Executive Summary

The transition of Iraq took a critical turn in 2013 as issues of equity and social cohesion gained new importance. Sectarian divisions and insecurity underlined the frailty of gains made in child’s rights since 2011. UNICEF has distinguished itself responding to crises and supporting federal, regional and governorate institutions.

Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey results from 2011 (MICS4) were presented to key governorates (Erbi, Dohuk, Suleimania, Thi Qar, al Muthana, Basrah, and Missan) providing evidence of the deprivations children face. The ensuing bottleneck analysis with policy leaders assisted to plan programmes addressing priority needs. Governorates where multiple deprivations threaten the wellbeing of children are also areas where services are weakened by violence. In 2014, UNICEF and the Government of Iraq will implement MICS5 to ensure those most in need do not go unreached. The established social protection floor is a commitment to all children in Iraq to advocate for their safety and rights without violence.


Disease outbreaks in refugee camps were prevented with the Ministry of Health through social mobilisation and awareness campaigns for vitamin A and immunization; nearly 85 per cent coverage (40,000 children) was achieved. Dialogue with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and Juvenile Care Council supported the distribution of over 65,000 educational materials to children-at-risk to be in contact with the law. Female genital mutilation was raised as a top priority with the Kurdish High Council of Women and office of the Prime Minister, establishing a civil society and UN thriving network.

The outbreak of 22 Polio cases in Syria raised concerns to maintain Iraq polio free. UNICEF advocated the urgency of prevention measures with Iraqi authorities, implementing supplementary immunization activities reaching over 5.3 million Iraqi and refugee children.

In 2013, demonstrations in Anbar Governorate concerning access to services and social inequalities evolved into sectarian conflict. Women and children have become targets of violence; over 8,000 civilians have been killed with significant displacement. The erosion of safe spaces, public services, justice and adherence to the rule of law is emerging among the key challenges to ensuring the rights of the child.

The influx of Syrian refugees marked a turning point in the crisis response. During August and September nearly 60,000 people sought refuge, taxing a limited support infrastructure. UNICEF demonstrated commitment to the refugees and host communities supporting Kurdish authorities to provide basic services including water, sanitation and hygiene to all refugees, approximately 200,000 people. Further, a child-centred disaster risk reduction plan was spearheaded with the Ministry of Planning linking emergency to resilience approaches. As the crisis enters its third year, UNICEF has enhanced life savings services by promoting the Iraq “No Lost Generation” strategy, providing education and psychosocial support to over 60,000 children and investing a generation of young people with the ability to champion their rights and overcome the horrors of violence.

Country Situation as Affecting Children & Women

The security situation in Iraq deteriorated sharply in 2013. Casualty figures reached the highest levels since 2008 with 7,818 civilians killed including women and children. During 2013, women, youth and children were directly targeted in deadly attacks on schools and playgrounds.

The median age in Iraq is 21 years for men and women, while over 37 percent (nearly 12 million children) is under 14 years old. The legacy of conflict has left an under-resourced and frail public administration and infrastructure, limiting education and economic opportunities for the young. While the oil sector provides 97 percent of the federal budget (40 percent of the GDP), it only generates one percent of employment. The impact of insecurity on the oil sector and new businesses, centralized financial services and incomplete
Decentralization to governorates has slowed both public and private sector growth. This impacts prospects for youth: 18 percent of individuals aged 15-24 and 24 percent aged 15-29 are unemployed.

In 2011, only six percent of 5-14 year old children were involved in child labour (10 percent in rural areas, 5 percent in urban areas), compared to 11 percent in 2006. Qualitative data on child labour is lacking, particularly with regard to the worst forms of child labour (WFCL).

In terms of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) indicators, the situation of children and women has improved in certain areas. Nevertheless, Iraq needs to accelerate its progress in order to meet its MDG targets by 2015. This situation analysis relies mainly on information from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey four (MICS4) completed in 2011. New information will be generated in 2014 through the planned MICS5 and the release of the World Bank Iraq Household Socio-Economic Survey (IHSES) completed in 2013. A situation analysis focused on children’s deprivation in representative governorates by analysing the data available (MICS4, IHSES, Iraq-Women Integrated Social Health status, and Poverty mapping and mortality survey) is being planned in partnership with the Government.

Regarding MDG one, 19 percent of Iraqis live on less than US$2.2 per day according to preliminary results from IHSES survey, 6 percent of the population is food insecure (according to WFP analysis conducted in 2012). MICS4 data showed insufficient progress in some areas, including the prevalence of stunting and wasting (one in four children suffer from stunted growth). Poor feeding practices are common for children 0-6 months old, as only 19 percent them are exclusively breastfed. Regarding MDG4, mixed results were observed. The under-five mortality rate (U5MR) decreased from 41 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2006 to 37 deaths per 1,000 in 2011. Nevertheless, neonatal mortality comprises the majority of deaths among children under five with 20 deaths per 1,000 in 2011.

The fifth MDG has improved. The Government of Iraq and the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) in 2011 to be 69 deaths per 100,000 live births, which is a significant reduction from 2007 (84:100,000, WHO survey). In 2011, the Ministry of Health (MoH) reported MMR of 41:100,000 (registered deaths in public hospitals). Preliminary estimates from the Poverty Mapping and Maternal Mortality survey conducted in 2013 by the MoH and Ministry of Planning (MoP) with UNICEF technical support indicates that maternal mortality decreased to 35:100,000.

Regarding MDG seven, interruption of water supply services is frequent, and the quality is a key issue with more than one in four households using water with insufficient levels of chlorine. To date, about 94 percent of the population in Iraq is using “improved” sanitation facilities, compared to 92 percent in 2006. According to the 2011 Government of Iraq (GoI), UNICEF joint environmental survey, only 23 percent of households (33 percent in urban areas, 4 percent in rural areas) have access to an adequate sewage.

Some improvements were observed regarding MDG two. The MICS4 study confirmed steady progress of primary school attendance and gender parity in school with the net primary school attendance rate increasing from 85 to 90 percent from 2006 to 2011. Gender parity has also increased from 0.88 to 0.94 in primary school and from 0.75 to 0.85 in secondary schools from 2006 to 2011. Access to early childhood education remains very limited as only children from the two wealthiest quintiles in urban areas are enrolled. Early childhood learning services are unavailable in rural areas.

Domestic violence remains a key concern. According to the I-WISH survey conducted by the GoI and UNFPA in 2011, 46 percent of girls aged 10-14 were exposed to violence at least once by a family member. 56 percent of women consider that a husband is justified to beat his wife for rather minor issues, while 68 percent of young men accept the killing of women for shaming a family’s honour. MICS4 also provided new evidence on female genital mutilation (FGM), which affects eight percent of women in Iraq, concentrated in the KRI Governorates of Erbil and Suleimania.

To advance on protecting the rights of children, the GoI and UNICEF initiated an innovative approach to identify bottlenecks that prevent all children from fulfilling their rights, and devising mid-term strategies for policy-makers to address those bottlenecks.
Country Programme Analytical Overview

The Country Programme was impacted by the Syrian refugee crisis, notably following the mass influx of refugees in August 2013. The immediate need of the Iraq Country Office’s (ICO) to respond constrained human, logistic and financial resources of the regular country programme, but the majority of objectives was achieved.

The deterioration of the security situation impeded implementation of the programme. Official UN figures report that over 7,800 civilians were killed and almost 18,000 have been injured, making 2013 the most violent year since 2008. Given this escalation, access and movement restrictions significantly reduced UNICEF’s ability to meet and consult partners.

In line with the recommendations of its mid-term review in late 2012, the Iraq Country Office focused on strengthening its support to the Government of Iraq to systematically address child deprivation on a national and sub-national level. Building on the findings of the MICS4 and joint analytical work with the Ministries of Planning at a Federal and Regional level, UNICEF made concrete progress in initiating evidence based policy reform and planning to tackle inequality and address the needs of Iraq’s most vulnerable and marginalized children and families. Most significantly, UNICEF achieved the strategic integration of equity and child poverty considerations into key planning documents, such as the UNDAF 2015-2019 or the Poverty Reduction Strategy. UNICEF received numerous requests by the Government of Iraq at Federal and Regional level to assist in the formulation and implementation of strategies to remove bottlenecks for the most disadvantaged children.

On a programmatic level, the ICO made steady progress in achieving its targets for Child Survival and Growth, Education and Youth, WASH and Social Policy, Advocacy and Evidence. Progress on Child Protection was slow as legislative and policy processes proved challenging.

Looking ahead, the ICO is bracing itself for continuing security and safety challenges affecting overall stability in 2014. Political and sectarian tensions have resulted in displacements across Iraq, particularly in Baghdad and Anbar. The elections scheduled in April 2014 may give rise to further aggravations. The ICO participates in inter-agency efforts to address the Anbar crisis, but also prepares itself to upscale its response capacities given the possibility of protracted and expanding displacement. In parallel, policy and capacity building work will continue as “small gains” continue to be made. Pending the evolution of events in the first half of 2014, as well as limited donor responsiveness for non-emergency programming, the ICO has the opportunity to re-assess its programme strategy during the development of its new Country Programme Document.

Humanitarian Assistance
UNICEF and partners effectively responded to the WASH, Child Protection, Education and Health and Nutrition needs of Syrian refugees in refugee camps. Considering that an estimated 60 percent of refugees reside in non-camps, UNICEF also aimed at reaching Syrian refugee children outside camps, as well as vulnerable host-community members. When compared to overall sector achievements, UNICEF progress on its set targets and key humanitarian performance indicators was positive.

Despite capacity gaps and difficulties in identifying vulnerable children, UNICEF met 25 percent of its target in providing access to psychosocial support in education programmes (overall Education Sector achievement 20 percent). Further, UNICEF efforts provided 28 percent of children identified with needs for psycho-social support. The overall sub-sector target achieved was only 13 percent, which illustrates that challenges encountered were common. Based on lessons learnt and unaddressed needs, UNICEF plans to scale up its efforts and reach the most vulnerable children in camps and host-communities during 2014, specifically through the “No Lost Generation” strategy.
Effective Advocacy  

Fully met benchmarks

UNICEF advocacy with the government resulted in increased awareness of child deprivations and possible solutions to address the needs of Iraq’s most vulnerable children. UNICEF, in partnership with the Federal and Kurdistan Region Government’s Ministry of Planning, conducted workshops with planners and decision makers from seven governorates. By facilitating a participatory analysis of challenges, participants arrived at a better understanding about the specific nature of deprivations on a governorate and district level. In addition to the analysis, the workshops transferred capacities to Iraqi decision makers and planners to develop solutions to address child deprivations. Ongoing advocacy efforts resulted in an agreement with the Government to continue the capacity building of officials through on-the-job training. In parallel, UNICEF advocacy efforts with the Ministry of Planning led to the inclusion of Child Poverty as an additional objective in the new National Poverty Reduction Strategy.

In 2013, UNICEF advanced key advocacy positions for the rights of the child in Iraq. The Prime Minister Advisory Committee with UNICEF Child Protection has agreed to take the lead in formulating a long-term strategy to end Violence Against Children.

