priority gaps and build staff capacity for long-term career development. This was implemented at 78 per cent due to some delays in several corporate learning/training events and a couple of training events locally.

UNICEF Iran management and the Staff Association Executive Board put in place an Office Improvement Plan based on the results of the 2014 Global Staff Survey to address the four priority issues that came out as the lowest graded by staff. As a follow up measure, an all-staff retreat was conducted that was received well by staff members and evaluated positively by the facilitator. UNICEF Iran decided to monitor the progress through conducting semi-annual mini surveys. The results of the first survey of this kind indicated progress in two out of four areas.

UNICEF Iran actively participated in the UN Cares work in the country. Among other activities, the staff and their spouses benefited from the learning/training activities organized by the UN Cares team during the year.