Executive Summary

Political instability, protracted internal violence, and multiple waves of mass displacement present a complex and changing picture of the needs of children in Iraq. In 2016, as many as 11 million people were estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance. As of December 2016, three million people remained displaced internally, forced from their homes due to ongoing armed conflict and managing disrupted lives, loss of livelihoods, and disintegration of social networks. Approximately 1.4 million of those people (nearly half) are children under 18 years of age.

At the start of 2016, more than two million people were thought to be living in areas outside of government control. Intensified armed conflict in the first quarter of the year resulted in the re-taking of key cities in Anbar governorate, including Fallujah and Ramadi. The government armed forces continued to retake territory in the ‘Mosul corridor’ area, which runs roughly between Tikrit in the centre of the country and the city of Mosul to the north and east, close to the border with Syria. In October 2016, the official start of the government offensive to recapture Mosul, which had been held by the armed opposition group Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) since mid-2014, was announced. As of December, up to 90,000 Iraqis had been newly-displaced as a result of this offensive, many of whom had been living under occupation for more than two years without regular access to public services, including education and health.

The human cost of conflict remains high. Gender-based violence was reportedly widespread in Iraq before the most recent crisis, with high levels of sexual violence, child marriage, and honour crimes perpetrated against women and girls. Since 2014, the use of sexual violence and brutalization of girls and women by certain parties to the conflict has been well documented. Health of children and women is challenged by poor access to basic services, including disrupted water supply and destruction or disrepair of sanitation networks. More than one million school-aged children have been displaced, of whom an estimated 700,000 have lost at least one full year of learning. Those children who are in school struggle to learn in overcrowded classrooms that lack basic education materials.

UNICEF’s 2016-2019 programme supports the Iraqi Government at national, regional and subnational levels to strengthen basic social services to reach the most vulnerable children and women, especially those affected by conflict and displacement, in support of the National Development Plan 2013-2017 and the Kurdistan Regional Government’s ‘Vision 2020’. Humanitarian actions represented a significant part of UNICEF support in Iraq, consisting of both humanitarian and development programming.

In 2016, UNICEF Iraq guided emergency water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) response through its leadership of the WASH Cluster, which consisted of more than 60 INGO, NGO, and government partners. UNICEF Iraq coordinated education response as lead UN agency for the Education Cluster; led the child protection sub-cluster, contributing to wider protection activities for vulnerable populations; and actively contributed to the Health cluster response, focusing on the needs of children under five years. Cross-cutting communication for development (C4D) and cash transfer interventions were integrated into all programme interventions.
Humanitarian Assistance

In 2016 Iraq remained in a protracted and complex humanitarian situation, where 11 million people – nearly one-third of the total population - were in need of assistance. Intensive fighting aimed at retaking areas controlled by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) triggered continued mass displacements. Since 2014, more than 4 million people have been internally displaced -- 480,000 people were displaced in 2016, mostly in and from the Anbar and Ninewa governorates in the east and northeast, respectively. Military operations to re-take the city of Mosul were expected to displace a further 1.1 million people. Iraq also hosted more than 230,000 Syrian refugees, approximately half of whom were children. The humanitarian situation was exacerbated by the worst fiscal crisis in the country’s history, which has constrained government capacity to support basic services, including salaries for teachers, and primary healthcare workers.

UNICEF supported government partners to strengthen institutional capacities and worked with humanitarian actors to enhance coordination for effective and timely preparedness and response to children and families in need. As lead and co-lead for WASH, Education, and Child Protection and co-lead for the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), UNICEF played a central role in the humanitarian needs assessment, planning and coordination that have guided response to massive displacements along the ‘Mosul corridor’, an area heavily affected by displacement and violence in 2016, and which runs from Mosul city in Ninewa southwards to the capital city, Baghdad.

With ongoing displacements, the RRM played a significant role in alleviating suffering of women and children, and acted as a ‘bridge’ between the immediate distribution of items while people are on the move, and as a ‘first line’ of cluster responses. In 2016, 1,086,409 displaced people, including 532,340 children, benefited from RRM kits that contain water, hygiene kits, and food rations. With the humanitarian situation evolving, UNICEF developed a multi-sector emergency response package of services, with water supply and immunization of children at its core, for people in ‘retaken communities’. In collaboration with other agencies, 113,000 people have benefited from the multi-sector package.

Emerging Areas of Importance

UNICEF Iraq continued to respond to the needs of Syrian refugee children. Syrian refugees have been hosted in the three northern governorates of Dohuk, Erbil, and Sulaymaniyyah since late 2012. Internally displaced Iraqis arrived in mid-2014 after takeover of territory by ISIL. With significant population increase in these three out of Iraq’s 18 governorates, public services are overstretched, schools are overcrowded and poorly equipped, and formal education has been disrupted, affecting children’s rights to play and learning, as well as their right to safety and to be protected. Updated figures for Syrian refugees in Iraq showed the total population to be approximately 230,000 individuals, of which 43 per cent were children under 18 years old. Thirty nine per cent of the refugees were living in camps, and 61 per cent resided in non-camp/urban areas where providing targeted humanitarian response remained a challenge.

With UNICEF’s support, in 2016 nutrition surveys were completed in all refugee camps in northern Iraq. Working closely with local authorities, UNICEF established water and sanitation networks in Syrian refugee camps, where 96 per cent of Syrian refugees are living. UNICEF supported routine vaccination of children up to 15 years old, including those crossing the Syria-Iraq border. Newborn monitoring and healthcare advice was provided to mothers through tent-to-tent newborn home service teams, as part of UNICEF’s work to reduce child and mother mortality.
As part of the No Lost Generation (NLG) initiative aimed at bridging immediate response plans and longer-term development efforts in education, child protection and adolescent and youth engagement, UNICEF provided teaching and learning materials to Syrian refugee children.

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

| ALP       | Accelerated Learning Programme |
| CDC       | Communicable Diseases Centre   |
| CFS       | Child Friendly Space           |
| CPD       | Country Programme Document     |
| CPIE      | Child Protection in Emergencies |
| DCT       | Direct Cash Transfer           |
| DoE       | Directorate of Education       |
| DoH       | Directorates of Health         |
| DoLSA     | Directorate of Labour and Social Affairs |
| DSS       | Department of Safety and Security |
| EPI       | Expanded Program on Immunization |
| FGM       | Female Genital Mutilation      |
| GOI       | Government of Iraq             |
| HRBA      | Human Rights Based Approach    |
| HPM       | Humanitarian Performance Monitoring |
| HRP       | Humanitarian Response Plan     |
| IDPs      | Internally Displaced Persons   |
| IMEP      | Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan |
| IMNCH     | Integrated Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health |
| IPV       | Inactivated Polio Vaccine      |
| IYCF      | Infant and Young Child Feeding |
| JCC       | Joint Consultative Committee   |
| KRG       | Kurdistan Regional Government |
| KRI       | Kurdistan Region of Iraq      |
| MICS      | Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey |
| MoE       | Ministry of Education          |
| MoHE      | Ministry of Higher Education   |
| MoH       | Ministry of Health             |
| MoLSA     | Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs |
| MoP       | Ministry of Planning           |
| MRM       | Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism |
| MSCR      | Mission Security Clearance Request |
| NVS       | National Vaccines Cold Storage Facility |
| ODK       | Open Data Kit                  |
| PCA       | Programme Cooperation Agreements |
| PHCC      | Primary Health Care Centre     |
| PRS       | Poverty Reduction Strategy     |
| PSB       | Procurement Services Branch    |
| PTA       | Parent Teacher Association     |
| RMT       | Regional Management Team       |
| RRM       | Rapid Response Mechanism       |
| SAM       | Severe Acute Malnutrition      |
| SSFA      | Small Scale Funding Agreement  |
Capacity Development

Capacity development of local partners was central to UNICEF Iraq programming. In 2016 UNICEF Iraq, through its new country programme, began programmes based on capacity development of local community-based organizations and groups. Through the education programme, various trainings and training-of-trainers sessions were delivered throughout the 10 UNICEF-prioritized governorates of Iraq. UNICEF supported measles and cholera campaigns and interventions in internally displaced person (IDP) and refugee camps, with involvement of camp management and IDPs. To promote the importance of education, UNICEF used camp connections to roll out the Back to School learning campaign for the IDPs and refugees in camps.

Through the decentralization process carried out during the year, capacity development at the governorate level has become clearly imperative to the rolling out and effective delivery of programming.

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

Data availability proved to be a constraint in 2016, still quality data and evidence were generated internally, often at great lengths. Humanitarian data on refugees and IDPs was gathered and analysed regularly through internal processes and inter-agency groups. UNICEF Iraq programme monitoring was heavily strengthened throughout the year, through development of a robust monitoring framework, indicator guides, and multiple trainings on RBM-based monitoring and data collection. In response to the rising number of IDPs in the country, UNICEF focused on strengthening its internal situations reporting through increasing capacity of sections and cluster groups on information management.

UNICEF, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, conducted a Maternal, Child and Nutrition survey focused on a select set of data required for Health and Nutrition reprogramming in the coming years. The Government of Iraq has confirmed its commitment to carry out the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 6 in collaboration with UNICEF in 2017.

Partnerships

UNICEF continued to implement key partnerships and initiated new partnerships with stakeholders invested in the child rights agenda in Iraq. UNICEF Iraq focused on building capacity and delivering results for children through partnerships and collaborative efforts with national and local Governments and civil society.