The Ministry of Health agreed to establish a national health budget (with a maternal child health sub-account) of US$ 100 million for primary health care. In addition, new national health strategies were finalized: a revised Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Strategy, a National Health promotion strategy, a Maternal Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) Acceleration Plan 2014-2015. In addition, the Government agreed to adopt international standards and introduce new vaccines.

UNICEF made important advances encouraging improvements in the quality of education. Child Friendly School (CFS) standards were introduced in the curriculum of the College of Education. A large-scale “Back to School Campaign” reached five refugee camps, as well as host communities in Dohuk, Erbil and Suleimania. This campaign promoted access to education to approximately 50,000 refugees in camps and over 126,900 people in the host communities. Federally, UNICEF provides technical advice to the Parliament Education Committee, expanding the cash transfer system to intermediate and secondary students. The programme aims to decrease the drop-out rates during transition from primary to secondary school. Finally the Ministry of Education agreed to conduct with UNICEF an opportunity and gap analysis to inform child sensitive budget practices.

The Kurdish Ministry of Municipalities and Tourism will establish a water conservation and hygiene promotion task-force in all three Kurdish governorates. A Knowledge, Attitude, Practice (KAP) survey will be piloted to monitor impact. In the framework of the Iraq Public Sector Modernization Programme (I-PSM), UNICEF, in cooperation with the Prime Ministers Advisory Council (PMAC), Change Management Working Group (CMWG) and other UN agencies, completed a water demand management plan, which will directly inform the reform of the water and sanitation service delivery sectors.

Capacity Development  

Fully met benchmarks

Equity and child deprivations analyses were shared with governmental planners and decision makers from seven governorates in workshops, which aimed to address bottlenecks, gaps and challenges to ensuring the rights of the child. Subsequently, the government requested UNICEF to initiate substantive analyses of governorates a basis for future social policy and evidence based planning.

The Health section offered targeted training to support the development of policies, strategies and evidence gathering within the Ministry of Health.

A Change Management Working Group (CMWG) was established with the support of UNICEF to lead water and sanitation public service reform though the Iraq Public Sector Modernization Programme (I-PSM).
Providing technical advice and support has proven effective during the critical start-up phase. Technical trainings focused on hygiene promotion and the planning and implementation of environmentally sound sanitation programmes. The capacity building priority in 2013 strengthened equity-focused planning and programme delivery for governorates. UNICEF trained 260 governmental counterparts (68 females) to address the needs of the most deprived communities. These trainings improved the ability to deliver hygiene promotion activities and low cost, environmentally friendly waste water treatment programmes.

A total of 5,265 teachers were trained in child-friendly teaching methodologies. To ensure sustained capacity transfer, UNICEF reached an agreement with Salahaddin University in Erbil to integrate modules on the Child Friendly School (CFS) methodology into the teacher training curriculum. UNICEF also provided assistance to overcome technical capacity gaps and implementation bottlenecks. Based on a request from the Ministry of Education (MoE), 50 officials from the Planning Directorate received data processing training to expedite the operationalization of the Education Management Information System (EMIS). Finally, UNICEF ensured 3,718 members of 264 new parent-teacher associations (PTA) received coaching on their roles and responsibilities in school governance.

**Communication for Development**

*Partially met benchmarks*

Communication for Development (C4D) significantly increased efforts to address the urgent needs of Syrian refugees.

Partnerships with the Ministry of Health (MoE), Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works (MMPW), Ministry of Environment (MoEnv) and the Ministry of Sports and Youth (MoSY) proved critical to advance support of communication for development (C4D) approaches. Specifically, the MoE issued a directive establishing of C4D Units in the Media Department of Basrah, Najaf and Salahaddin governorates. Similarly, the MoEnv established a C4D unit in the Environmental Awareness Department. In 2014, UNICEF will assist in mobilizing government funds to train staff of the C4D units and to ensure ownership and effectiveness.

The C4D approach was used in key national campaigns. Over 300 children in Baghdad participated in activities to “End Violence against Children”. On Hand Washing day, almost 13,000 posters, leaflets, booklets, t-shirts and mugs accompanied UNICEF WASH activities to raise awareness. Under the slogan “Clean hands, healthy children”, 13,500 bars of soap were distributed across Iraq in the 18 governorates, including in Syrian refugee camps.

To raise awareness of child rights and understanding of roles and responsibilities for children in contact with the law, 42,600 educational comic books and 22,150 posters were produced in Arabic, English and Kurdish. The purpose of the Information Education Communication (IEC) materials was to support the juvenile justice project raise awareness of the processes concerning the detention of children.

Training of trainer (ToT) sessions for health professionals in camps enabled effective C4D mobilization to participate in vaccination and vitamin A campaigns. Overall, more than 21,000 refugees in the camps in Erbil and Suleimania benefited from health/hygiene/sanitation promotion messaging through tent-to-tent campaigns. More than 29,000 refugees in all camps benefited from Hepatitis A, hand washing, hygiene and diarrhoea prevention/care messages through IEC materials.

The Back to School Campaign reached 126,900 refugees out of camps, more than 50,000 refugees in camps, as well as numerous members of the host communities, through broadcasts using the four most popular TV channels in Kurdistan.
Service Delivery

Fully met benchmarks

The majority of UNICEF service delivery support concentrated on responding to the Syria refugee crisis (see PCR 6.1)

UNICEF WASH programme continued to address service gaps to ensure that children and vulnerable communities have access to safe water. UNICEF assistance focused on the southern governorates of Missan and Wasit. Approximately 17,000 people benefited from improved access to water supply, while almost 50,000 school children benefited from hygiene promotion interventions.

Strategic Partnerships

Mostly met benchmarks

UNICEF continued to strengthen existing partnerships with key governmental and UN counterparts, but also succeeded to attract new partners from the non-governmental and private sector to promote children’s rights in Iraq.

As the UNDAF Priority Working Groups (PWG) lead for both 4) increased access to quality essential services (education, health, water and sanitation) and 5) human capital, UNICEF fostered close cooperation with governmental counterparts, UN agencies and NGO’s. Active participation in the Health and Nutrition sub-working group assured UNICEF priorities and strategic directions were reflected in the sector work with special focus on immunization, neo-natal health, stunting and breast feeding. UNICEF strengthened its partnership with UNESCO during the implementation of the Iraq Public Sector Modernization Programme (IPSM) to develop institutional mechanisms that strengthen the Ministries of Education (MoE) and Higher Education. Both agencies continue to collaborate as co-leads of the UNDAF Education Sub-Working Group to ensure synergy of interventions in line with UNDAF priorities. UNICEF and UNHCR also evolved solid partnerships in the implementation of emergency education for Syrian refugee children in its function as UNDAF sub-working group co-lead.

As a key partner of the IPSM, the UNICEF WASH section forged closer relations with the Prime Minister’s Office and was instrumental to agree to a cost-sharing agreement to implement reform efforts for water, sanitation, education, and health. In addition, WASH expanded sub-national partnerships. UNICEF signed a cost-sharing agreement with Missan Governorate for implementing a low cost waste-water treatment programme and an innovative programme that recycles water for agriculture purposes. In view of the forthcoming UNDAF 2015-2019, UNICEF took the lead in submitting a proposal to establish a Social Protection Floor (SPF) in Iraq. The SPF will now feature among the UNDAF objectives 2015-2019.

A MoU between the MoH and UNICEF supply division resulted in the inclusion of therapeutic food and vitamin A in addition to Basil Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccines. This agreement will result in a more cost efficient and comprehensive health response for millions of Iraqi and Syrian refugee children.

Throughout 2013, UNICEF, UNHCR, governmental and non-governmental partners formed strong partnerships to effectively respond to the needs of Syrian refugees. During 2013, UNICEF signed 40 partnership cooperation agreements (PCA) to implement programmes addressing water, sanitation, hygiene, education, health, nutrition, child protection and communication needs.

UNICEF strengthened its partnership with the Federal and Regional Ministry of Planning, Central Statistics Organization (CSO) and with the Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (KRSO). Besides providing technical and financial support to conduct MICS5, UNICEF closely worked with the CSO and KRSO to conduct joint analyses on child deprivations. The Minister of Planning of the Kurdistan Region and the Director of the KRSO formally acknowledged UNICEF’s excellent support in implementing the MICS4.
**Knowledge Management**

*Fully met benchmarks*

UNICEF Knowledge Management (KM) provided effective support on a policy level, as well as on a technical level in response to partner requests and identified opportunities.

UNICEF actively contributed in the UNDAF 2011-2014 analytical review process, which forms the basis for Iraq’s new UNDAF 2015-2019. As a result of UNICEF’s evidence-based advocacy, the new UNDAF will be informed by UNICEF’s equity agenda to achieve sustained development results for children by 2019.

The development of a SharePoint intranet (UNICEF Teams) website has been completed. The launch of the site in 2014 will ensure that information flows and Knowledge Management (KM) across all UNICEF Sections is strengthened.

Building on its MICS4 dissemination work, UNICEF supported the KM capacities of key governmental partners on a national, regional and subnational level. UNICEF guided the Kurdistan Region Statistical Office (KRSO) to undertake an Equity Analysis in Kurdistan using MICS4 data, and to produce the complete tabulation of results from the survey adapted only for the Kurdistan Region. The MICS4 Technical Workshop was held in March 2013 and jointly facilitated by the Ministry of Planning, UNICEF and MENARO staff and attended by experts from several line ministries.

An Analysis of Bottlenecks of Child Deprivations (ABCD) was conducted at the governorate level. ABCD Workshops were held with decision-makers, planners and experts from the MoP and other relevant ministries to jointly identify, prioritize, and analyse key child deprivations and their causes. The workshops covered the most deprived governorates of Basra, Misan, Thi Qar, and Muthanna and the Kurdistan region. In addition, UNICEF responded to a KRSo request to assist in preparing a comparative situation analysis on a Kurdistan Region, governorate and district level, using MICS3 and MICS4 data.

In view of UNICEF’s goal to strengthen children’s rights through Social Policy, UNICEF produced five Policy Briefing Papers, covering child sensitive social protection, identifying present gaps in social protection, proposing specific social protection packages, child responsive budgeting, and the establishment of a social protection floor. These papers provide a solid evidence base for advocacy with the government. In addition, UNICEF conducted eight training workshops on child sensitive social protection. As a result, the MOP and UNICEF initiated a joint Situation Analysis/Social Policy Analysis Planning (SPAP) to plan and develop evidence-based programmes to advance child rights. Future secondments of MOP and governorate technical staff to UNICEF will increase ownership, facilitate sharing of data and information, build analytical and planning capacity by on-job-training and build sustainable government capacities.

UNICEF also responded to several requests to provide direct technical assistance. UNICEF advised the High Council of Women Affairs of Kurdistan to develop a study on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) and followed up with the KRSo the MICS4 results on FGM/C.

In 2014, Iraq will for the first time conduct MICS fieldwork using computers (CAPI modality). UNICEF trained key staff from the CSO and KRSo on the CAPI modality to ensure a smooth implementation of the MICS5.
Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation

Fully met benchmarks

Please refer to UNICEF’s extensive work on Equity as a guiding programme principle, which demonstrates progress on HRBA as a foundation of UNICEF’s work in Iraq.

