

Kyrgyzstan

Executive Summary

In 2015 the operating environment for UNICEF in Kyrgyzstan was affected by a dynamic political and economic situation: including an economic downturn influenced by Russia's economy; concerns for shrinking democracy due to Parliamentary decisions, including a discriminatory anti-LGBT law and a law on foreign agents that may restrict the work of civil society organisations; and Kyrgyzstan's annulment of its aid agreement with the US Government. Moreover, 2015 saw two new governments formed, in May and November: in May new ministers of Education and Science, Health and Justice were appointed.

The economic downturn led to the return of migrants from Russia, rising unemployment and increasing social vulnerability. Religious radicalisation, although not yet widely observed, constitutes a potential new risk to stability. In the context of lingering inter-ethnic tension, the growing numbers of young people who are not either employed or in school may lead to increased radicalisation. Other risk factors include high public debt and tensions in border areas.

Despite this fragility the country remained largely stable in 2015. UNICEF quickly developed rapport with the new Government, and expanded UNICEF's leadership as a trusted and credible voice for children. Specifically, UNICEF supported the Government to organise several high-level policy meetings, raising the profile of children and equity and promoting the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the new Sustainable Development Agenda.

Working closely with the Regional Office, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan used findings and recommendations from multi-country evaluations of UNICEF's work in early learning and school readiness, infant and under-five mortality and justice for children. This contributed to Regional Key Leadership Area (RKLA) results, and helped to intensify policy and public advocacy aimed at tackling barriers that hinder marginalised children's and families' access to social services. This resulted in the major achievements highlighted below:

- Due to UNICEF advocacy, Kyrgyzstan's Government endorsed the 2015-2017 'State Food Security and Nutrition Programme'. This programme highlights the importance of inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms involving different government bodies, donors, civil society, business and academia in achieving sustainable improvements to the health and nutrition of children and mothers.
- A universal, state funded and full-year (480 hour) compulsory school preparation programme was launched in September. The Government identified particularly marginalised communities for opening 100 alternative early learning spaces in 2016. This was a result of long-standing UNICEF efforts to model innovative early learning programmes, leverage resources and accelerate efforts to reduce inequities in preschool education.
- The Government's 'Safe Schools and Pre-schools in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2015-2024' Programme was adopted. This programme contains detailed plans for retrofitting, reconstructing and rehabilitating school and preschool buildings based on assessment results supported by UNICEF Kyrgyzstan and contingent on funding availability. In 2015, the Government allocated US\$107 million to retrofit, reconstruct and/or construct 430 schools and preschools.

- Following long-term UNICEF policy advocacy, the Government approved in June a regulation related to identification and case management of children in difficult life situations. The regulation is the first document to guide multi-sectoral case management and serves as a foundation document for social work in Kyrgyzstan.

Significant shortfalls that still need Country Office attention include:

- UNICEF efforts to promote child-sensitive state budgeting remained limited to high-level policy dialogue and advice. The Government continued to utilise input-based budgeting instead of programme budgeting. Therefore the effectiveness of public expenditures cannot be measured against programmatic targets and indicators, and there is a lack of accountability for the realisation of children's rights.
- Efforts to institutionalise “equity-focused programming” within Government structures continued to pose a challenge. Results monitoring tends to be fragmented by sectors, due to the gap of systemic data and analysis between the National Statistics Committee and line ministries, among ministries and governmental institutions, and even within sectors. Building governmental institutional capacity for systemic equity-based child rights monitoring is important.

With the results achieved in the Country Programme, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan contributed to addressing a structural cause for potential instability and inter-ethnic tensions. Productive partnership with major donors supported cross-border cooperation between UNICEF Country Offices in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, aimed at mitigating the risk of instability through child and youth empowerment, peacebuilding and cross-border cooperation in the Fergana Valley. Donor funding also helped to address bottlenecks to accessing quality healthcare, early learning and education services for the most vulnerable children.

In addition the Country Office, in strategic partnership with UN agencies, addressed complex issues preventing the advancement of peacebuilding through targeted and inclusive interventions in the education, youth and social policy sectors. The Government group overseeing the initiative reported reduced tensions within and between communities because of these joint projects funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund.