For humanitarian action, UNICEF leads and co-leads WASH, education and child protection clusters and sub-cluster. To promote inter-agency partnerships in 2016, UNICEF led several inter-agency field missions for emergency assessments, including to remote areas, which required additional coordination on all fronts.

UNICEF, through its new rolling work plans, collaborated heavily with the Ministry of Health, Education, Labour and Social Affairs and Planning in 2016 to solidify its commitment and dedication to working closely with the Government of Iraq at all levels, especially at the governorate level, for enhanced ownership of programmes and strengthened partnership.
External Communication and Public Advocacy

In line with UNICEF’s global communication and public advocacy strategy, in 2016 UNICEF Iraq focused on leveraging traditional media, developing innovative interactive platforms, increasing our digital dissemination, and magnifying UNICEF’s role as a credible partner on child rights.

UNICEF expanded its integrated communication strategy through the production of traditional news releases and packages of children’s stories with key messages, including video, photographs, blogs, and social media. This strategy allowed UNICEF Iraq to maintain a presence on mobile communication technology, connect more directly, and build up a consistent digital outreach network.

In 2016, new initiatives aimed at raising public awareness created personal connections between Iraqi children and people around the world by using the ‘portal’, a new interactive communication platform that connects people via video links, allowing children to speak about their experiences directly with people from around the world. Portals also allow users to engage policy makers through direct contact with children, allowing the children to tell their stories in their own words.

UNICEF Iraq’s publication, ‘Heavy Price for Children: Violence Destroys Childhoods in Iraq,’ highlighted the situation of Iraqi children to the global community, including the risks and violations of rights children face. Throughout 2016, UNICEF Iraq continued to engage with several National Committees, hosting multiple visits that facilitated child-focused media coverage and advocacy for key issues across several programme sectors.

Identification Promotion of Innovation

UNICEF Iraq continued to work toward generating important opportunities to advance progress toward results for children, especially through innovative and ‘out of the box’ thinking.

UNICEF Iraq fostered innovative thinking in the provision and coordination of water, sanitation and hygiene projects in Iraq. The absence of active management for settlements and camps in the centre and north areas of Iraq was exacerbated by the poor capacity of local authorities to follow up on service delivery, which resulted in lack of information on needs of displaced populations and insufficient monitoring and response or services. To address this gap, UNICEF established ‘WASH Service Centres’ to assist in the management, delivery, and monitoring of WASH-related services in IDP camps and in host communities.

UNICEF supported the service centres to function as geographically-specific operational hubs in formal and non-formal settlements, collective centres and unfinished buildings. Managed by local NGO partners, centres are linked to their local Municipality to consolidate and strengthen ownership by the national authorities. There were 15 WASH service centres established in Iraq.

Support to Integration and cross-sectoral linkages

In 2016 UNICEF Iraq continued to emphasize lessons learned from partnerships and programmes, and supported an integrated programming approach for children to address inter-sectoral issues. The integrated programming approach was applied in different areas of the programme to foster interventions that require a joint targeting approach. Since its launch in 2013, the No Lost Generation (NLG) initiative in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, and Iraq specifically, has stimulated attention around the plight of children affected by the ongoing crises.
By focusing on education, child protection and adolescents and youth empowerment jointly, the aim of the No Lost Generation (NLG) strategy in Iraq is to ensure that children are protected and supported throughout the crisis while they also build resilience to cope more positively with the effects of their experiences. The children’s resilience builds with continued access to quality education and child protection services in which children have a voice, while community resilience derives from the ability of families and community actors to influence and respond to the crisis affecting them and their children.

This integration offers a streamlined approach to also tackling the issue of adolescent programming. The NLG strategy offers a pathway for programme delivery to reach more children and maximize child and community resilience. The protracted crisis places great strain on host communities. To assist families and communities in coping, the NLG strategy stimulates convergence of emergency, stabilization and recovery programs to help affected children by crisis, including host community children. Iraq cannot afford to lose a generation of children and young people. Inaction will not only fail to sustain the humanitarian response, but endanger the gains and results achieved in 2014-2015, and put at risk the ability of all stakeholders to transition from immediate emergency response to resilience building among communities affected by the conflict.

**Service Delivery**

UNICEF Iraq’s new Country Programme was developed with a significant focus on service delivery. In keeping with the equity approach and the rapidly changing country context, in 2016 UNICEF Iraq increased its focus on service delivery at the local and governorate levels. During 2016, UNICEF Iraq concentrated on a shift to emphasize service delivery specifically in the ongoing humanitarian context. Resources were prioritized towards downstream programming, supply delivery and service delivery through implementing partners.

UNICEF focused on systematically gathering and analysing information on performance and progress on the delivery of services, specifically through a revised monitoring framework, and roll-out of enhanced programme monitoring. Implementation partners continued to be regularly assessed through the routine harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT) implementation, which monitors activity implementation and partner performance. Through a process of increased decentralization over the course of the year, UNICEF ensured that accountability structures were in place with agreed upon roles and responsibilities to enhance the effective reach of services.

In 2016, as part of the annual quality assurance process, UNICEF Iraq conducted milestone reviews, at the mid-year and end-year marks, focused on programme monitoring to assess progress made (including financial utilization) against planned targets. Through such monitoring, UNICEF Iraq generated evidence on the quality, timeliness and effective reach of services, assessed constraints, and identified risks in implementation and the use of resources.

**Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation**

In 2016 UNICEF Iraq continued to support the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, its Optional Protocols, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through programme results for children. UNICEF continued to support strengthening of accountability mechanisms for the realization of rights of all children, particularly the marginalized and excluded. Throughout 2016 UNICEF worked to strengthen the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism for Grave Violations of Child Rights, including verifying incidents,
working on prevention and rehabilitation, and advocating with the government for the rights of children to be fully respected and for spaces for children to be protected from conflict.

UNICEF worked closely with the Government of Iraq to implement the National Child Rights Based Child Protection Policy, which recommends a child rights based system approach to address gaps related to legislation, prevention, and provision of child protection service delivery, with a focus on equity.

UNICEF provided technical support to the Child Welfare Commission for a Rapid Assessment of Worst Forms of Child Labour in Iraq. The report generated critical evidence on the scale and urgency of the worst forms of child labour in Iraq.

**Gender Equality**

In the new Country Programme 2016-2019, UNICEF Iraq integrated elements of the Global Gender Action Plan by integrating gender issues into both programmes and the annual management plan, to ensure staff capacity development and office diversity.

In 2016, UNICEF Iraq continued to increase efforts to mainstream gender in education, WASH and health programming by planning and designing interventions that were gender-sensitive in order to generate equitable access and assure careful attention was given to men and women, girls and boys. Programme design took into account gender differential needs, safety, and mitigation of gender based violence. Programming in all sectors allowed for gender sensitive issues to be addressed. The WASH-in-Schools programme had a strong gender equity dimension. Toilet facilities in schools were gender segregated, and the hygiene curriculum was sensitive girls and women. Health and nutrition programming focused on gender-responsive views of programming in IDP and refugee camps and non-camp settings.

**Environmental Sustainability**

UNICEF Iraq’s current country programme aims to build sustainable interventions focusing on the rights of every child in the country. Environmental sustainability is of critical importance in Iraq, specifically in for water resource management and conservation. In line with this, the involvement of national and regional governments is central to ensuring continuation of WASH interventions by local bodies and the sustainability of them in communities. UNICEF is committed to developing sustainable solutions across all programmes, ensuring a cross-sectoral focus to strengthen services for children.

Training was an important component of UNICEF Iraq’s sustainable solutions in 2016. UNICEF Iraq built the capacity of several groups of service providers and Ministerial staff, voluntary groups and local non-governmental organizations on water conservation and water resource management, ensuring that knowledge will stay in communities to have a wider impact on the surroundings. Key programming initiatives related to environmental change also included information sharing and capacity building of local authorities and community groups on water-related diseases and water conservation practice.

**Effective Leadership**

As of the end of 2016, 60 per cent of audit recommendations (18 of 32) had been closed ahead of the requested deadline. For the remaining recommendations, corrective actions were put in place with continual follow-up to ensure ongoing compliance and closure.

Risk Management was addressed heavily throughout the year, with involvement of senior management and relevant sections. UNICEF Iraq ensured processes were in place to continue routine spot-checks, micro and macro assessments, and partner audits in line with
HACT assurance. Close oversight was provided to assist in obtaining lower levels of outstanding Direct Cash Transfers (DCTs), and additional effort was made on efficient use of resources.

UNICEF Iraq revised the business continuity plan (BCP) in line with emergency procedures and routinely reviewed and updated the plan throughout the year to ensure operational efficiency during times when the emergency escalated. The country management team (CMT) met on a regular basis and all mandatory committees were established, with staff members serving on the committees oriented on their function at periodic intervals.

**Financial Resources Management**

In 2016, UNICEF Iraq improved its contribution management, budget control, financial procedures, accounting and liquidation of cash assistance by strictly monitoring income, expenditures, grant expiry, and issues around donor conditionality and use of funds.