The right to education is threatened by a spike of violence against children, specifically targeting schools. UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE), developed guidelines on positive discipline to curb high levels of violence against children. UNICEF reached an agreement with the MoE to hold a national conference in 2014 and to establish a thematic committee. In addition, UNICEF participates in an “Out-Of-School Children” (OOSC) study to identify who, where and why children are out of school. These efforts will provide a solid basis for UNICEF’s future rights based approach to education.

Gender Equality

Mostly met benchmarks

UNICEF health programme targeted all children under 5 years of age and pregnant/lactating women, hence the programme has an in-built bias to address the specific needs of women. In view of the emergency, UNICEF provided dedicated spaces (“Baby Huts”) for lactating women to receive counselling on family planning, breastfeeding and other issues. UNICEF also trained female nurses from the refugee community in each camp to visit tents, monitor and provide appropriate assistance. In addition, UNICEF ensured that female staff were included in every mobile health/data collection team (especially in rural areas) in order to overcome gender related social and cultural barriers to access.

The WASH programme aimed at achieving a gender balance during capacity building and training programmes, but this proved difficult as only 18 percent of participants were women (68 out of 260). The main challenge was that the technical domains remain male dominated, particularly in governmental departments. Travel restrictions to attend meetings and workshops further challenged female participation. However, UNICEF advocacy increased female participation compared to 2012 (10 percent), but results are still below UNICEF’s target of 50 percent.

Girl’s access to education remains a key concern in Iraq. UNICEF continued policy level advocacy, but also focused on community level activities. To assess the mainstreaming of gender concern in education policies, UNICEF and UNWOMEN conducted a curriculum and textbook gender audit. On a community level, Mothers’ Groups have been formed to promote girls’ education, as well as to promote the participation of women in improving the delivery of education services in their local communities. In 2013, specific guidelines for conducting Mothers’ Groups activities were developed and distributed to all Child Friendly Schools (CFS).

Environmental Sustainability

Mostly met benchmarks

The main thrust of UNICEF’s work on Environmental Sustainability concentrated on the WASH sector.

A main achievement for the office was the successful development of an innovative, low cost waste water treatment programme in Missan, one of Iraq’s poorest and most water deprived governorates. The programme, which is implemented by the local government with UNICEF’s assistance, also introduced the concept of recycling waste water for agricultural purposes, which is new to Iraq.

UNICEF and partners focused on solid waste management in camps to minimize associated health risks. Together with its partners, UNICEF established waste collection systems in camps and ensured garbage is
properly disposed of. WASH messaging included environmental sanitation and awareness raising on waste management.

**South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

Iraq government staff participated in a workshop in Uganda to learn innovative tools and technologies successfully piloted by UNICEF’s Uganda office, specifically: Edu-Trac, U-report, M-Trac and Dev-Trac

The newly formed Child Labour Unit in the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) participated in a workshop on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) in Brasilia, Brazil, in October 2013. The workshop was organized by UNICEF and the ILO. Subsequently, the MoLSA Child Labour Unit initiated a steering committee, with participants from the Ministry of Planning (MoP), civil society and local academics. Notably, the unit has initiated work to conduct a rapid assessment on the WFCL in Iraq.
Narrative Analysis by Programme Component Results and Intermediate Results

**Iraq - 2130**

**PC 302 - Survival and Growth**

**On-track**

**PCR 2130/A0/07/301 PCR 1.1:** The Government of Iraq (GoI) has participatory and accountable policy framework and implementation mechanisms for the delivery of quality basic services at all levels.

**Progress:** Progress was made in addressing the institutional and policy barriers to improve child survival, especially new-born and maternal health. To achieve this goal, UNICEF assisted the government of Iraq to expand the existing evidence base, but also provided strategic policy advice and concrete technical assistance. An equity analysis helped to focus on sub-national disparities, in particular the needs of the most vulnerable women and children. During 2013, UNICEF built on this analysis and provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Health/Nutrition Research Institute to address micronutrient deficiencies (including vitamin A and iodine) in selected governorates, and stepped up efforts to increase breast-feeding to assist the GoI to advance on MDG progress.

UNICEF support to a range of government partners contributed to the finalization and launch of several national health and nutrition initiatives, such as the launch of the Reproductive Health/Maternal and Child Health (RH/MCH) strategy 2013-2017, a National Health Promotion Strategy and a Maternal New-born and Child Health (MNCH) Acceleration Plan 2014-2015. UNICEF was also a key partner of the government to develop a National New-born Health Policy. In parallel, support was provided to the roll out of Iraq’s National Nutrition Strategy 2012-2021 (NNS) and the establishment of a National New-born Health Committee, a mechanism that will ensure sustained institutional support to down-stream policy work.

Despite progress on UNICEF targets, national efforts require strengthening. Iraq’s policy frameworks for child survival and growth still need to be fully implemented to make a difference to the lives of children, especially in Iraq’s most deprived communities. The strengthening of Federal and Regional information exchange and management systems remains an important element to scale up and monitor progress on key indicators.

**On-track**

**IR 2130/A0/07/301/005 IR 1.1.1:** By 2014, MoH capacities are strengthened to develop and/or review targeted policies, related strategies and action plans addressing women and children health & nutrition with special focus on neonatal mortality and stunting reduction

**Progress:**

In an effort to strengthen the evidence base on the situation of women and children in Iraq, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health (MoH) jointly conducted several studies and surveys. Specifically, and in cooperation with the WHO and the CDC-Atlanta, Iraq’s first National Micro-nutrient survey was completed. In partnership with WHO and the MoP, a Maternal Neonatal Tetanus Elimination (MNTE) validation survey was successfully completed in Al-Azizye district in Wasit governorate, covering a total of 1,303 newborns, 4,063 households (31,738 persons). The survey shows that Neonatal Tetanus (NT) is considered as eliminated in Al-Azizia District in Wassit, and by extension, in Iraq as a whole. A verbal autopsy survey concluded that there are 35 maternal death per 100,000 live births in Iraq, which means Iraq is on track for MDG4.

UNICEF continued to provide strategic policy advice, which resulted in concrete action. In partnership with WHO, UNICEF expedited the adoption of a new (pneumococcal) vaccine in Iraq, which will be introduced in 2014. Similarly, UNICEF assistance in preparing a budget for the roll out of the multi-year implementation Maternal and New Born Child Health (MNCH) plan contributed to improved time and cost-efficiency. As a result of intense advocacy with the MoH, a National New-born Health Committee was established and a comprehensive situation analysis on new-born care services in Iraq has been initiated. This analysis will serve as the basis for Iraq’s future National New-born Health Policy and Action plan.

In addition, several Knowledge, Attitude, Practice (KAP) studies were conducted. A KAP on breast-feeding showed that 40 percent of the participants have adequate knowledge on the benefit of exclusive breast feeding; 88 percent know the importance of the colostrum and 91 percent are fully aware about the risks of artificial feeding. Another KAP on salt iodization showed that 75 percent of the sample has adequate knowledge about iodine deficiency disease (IDD), that 69 percent are aware about the prevention measures of IDD, and that only 65 percent are using iodized salt. A third KAP study is be being finalized and will be released in January 2014. These important findings will enable UNICEF and its partners to improve planning and response delivery during 2014 and beyond.

**On-track**

**PCR 2130/A0/07/307 PCR 1.2:** The Government of Iraq has enabled more women and children to have improved access to and utilization of quality Primary Health Care.

**Progress:**

While the majority of UNICEF’s health response during 2013 focused on responding to the Syrian Refugee Crisis, UNICEF continued to support the three interrelated, strategic result areas of maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition throughout Iraq. Specifically,
UNICEF provided evidence-based analysis and advice, which supported the development of national and sub-national institutional frameworks and expanded coverage.

A main achievement was that during 2013, 95 percent and 92 percent of all children under five have been immunized against polio and measles respectively during UNICEF supported National Immunization Campaigns. No major disease outbreaks were reported during 2013 and Iraq continued to be polio and malaria free.

**On-track**

**IR 2130/A0/07/307/019 1.2.1** By end of 2014, women, girls and boys in targeted areas benefit of quality health & nutrition interventions and adopt healthier practices

**Progress:** UNICEF worked closely with partners to support national capacity development and to address service gaps. During 2013, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) to train 2,631 doctors and paramedical staff (1,713 females and 918 males) on primary health care interventions. These trainings resulted in increased knowledge on Immunization, Antenatal Care (ANC), Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI), case management of acute diarrhoea and Nutrition (IYCF, GM & management of malnutrition), with especial focus on the sub-national level.

One Maternal and Child Health (MCH) unit was constructed in Al-Azizia district in Wasit, which is one of Iraq’s most deprived governorates. This unit is part of the integrated area based project in that district (Health, Nutrition, Education, WASH and Child Protection services), which will serve highly vulnerable families through a comprehensive and integrated approach.

Following a joint UNICEF and Nutrition Research Institute (NRI) assessment of two Baby Friendly Hospitals (BFHI) hospitals, one maternity hospital has been certified as baby-friendly, while the second hospital will be re-assessed in 2014.

Efficient and timely UNICEF procurement and distribution of vital supplies (such as vaccines) resulted in improved preparedness to respond to maternal, child and new-born health needs, but also to protect 5.3 million children from Polio and Measles. UNICEF supported two rounds of Polio NIDs and one round of Measles NIDs.

UNICEF advocacy and C4D trainings on nutrition and the importance of breastfeeding resulted in improved feeding practices, which were evidenced by several Knowledge Attitude Practice (KAP) assessments.

**PC 303 - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

**On-track**

**PCR 2130/A0/07/303 PCR 2.1:** People in Iraq have improved access to safe water, sanitation, and municipal services

**Progress:**

Iraq’s progress in achieving MDG targets related to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene remains a challenge. While some indicators, such as mortality rates and education enrolment rates have advanced, water and sanitation indicators show slow progress. First there is a need to upgrade water system infrastructures across the country. Although 96 per cent of the population today has access to water network, a significant amount of piped water leaks, is inefficiently used or is illegally tapped. Hence, water resource management continues to be prioritized by the Government of Iraq to ensure MDG progress and support environmental sustainability (MDG7). However, gradual improvement is evident as a result of combined efforts on macro policy reform, infrastructure rehabilitation, as well as addressing acute service gaps. In 2013, UNICEF contributed to improving access to safe water and sanitation services through policy support, as well as direct technical assistance.

Specifically, UNICEF provided technical assistance to its governmental partners to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate evidence-based, child-friendly and gender-sensitive water and sanitation policies and systems. A milestone achievement for UNICEF and its partners was the finalization of a Water Demand Management Plan, which will provide strategic reform directive for the years to come.

UNICEF also continued its support to reach vulnerable children and communities. The situation across Iraq varies significantly, as the populations of some districts (mostly in the south), face high levels of WASH related deprivations. Based on evidence, UNICEF in partnership with the government succeeded to reach some of the most vulnerable populations through targeted interventions that expanded access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene for over 65,000 children and vulnerable community members.