Humanitarian Assistance

As Kyrgyzstan remains highly prone to disasters and other potential threats, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued to support the Government and other partners to better understand risk and vulnerabilities, the Core Commitments for Children in emergencies and humanitarian response standards, in order to build up capacity at systems level.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued to lead the education and water and sanitation (WASH) humanitarian sectors, and participated in a number of preparedness events and simulation exercises conducted by the Ministry of Emergencies, which help to maintain the Country Office's level of preparation. The exercises also strengthened the Ministry's ability to coordinate with local government structures, disaggregate data about vulnerable groups and refine rapid needs assessment and reporting tools.

On 17 November, at 23.29, a magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck in the south of Kyrgyzstan with its epicentre near Osh City, in Osh Province. Three districts in Osh Province were affected: Kara Suu, Alay and Uzgen. The epicentre was registered in Kara Suu district. Aftershocks followed for several days after the disaster. According to the Ministry of Emergencies, 3,512 families were affected, including 456 whose houses were totally destroyed. In total, 17,560 people were

severely affected by the earthquake and experienced pressing needs for winterised shelter, food and non-food items and psychosocial support for children and families. The last aftershock, with a magnitude of 4.5, was registered on 24 November; no major damage or casualties were reported.

Based on the results of a rapid needs assessment, UNICEF covered 300 of the most affected families. More than 1,200 children were supported with education and recreation supplies. At the end of 2015 six trained and certified psychologists hired by UNICEF continued to work to identify children in need of psychosocial support and provide immediate psychological consultations and to identify families with symptoms of stress in the most affected areas in Osh Province. Fear, anxiety, sleeplessness and headaches were observed in many families. As of 18 December, 494 children in need of psychosocial support had been identified, of whom 172 had been referred for social, educational or medical services. Many children were relocated to relatives living in unaffected areas. Most children are attending schools, as school buildings were not affected in most locations.

In order to enable the Ministry of Emergencies and all humanitarian aid organisations to adequately coordinate the response in support of the affected population, UNICEF advocated for the creation of a rapid and effective information management system. UNICEF guided the French non-government organization (NGO) ACTED to create the <http://tinyurl.com/Earthquake-Response-KG> online portal, which will be under the supervision of the Disaster Response Coordination Unit set up by the Government and its international partners. The Ministry has suggested expanding the tool to also coordinate the response from private organisations, and to coordinate information on needs.

Overall, the support provided amounted to US\$157,000 worth of stocks distributed and emergency response activities. The Country Office requires additional funds for emergency preparedness in 2016.

Mid-Term Review of the Strategic Plan

Following the Executive Directive and subsequent guidance on implementation of the Strategic Plan (SP) 2014-2017, early in 2014 UNICEF Kyrgyzstan made adjustments to its Country Programme structure. This enabled the Country Office to align its programme results with the SP 2014 -2017 outcome areas; simplifying programme planning, reporting and implementation; and adding clarity to results formulation within the UNICEF reporting system using InSight's Results Assessment Module (RAM).

A few key lessons learnt in the implementation of the SP include:

(1) Challenges in Institutionalising “equity-focused programming and monitoring” as a “child rights monitoring system” in the Governmental structure

One of the major challenges to implementation of the SP was related to the objective of institutionalising “equity-focused programming” within government structures. While UNICEF internal results monitoring has improved, it is important to build the Government's institutional capacity for systemic equity-based child rights monitoring. Unfortunately, in the current Government system, results monitoring has a tendency to be fragmented by sectors, due to gaps in systemic data and analysis between the National Statistical Committee and line ministries, among ministries and governmental institutions and even within sectors.

It would be useful for UNICEF to have concrete guidelines on how to provide technical

assistance to build “systemic child rights monitoring” into government and public institutions, to assist in the development of capacity for sector-based child rights monitoring and analysis, particularly for monitoring the situation of the most disadvantaged and excluded children and families in communities, and in analysing the bottlenecks faced by interventions to support them. Overcoming sector-based fragmentation in results monitoring requires good guidance on how to build a harmonised approach to conceptual definition, data collection and analysis,

(2) Social inclusion is a cross-cutting matter for all sectors, while ‘social protection’ is a sector requiring systemic interventions to address equity gaps for children.