UNICEF Iraq’s total allotment in 2016 was US$221 million, of which US$170 million was utilized, obtaining the overall rate of 76 per cent utilization. Of the US$221 million allotment, approximately US$50 million was carryover funds from the previous year. Ninety five per cent of the total allotment is made up of other resources-emergency, 2 per cent is from other resources-regular, and the remaining 3 percent is from regular resources.

Throughout the year UNICEF Iraq adhered to monthly accounting processes and deadlines, including bank reconciliations. In 2016 Iraq faced challenges in liquidation throughout the country, with cash availability being scare. UNICEF Iraq proactively addressed this issue by working directly with the operational banks to ensure there was a ‘work around’ fee and on other issues preventing partners from accessing their payments. UNICEF Iraq successfully disbursed funds to partners throughout the year.

**Fundraising and Donor Relations**

In 2017, UNICEF Iraq’s total planned budget of US$240 million was 87 per cent funded, at just over US$209 million. Of the total humanitarian response planned, both appeals were well funded. The Humanitarian Response Plan was 90 per cent funded (US$161 million received against the US$179 million appeal) and the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan was 6 per cent overfunded (US$40.5 million received against the US$38 million appeal). The UNICEF Iraq chapter of the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal of US$179 million was 90 per cent funded, of which US$40.1 million (36 per cent) contributed towards UNICEF Iraq’s response to those affected by military operations related to the retake of the city of Mosul. Development interventions suffered in 2017, with other resources-regular gravely underfunded, at a mere US$3 million of the US$23 million planned.

WASH remained UNICEF Iraq’s largest programme in relation to funding, receiving US$74.7 million in 2016, enabling the programme to continue to provide services for existing internally displaced persons, as well as outreach and establishment of new services for those affected by the ongoing conflict during the year.

In 2016 UNICEF Iraq’s largest donors remained government donors strongly aligned to the humanitarian agenda, including Canada, the European Union, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the USA. Donor relations were further strengthened in 2016, with frequent and proactive engagement with donors throughout the year, including several visits by donors to UNICEF Iraq projects. As part of Resource Mobilization Strategy implementation, UNICEF engaged donors in strategic dialogue, contributing positively to partnership building and resource mobilization efforts.
Evaluation and Research

The UNICEF Iraq Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) was created at the beginning of 2016 in line with the Cost Evaluation Plan, through a results-based programme planning process. The IMEP contains four large-scale programme evaluations to be carried out over the course of the country programme.

Due to several delays in programming (all eight project partners faced delays in implementation), the WASH evaluation for 2016 was delayed. At year end UNICEF was in the process of carrying out a door-requested evaluation for RRM programming in 2104-2015.

UNICEF Iraq continued to ensure that policy, programming and advocacy efforts drew on data and evidence from previous evaluations, or fed into further programme cycles to aid in the evaluation process.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

In 2016 joint ventures to enhance cost savings with UN Agencies in Iraq continued. A joint agreement with UN Agencies on staff housing was further negotiated and adjusted, resulting in an annual savings of approximately one million dollars.

Select UNICEF field office locations were moved from the common premises to join other UN agencies, to offer better quality in terms of office space, parking, security and accommodation for international staff. Other locations increased use of common shared spaces, resulting in an annual savings of US$28,000. The implementation of a common approach in ICT services with other UN agencies resulted in annual savings of US$46,000.

UNICEF is an active participant in interagency discussions within the UN Common Services framework. In 2016 the interagency group initiated a review of all common issues in their respective areas of responsibility. It is envisaged that such collaboration will bring about streamlined and unified practices where applicable and contribute to better efficiency and effectiveness for all participating agencies in Iraq.

Supply Management

In 2016 internally UNICEF Iraq was able to ensure that programmes were able to define the supply components of their annual work plans, to be supported in preparation of contingency plans, and to carry out regular procurement and delivery of supplies as needed.

To enhance the internal sourcing strategy for emergency response and to increase competition, UNICEF Iraq continued to assess the local market to explore new possibilities to broaden the supply base. In 2016 UNICEF Iraq established 81 long-term arrangements, which improved the timely procurement and delivery of supplies in support of programmes. Supplies and services valued at US$73 million were procured during 2016. Below is the breakdown of the total value of supply transactions throughout the year:
### Value of all supply input (goods and services)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme supplies</td>
<td>48,428,795.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational supplies</td>
<td>89,049.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>16,103,434.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>8,729,948.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>73,351,227.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Local procurement constituted approximately 79 per cent of programme supply transactions, with offshore procurement representing 21 per cent of total procurement, valued at US$48 million. In 2016 UNICEF consistently undertook in-country logistic assessments to identify adequate warehouse facilities at national level, as well as test run potential shipping entry points (border crossing) through neighbouring countries. In the area of supply chain strengthening of the Government of Iraq, UNICEF provided support to Government departments in construction of warehouses for the Department of Education.

### Security for Staff and Premises

Throughout 2016 the security situation in Iraq remained challenging as Iraqi and coalition forces mounted operations to regain control of areas captured by the Islamic State.

In 2016, all office locations for UNICEF Iraq maintained Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS) compliancy, and they were further reinforced through an internal security evaluation. Field office locations were further secured by the installation of emergency stairwells and moves to compounds with a wider UN presence.

The security of UNICEF staff remained a priority. Additional security staff were recruited. Additional equipment, including armoured vehicles, was purchased to further enhance programme missions into difficult-to-reach areas. A continuous cycle of security-related training was made available to all staff, including hostile environment training and first aid training.

### Human Resources

In 2016 UNICEF Iraq underwent a large change management exercise to align the new staffing structure to the expected programme needs in the UNICEF Iraq Country Programme 2016-2019. In 2016, UNICEF Iraq successfully rolled out the new ‘ACHIEVE’ system for individual performance management, Talent Management System (TMS) for recruitment and MyCase for international staff members. The transition of human resource transactions for national officers and general service staff to the GSSC also took place.

Throughout the year, great emphasis was placed on staff learning and development. Approximately US$125,000 was utilized for staff learning initiatives, including UN Ethics training and results based management training. UNICEF Iraq nominated three staff members to participate in the essential skills programme (ESP) for national staff in the MENA region. UNICEF Iraq also nominated seven staff members from various locations to participate in the Ethics Dialogue Facilitators’ training, to work in close coordination with the management and human resources to raise staff awareness and knowledge on ethics. A two-day all-staff retreat was held to further enhance teamwork and staff morale and increase communications across offices.
**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

In 2016, UNICEF Iraq maintained a high level of continuous performance in the area of information and communication technology. Skype for Business played an important role to accommodate effective meetings to monitor progress and reporting for both programme implementation and the emergency response, involving country office, zone offices, regional office and Headquarters. UNICEF Iraq put in place compatible hardware that operates seamlessly with Skype for Business to improve the user experience and reduce the use of mobile phones for daily communication, which in turn saved costs and time. Microsoft SharePoint was used as the central repository for permanent documents and One Drive was used for office-wide document sharing, offering great accessibility and enabling staff members to work more effectively and efficiently from anywhere in the country.

**Programme Components from RAM**

**ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS**

**OUTCOME 1** By 2019, newborns, children, and women have increased and equitable access to and use of affordable, high-impact health and nutrition interventions, especially in governorates with high mortality burden and in humanitarian situation.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In 2016 UNICEF provided technical, financial and supply support to update and improve national level policy and evidence to inform more equitable and high impact health and nutrition interventions, with a specific focus on governorates experiencing increased populations as a result of ongoing active conflict and mass displacement. Newborn policy was strengthened through the finalization of the Iraq Essential NewBorn Action Plan (IENAP). The IENAP is a roadmap that re-defines national strategies until 2020. Access for vulnerable populations to quality nutrition services was improved through establishment of five new Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRC) attached to paediatric wards where severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases are treated and through provision of significant nutrition supplementation to NRCs and to Primary Healthcare Centres (PHC).

Iraq’s polio-free status was maintained in 2016, and the polio switch plan was completed. Immunization services reached more than 5.6 million children through campaign and routine immunization. Cold chain services, critical to support vaccination as low-cost, high-impact interventions, were strengthened through increased vaccine storage space, as well as sustained and comprehensive social mobilization and public information-sharing interventions.

Health and nutrition services were strengthened in Syrian refugee and IDP camps as well as in host community locations through the establishment of fixed units for use as service provision points and training of frontline staff in areas affected by displacement. UNICEF supported a home visit system for newborns and post-natal care for mothers in camps. Restoration and re-equipping of PHC services in the newly-accessible areas of conflict-affected governorates, including Anbar, Ninewa and Salah al Din, was a priority for re-establishing access to active health service provision for children and families.

**OUTPUT 1** Policies, strategies and plans to reduce neonatal mortality and malnutrition are developed and budgeted for.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In the first half of 2016, the Iraq Essential Newborn Action Plan (ENAP) was approved by the Ministry of Health (MoH). Polio switch validation from trivalent (tOPV) to bivalent (bOPV) was
completed at health facility level. Two million doses of bOPV and 3 million doses of BCG vaccine were delivered. An ‘Effective Vaccine Management’ (EVM) tool was introduced for first time in Iraq for cold chain managers to prepare the country for the comprehensive EVM assessment in 2017.

A comprehensive road map for reviewing the National Nutrition Strategy 2012-2021 was finalized jointly with the MoH, UNICEF and WHO. Significant attention would be paid for addressing the needs of displaced women and children and other vulnerable groups, reducing disparity, and better integration of nutrition interventions with immunization and MCH services. UNICEF contributed to a national-level World Food Programme food security survey. Final survey results will be made available in the first quarter of 2017.