**On-track**

**IR 2130/A0/07/303/030 IR 2.1.1** By end of 2014, Iraq has an improved and modernized institutional, legal, regulatory and policy framework for the delivery of equitable and child-centred gender-sensitive water, sanitation and hygiene services, based on international best practice

**Progress:** Progress has been achieved through UNICEF’s support to the multi-sectoral Iraq Public Sector Modernization Programme (I-PSM), which is implemented in partnership with the GoI and UN agencies. Following the approval of the Prime Minister's Advisory Council
and the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works (MMPW), a Change Management Working Group (CMWG) has been established, which greatly expedited coordination and planning. UNICEF also provided technical assistance, which supported the finalization and coordination of the submission of a Water Demand Management Plan Study to the CMWG. The study was a major achievement for the I-PSM and UNICEF and its partners. In addition, UNICEF supported the bidding process and the evaluation of a proposal submitted by an international consultancy team to assist the drafting of Iraq’s new Water and Sanitation Law. A water quality control study will be conducted in 2014 to assist the Government of Iraq in achieving standards compatible with WHO standards. \

**IR 2130/A0/07/303/031 IR 2.1.2.** By end of 2014, the Government of Iraq at national and sub-national levels have increased capacity to plan and deliver equitable, environmentally sound and child centred water, sanitation and hygiene programmes to benefit girls and boys equally

**Progress:** UNICEF continued to provide capacity building support to its governmental partners on a federal, regional and sub-national level. In 2013, 510 staff from different line ministries were trained to strengthen capacities in the fields of project design and management, water network design, public communication and environmental journalism. Subsequently, trainees developed and implemented several hygiene campaigns in Missan, Baghdad, Erbil and Dohuk.

UNICEF and the Kurdistan Regional Government signed a cost-sharing agreement on raising public awareness on water related issues. As a result, joint C4D activities will be jointly implemented in 2014 to promote improved practices of about 1,000,000 inhabitants in the Kurdistan region. UNICEF also reached a cost-sharing agreement with Missan governorate, which led to the implementation of a water network extension, the rehabilitation of Reverse Osmosis Units and the establishment of an innovative, low-cost waste water treatment plant.

UNICEF and its partners continued to meet the urgent needs of children in Iraq’s most vulnerable governorates. The rehabilitation of a 4000m water network and the installation of Reverse Osmosis units in the most deprived districts of Missan provided 6,000 inhabitants with safe access to water. The installation of a waste water treatment plant in Missan Governorate introduced new techniques to re-use water safely for agricultural purposes, benefiting 6,000 children and adults. The upgrading of a water supply systems in schools benefited 11,500 children and inhabitants in Wasit Governorate.

As a result of a UNICEF supported hygiene and sanitation promotion campaign in 40 schools throughout 26 districts, 50,000 school children (16,698 girls and 32,380 boys) had improved knowledge on safe practices. In partnership with the Directorate of Education, UNICEF marked World Water Day and World Hand Washing Day in schools and communities throughout all of Iraq’s 18 Governorates.

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**PC 304 - Child Protection**

**Constrained**

**PCR 2130/A0/07/304 PCR 4.1:** Iraqi State has improved capacity to develop and implement policies and programmes for the protection of boys and girls in line with international conventions, the Iraqi Constitution and Legislation.

**Progress:**

Progress has been primarily advancing on Iraq’s Child Protection Legislation, while the planning and implementation of related programmes continues to evolve.

Notably, the Government of Iraq submitted the first state party reports for the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC) and the Official Protocol on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC).

UNICEF was given the opportunity to review the Federal Child Protection Law and the Kurdistan Region Child Rights Law and provided advice on aligning them to Iraq’s national and international commitments, especially the Iraqi Constitution and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The Laws are currently being reviewed by the Shura Council. UNICEF continued to advocate to be given the opportunity to support the Government of Iraq in reforming the Juvenile Care Law.

UNICEF also advanced on supporting the development of a National Child Protection Policy (NCPP). UNICEF produced two policy papers, which provide an overview on the conceptual and institutional requirements to develop a National Child Protection Policy (NCPP). UNICEF, in partnership with the American University of Beirut and the Government of Iraq, has initiated a Child Protection Analysis, which will generate the evidence to inform the preparations for the National Child Protection Policy.

During 2013, UNICEF strengthened its partnership with the Prime Minister’s Advisory Council (PMAC) to advance on developing a long-term strategy for Iraq to End Violence Against Children (VAC). This includes the development of a plan to implement the recommendations of the Arab League study (2005 and 2008) on ending VAC in Iraq.

UNICEF also continued to provide direct technical assistance. UNICEF worked closely with governmental and NGO partners and provided targeted capacity building on the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (NRM) on grave violations on child rights, which contributed to a comparative increase of verifications and follow up from 2012 (40 percent and 54 percent respectively).
Progress: UNICEF assistance to the Government resulted in advancing on the legislative reform of a federal and a regional Child Rights Law. During this process, UNICEF committed to facilitate and support consultations with children to ensure that the perspectives of girls and boys are considered during the design of a federal and regional Child Right Law. By the end of June 2013, both laws were submitted to Iraq’s Shura Council and the review process is ongoing.

The development of National Child Protection Policy (NCP) was delayed due to the unavailability of technical experts, and if available, their subsequent disinclination to come to Iraq in light of the deteriorating security situation. Hence the process of developing the policy began in November 2013. In consultation with its governmental partners, UNICEF developed a concept note on a child protection policy system and child rights approach. If adopted, the outcome would result in a rights-based National Child Protection Policy system that prevents, protects and rehabilitates children at risk, with particular attention to the most deprived and vulnerable. Dialogue and the policy process continues to advance with the development of three policy option papers, which will inform nationwide consultations in 2014 with duty-holders and rights-holders (children).

The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on grave violations of children’s rights has been strengthened through a series of trainings, targeting network organizations working specifically in governorates where a number of grave violations have been reported. Despite the deteriorating security situation, 54 per cent of the reported cases could be verified, which is an increase from 40 per cent in 2012. However, the establishment of an inter-ministerial commission on MRM, which would serve to share information between the GoI and MRM Country Task Force, has been delayed.

UNICEF finalized a study on Violence Against Children (VAC) and a study on Justice for Children (J4C), which strengthened the evidence base for planning. In parallel, a joint assessment on Worst Forms of Child Labour has been initiated with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) and the Ministry of Planning (MoP).

Progress: The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MMR) on grave violations of children’s rights in Iraq has been strengthened through a series of eight meetings/trainings for the MRM (local NGOs) network, carried out in partnership with Save the Children. This has resulted in a better understanding and capacity for incidence reporting. UNICEF co-organized the visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Ms. Leila Zerrougui to Iraq to assess the impact of the Syrian conflict on children. Her visit provided important advocacy support for establishing a formal mechanism (inter-ministerial committee) to interact with the MRM Country Task Force in Iraq. This strengthened the basis for co-operation and reinforced the importance of tracking violations and providing children with improved access to referral systems to government service providers. In parallel, UNICEF continued to collaborate with the government and local NGO’s to address specific incidences by facilitating access to support services such as counselling or more generally, rebuilding of educational infrastructures.

UNICEF supported the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA) and Missan Mine Action Centre (MMAC) by training 44 government and NGO staff (19 female, 25 male) as training of trainers. This resulted in increased local capacity for future community volunteer based mine risk education (CBMRE). Security and access were reported as a challenge and efforts will continue throughout 2014.

Progress: In 2013, UNICEF continued to support capacity building to institutionalize the Justice for Children programme.

UNICEF and the Government of Iraq collaborated in strengthening the network (steering committee/technical committee) on justice for children by increasing representation of key national and international partners, focusing on legal aid, reintegration and reactivating the Juvenile Care Councils’ (JCC) workplan at regional and federal level.

In addition, UNICEF focused its support on strengthening institutional capacities through a range of interventions, such as developing standard operating procedures, modules for schools, and an action plan for the Juvenile Care Council (JCC). This approach ensures that results are institutionalized and sustained. However, in instances when appropriate services by the GoI and other service providers are not available or meeting international standards, UNICEF still provided direct assistance to children. In 2013, UNICEF supported the reintegration of 199 children, and 269 children received legal aid.
In addition to planned activities, UNICEF responded with a large Polio immunization campaign and camps and host communities during 2014, specifically through the “No Lost Generation” strategy.

In 2013, two schools were established in prisons. In parallel, UNICEF supported the strengthening of capacities of MoLSA and the JCC in developing child friendly materials on juvenile justice systems and children’s rights. In 2013, two schools were established in prisons.

As a result of UNICEF advocacy and a capacity gap analysis, the Kurdistan Region’s Ministry of Interior (MoI) agreed to develop and adopt a child rights module for the College of Police.

UNICEF and its partners established child protection mechanisms and supported the Department of Health to include child protection indicators to systematically monitor children.

Progress:

UNICEF conducted a capacity gap analysis and subsequently supported the development of an action plan for Iraq’s Juvenile Care Councils (JCC) in partnerships with the councils and the Government. The federal and the Kurdistan Region JCCs organise quarterly meetings and are now fully operational.

UNICEF support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) resulted in progress on drafting and piloting Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the reintegration of children released from detention. To further strengthen its evidence base, UNICEF conducted an evaluation of the Federal social workers’ programme, which is the first of its kind in Iraq. The report has been finalised together with MoLSA and resulted in formalising a pre-release action plan for juveniles in detention and for monitoring the reintegration process.

UNICEF continued to support the Government of Iraq in providing legal, rehabilitation and reintegration assistance to vulnerable children. UNICEF and its partners provided 269 children (19 female and 250 male) with legal assistance, 199 children (18 female and 185 male) with reintegration assistance and 90 boys were enrolled in schools established by UNICEF in prisons. In parallel, UNICEF supported the strengthening of capacities of MoLSA and the JCC in developing child friendly materials on juvenile justice systems and children’s rights. In 2013, two schools were established in prisons.

As a result of UNICEF advocacy and a capacity gap analysis, the Kurdistan Region’s Ministry of Interior (MoI) agreed to develop and adopt a child rights module for the College of Police.

UNICEF also joined multi-sectoral programmes with local governments and communities. For example in Missan, UNICEF supported local NGOs establish community-based child protection mechanisms and supported the Department of Health to include child protection indicators to systematically monitor children.

Progress:

UNICEF and its partners effectively responded to the humanitarian needs of Syrian refugees in camps and non-camp settings.

UNICEF and partners effectively responded to the WASH, Child Protection, Education and Health and Nutrition needs of all Syrian refugees in all refugee camps. Considering that an estimated 60 percent of refugees reside in non-camps, UNICEF also aimed at reaching Syrian refugee children, as well as vulnerable host-community members through its interventions. UNICEF led the WASH and Education sectors and took the lead in the Health and Nutrition and Child Protection sub-clusters.