The children who are most disadvantaged in Kyrgyzstan often suffer from multiple deprivations, such as poverty, having a disability and being deprived of parental care. This requires a coordinated intervention from multiple sectors. Addressing social inclusion is a matter that cuts across all sectors; thus having it as a separate results category creates a redundant and confusing reporting line.

In the meantime, one important sector, that constantly requires a systemic intervention, is the social protection sector. Its mandate is to ensure that a social safety net is in place for the most vulnerable families and children, and thereby to ensure protection of the population against any increase in social vulnerability.

It would be useful to revisit the definition of ‘social inclusion’ within the SP, in such a way that social inclusion would be a strategic approach for all results areas, and to recognise the importance of ‘social protection’ sector interventions by including it as one of the results areas.

Thematic by nature, the SP requires complementing sector-based approaches with more attention to synergies across sectors and to multi-sectoral action. Further guidance and exchanges on inter-sectoral/multi-sectoral actions and experiences would further improve results for social inclusion. In Kyrgyzstan, a small country with a population of 6 million and a total Country Programme budget of approximately US\$10 million, it is very important to operationalise Country Programme implementation in an inter-sectoral manner and to enhance multi-sectoral linkages, so that sector-based results are better coordinated for reducing social disparity and equity gaps.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

C4D – Communication for development

CBK - Community-Based Kindergarten

CEE/CIS – Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States

CFS – Child Friendly School

CMT – Country Management Team

CP - Child Protection

CPAP – Country Programme action plan

CRC – Convention on the Rights of the Child

CSC - Child Support Centre

CwD – Children with disabilities

DCT – Direct cash transfers

DDPSSSES - Department for Disease Prevention and State Sanitary Epidemiological Surveillance

DRR - Disaster risk reduction

ECD - Early childhood development
ECE - Early childhood education
EPC – Effective Perinatal Care
EiE - Education in emergencies
ELDS - Early Learning Development Standards
EMIS - Education management information system
GPE - Global Partnership on Education
HACT - Harmonised approach to cash transfer
INEE - Interagency Network for Education in Emergencies
J4C - Justice for Children
KAE - Kyrgyz Academy of Education
MCH - Maternal and child health
MHM - Menstrual hygiene management
MIS - Management information system
MLE - Multilingual education
MTR – Mid-term review
MoES - Ministry of Education and Science
NGO – Non Government Organization
OOSC- Out-of-school children
PCA - Programme cooperation agreement
PPP – Public/private partnerships
RO – UNICEF Regional Office for CEE-CIS
SEN – Special educational needs
SFDRR - Sendai Framework on DRR
SP – Strategic Plan (UNICEF)
SUN – Scaling-up nutrition
SwV - School without violence
VAC - Violence against children
WASH - Water, sanitation and hygiene
WB – World Bank
WINS - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools
YFHC – Youth-friendly health centre
ZO - Osh zone office

Capacity Development

One of UNICEF Kyrgyzstan’s key strategies is to facilitate community empowerment by raising awareness and increasing knowledge so that people demand better services for children and change their own behaviour. In 2015 a communication for development (C4D) strategy was developed to integrate the C4D approach more systematically into the Country Programme. Qualitative research helped to analyse behavioural practices and attitudes towards children with disabilities and to measure the effectiveness of video edutainment.

In communities awareness-raising on life-saving issues, including vaccination, led to 200,000 hesitant parents having their children vaccinated. Vaccination messages disseminated in 40 mosques and training of Islamic women leaders (along with international and local NGOs, who engaged a further 18,500 religious youth and women) led to changes in attitudes among religious parents. Awareness of danger signs in pregnancy among women in southern Kyrgyzstan increased by 25 per cent points between 2013 and 2015.

Social mobilisation took place in 14 municipalities and five new settlements around Bishkek to

ensure the sustainability of out-of-school children (OOSC) efforts. About 400 social activists learned to lead community support in schools, organising sustainable, income-generating activities for those in need.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued to use the social learning model in edutainment to improve parenting in the areas of health, juvenile justice, children's voices and prevention of violence. According to a nationwide survey, around 25 per cent of the population followed the recent UNICEF-supported "Family Stories" social serial; and 80 per cent of them expressed willingness to try out new parenting practices.