UNICEF organized a high level consultation on micronutrient fortification programmes in Iraq, agreeing to a set of recommendations with government partners to scale up fortification, paying specific attention to supply forecasting and procurement, quality assurance and control, demand creation, field monitoring and supervision, and partnership with the private sector.

After intensive advocacy, Iraqi national specifications for nutrition supplements were revised in 2016 in line with international standards. This enabled partners to deliver a standard package of nutrition services for vulnerable children.

Jointly with WHO and UNFPA, UNICEF supported MOH to develop the ‘Post 2015 Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Plan’. UNICEF technical input was provided to immunization, nutrition, and neonatal health care specifically. The main challenge is serving areas controlled by anti-government groups, and reactivating services in newly-accessible areas where infrastructures are severely damaged by conflict.

To advocate for the Iraqi Code of Marketing for Breast Milk Substitutes, UNICEF supported two symposia in Baghdad and Erbil, in which roles and responsibilities in relation to the Code were established. These events were complemented by governorate-level advocacy to establish local committees for dissemination and implementation of the Code.

**OUTPUT 2** Service providers ensure better quality nutrition services, focusing on prevention and reduction of acute and chronic malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies in the most vulnerable districts, and in humanitarian situations.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Government service providers received significant UNICEF support through delivery of nutrition supplies and training. At least 6 million capsules of vitamin A were supplied to the MoH, and the Nutrition Research Institute (NRI) implemented a rigorous monitoring plan to ensure proper use and utilization of the vitamin along with measles vaccination. UNICEF included a dedicated training module on vitamin A supplementation in relevant nutrition training sessions, in addition to dissemination of educational materials to vulnerable communities.

To support improved management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), UNICEF established five new Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) in Baghdad, Dahuk, Kirkuk, Najaf, and Sulaymaniyah. A total of 555 doctors and medical staff (213 female) were trained on management of SAM. All pre-existing NRCs in Kurdistan were equipped, based on need assessments conducted in collaboration with the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).

To promote Infant Young Child Feeding, UNICEF supported two hospitals in Baghdad to become certified as ‘Baby Friendly Hospitals’ (BFHI). Forty gynaecologists and paediatricians (26 females) across Iraq have enhanced capacity on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling achieved through a comprehensive training of trainer course run in 2016. This was followed by cascade training that reached 902 health workers (611 females) in central and southern governorates.
Guidelines were developed on multiple nutrition subjects (Vitamin A, Anaemia, Iodine deficiency, and Complementary feeding) and distributed to PHCs across the country. Orientation sessions on the Iraqi Code for Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes (BMS) reached 560 medical and paramedical staff.

OUTPUT 3 Service providers ensure better quality child health services, focusing on neonatal and young child health, in the most vulnerable districts, and in humanitarian situations.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Three ‘Training of Trainer’ courses reached 94 gynaecologists and nurses (79 female) on self-assessment module for the delivery rooms in the selected 10 governorates were completed. Gaps and areas for improvement were identified and will guide future planning. Twenty two senior Maternal and Child Health staff across the country became master trainers on antenatal and postnatal care.

UNICEF supported collection of residual trivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (tOPV), along with field monitoring and validation of the switch. UNICEF supported 18 meetings for governorate and district Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) managers on the switch, followed by cascade orientation meetings reaching 5,000 vaccinators and cold chain focal points. Injectable Polio Vaccine (IPV) was introduced in the first quarter of 2016 as a requirement for the switch. UNICEF supported Polio National Immunization Days (PNIDs) in February, April and October 2016, with a more than 96 per cent coverage rate for more than 5.6 million children under 5 years vaccinated against polio.

To strengthen the National Vaccine Store, UNICEF supported establishment of additional storage in Baghdad, which will increase national capacity by 25 per cent. UNICEF agreed to construct a new Regional Vaccine Store in Erbil to cover northern governorates and to help overcome various logistical and security access constraints. Cold chain supplies including cold rooms, ice-lined refrigerators and freezers were distributed to locations identified as being in priority need. As part of support for strengthening cold chain management, workshops on Effective Vaccine Management (EVM) were organized in Baghdad and Erbil for 33 vaccine cold chain managers. The workshops included a session on computerized cold chain inventory software. UNICEF also supported a non-vaccine warehouse in Kirkuk and extended the Directorate of Health Sulaymaniyah warehouse for nutrition supplies.

OUTPUT 4 Children and families have improved basic health and nutrition practices, especially in the most vulnerable districts and in humanitarian situations.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF supported social mobilization interventions for thee PNIDs. Between campaigns, supervisory field visits to priority locations were undertaken to assess campaign quality, and to recommend strategies to improve quality of the next campaign.

In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), social mobilization during routine vaccination sessions was satisfactory. More than 80 per cent of vaccination sites gave required messages to the communities. Immunization week in Iraq was held from 24 to 28 April, as part of Global Immunization Week events. Intensive advocacy was conducted on successful enactment of the polio end game strategy, introduction of new vaccines, assuring constant vaccine stock and introduction of the Vaccine Stock Supplies Managements (VSSM) system.

As a preventive measure for possible disease outbreak, especially waterborne disease, in areas affected by frequent mass gatherings, including the large scale pilgrimage events in
the central and southern governorates, UNICEF supported a sub-national public awareness campaign focusing on safe water and good food preparation practice as well as home management and use of rehydration salts. The Central Statistics Office (CSO), with WHO and UNICEF support, undertook a sub-national Knowledge Attitudes and Practices study on Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD). The study report will be finalized in the first quarter of 2017.

**OUTPUT 5** Children and their families access timely and quality child and maternal health and nutrition services in humanitarian situations in Iraq

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF replenished damaged cold chain equipment in newly-accessible PHCs in the conflict-affected governorate of Salah al Din. Three cold rooms were installed and 80 ice-lined refrigerators and deep freezers were distributed. Routine immunization services in refugee and IDP camps were strengthened through fixed immunization units. Across the country, more than 13,685 newborn refugee children and mothers and 16,074 newborn IDPs and mothers were screened for growth and received counselling on breast feeding and postnatal care. To further enhance IYCF services in IDP camps in Anbar, Baghdad, and Salah al Din, training courses on breast feeding promotion and growth monitoring were conducted for 366 health facility staff. Approximately 370 metric tons of High Energy/Protein Biscuits, 69 tons of supplementary spread sachets and 30 tons of super cereal were distributed to the priority locations, including newly-accessible districts and IDP camps, and reached 109,700 children under the age of five.

UNICEF supported rapid nutrition assessments for children newly-displaced from Fallujah. Similarly, rapid nutrition assessments were supported in all major IDP and refugee camps in the KRI, and results were shared with nutrition partners in country. In general, chronic malnutrition rates (29 per cent stunting) were higher than the national figure (23 per cent). Acute malnutrition rates were lower (6.1 per cent vs. 7.4 per cent), but still below the WHO threshold in emergency. To help prevent waterborne diseases, UNICEF supported two diarrhoeal diseases control training courses for 60 focal points working in central and southern governorates. Training focused on home management of diarrheal disease and use of Oral Rehydration Salts and zinc tablets. After ‘training of trainer’ sessions, cascade courses reached 1,231 and 598 paramedical staff working in PHCs of central and southern governorates, respectively.

**OUTCOME 2** By 2019, children and families have improved and equitable access to and use of safe drinking water and sanitation, and improved hygiene behaviours in the most vulnerable communities, schools and health facilities, including in humanitarian situations.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Although a majority of Iraq’s population (86 per cent) had access to drinking water, water quality was often below international standards. Slightly more than one quarter (27 per cent) of the population was connected to the public sewerage network, and the majority of sewage continued to be discharged directly into the environment without treatment (Environmental Survey, 2016).

Managing scarce resources was a significant concern in Iraq. In 2016, UNICEF supported a comprehensive plan for managing drought conditions, which included provisions for environmental monitoring and public information-sharing and communications. UNICEF contributed to awareness of these topics among service users and water service providers. Changing behaviour of users and policy makers is a fundamental component of water conservation. Comparative Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) surveys conducted by UNICEF between 2014 and 2016 found that there has been an almost 6 per cent reduction in daily personal water consumption (from 128.9 to 121.6 litres per person per day).
As part of ongoing public sector modernization programming, UNICEF supported design of a web-based billing and complaints system for the Mayoralty of Baghdad (MOB) and the Ministry of Construction, Housing and Municipalities as part of ongoing national e-governance initiatives that aim to make services available to citizens in a more efficient and transparent manner.

UNICEF undertook strong cross-sectoral work in 2016, particularly in the area of WASH improvements for education and health services. UNICEF aimed to provide adequate services in key locations to reduce the number of children not completing primary schooling and to support improved health for children and families at Primary Healthcare Centres. Preventing transmission of waterborne diseases such as cholera, which is endemic in Iraq, continued to be part of prevention and awareness-raising work in 2016.