Through its immunization campaigns, UNICEF exceeded its target, which reflects effective mobilization efforts and expanded coverage beyond the refugee population. In contrast, efforts to provide micronutrient supplements fell short of its target due to the fact that only Vitamin A supplementation is provided in Iraq. UNICEF’s contribution to WASH activities equally reports a 100 percent accomplishment rate, with the exception of access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in learning environments (59 percent). The overall WASH Sector targets were reached between 61-93 percent. UNICEF also performed well in Education, where it reached more than 100 percent of its target on school enrolment, as compared to a 44.5 percent achievement of the overall Education Sector. Despite capacity gaps and difficulties in identifying vulnerable children, UNICEF met 25 percent of its target in providing access to psycho-social support in education programmes (overall Education Sector achievement 20 percent). Further, UNICEF efforts provided 28 percent of children identified with psychosocial support. The overall sub-sector target achieved was only 13 percent, which illustrates that challenges encountered were common. Based on lessons learnt and unaddressed needs, UNICEF plans to scale up its efforts and reach the most vulnerable children in camps and host-communities during 2014, specifically through the “No Lost Generation” strategy.

In addition to planned activities, UNICEF responded with a large Polio immunization campaign and distributed almost 15,000 winterised
On-track

IR 2130/A0/07/310/001 IR 6.1.1 Humanitarian action for girls, boys and women in vulnerable and emergency affected populations is timely, effective and efficient.

**Progress:** In line with requirements, UNICEF strengthened key emergency mechanisms and systems.

During 2013, nine Simplified Standard Operating Procedures (SSOP) guidelines and policies were adapted. A contact list for international media was established, which resulted in effective communication and solid coverage on UNICEF’s response. Social media, factsheets or briefs were widely used to report the situation on the ground and to provide high donor visibility. Situation Reports (SitReps) were produced on weekly basis during the first quarter of the year and biweekly from September onwards. Daily SitReps were produced during the first two months of the acute emergency after the sudden opening of the border with mass influx of refugees on August 15th. UNICEF organized several high level, donor and UNICEF National Committee visits.

UNICEF monitoring and planning was progressively strengthened through participatory, quarterly stocktaking meetings, which covered all emergency sectors. In line with L3 requirements, UNICEF set up a Crisis Management Unit (CMU), chaired by the Deputy Representative, which enabled UNICEF to effectively respond to the mass influx in August 2013.

In order to meet urgent operational needs, UNICEF opened additional office spaces and warehouses in Dohuk and Suleimania governorates. Effective supply management and planning ensured that supplies including winterized relief materials were delivered in time. Three contingency planning sector exercises were held during the STM with Human Resources and fund forecasts.

To maximise transparency and efficiency, UNICEF assessed partners and maintained an updated partner roster. During 2013, UNICEF signed, implemented and monitored over 40 agreements with international and national partners.

UNICEF’s commitment to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the relationship between DRR, climate change adaptation, conflict prevention and social protection was highlighted during 2013. A DRR roundtable session was conducted with main line ministries and resulted in a plan to implement community based projects in identified areas of vulnerability with focus on children and their role in contingency planning and disaster preparedness and mitigation.

On-track

IR 2130/A0/07/310/002 IR 6.1.2 Women, boys and girls among the vulnerable and emergency affected populations including those in IDP and refugee camps enjoy acceptable standards of nutrition and proven child survival interventions

**Progress:** UNICEF and the Department of Health vaccinated over 56,700 refugee children upon arrival against measles and they were integrated into routine immunization schedules. To counter the risks of a Polio outbreak, UNICEF procured seven million doses of Polio vaccine and cold chain supplies and a Polio Unit has been established. Over 40,000 under five refugee children in camps and in host-communities have been integrated into routine immunization campaigns, which ensure that all children in Iraq, irrespective of their refugee status, are fully immunized. In addition, 27,000 children were provided with VitA supplements upon arrival, as well as all US in camps and non-camps.

Access to quality health care services was provided to all Syrian refugees US and pregnant and lactating women. UNICEF "Baby Huts" were set up in each camp, where over 5,500 lactating women received guidance on feeding, hygiene and health practices. Through its Newborn care initiative, UNICEF and the Erbil Department of Health trained nurses from among the refugee community in each camp. As a result, each newborn received six visits and examinations during the first month. Mothers were provided with essential breastfeeding, hygiene, vaccination information. Overall, UNICEF trained over 500 medical staff, as well as health volunteers working in the camps and health facilities. This resulted in higher professional standards and improved access.

UNICEF also supplemented the nutritional needs of refugee children with 70 metric tons of high protein biscuits and plumpy nut paste. One million oral rehydration sachets were distributed to US’s. UNICEF identified the most vulnerable children through the Baby Huts, medical units inside the camps and health facilities in the districts that are highly affected by the influx of refugees. This ensured that the needs of over 100,000 children were met.

On-track

IR 2130/A0/07/310/003 IR 6.1.3 Girls, boys and women in vulnerable and emergency affected populations including those in IDP and refugee camps have access to quality and timely safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene facilities

**Progress:** As Sector Lead, UNICEF conducted bi-monthly Emergency WASH sector coordination meetings on a national and sub-national level (11 total).

Under the WASH sector leadership of UNICEF, 209,460 Syrian refugee women, girls, boys and men were provided with access to quality essential services including safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.
Specifically, UNICEF and partners overachieved on four out of five WASH targets, providing access to safe drinking water, hygiene items, sanitation facilities to more than half of the entire refugee population. UNICEF and partners provided 104,000 refugees with drinking and domestic water through a range of interventions. In addition, 72,500 refugees received essential hygiene items and were provided with access to sanitation services. In addition, 16,300 Syrian refugee children were provided with access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in their learning environment and Child Friendly Spaces. Approximately 94,522 Syrian refugees in camps in Kurdistan and Al-Qaim (camp and host community), benefited from hygiene promotion messages. Over 23,000 Syrian refugees, especially school children, were mobilized through activities and tent-to-tent visits on Global Hand-Washing Day.

**IR 2130/A0/07/310/004 IR 6.1.4 Boys and girls in vulnerable and emergency situations including those in IDP and refugee camps have access to quality education critical for survival and well-being in safe and secure environment**

**Progress:** As Sector Lead, UNICEF established an effective coordination system. UNICEF and its partners reached 20,300 Syrian refugee children to increase school enrolment, which exceeded its target by approximately one third.

To increase access to education, UNICEF and partner UN agencies implemented a large-scale “Back-to-School” campaign in camps and host-communities in Dohuk, Erbil and Suleimania governorates.

UNICEF assisted the Dohuk Directorate of Education (DoE) in constructing four 12-classroom pre-fab schools in Domiz camp, Akra and Gawilan camps, providing educational access to 3,000 children. To extend access in Al Qa’im camp, UNICEF and the DoE rehabilitated eight schools, providing access to education for over 630 children. In Erbil and Suleimania, UNICEF assisted the DoE to provide educational access to nearly 4,900 Syrian refugee children through 47 tented classrooms in schools in Kawergosk, Qushtapa, Baharka, Basirma and Arbat camps and two pre-fab schools in Darashakran and Kawergosk. The construction of four more pre-fabricated schools is on-going in Qushtapa, Basirma, Gawilan and Akra camps. In order to improve quality of teaching, UNICEF provided school and teaching materials and in partnership with DoE, trained over 160 teachers, including on psycho-social support. This resulted in higher quality educational services, which met the specific needs of vulnerable refugee children.

According to UNHCR, up to 70 per cent of refugee children outside camps are not enrolled in school. To address this gap, UNICEF opened six pre-fab classrooms in schools in Erbil, providing educational access for more 3,000 children.

Despite progress, funding was a key challenge, as was the availability of classrooms, distances to access schools and non-appreciation of the value of education. In addition, and as a result of economic hardship, children are often engaged in child labour, instead of attending school. Having recognized these bottlenecks, UNICEF and its partners plan to adjust programming during 2014 accordingly.

**IR 2130/A0/07/310/005 IR 6.1.5 Girls and Boys in vulnerable and emergency affected populations including those in IDP and refugee camps have their rights protected from violence, abuse and exploitation**

**Progress:** UNICEF continued to support coordination through the Child Protection Sub-Working Group to ensure the efficiency of response in each of the three governorates.

A Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) was developed in response to the Syrian crisis to track reported cases of vulnerable children. The system has been piloted in the Domiz refugee camp in Department of Labour and Social Affairs (DoLSA) run Child Protection Units (CPU), and is now being considered for replication.

UNICEF supported the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and NGO partners to provide access to psychosocial support to 7,200 children. UNICEF has trained more than 40 partners and over 150 border staff on child protection, grave child rights violations in the context of armed conflict. In order to strengthen child protection mechanisms in all camps, UNICEF advocated for common standards, such Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) and common case management protocols.

UNICEF and its partners identified 539 separated and unaccompanied children that crossed the border between Syria and Iraq. UNICEF advocated for follow up response and its participation on the Best Interest Determination Panels, which have been established in Baghdad, Dohuk, Suleimania and Erbil by UNHCR. The influx also triggered the KRG’s participation in the Syria MRM. The interviews of fifty children informed high level reports and initiatives, including the Country Task Force in Syria. UNICEF assisted in organizing the visit of the SRSG on Children Affected by Armed Conflict in June 2013, which was highly conducive to highlight the urgent protection needs of refugee children.

UNICEF supported the expansion of the Child Help Line to the governorates of Dohuk and Suleimania, targeting both Iraqi and Syrian children. In Erbil, the line has been operational since 2011. Nearly 15,000 children were made aware of the Help Line through interventions in Child Friendly Spaces and 54 schools.
**PCR 2130/A0/07/302 PCR 3.1: Government of Iraq has enabled more children and youth to access and complete quality basic education that is inclusive and integrating principles of emergency management.**

**Progress:** UNICEF provided technical assistance to advance strategic policy initiatives, but also assisted the Government of Iraq (GoI) to promote increased enrolment.

Following the launch of Iraq's National Strategy for Education and Higher Education (INES) in 2012, work was initiated to modernize the education sector and to promote inclusive, quality education at all levels. The INES recognizes that girls have less access to education, especially intermediate education, and that girls in rural areas have less access overall. As part of the Iraq Public Sector Modernization Programme (IPSM), UNICEF assisted the GoI to formulate a roadmap, which outlined the steps and milestones that will guide the Government and IPSM partners to achieve the goals of the INES.

In view of access to quality education, the MICS4 showed that only half (49 percent) of the secondary school age children are attending (girls 45 percent and boys 52 percent) school. The discrepancy between primary level enrolment levels is with 50 percent much higher in urban areas than in rural areas (32 percent). UNICEF continued its efforts to close this gap during 2013 by expanding access to Child Friendly Schools throughout the country. By end 2013, 6.5 percent of Iraq's schools had adopted the CFS standard and projections to further progress in 2014 are encouraging.

Considering the wider socio-political situation in Iraq, UNICEF responded to a request to strengthen social cohesion through education and broadened civic and youth engagement across communities. UNICEF supported the GoI to initiate governorate level consultations and discussion to identify opportunities to introduce inter-communal dialogue and social cohesion into educational systems with the goal to promote peaceful co-existence. Considering the spiralling violence during 2013, the pertinence of such an approach is ever more relevant and will be pursued in 2014.