In a challenging humanitarian context and in a complex operational environment, UNICEF provided substantial support to the government, delivering key technical and supply inputs across the country, including procurement and supply of water treatment systems serving 2.5 million people across multiple locations. In response to the continuing crisis in Iraq, UNICEF supported displaced people with supply of safe water, including through immediate first-line responses such as bottled water, construction of water networks and water trucking, water treatment materials, development of wells and treatment plants, and in solid waste management. A new WASH Service Centres (WSC) initiative managed by local NGO partners supported coordination and monitoring of WASH services, including a stronger feedback and complaints system for IDPs on services provided. UNICEF’s commitment to working with local partners for management of WSCs helped to ensure sustainability of the intervention.

**OUTPUT 1** Government has strengthened capacity for water auditing, integrated water management resource planning, and sustainable management of WASH services.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF supported water and sanitation line Ministries to establish a comprehensive plan that defines management of drought conditions. In August 2016, the final report, which is a product of integrated planning and research across various line Ministries and sectors, presented the Development of Environmental Management Drought Plan Guidelines for Iraq. The guidelines will assist government bodies in developing appropriate procedures and responses to mitigate drought in the short and long term.

Water and sanitation management in Iraq was identified as a priority at the Ministry of Construction, Housing and Public Municipalities and by the Mayoralty of Baghdad as part of the Iraq Public Sector Modernization programme. Multiple interventions were recorded during the first phase and, as a result, a successful complaint monitoring system was launched to acquire user feedback on public services, including the water and sanitation sector. UNICEF continued to support the government in the development of an online water billing system as part of public sector modernization.

In 2016, UNICEF supported six national consultative workshops that involved key stakeholders, partners, officials, academic institutions and NGOs to strengthen linkages between the government, academics and domestic/national research institutes. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Housing, Constructions and Municipalities with installation and rehabilitation of four national laboratories at the National Laboratory, in parallel with training sessions on operation and maintenance to support improved monitoring of water quality.

UNICEF supported two ‘exposure’ visits to provide national Public Awareness Task Forces
in 2015 and 2016 to learn about the technology two neighbouring countries, Jordan (2015 visit) and Turkey (2016 visit), are used to rationalize the use of water in their contexts, including new methodologies of treatment and re-use of waste water for agriculture and irrigation purposes. Task Force members included key technical staff from a number of line Ministries engaged in public service provision and resource management. One of the main outcomes from the visit was the adoption in Iraq of new technology on re-use of waste water for agricultural and gardening use. The government intends to apply such new technology to certain locations in Baghdad and to spread this to other governorates with scarce or poor water quality. The Government of Iraq has also expressed interest in technology adopted by UNICEF for a medical wastewater treatment package unit. In 2016, Abu Ghraib Hospital installed new technology in order to reduce direct medical waste discharges into the Tigris River.

**OUTPUT 2** Government provides safe water and sanitation services in more health and education facilities, particularly in the most vulnerable districts.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF is working with governorate and district authorities to identify the most vulnerable communities. Appropriate WASH services in schools can improve equity of educational access, notably for girls, as well as decrease potential for disease transmission between students. The proportion of primary schools in Iraq with basic water and good sanitation facilities is less than 70 per cent. Despite this relatively low coverage figure, there was good progress on improving WASH in schools in 2016. UNICEF support contributed to the upgrade and rehabilitation of WASH facilities in primary schools in 11 governorates across northern, central and southern Iraq, with an estimated 346,304 children (157,636 girls) in 482 schools benefiting.

In 2016 UNICEF started a new initiative at governorates level with the Directorates of Health (DoH) for better WASH services in health care facilities. As of October 2016, 13 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHC) in four governorates had benefited from direct UNICEF support to improved facilities. Across these facilities, a daily average of 5,850 patients (52 per cent female) now have improved access to safe WASH facilities upgraded and rehabilitated by UNICEF.

**OUTPUT 3** Low-cost appropriate technologies for improved water supply, sanitation and hygiene services are demonstrated in communities with higher levels of child mortality and morbidity.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In coordination with Directorates of Water, UNICEF completed pilot projects on water conservation in three selected communities, focusing on household level. Pilot projects included both low-cost hardware (tools for water flow monitoring) and software elements (awareness raising and information-sharing). The pilot projects covered 665 households. Implementing both hardware and software components of the programme in parallel contributed to the desired behaviour change. The pilot projects constituted a successful experience of cost-sharing mechanism, promoting institutional ownership of the sub-national counterparts. Each Directorate of Water complemented UNICEF’s support and resources through the procurement, installation and maintenance of the household flowmeters. This was an example of a low-cost technology aiming to improve household-level management of scarce water resources.
OUTPUT 4 Children and their families have improved knowledge on safe healthy behaviors for hygiene, sanitation, and water conservation, particularly in the most vulnerable districts.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF was a key advocate for children within the WASH sector, accelerating efforts to generate evidence on children and WASH and using its influence and convening power to prioritize children. UNICEF undertook significant advocacy and public awareness raising work between 2014 and 2016 to raise the level of knowledge children and families in Iraq have on water conservation and water resource management. Multiple stakeholders, including government bodies at federal, regional and governorate level, students at schools and universities, religious leaders, national NGOs and local communities were engaged in a multi-level approach that included establishment of a federal and a regional level Taskforce, 16 Public Awareness Units (in all governorates except Anbar and Nineawa) large-scale mass media information-sharing, and evidence generation on Knowledge Attitudes and Practices of Iraqi populations on water use and natural resource conservation as well as personal hygiene awareness practices. At the end of the year, there was a 20 per cent reduction in household (HH) water consumption (from 400 to 320 L/C/D) as a result of a pilot project on water losses in the water supply system in Baghdad, Najaf and Erbil selected communities. Approximately 89 per cent of HH believe in the importance of handwashing to prevent illness (previously 83 per cent), and 96 per cent of HH are aware of the procedures to treat polluted water (previously 95 per cent).

At the close of the pilot project, the Ministry of Health and Environment demonstrated its commitment to continue natural resource information-sharing for children and students through establishment of an ‘environmental advisor’ initiative in all primary schools in coordination with the Ministry of Education. Environmental education will increasingly be mainstreamed into standard school classes and activities.

To promote and increase knowledge on water use practices among Iraqi citizens, UNICEF supported the design and dissemination of awareness materials, including public billboards and LED screens, TV spots, radio broadcasting, and children’s magazines. Children and youth were a core component of the project. A key positive output of the intervention was the creation of an active, independent network of volunteers who continue to advocate for water conservation and healthier environment using social media, community-level communication such as public murals, and during religious events, such as the Arba’een pilgrimage, as well as through their schools and colleges.

OUTPUT 5 Children and their families access timely sufficient and safe WASH services in humanitarian situations.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2016, UNICEF reached 1,334,008 emergency-affected internally displaced Iraqis with supply of safe water; more than 423,707 IDPs with access to functional sanitation; and 1,027,310 IDPs with key hygiene items. In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, where nearly 97 per cent of Syrian refugees were hosted, UNICEF reached more than 94,400 refugees with a more sustainable supply of safe water (through piped networks) and more than 19,000 refugees with appropriate sanitation facilities. UNICEF also supported regular solid waste collection for 33,200 refugees and ensured that more than 47,000 people participated in hygiene promotion and education sessions. UNICEF worked to ensure all services were gender-sensitive and were provided equitably to populations according to need and irrespective of ethnic origin or religious background.

UNICEF improved humanitarian WASH service coordination and timely information-sharing with local authorities through operationalization of WASH Services Centres (WSC) in
displacement-affected areas of Anbar, Baghdad, Dohuk, Ninewa and Salah Al Din. In conflict-affected areas such as Shirqat, UNICEF supported water projects at governorate level with sufficient supplies of water purification materials to support large urban and peri-urban populations. In the case of Shirqat, supplies provided safe water for 16,600 conflict-affected individuals.

To support strong coordination and timely provision of safe WASH services, UNICEF, as WASH cluster lead agency, provided oversight and guidance for the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) to provide a sequenced (first line, second line and full cluster response) and comprehensive package of water, sanitation and hygiene services to affected people. After the cholera outbreak in late 2015, prevention efforts continued throughout 2016, with WASH and health cluster partners updating the joint Cholera Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP) for high-risk governorates. The comprehensive plan allowed UNICEF, in cooperation with the local government authority, to respond the acute diarrhoea cases that occurred in Baghdad, Thi-Qar and Missan Governorates.

OUTCOME 3 By 2019, children of basic and post-basic school age, especially girls, have increased and more equitable access to quality learning in a progressively strengthened education system, including in humanitarian situations.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF worked to ensure that children, especially girls, had increased and more equitable access to quality learning in a progressively strengthened education system, including in humanitarian situations. In 2016, more than 682,000 children were able to access education in humanitarian situations; 176,000 out-of-school children (OOSC) accessed or re-accessed education; 31,237 Syrian refugee children accessed education in camps and host communities; and 180,000 children accessed learning in schools implementing the UNICEF-supported ‘School Based Management’ (SBM) approach.

School enrolment in Iraq across all education levels grew by 9.6 percent. (UNICEF 2016 Cost of Education Study: Sources of Inefficiency in the Education Sector and Strategies to Maximise Benefits of Education in Iraq). Despite this increase, it remains challenging to attain the targets of 99 percent, 70 percent and 60 percent Net Enrolment Rates (NER) planned in the Iraq National Education Strategy for primary, intermediate and secondary education levels by 2022. Ongoing conflict resulted in the displacement of more than one million school-aged children. UNICEF estimated that approximately 600,000 children missed an entire year of school as a result of conflict and displacement.

Gathering data on displaced children and their educational status remained a challenge. The large and highly mobile population, mainly across Iraq’s central governorates, was difficult to accurately track, which made equitable resource allocation to education services challenging, especially when combined with fluctuations in security access.

Quality of education remained a concern. Many schools faced a shortage of teachers. In an environment of ongoing economic downturn, many families could not afford to pay transport costs to school, meaning that children – especially internally displaced or refugee children – did not attend school regularly. Schools often lacked basic equipment, including teaching and learning materials. Teacher salaries went either unpaid or partially-paid for more than a year. Repetition rates, where children do not pass a grade at first attempt, were reportedly increasing in primary and secondary levels. Dropout rate in primary and secondary levels in central Iraq in 2015-16 was 2.1 per cent (federal Iraq, 2015-2016) and 1.7 per cent (Kurdistan region 2014-2015), with dropout disproportionately affecting girls.

Due to the ‘shift’ system, children had less teacher/pupil contact time. As of 2016, there was
no mechanism in place for monitoring children’s learning outcomes at national or regional levels.

While gender parity at primary school age remained almost at par, gender became a more significant divider at secondary level, where 2015-2016 data indicated there were 142 boys for every 100 girls at lower secondary level. More support is needed to increase girl students’ transition to secondary education.

**OUTPUT 1** Ministry of Education at central and decentralized levels has strengthened capacities for policy development, coordination, planning, budgeting and monitoring, including in humanitarian situation

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
To facilitate evidence-based planning, UNICEF initiated discussions to reinvigorate the Education Management Information System (EMIS). Ministry of Education (MOE) staff were sponsored to attend a learning mission to study the ‘OpenEMIS’ system adopted by some Middle Eastern countries. The MOE discussed development and implementation options for Iraq. Discussion continued with potential partners on development of a system for Monitoring Learning Achievement (MLA). This system was being mainstreamed within the MOE to ensure regular learning achievement surveys that will benchmark students’ performance.

The development of an Out-Of-School Children (OOSC) tracking mechanism using ‘EduTrac/RapidPro’ was ongoing. Data on out-of-school children was being integrated into the existing information management system to produce a complete picture of school-age children both in and out of formal education. In a significant policy shift in 2016, the MoE in Kurdistan agreed to support non-formal education. UNICEF is developing a conceptual framework that will define pathways to mainstream students taking this non-formal pathway back into the formal system.

Despite progress, the EMIS is generally not able to analyse school census data or to publish annual education statistics. While initiatives focusing on OpenEMIS aim to strengthen quality of data and reporting, these will need to be complemented with capacity building efforts to promote use of evidence in decision making.

**OUTPUT 2** School-based management, action and monitoring is mainstreamed and operationalized in selected governorates

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In 2016, 432 schools adopted the School Based Management (SBM) approach and at least 180,301 children (87,065 girls) accessed education in those facilities. The approach fosters decentralization, with more authority devolved to individual schools, enabling principals, teachers, parents and community members to take day-to-day decisions to improve school governance and quality of education. A total of 437 DoE staff were trained on administration and financial management to monitor schools to develop school improvement plans (SIP). Beneficiary schools established a ‘School Management Committee’ (SMC) or Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Members were trained to conduct school self-assessments and participated in workshops on roles and responsibilities of each committee.

Due to the economic downturn and resulting liquidity problems experienced by national institutions, UNICEF support to SBM schools, SMCs, and PTAs in the form of ‘school block grants’ (a small-scale direct transfer towards the School Implementation Plan) was delayed. The requirement that SBM schools must open a bank account for the UNICEF/DoE ‘school block grants’ to be received posed a challenge because there were no banks in many parts of Iraq. This particularly hampered rural schools’ access to banking services. UNICEF is discussing with the DOE ways to facilitate access to funds. Once this issue is resolved the
number of schools receiving their grants will increase rapidly.

The decision to devolve certain authorities to schools was contested by some Governors. Advocacy visits to the specific governors were planned to improve understanding of the SBM approach and its alignment to the national policy on decentralisation. There was no national system for monitoring learning achievement and without one, children’s learning achievements cannot be empirically assessed to determine attainment of stipulated performance levels. It is projected that the system might be in place in 2017.

**OUTPUT 3** Increased access of children including those out-of-school, to basic and post-basic education opportunities in selected governorates, and in humanitarian situations.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
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**OUTPUT 4** Children aged 6-17 access timely and quality early childhood education, basic and post-basic education in humanitarian situations in Iraq

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF’s strategy for mainstreaming Life Skills and Citizenship Education emphasized building social cohesion, fostering peaceful coexistence, and ensuring that positive discipline is incorporated into the teaching and learning system. A Coordination Committee was set up at national level to harmonize strategies for respective components that aim to improve children’s and young people’s capacities for problem solving and critical thinking. The “Development of Peace Education in Central Iraq and the KRI: Defining best practice, mapping evolution and understanding restrictions” report prepared by UNICEF in 2015 guided harmonization of Life Skills Education strategy.

In 2016, guidelines, frameworks, manuals, teachers’ guides and an action plan on positive
discipline in schools were approved by the Ministry of Education. Orientation workshops were conducted for Directorates of Education (DoE) in eight governorates to acquaint them with the national level guidance. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Education, eight governorates developed an action plan for implementation of positive discipline. During 2016, 455 schools started implementing Life Skills education.

The time needed to gain common understanding on the relationship between the central tenets of life skills education among all partners posed a challenge. A regional Life Skills and Citizenship Education Initiative facilitated the clarity required in this area.

OUTPUT 5 Education in Emergencies

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF provided technical leadership support to cluster coordination for government and education stakeholders in planning, preparedness and response in humanitarian situations in line with the Core Commitments for Children. Through UNICEF direct action, at least 597,568 children (334,217 girls) in humanitarian situations accessed basic education. An estimated 300,000 children accessed education in temporary learning spaces, including tents and prefabricated structures. UNICEF’s achievements accounted for 82 per cent of the Education cluster’s achievements.

More than 4,000 teachers received training on psychosocial support (PSS), Education in Emergencies or improved pedagogy as part of capacity building interventions to enable teachers to provide psychosocial support and quality learning to children. A total of 1,000 teachers received transport support.

Essential educational materials were distributed to 359,437 IDP children and to 24,343 Syrian refugee children. New furniture, including desks and whiteboards, desktop computers and printers, was delivered to targeted schools and 8,016 damaged desks were repaired, benefiting 16,300 students (8,018 girls).

The challenges of overcrowded, ill-equipped classrooms and lack of teachers continued. Many schools operated in multiple shifts (morning and afternoon) and shortened the school ‘week’ to three days in order to accommodate more students and high demand for school space in areas of the country affected by mass displacement. This had a negative impact on children’s learning outcomes. It was reported that authorities were struggling to find teachers for Anbar and Salah al Din where schools may have been open, but teachers remained displaced in other areas of the country. For areas under ISIL control, many public services, including schools, have reportedly not been fully functional since 2014.

OUTCOME 4 By 2019, an increased proportion of children, who are vulnerable and exposed to violence, including those in humanitarian situations, are protected by prevention and response services, a supportive institutional and legislative framework and protective social norms.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Iraq National Child Protection System suffered from weak institutional capacity. Protective space and access to safe recreational play for children in Iraq remained limited, especially for children in IDP camps, informal tented settlements, and other temporary shelters. With active conflict intensifying in 2016, the risk of children experiencing or witnessing extreme violence continued. Due to the ongoing economic downturn caused by a drop in oil prices and increased spending on security, all public services, including those for children, were restricted, and access to humanitarian assistance in conflict-affected governorates was limited due to fluctuating security and lack of qualified child protection partners. Gender Based Violence (GBV) and psychosocial support services (PSS) were not sufficient to meet the needs of survivors and children in distress, and there were substantive gaps in GBV and child protection case management services. Even so, UNICEF made
progress in 2016 towards improving protection services.

The legal framework to protect children is slowly advancing through finalization and validation of the National Child Protection Policy (NCCP), through strengthening the KRI’s draft child protection law and the piloting of an alternative care system in the KRI. Child Protection Case Management Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and referral pathways, including for GBV cases, were endorsed in the KRI, and staff providing services now have increased capacity as a result of training and mentoring programmes conducted. UNICEF generated new evidence on child labour in the country that will support a strategy to address the issue. Through improved procedures for children in conflict with the law and closer coordination between justice sector actors, the number of children provided with alternatives to detention and rehabilitative services increased in 2016.

UNICEF co-leads the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) for Iraq on grave violations against children. The MRM network expanded in 2016, resulting in improved accuracy and timeliness of verification, and allowing UNICEF to engage in high level advocacy for children in Iraq.
UNICEF provided protection services for displaced Iraqi IDP and Syrian refugee children. Through implementing partners, UNICEF provided psychosocial support to 158,670 children and specialized protection assistance to 17,734 children, and worked closely with child protection partners through its leadership of the child protection sub-cluster to increase mobile emergency services that improve outreach to children affected by violence, exploitation and abuse.