**On-track**

**IR 2130/A0/07/302/033 IR 3.1.2 By 2014, girls and boys in 1,200 targeted primary schools have access to improved quality of education using Child-Friendly Schools model**

**Progress:** UNICEF built on progress made in introducing the Child Friendly Schools (CFS) approach. As a result of UNICEF’s support, the Federal and Kurdish Region Ministries of Education adopted CFS standards and targets for primary and secondary schools in Iraq to ensure increased access to inclusive quality education. These standards and targets will be used as benchmark for evaluating the quality of education being provided in Iraq’s schools. To further advance on disseminating the standard, UNICEF printed and disseminated 10,000 copies of CFS standards in Kurdish language. In addition, over 20,000 copies are being printed in Arabic and 500 in English and will be disseminated in early 2014. Efforts to mainstream the CFS standards into the educational system, resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNICEF and the Salahadin University in Erbil to the effect that CFS standards are now included in pre-service teacher training module as part of the standard teacher training curriculum.

In order to mainstream the CFS framework on a sub-national level, UNICEF and the Directorates of Education (DoEs) are piloting the CFS approach in selected schools throughout all 18 governorates. The total number of schools where CFS standards are applied in 2013 was 1,118 or 6.5 percent. Considering that UNICEF’s target by end 2014 is 1,200, it is likely that more schools will be reached. UNICEF initiated policy dialogue with the Ministry of Education to issue instructions for the universal adoption the standard based on the results already obtained in previous years.

**On-track**

**IR 2130/A0/07/302/034 IR 3.1.3 By 2014, MoE capacities are developed to promote policy dialogue and develop Citizenship Education targeting adolescent boys and girls (10-17) in selected primary and secondary schools**

**Progress:** Children in Iraq are heavily affected by high levels of violence, inter-communal tensions and the deterioration of Iraq's social fabric. In addition, one of the bottlenecks for education is social and cultural norms and attitudes, which undermine inclusive participation especially for girls. UNICEF recognized the opportunity to promote social cohesion and peaceful co-existence through education.

UNICEF, in partnership with Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Directorates of Education (DoEs), convened policy makers, community leaders, ministry officials, interest groups and teachers to discuss and identify priority educational issues and opportunities for using education to promote peaceful co-existence, harmony and social cohesion and the inclusion of minorities in their respective provinces. Consultations and workshops on Education for Peace were held in Basra and Kirkuk governorates, with a focus on how schools should be more involved in strengthening social cohesion and promoting stability. As a result of these consultations, policy recommendations were produced and are being disseminated to ministry officials, communities and schools.

UNICEF also upgraded two public libraries in Basra Governorate through refurbishment, supplies of books, computers, recreational kits and presentation materials (projectors, screens). The spaces provide a neutral environment for communal interaction, as well as to promote dialogue on behaviour changes and community based peace building. By training 15 librarians, UNICEF ensured that the library custodians have improved knowledge on child psychology, psychosocial support and how to guide children to benefit most from UNICEF peace building resources.

Building on these achievements, UNICEF is initiating a review of existing literature on civic education. The aim is to update existing literature and introduce 'Education for Citizenship and Peace Building', which will involve the adaptation of existing curricula materials.
(teachers’ guide, students’ manuals, posters, information leaflets etc.) for elementary and intermediate levels.

**PC 312 - STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS**

- **On-track**

**PCR 2130/A0/07/305 PCR 5.1: The Iraqi state has more efficient, accountable and participatory governance at national and sub-national levels.**

**Progress:** UNICEF primarily concentrated on highlighting the plight of Syrian refugees in Iraq. Media coverage spanned from video-productions, thematic or event-driven press releases to social media engagement throughout 2013. UNICEF posted over 30 features on #ChildrenofSyria to raise awareness and draw attention to refugee needs and UNICEF’s response. Outreach spiked during thematic campaigns such as World Hand Washing Day or UNICEF’s Back to School Campaign. C4D work concentrated on the Syrian crisis where fast impact could be achieved. However, as part of the regular programme, UNICEF continued to follow up with governmental counterparts to strengthen the institutionalization and operationalization of C4D units within ministries. During 2013, UNICEF responded to a request by the Kurdistan Regional Government to assist in addressing FGM in Kurdistan. Given the sensitivity of the issue, this opportunity will further evolve into a full, community-based awareness raising campaign aimed at curbing the practice during 2014.

- **On-track**

**IR 2130/A0/07/305/007 IR 5.1.1 Government policy makers and the public-at-large, especially young women and men, are informed about children’s inequalities across Iraq in order to develop equity-focused policies, legislations and development plans/investments**

**Progress:** The main focus of UNICEF’s Communication work concentrated on highlighting the situation and needs of Syrian refugee children. Over 30 human interest stories were posted on #ChildrenofSyria; seven thematic videos were produced, covering high profile initiatives such as the airlift to Syria or winterization campaign. Over 15 press releases were issued throughout the year to ensure UNICEF and donor visibility in the media.

During 2013, UNICEF was mentioned over 250 times in the local media (non-emergency). More than five press releases highlighted UNICEF’s policy and advocacy work, such as the adoption of the Child Friendly School (CFS standard) in Kurdistan. UNICEF also highlighted the impact of violence on Children, by publicly condemning fatal terrorist attacks on schools.

The visit of UNICEF goodwill ambassadors, Egyptian actor Mahmoud Kabil and British actor Eddi Izzard were widely covered in the media and resulted in increased public awareness on the work of UNICEF in Iraq and the refugee response in particular.

The launch of the UNICEF webpage in Arabic in 2013 provided improved access to UNICEF’s Arabic speaking followers. Further, in addition to its Facebook and Twitter presence, UNICEF expanded its social media / web outreach by launching a web-blog (http://unicefiraq.blogspot.com) and Flickr page (http://www.flickr.com/photos/unicefiraq/). Over 5,000 persons follow UNICEF Iraq on Twitter (800) and Facebook (4,351). These platforms are effectively used to share news, images and stories, including those related to the Syrian refugee crisis.

- **On-track**

**IR 2130/A0/07/305/008 IR 5.1.2 By end of 2014, Iraqi government capacities strengthened to develop family practice strategies to improve the well-being of boys and girls**

**Progress:** During 2013, UNICEF concentrated on building its partnership with the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Planning (MoP) Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works (MMPW), Ministry of Environment (MoEnv) and the Ministry of Sports and Youth (MoSY) on a federal and regional level. The issuance of an official directive by the MoE to its directorates in Basrah, Najaf and Salahaddin governorates to embed C4D units in their Media Departments was an encouraging achievement. Similarly, the Ministry of Environment established a C4D unit in the Environmental Awareness Department. In 2014, UNICEF will assist in mobilizing government funds to train staff of the C4D units and to ensure ownership and effective outreach.

Due to the attention given to UNICEF emergency operations and funding limitations, progress on the development of gender-sensitive family practice strategies and related Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) studies was only partially achieved. Despite these challenges, UNICEF successfully supported the Kurdistan Ministry of Planning, High Council of Women’s Affairs, to undertake a KAP on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) in Kurdistan. In parallel, UNICEF and its partner initiated community consultations throughout two governorates in Kurdistan. The combined outcomes of these efforts will be the basis for a communication strategy and community based campaign to stop FGM/C in Kurdistan.

**PC 313 - POLICY, ADVOCACY AND EVIDENCE**

- **On-track**
PCR 2130/A0/07/309 PCR S.5: Vulnerable Iraqis benefit from strategic gender-sensitive and child-friendly research-to-policy initiatives, including means-tested social transfers which stimulate economic growth and reduce dependency

**Progress:** UNICEF established a Social Policy Section (SPS) at the end of 2012. Throughout 2013, it progressively built a network and contributed with advocacy and technical support to partners (government/governorate and UNCT). By the last quarter of 2013, the SPS had received a number of formal partnership requests from the Prime Ministers Advisory Council (PMAC), Ministry of Planning (MoP), Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), the Parliamentary Committee on Education, the CWC and governorates including those in the Kurdistan Region. Throughout 2013, the SPS expanded its activities from evidence based advocacy, and facilitating national and governorate dialogue on child sensitive social protection, to including supporting the GoI in planning, designing, budgeting, and implementing child-sensitive social policies at central and governorate level.

UNICEF and the MoP prepared a child sensitive protection package proposal, which was endorsed by the MoP and MoLSA. This proposal was presented and discussed with the Parliament Education Committee. Advocacy efforts to implement this child benefit package have been made throughout 2013 at various levels and are ongoing.

The Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Section (Knowledge Management), with the support of the SPS, disseminated the results of the fourth Multiple-Indicator Cluster Survey among experts and decision-makers on a national and sub-national level. With the objective to identify child deprivations on a governorate level, UNICEF in partnership with the MoP conducted a series of workshops, which generated specific evidence on child deprivations and strategies to address them. Building on these outcomes, UNICEF initiated direct technical support to expand analytical findings by launching a wider Social Policy Analysis and Planning (SPAP) initiative. UNICEF responded to subsequent government requests and now collaborates with three of the most deprived governorates (ThiQar, Missan and Dohuk) to implement the SPAP as a basis for governorate level planning to address child deprivations.

Expanding on its partnership, UNICEF and the MoP of the Kurdistan Region initiated collaboration on developing a Child Rights curriculum, which primarily aims to strengthen the technical capacity of government officials and students to develop policies and programmes on child rights.

UNICEF also responded to a government request to implement a fifth round of the MICS during 2014. Significant preparations have been concluded jointly with the Ministries of Planning at a Federal and Regional level, ensuring that all implementation modalities are in place.

**IR 2130/A0/07/309/004 IR S.5.2.1** By the end of 2014, National capacities for generation, collection and dissemination of knowledge and data including on equity of children and women are strengthened.

**Progress:** UNICEF focused on strengthening internal knowledge management (KM) mechanisms, as well as building the capacities of its partners to work with evidence to address child deprivations through a wide range of activities.

UNICEF designed a team site, which will strengthen UNICEF information sharing, standardization and real-time collaboration on documents. Partners from the Central Statistical Office (CSO) and the Kurdistan Region Statistical Office (KRSO) were trained on DevInfo7 in Turin. Subsequently an agreement was made to migrate data to DevInfo7 and reactivate the data dissemination website IraqInfo. However, increased advocacy with partners will be required to complete this plan. In preparation for the MICS5, technical staff of the CSO and the KRSO were trained to customize survey tools and to work with the new MICS5 computer based modality (CAPI).

Throughout 2013, UNICEF focused on strengthening the knowledge on child deprivations. Using MICS4 data, UNICEF conducted workshops with technical and decision making staff from the Federal and KRG Ministries of Planning, covering seven governorates. During the workshops, participants jointly analyzed governorate specific child deprivations and identified solutions to address them. As a result, UNICEF received a request from one of the most deprived governorates (ThiQar) to assist in planning an intervention. In addition, ThiQar established a Child Development Committee.

UNICEF also responded to several government requests. UNICEF assisted the KRSO to implement an Equity Analysis using MICS4 data. In addition, the Country Office produced a situation analysis report for Kurdistan, including a comparative trends analysis using MICS3 and MICS4 data. UNICEF provided technical guidance to the High Council of Women Affairs of Kurdistan to design and plan a study on FGM/C. Overall, UNICEF’s efforts contributed toward the strengthening of the evidence base for planning of its key partners.