**OUTPUT 1** The legislative and institutional framework is strengthened to better protect vulnerable girls and boys and those exposed to violence, abuse and exploitation

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The National Child Protection Policy (NCCP) for Iraq was validated in November 2015. Since then, UNICEF has engaged with the Iraqi Child Welfare Commission to finalize a costed work plan, and has provided technical support for this to the 12 Ministries involved. UNICEF, in partnership with the American University of Beirut (AUB), developed a communication strategy for the NCPP that included three major recommendations: raise awareness on the content of the policy among the general public through electronic and social media platforms; influence key government officials on the importance of implementing the policy; and develop a specific programme communication for development (C4D) strategy to address specific child protection issues such as child labour and early marriage. UNICEF organized two public media events with key outlets in Baghdad to present, explain, and promote the NCPP and to increase public knowledge about it. UNICEF also provided financial and technical support for a workshop attended by members of the Child Welfare Commission, Council of Ministers, Shura Council, academics, independent child protection practitioners, and media to finalize work plans related to implementation of the NCPP and paperwork necessary for final endorsement by the Council of Ministers. The workshop included focused discussion on all aspects of planning and implementation, including advocacy and risk management.

UNICEF provided technical and financial support to the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to organize two legal consultations on a draft child protection law, offering opportunities for legal professionals to provide recommendations. As a result, provisions related to refugee children and boys and girls affected by Gender Based Violence (GBV) were included in the draft law. Political uncertainty at the federal government level and the regional parliament, coupled with the ongoing financial crisis, hampered the finalization of child protection law and policy.

UNICEF provided technical and financial support to the KRI government to develop a pilot
foster care system. The pilot phase was a benchmark in finalizing foster care policy and has increased capacity of social workers on theory and practice of the system. A Foster Carer Approval Committee was established in Sulaymaniyah, and a draft Foster Care Instruction (legal guidance for the foster system in the KRI) was shared with the Ministry.

OUTPUT 2 Increased availability of government, NGO, and civil society organization child protection services that prevent and respond to violence, abuse in selected governorates.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
To improve quality and harmonize delivery of child protection case management services in the Kurdistan Region, UNICEF and child protection sub-cluster partners finalized Child Protection Service Mapping and endorsed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Child Protection Case Management (CM) Services in the KRI. Through training, 275 child protection partners, including 37 partners trained as trainers, increased their capacity to provide child protection case management services in the three governorates of Kurdistan. A total of 44 service providers increased their capacity on Caring for Child Survivors (CCS) of Gender Based Violence. Of these, 20 were trained as trainers and rolled out training across Iraq for an additional 72 partner staff. These efforts increased case managers’ knowledge to meet the needs of children, including child survivors. As a result of these activities, age-appropriate GBV services for girls are now available in seven governorates. UNICEF provided technical and financial support to the Child Welfare Commission (CWC) for a Rapid Assessment of Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) in five governorates (Baghdad, Basra, Kirkuk, Najaf, and Thi-Qar). The report, which was launched by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) in June 2016, generated critical evidence on child labour in Iraq. Child labour presents an ongoing challenge that requires a multi-sectoral approach. The fluctuating economic and security situation in Iraq since 2014 has severely impacted the availability of child protection services and limited sustained government support to address child labour and other key child protection issues.

OUTPUT 3 A functional child-friendly justice system is in place that includes prevention mechanisms and alternatives to detention sanctions, and is in line with international standards, in selected governorates.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF’s technical and financial support resulted in improved efficiency and functionality of Justice for Children Task Forces (JCTF) in Basra, Dahuk, Erbil, and Sulaymaniyah. As a result of advocacy initiatives by the JCTFs, the KRG Ministry of Interior (MoI) appointed 41 Juvenile Police Officers as focal points in district police stations in the three KRI governorates. This minimized transfer time for children from district police to the Juvenile Investigation Unit. Coordinated service delivery for children in contact with the law in Dahuk improved due to finalization of Case Management Guidelines for Children in Contact with the Law and increased case management capacity of 47 social workers. Social workers carried out 190 initial assessments and 84 detailed assessments through which 306 children in contact with the law received legal representation and 146 children received vocational training. A total of 169 justice professionals increased their knowledge and skills, including on protecting children in the criminal justice system. A total of 204 children received social reintegration support.

With UNICEF technical support, a JCTF in Basra was inaugurated in April 2016. A capacity building plan for social workers was agreed to with the local authorities, and for interim support to children who are in prison. These steps aim to focus justice sector authorities on using detention for children only as a last resort.
The High Committee for Alternatives to Detention was inaugurated in the KRG. It identified legal provisions requiring amendment to improve the role of social workers. UNICEF provided financial and technical support to the Dahuk Department of Social Reform and initiated a pilot project with the focus on promoting alternatives to detention. Initial results indicate that alternative to detention measures have been strengthened – of 546 children arrested, 47 children were released on “conduct monitoring,” 25 children released on bail, 6 children went through mediation process, and 63 children are serving sentences. The remaining number were released at the end of their terms. In total, 78 children were diverted from the formal judicial process and diverted from detention; 14.3 per cent of children who came into conflict with the law received alternatives to detention. Similar projects were initiated in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah in the last quarter of the year.

OUTPUT 4 Systems for monitoring, reporting and responding to violations of children's rights are strengthened.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
To strengthen the Iraq Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM), UNICEF trained 214 new partners working across Iraq. The network has enabled UNICEF to obtain more credible information about violations that were previously difficult to document, particularly regarding recruitment and use of children by armed groups and attacks on schools and hospitals.

Access to information from areas where conflict is more intense improved, although the information remained harder to verify. During 2016, the Iraq Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) verified 201 grave violations of child rights affecting 478 children (341 boys, 103 girls, and 34 sex unknown). Killing and injuring was the most commonly reported violation, with 227 children confirmed killed and 179 injured. This represented a verification rate of 56 per cent. Children and families within Mosul and fleeing from the fighting remained at high risk of all forms of grave violations of child rights, most particularly killing and maiming.

To strengthen partners' ability to provide specialized services to children who have survived grave violations, particularly sexual violence, as well as to strengthen staff support and self-care, UNICEF Iraq developed a mentoring program on provision of mental health support with Justice Rapid Response (JRR). A total of 23 partners working with displaced populations in Ninewa attended training in November designed to improve identification and response services, particularly for child survivors of sexual violence.

UNICEF started to develop a strategic plan for release and reintegration of children associated with armed groups, and to prevent recruitment. Consultation with stakeholders took place to develop common understanding of the context in which children come into contact with armed actors. A draft strategy is expected by mid-January, 2017.

As part of Mine Risk Education (MRE) aimed at minimizing accidental killing and maiming of children due to unexploded remnants of war, in a one-day training UNICEF trained 32 partners in KRI on how to raise awareness about the dangers of explosive material. In immediate response to displacement from Falluja, UNICEF supported the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) to reach 5,155 people in Anbar, including 3,780 children, with awareness on Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and other explosive hazards. To expand this work, UNICEF signed an agreement with the DMA in October. DMA began implementing additional risk education with a focus on those who are likely to return to their homes. Activities are expected to accelerate in early 2017.
OUTPUT 5 Children in humanitarian situations access child protection services.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) and mobile teams provided displaced Iraqi and Syrian refugee children with a variety of child protection services. As of December 2016, UNICEF had reached 138,881 newly-registered IDP children and 19,789 refugee children (for a total of 76,554 girls and 82,116 boys) with psychosocial support, and provided 14,377 IDP and 3,357 refugee children (7,416 girls and 10,318 boys) with specialized protection assistance. Cases referred for specialized assistance involved emotional distress, child labour, early marriage, disability, children out of school, and unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). UNICEF initiated Gender-Based Violence (GBV) programming in northern Diyala, Kirkuk, and Ninewa, through which 2,660 women and 2,068 girls received age-appropriate GBV case management and PSS services through static and mobile teams.

To improve quality of services, UNICEF supported training of government and NGO partners on case management, concepts of child protection in emergencies (CPiE), monitoring and reporting on grave violations (MRM), and delivery of psychosocial support. UNICEF conducted a nationwide consultation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) and child protection partners to establish the scale, scope, and strategy for UASC response in Iraq. Separated children represented more than 95 per cent of the overall reported UASC caseload, with only 5 per cent as ‘unaccompanied’. Unaccompanied children are considered more vulnerable than separated children, as they are entirely without adult supervision or support.

UNICEF supported an interagency task force in developing a strategy for mobile service teams that outlines basic guidance for provision of emergency services to newly-displaced children and on developing and printing key emergency child protection messages. A training package was rolled to almost 100 mobile team members. To address the specific needs of adolescent girls, UNICEF and UNFPA supported development of an ‘Adolescent Girls Toolkit’. Eight GBV and Child Protection (CP) partners were introduced to the curriculum, which covers life skills, reproductive health, financial literacy, and community engagement. UNICEF and UNFPA initiated a taskforce intended to support development and piloting of the toolkit. Over the course of the year, the taskforce expanded its work to include community outreach for behaviour change and advocacy.

UNICEF developed a curriculum on GBV response and preparedness adapted to Iraq, and provided technical support to GBV and child protection partners to better respond to mental health and psychosocial needs (MHPSS) of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) survivors. This fed into a contextually-adapted training on response to CRSV survivors targeting front line service providers.

OUTCOME 5 By 2019, more adolescents (age 10-18) access positive development opportunities, which enhance social cohesion in their communities.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2016 UNICEF community initiatives were ongoing in 13 communities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (11 in Dohuk and 2 in Erbil). A total of 124,623 beneficiaries were engaged. Of these, 116,554 were adolescents (10-18 years) and youth (19-24 years). Analysis of social cohesion patterns in project locations formed a central part of UNICEF’s work in 2016. Of the 124,623 beneficiaries: 50,989 were from the host community, 30,924 were IDPs, 28,996 were Syrian refugees, 7,280 were living with disabilities, 5,394 were members of minority groups and 1,040 did not wish to be identified. Minority groups included Christians, Yazidis, ethnic Shabaks, Assyrians, Chaldeans, and Turkmans.
OUTPUT 1 Gender-sensitive community initiatives that promote inclusiveness and social cohesion established in select districts.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In 2016 UNICEF community initiatives were ongoing in 13 communities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (11 in Dohuk and 2 in Erbil). UNICEF launched the “I care, let’s care together” campaign reaching out to youth and adolescents and promote engagement through volunteerism. Volunteer networks of adolescents and youth were engaged in each community, for a total of 200 volunteers from various backgrounds. They participated in 10 leadership trainings, 100 community consultations, and 1,443 community initiatives, including socialization/recreational activities, language training, community outreach, livelihoods and life-skills. The community consultations were led by trained youth with the objective of gathering members of various community groups to discuss the challenges and opportunities that they face on reaching a better level of life and what the community can do together to solve identified issues. Activities also included the areas of Special Education, Social Media and Educational Assistance Services. These activities were implemented in a participatory grassroots approach designed to be responsive to changing social dynamics.

A total of 124,623 beneficiaries (58,498 adolescents, 58,056 youth and 8,069 adults) were engaged in UNICEF community initiatives in 2016. The adolescents (10-18 years old) included 29,535 girls and 28,963 boys. The youth (19-24 years old) included 26,541 girls and 31,515 boys.

Direct beneficiaries included those who actively participated in the initiatives, through leading or creating the initiatives, participating in the support teams or receiving the benefit of the campaign. Direct beneficiaries were volunteer leaders, facilitators, outreach teams, students in the trainings, players in the sports matches, and participants in other socialization activities. Indirect beneficiaries of the initiative included adolescents who received awareness messages, watched a sport match, or attended arts events or other events led by direct beneficiaries.

Analysis of social cohesion patterns in project locations formed a central part of UNICEF’s work in 2016. Of the 124,623 beneficiaries, 50,989 were from the host community, 30,924 were IDPs, 28,996 were Syrian refugees, 7,280 were living with disabilities, 5,394 were members of different minority groups and 1,040 did not wish to be identified. Minority groups included Christians, Yazidis, ethnic Shabaks, Assyrians, Chaldeans, and Turkmans. Participation of girls, especially adolescent girls, and people living with disabilities was low. UNICEF launched two additional campaigns to increase participation among those groups.

OUTPUT 2 Virtual support and learning networks established for adolescent girls and boys.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Work on this output is planned to begin in 2017.

OUTCOME 6 By 2019, children in Iraq have increasingly benefitted from evidence-based social policies, programmes, plans and budgets which address equity and child-centered stabilization and social inclusion.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF and the Government of Iraq will carry out the MIC6 in 2017, the first countrywide survey in more than six years. In 2016, UNICEF supported the Government of Iraq in conducting a child poverty analysis based on the Iraq Household Socio-Economic Survey (IHSES) of 2012. Based on the findings of the study, UNICEF will advocate for inclusion of child sensitive programmes in Iraq’s Poverty Reduction Strategy (2017-2021). UNICEF cash
transfer support in 2016 complemented the Government of Iraq efforts to provide learning opportunity to the most vulnerable children.

**OUTPUT 1** Government has increased capacity to expand and ensure equitable access to child-sensitive social protection initiatives.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF cash transfer support in 2016 complemented efforts of the Government of Iraq to provide learning opportunities to the most vulnerable children. The pilot phase of the project from December 2015-May 2016 showed that 97 per cent of children’s attendance was improved after receiving cash, cash distribution increased school enrolment by 57 per cent of the children who were out of school, and families spent 46 per cent of cash on children who were at the risk of school drop-out.

The total number of children supported with cash assistance reached 5,880, including 3,416 refugee children, 1,726 IDP children and 738 children from the host community. UNICEF provided financial support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) to roll out Proxy Means Testing in crisis affected Governorates to implement a poverty targeted Social Safety Net. An understanding was reached with Government and the World Bank to introduce a case management system and cross referrals mechanisms for beneficiaries of Social Safety Network.

UNICEF, World Bank and Government of Iraq agreed to pilot an incentive based cash transfer programme in 2017 to increase school enrolment and improve health outcomes of children. A draft framework of understanding and roadmap were agreed to with the World Bank and MOLSA.

**OUTPUT 2** New data, knowledge and evidence on childhood poverty, vulnerability and deprivation is generated to inform equity focussed and child-centred social sector planning, budgeting and financing, including in humanitarian situations

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The Government of Iraq reaffirmed its commitment to conduct the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 6 in collaboration with UNICEF in 2017. The MICS 6 will be the first full-scale countrywide survey in more than five years in Iraq. Findings from the MICS 6 will aid in drawing and positioning the next National Development Plan for Iraq, and will provide a full picture of the performance of key indicators in line with the SDGs. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to launch the Maternal, Child and Nutrition Survey in 2016. The survey focuses on key indicators required for programming in 2017, with a particular focus on those governorates with the highest population of most-disadvantaged children.

UNICEF supported the Government of Iraq to conduct a child poverty analysis based on Iraq Household Socio-Economic Survey (IHSES) of 2012. The poverty analysis suggests that 57 per cent of all poor are children and children are poorer and more likely to be poor than other demographic groups. Based on the findings of the study, UNICEF advocated for inclusion of child sensitive programmes in Iraq’s New Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS, 2017-2021).

**OUTCOME 7** By 2019, strengthened institutional capacities ensure enhanced coordination, preparation for and response to children and families in humanitarian situations.
**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF strengthened the capacity of the RRM consortium to ensure timely delivery of immediate first line assistance to displaced families. Since the beginning of January 2016, 1,086,409 displaced people, including 532,340 children, benefited from the distribution of RRM kits. UNICEF ensured regular WASH cluster coordination at Regional and Sub National levels. Sub-national coordination in Dahuk was handed over to the NGO (NCA) and its Government counterpart (BRHA).

First line response (immediate, emergency response) was a major focus of the second half of the year, with new displacements in Anbar, Makhmour, Salah al Din and Hawija, and as a result of the offensive on Mosul City itself.

The WASH Cluster supported improvements to WASH response through facilitation of cluster partner access to Country Based Pooled Funds with two standard allocations in 2016. In the first allocation, US $7.5 million was secured for 13 projects, and in the second, US$12.5 million was secured for 16 projects. The Child Protection Sub Cluster (CPSC) strengthened its coordination role during 2016, working closely with the government. New child protection working groups (CPWG) in Kirkuk and Basra. The CPSC supported increased capacity of CP partners at governorate level through training. Security and access remained the biggest challenges in operation.

**OUTPUT 1** Government emergency planning and coordination structures have strengthened knowledge and resources to use child-centred approaches to monitor, plan and coordinate.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Through cluster leadership, UNICEF contributed to the government and UN Joint contingency and response planning process for the Anbar and Mosul Corridor, the retake of Mosul city, and the potential collapse of the Mosul Dam. UNICEF conducted a mapping exercise of key infrastructure along the anticipated Mosul dam flood path, including schools and water treatment facilities, contributing to the overall government-led exercise.

As part of its WASH cluster leadership, UNICEF strengthened government and local authorities' capacity to respond to displacements through the ‘WASH Service Centre’ model. Run by national NGO partners in close coordination with local authority technical staff, centres act as a ‘one stop shop’ to strengthen WASH coordination and information sharing between relevant authorities. Initiated in Anbar, the model is being expanded to Ninewa to support WASH response to Mosul displacements.

The child protection sub-cluster (CPSC) rolled out standard operation procedures (SOPs) for case management with the endorsement of the Kurdistan Regional Government. The CPSC agreed to a common response modality using mobile teams, and designed an inter-agency training package available in Arabic, Kurdish and English. Inter-agency training took place in Baghdad, Dahuk, and Erbil to ensure child protection team capacity in places where new displacement was expected.

The education cluster continued to strengthen coordination among partners, including government, to ensure increased access to safe and protective learning spaces. The government agreed to formal education interventions in camps as a result of UNICEF advocacy. The education cluster faced challenges in scaling up its interventions due to continued use of schools for non-educational purposes, the limited number of education actors operating in high need areas, relative low funding (only 34 per cent funded for the cluster against the HRP) and the government’s inability to pay teachers and distribute sufficient school supplies and learning materials due to its ongoing fiscal crisis.

In co-leadership with WFP and collaboration with UNFPA, UNICEF strengthened capacity of the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), a consortium of seven NGOs, designed to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to displaced people fleeing conflict. With ongoing displacements, the RRM played a significant role in alleviating suffering of women and children fleeing the conflict, and acted as a bridge to first line cluster response.
**OUTPUT 2** Information and evidence is generated and used for child-centred risk-informed emergency planning and response

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The RRM Consortium gathered data on needs and feedback from displaced populations served at RRM distributions. This provided the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) with information on priority needs to be shared with clusters for response. Work with the government on strengthening the information system on humanitarian systems is planned for 2017.