**IR 2130/A0/07/309/005 IR S.5.2.2** By the end of 2014, GoI capacities to develop child and gender sensitive evidence-based social policies, including social protection, are strengthened.

**Progress:** During 2013, UNICEF advanced in strengthening the knowledge base of key governmental partners at federal and regional level on equity issues to inform policy making.

UNICEF shared five policy briefing papers, covering child sensitive social protection, identifying present gaps in social protection, proposing specific social protection packages, child responsive budgeting, and the establishment of a social protection floor. These papers were instrumental for advocacy and better informed decision making. In addition, UNICEF conducted eight workshops on child sensitive social protection, which resulted in a government agreement to implement decentralized Social Policy Analysis and Planning (SPAP). The joint implementation of the SPAP and the secondment of government staff to UNICEF will increase ownership, facilitate sharing of data, and build sustainable capacity in the country.
Based on the government’s request, UNICEF developed a paper on Child Sensitive Budgeting, which has become the basis for developing a joint workplan with the Ministry of Education (MoE) to implement a Child Responsive Budget (CRB) analysis. The Federal Parliament is currently discussing the passage of a social protection measure (cash transfers) to strengthen primary school enrolment.

As a result of UNICEF’s evidenced based advocacy, the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and the Ministry of Planning (MoP) committed to include a separate chapter on Child Poverty in the forthcoming Poverty Reduction Strategy 2015-2019.

UNICEF also provided technical capacity building support. A round of five training workshops on child sensitive social protection for the Child Welfare Committee, the KRG, the Parliament, and MoLSA resulted in improved technical capacities to mainstream an equity focus and child sensitive social protection into their work.

UNICEF’s efforts to strengthen inter-sectoral partnerships with the Ministry of Planning, UN Agencies and the World Bank assisted in advancing on national Social Protection policies.

UNICEF’s advocacy and support to the UNDAF analytical review process resulted in the inclusion of child deprivation as a theme in the forthcoming UNDAF 2015-2019.

**IR 2130/A0/07/309/006 IR 5.2.3** By the end of 2014, the country office, and relevant partners, supported with strategic planning for effective programme implementation and coordination under MoRES.

**Progress:** UNICEF has taken steps towards the identification of causes of child deprivations that can be addressed in the short-term and devised relevant strategies jointly with the Government of Iraq (GoI).

This process was initiated during governorate level MICS4 dissemination workshops, which were designed as interactive exercises for stakeholders to jointly identify child deprivations and to discuss solutions to address them. Over 100 participants from relevant line ministries and the Federal and Regional Ministries of Planning (MoP) took part. As a result, two reports were prepared, endorsed by the government and disseminated among participants. This intervention created the basis for specific follow up on launching a wider Social Protection Analysis and Planning (SPAP), notably in ThiQar governorate.

UNICEF responded to a request from the Ministry of Planning (MoP) to update existing evidence and to implement new round of the MICS during 2014. A joint Project Document (PD) to implement MICS5 has been prepared and endorsed. Despite delays, UNICEF ensured that all technical pre-conditions are met. UNICEF’s continued collaboration with the MoP on key trainings and technical activities related to, e.g. survey design and data processing ensured that all necessary technical skills have been transferred to partners.

UNICEF advocacy and support to the UNDAF analytical review process resulted in the inclusion of child deprivation as a theme in the forthcoming UNDAF 2015-2019.
Effective Governance Structure

UNICEF has adequate governance structures in place as laid down in the Annual Management Plan. The emergency response to the Syrian crisis started in early 2013 and posed a challenge as the magnitude of the influx was unexpected. The office was strained in a number of areas including the use of non UNICEF staff who were not familiar with UNICEF emergency processes. Delays in recruitment of key positions due to either slow processes or non-identification of good candidates challenged the office’s capacity to respond to crisis.

Although oversight structures are in place, all staff due to reasons mentioned above did not understand these. In early 2014, the office will endeavour to ensure that all staff understands the oversight structures through linking risk profiles to office profiles and enhancing of staff skills in the different areas. Over the past 12 months, the CMT strived to improve programme and operation performance and addressed weaknesses through scheduled CMT meetings and with appropriate actions. The office also looked at past audit recommendations and through the CMT further enforced compliance. The office has adequate reporting mechanisms for monitoring performance as it has set key performance indicators and has put in place quality assurance mechanisms. On audit performance, the office received satisfactory audit rating in the governance.

The effectiveness of risk mitigation practices that the office has put in place, have enabled the office to respond well to the regular and emergencies programmes without encountering major obstacles. On operational hazards, Iraq continues to be a high-risk country in terms of security and with only relative stability in KRG or Northern Iraq area. As a result of the above, operational costs in the country are quite high especially in Central, South and Eastern Iraq including Baghdad as the office either has to monitor programme delivery through facilitators or pay higher security escort costs.

Despite the above challenges, the office has adopted a practice of using facilitators to support programme delivery and this is being noted as a successful approach in enhancing and monitoring programme delivery.

The office continued to maintain its “low risk” status as assessed by the Division of Financial and Administrative Management in 2009 with respect to the preparation of local bank reconciliations.

Strategic Risk Management

The office has an updated risk profile where risks are clearly identified and with mitigations in place. The risk profile was shared with staff / CMT and is available on the shared drive.

b) The office regularly uses the CMT, programme, operations, programme monitoring to assess risks and controls and in cases of inadequacies, developed tools for control and mitigations. There are structured approaches for regularly assessing risks, effective controls and mitigations in place. In addition to the above, the open door policy and management approach allows staff to alert management and others on high risk areas including undertaking business with government entities in Iraq.

c) Given the unique nature of the country programme, the office has ensured that it is risk informed and has put in place mechanisms in support of programme delivery

d) The office has an updated BCP that was tested in June 2013. Furthermore emergency response is mainstreamed across all programmes.

Evaluation

An independent evaluation of the EU-funded project to “Improve access to quality basic education in Iraq, especially for girls” was carried out. The objective of this evaluation was to determine, as systematically and objectively as possible, the relevance, appropriateness and coherence of the EU supported programme. The evaluation explicitly identifies the factors affecting the programme on these criteria (relevance, appropriateness, coherence, efficiency, connectedness, effectiveness), including operating factors within and
outside the control of UNICEF Iraq office. There is an on-going study on Out-of-School Children (OOSC) in Iraq, which report will be available in 2014.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

a) UNICEF has put in place good ICT solutions to influence policies. In the same regard, UNICEF is the lead agency for provision of internet access to several UN agencies in Baghdad including UNAMI. The office has a remote access policy and uses technology for collaboration and programme results.

b) UNICEF Iraq applications are maintained as per the organisation’s prescribed practices and there is a disaster recovery plan in support of ICT delivery and as part of the BCP.

c) Maintaining the Iraq Mail Server in Amman, within the Iraq liaison unit at the MENARO, has ensured the efficiency of the following ICT services:
   1. Replication and email backup for all Iraq offices is done using the ICT servers in Amman.
   2. All remote users continue to benefit from this high speed connection when using the VPN client to connect to servers in Amman.

d) **LTA support:** In 2013 the office entered into 8 LTAs in a number of areas and with an estimated target value of US$ 3.4 million, at the end of the year a total of US$ 1.4 million, had been spent on services provided through LTA support.

   1. Provision of Facilitators
   2. Transportation services for UNICEF staff
   3. Clearing and Forwarding Services
   4. LLTS: Event Management
   5. LLTS: Cargo Services
   6. OPNS-NZ: Provision of Conf./meeting Service
   7. LLTS-NZ: Renting Cars Services
   8. Cargo Transportation NZO

e) With regards to disposal of equipment, the office follows country guidelines for disposing equipment as part of the environmental protection policy. The country security situation does not offer much opportunity for recycling.

**Fund-raising and Donor Relations**

UNICEF submitted 100 per cent of donor reports for 2013. However, the emergency context and staff turnover resulted in sporadic delays in submission during 2013. Further, MENARO's Donor Report Quality Assessment (2012-13) identifies selected areas for improvement in UNICEF narrative and data reporting formats (based on a two-report random sampling). These challenges have been recognized and a quality assurance mechanism and revised work-flow has been put in place. Improvements for 2014 are expected.

**Management of Financial and Other Assets**

- UNICEF received satisfactory audit rating in the operation area and for compliance the office uses its updated risk profile with mitigations to ensure that risks are lessened or addressed.

- The planned resources are equally put to good use and as per planned results.

- The CMT monitors contributions management (including budget control) based on financial procedures to ensure that funds are used for the intended purposes. In addition, it reviews progress against set indicators and priorities. The office spent RR resources well in 2013. Unfortunately the security situation, changes in government priorities, in some sectors, it was not easy to use all the grants within the original life of the grants. Of 270 DCTs, the ICO had none outstanding in the category of 9 months and above.
The office continued to maintain its “low risk” status as assessed by the Division of Financial and Administrative Management in 2009 with respect to the preparation of local bank reconciliations.

UNICEF reported fewer efficiency gains and costs savings the only notable ones were on the use of facilitators in the monitoring of programme, which approach is lower that use of extended security by say 80-90 per cent as such there were notable cost savings.

Most of the RR and OR was spent as planned, challenges on expenditure were noted around ORE as most of it came in the third quarter of the year in addition, some NGOs and UNICEF contracting processes did inhibit a quick turn around on contracting.

It should be noted that Iraq is not yet a HACT country. The DCT, though processed through the FACE form, the UNCT / UNDG agencies have never taken steps in regularising DCT management as most UNDG agencies have been non-resident. The Country Office has received minimal support from the country or host government in this regard. It is, however, hoped that in 2014 the UNDG agencies, will start a dialogue with the relevant government actors to strengthen the support. That said, the office assessed key IPs and will continue to provide capacity development and realistic support in this regard including enhanced assessment of IPs prior to activity commencement.

Supply Management

During the year 2013, supply performance and contracting activities were planned in collaboration with the programme clusters. Unfortunately and at the end of the 1st quarter of 2013 and due to the emergency related to the Syrian refugee influx both the supply procurement and contracting activities changed as the office had to respond to an acute emergency. As such, the original supply plan component became irrelevant in relation to the country situation.

In order to respond to the emerging needs of the supply component, the office had to procure supplies locally, regionally and offshore. Unfortunately, due to the current situation in the country, local procurement and contracting for the reporting period was not based on fair and competitive prices as in most cases there were very few suppliers and contractors and in some situations it was noted that the office had been undertaking business with the same suppliers for a long time.

The quality of some local supplies in Iraq still remains a concern as in most cases they are imported and not genuine as such, the office had to exercise caution in deciding on what to procure locally and offshore. Furthermore, local supplies are highly inflated in terms of prices. Besides the local market base is not widely developed especially in Central, South and Eastern parts of the country. In the KRG region, the country is beginning to experience the presence and availability of quality supplies and contractors.

Given that most agencies were operating outside Iraq with the exception of UNHCR and UNAMI, there was limited collaboration in terms of overall supply operations and contracting this in the end did impact on the overall collective bargaining and delivering as one.

With regards to in country logistics, the country security situation did hinder greatly the delivery of supplies due to the presence of many road blocks and local infighting inhibiting the monitoring of programme supplies to the end users by UNICEF staff as the office had to rely on facilitators to achieve this objective.

During 2013, adequate support was provided by the Supply Division, especially on emergency response. There were no innovations and less or limited capacity development was provided to counterparts due to the current security situation.

LTA support: In 2013, the office entered into eight LTAs in a number of areas and with an estimated target value of USD 3.4 million, at the end of the year a total of USD 1.4 million, had been spent on services provided through LTA support.
1. Provision of Facilitators
2. Transportation services for UNICEF staff
3. Clearing and Forwarding Services
4. LLTS: Event Management
5. LLTS: Cargo Services
6. OPNS-NZ: Provision of Conference/meeting Service
7. LLTS-NZ: Renting Cars Services
8. Cargo Transportation NZO

The country’s supply procurement process was based on solicitations for local goods and services as follows:
Request for Quotation: 29
Invitation to Bid: 34
Request for Proposal: 10

The total number of Offshore Procurements were for a value of: USD 3,755,365.00 (representing USD 1,301,750.00 for NZO – KRG, and USD 2,453,615.00 for Central Iraq).

The total number of local procurements of goods for Iraq were 73 procurements with a value of USD 3,136,821.00

The office, due to the emergency and current nature of the country programme, has “distribution centres – Warehouses” in both Central and Northern Iraq – KRG with a value of prepositioned supplies as follows:
- Baghdad WH USD 869,639.17
- Erbil WH USD 1,135,102.86

Note: All the above supplies in the warehouse were balances as of 31st Dec 2013 and all stocks were not for regular programme but for emergency response – prepositioning.

During the reporting period, the office received supplies as donations in-kind for winter clothes from the US Fund for Syrian refugees in addition to thermal kits.

All-in-all, the country office reviewed 35 CRC submissions that were reviewed in 20 meetings for a total value of USD 7,122,655.12.

The number of Corporate contracts or POs issued for 2013 were for a total value of USD 3,449,532.87 as per the table below:

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<tr>
<td>CP</td>
<td>USD 465,846.99</td>
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<td>PME</td>
<td>USD 69,218.68</td>
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<tr>
<td>COM</td>
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During 2014, the office plans to undertake a supplier profile review and update it, as it is being noted that KRG in particular has a good number of quality suppliers and contractors who are in position to undertake business with UNICEF.
### Human Resources

a) Based on the mid-year review in March 2013, the office adjusted its staffing and programme structure in accordance with the MICs4 results. As a consequence the office established 14 new posts and delimited 70 posts (mostly vacant) effective 01 July 2013 in addition to changing reporting of some posts and upgrading/downgrading a few.

b) During the recruitment process for regular programme the management did take note of staffing mix whilst selecting from among qualified candidates against six key IP positions and three NPOs.

c) Managers provide feedback to their supervisees regularly as part of performance management. The CMT monitors the timely completion of E-PAS/PAS, which reflects the importance management attaches to performance management.

d) The influx of more than 50,000 Syrian refugees during the last quarter of 2013 overstretched the humanitarian response capacity of UN agencies.

In support of the emergency response, the office brought in 19 staff on surge mission, nine under standby arrangements, 16 under SSAs (12 international and four national), 19 under TA contract (12 international and seven national), and 25 under institutional arrangements through the support of the Regional Office, EMOPs and NYHQ. This is a significant achievement given the security situation of the country and logistical challenges.

e) Staff members are aware of the counselling services available within UNAMI which are utilized by UN staff including UNICEF as part of the integrated mission on common services.

f) Given the security and logistical challenges, UNICEF staff and families have no access to face-to-face UN cares learning sessions on HIV in the workplace. As such, the new UN Cares e-course announced by UNICEF globally in April 2013 turned out to be extremely beneficial in the context of Iraq. This provided an opportunity, especially for national staff, to access materials and familiarize themselves with the 10 minimum standards.

g) Management fully implemented the Office Improvement Plan, developed in consultation with the staff association and consisting of issues/areas requiring attention in light of the 2011 Global Staff Survey. The main areas identified were:

1. Awareness of standards of conduct
2. Job pride/motivation
3. Clarity of Goals
4. Management Interaction
5. Knowledge sharing/internal communications
6. Staff security
7. Staff Association

h) As part of the management priority and audit recommendation towards building capacity of staff, the office supported 22 staff members in meeting their individual training needs identified by them through their PER/individual work plans in the beginning of the year.

An inclusive staff development needs assessment was undertaken in 2012 in response of the request of mainly national staff. A certified career development course was provided. In addition, a number of staff also benefited from group learning activities through a 3-day leadership training attended by 25 national and international professionals during the period from 23-25 November and personal effectiveness training attended by all GS staff at GS-4 level and above during 26-28 November 2013 in Erbil. An international firm based in India - USHA international, was contracted to facilitate these trainings through a competitive selection process.
Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

UNICEF delivery and more especially on the operational side is coordinated through a common services approach spearheaded by UNAMI. Though some of the services require some good attention but should be noted that in the area of admin services, the office has been able to realize some cost savings as fewer admin staff are needed to oversee admin support in both Baghdad and Erbil. The realized cost savings in this regard are estimated at 6 GS-6 positions, which translates to over USD 300,000 per annum.

In the areas of VISION support to say Basra, the office has been able to let the staff in this field office focus more on providing programme monitoring and implementation with limited Vision access thus letting Baghdad process all its transactions. This has led to efficiency gains in terms of Vision licenses and reduction in the numbers of actors.

On joint UN operations and in the case of travel, the use of UN plane as offered through UNAMI common services to the different geographical areas, has further led to cost reduction, saved resources as cost is lower compared to flying on commercial aircrafts. It has been noted the service offers immediate or sustained programme support and monitoring. Overall, the office, saved closer to USD 1.2 million on travel with the use of UNAMI offered services for the reporting period. Again and bearing in mind the security situation the service is rather safe for UN staff.

The closure ISCA office in Amman that was estimated at USD 770,000 yearly and the establishment of a support unit in the RO at USD 200,000 resulted in a total savings of $ 570,000 per year.

Similarly, UNICEF has taken the lead in re-establishing UN’s presence in Basra - South of Iraq, and signed a cost-sharing MOU with UNHCR on the establishment of a Joint UNICEF / UNHCR office. This cost sharing arrangement – UNICEF’s contribution is 45 per cent of the total cost, resulted in substantial savings to the organization. UNICEF paid USD 102,060 instead of USD 226,800, thereby saving USD 124,740 per year, and paid a onetime capital investment USD 72,724 instead of paying USD 163,353, thus saving USD 90,629 on the one-time payment in 2013.

The abolition of two P-5 posts (WASH and CP) and creation of two P-4’s as a replacement, led to a saving of USD 100,000 in 2013. It should be noted this information was earlier highlighted in our last year’s CPMP submission.

Changes in AMP & CPMP

The AMP for 2014, will focus on areas related to systems enhancement and capacity development of staff counterparts in areas related to; VISION, DCT / HACT management and in addition will look at how best to use the ERP to achieve results for children.

In addition to the above the AMP for 2014, will aim at preparing the office for the new country programme by looking at linkages between processes and actors including accountability. In 2014, the office shall review and update all work processes and re-design to suit country office situations bearing in mind the need to comply with good internal controls.

The area of resource mobilization and contracting including banking services will be included as key activities that require attention in the AMP for 2014.

The AMP for 2014 will equally facilitate the development and finalization of the new CPMP for the coming years.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

ALP-Accelerated Learning Programme
CAAC- Children Affected by the Armed Conflict
CBMRE- Community Based Mine Risk Reduction
CCC - Core Commitment for Children in Humanitarian Action
CEDAW - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CMT - Country Management Team
CPAP - Country Programme Action Plan
CPD - Country Programme Document
CP - Child Protection
DoE - Directorates of Education
DoH - Directorates of Health
EECE - Early Child Education
EFA - Education For All
ENBC - Essential Newborn Care
EOR - Emergency Resources
EPI - Expanded Programme on Immunization
EPRP - Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan
FGM - Female Genital Mutilation
FTP - File-Transfer Protocol
GBV - Gender-Based Violence
GoI - Government of Iraq
HAC - Humanitarian Action
HACT - Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
HIS - Health Information System
HIV - Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRO - Human Rights Office
ICO - Iraq Country Office
ICT - Information and Communication Technology
IDPs - Internally Displaced Persons
IEC - Information, Education, Communication (Materials)
IHAP - Iraq Humanitarian Action Plan
IMCD - Integrated Management of Childhood Diseases
IMEP - Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
IMR - Infant Mortality Rate
INES - Iraqi National Education Strategy
IPSM - Iraq Public Sector Modernisation
IPSAS - International Public Sector Accounting Standards
ISCA - Iraq Support Centre in Amman
KRG - Kurdistan Regional Government
KRSO - Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office
MAC - Ministerial Advisory Committee
MCH - Maternal and Child Health
MDGs - Millennium Development Goals
MENARO - Middle East and North Africa Regional Office
MICS - Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MMPW - Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works
MMR - Maternal Mortality Rate
MMT KRG - Ministry of Municipalities and Tourism
MoD - Ministry of Defence
MoHESR - Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research
MoHR - Ministry of Human Rights
MoI - Ministry of Industry
MoJ - Ministry of Justice
MoLSA - Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
MoP - Ministry of Planning
MOSS - Minimum Operating Security Standards
MoU - Memorandum of Understanding
MoYS - Ministry of Youth and Sports
MRE - Mine Risk Education
MRM - Monitoring Reporting Mechanism
MTR - Mid-Term Review
## Evaluation

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<th>Type of Report</th>
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<td>&quot;Improve access to quality basic education in Iraq&quot; - Mid-Term Evaluation</td>
<td>2013/007</td>
<td>Evaluation</td>
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<td>KAP Survey on Breastfeeding in Iraq</td>
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<td>KAP Survey on Salt Iodization in Iraq</td>
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<td>Iraq National Micronutrient Deficiencies: Assessment and Response 2011-2012</td>
<td>2013/003</td>
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<td>Water Demand Management (WDM) Plan Study</td>
<td>2013/004</td>
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<td>The Evolution Of The Situation Of Children And Women In The Kurdistan Region Of Iraq, 2006-2011</td>
<td>2013/005</td>
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<td>Juvenile Care Council, Central Government and Kurdistan Region. Analysis of Current Situation and Recommendations for Improvement</td>
<td>2013/006</td>
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## Other Publications

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<tr>
<td>1 Background Report and Action Plan For an Analysis of the Bottlenecks of Child Deprivations (ABCD) in Iraq</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Analysis Of Bottlenecks Of Child Deprivations (ABCD) in The Southern Governorates Of Basra, Missan, Muthana And Thi-Qar</td>
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<td>3 Analysis Of Bottlenecks Of Child Deprivations (ABCD) in The Kurdistan Region Governorates</td>
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