UNICEF continued its capacity development work for disaster risk reduction (DRR): a simulation exercise led by the Ministry of Emergencies identified weaknesses in coordination on the ground, collection of disaggregated data on children and women and areas for improvement. Activities were also undertaken to strengthen community, school and preschool capacity for DRR.

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan's strong influence on national policy to advance children's issues, backed by analytical evidence generation, brought remarkable achievements in 2015.

With UNICEF Kyrgyzstan's support, the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) revised the legal framework for early childhood education financing and the preschool curriculum. UNICEF's community-based kindergarten (CBK) model was further expanded with the opening of 100 new CBKs, ensuring social inclusion for the most marginalised children. For the first time, the Ministry initiated a full-year compulsory school preparatory programme, ensuring nationwide equitable access for 77,000 preschool children, including children with disabilities. These achievements were built on UNICEF-commissioned analysis and policy dialogue: "The Impact of Preschool Education on Students Achievements" and "Sustainability Analysis of Community Based Kindergartens in Kyrgyzstan."

The Government's "Safe Schools and Preschools in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2015-2024" programme was approved, based on a UNICEF-supported risk assessment of school infrastructure against natural disasters. As a result, the Government allocated US\$107 million to retrofit, reconstruct or build new facilities at 430 schools.

Another achievement was approval of the national food security and nutrition programme and law on flour fortification. This was led by evidence provided by UNICEF Kyrgyzstan and key partners on cost-effectiveness and savings resulting from investment in nutrition-specific interventions.

A remarkable success in advancing political will took place during two high-level advocacy events in 2015, in which the Prime Minister specifically highlighted the importance of investing in children. One was the "National Forum on Children's Right to Live in a Family Environment", concerning more effective national policy on protecting most vulnerable children. Another was a UN award to the Government for achieving MDG4, highlighting Government commitment to further advancing child mortality reduction by reaching out to the most vulnerable children, especially those with disabilities.

Partnerships

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan's partnership strategy advanced in 2015 with the aim of fostering stronger public commitment to children. UNICEF further strengthened its partnership with local administrations and the private sector, beyond its well-established partnership with the national Government and Parliament.

Special efforts were made in policy dialogue with provincial governors. Progress was made in this regard in southern Kyrgyzstan, where Osh Province committed to addressing child protection issues with district and municipality leaders. An advocacy event is planned for early 2016 to sustain critical social services at community level.

To support development opportunities for vulnerable adolescents, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan entered into a partnership for social entrepreneurship with the youth committee of the Osh Mayor's Office. Around 100 socially vulnerable young people were trained on the basics of business development. As a result, four socially oriented and environmentally friendly business ideas were selected and funded by UNICEF and the Osh Mayor's Office.

A new initiative on corporate social responsibility (the Invest for Education Forum) was launched in November 2015 to facilitate public/private partnerships (PPPs) between private companies and the MoES on major education projects. PPPs would allow the Ministry to benefit from the expertise of the private sector while leading on policy and planning. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan plans to replicate this experience in other social sectors next year.

At the national level, a notable partnership continued with the Scaling-Up Nutrition movement, where UNICEF Kyrgyzstan is the country facilitator. With the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan actively promoted multi-sectoral approaches and improvements to coordination mechanisms for food security and nutrition to ensure children and women's right to proper nutrition. This partnership was formalised through endorsement of the first Government programme on food security and nutrition.

External Communication and Public Advocacy

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan places strategic emphasis on wide outreach to the general public for child rights advocacy, often conducted through social media and networks of young people.

With around 4,200 subscribers, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan's Facebook page is the fastest-growing non-profit organisation page in Kyrgyzstan. Its share remained at 2 per cent of all Facebook users in the country, with the number doubling in 2015. The YouTube page had around 1,700 subscribers and 1,300,000 viewers. An Instagram page was also opened. Media monitoring revealed an almost daily UNICEF presence in the media thanks to joint media plans with partners, quarterly media trips and orientation meetings for journalists on specific programmatic areas such as immunisation and multilingual education.

Around 600 opinion-makers and 6,000 young activists made a commitment to promoting children's rights after learning about them during professional or interest-based activities. These included "Red Jolbors" (Central Asian Festival of Commercial Video-Makers), "IQ Challenge Game", "XII Cub of Manas 2015" International Conference on Debates, "Jashtar Camp" National Conference, "Evergrinia" Youth Camp, the national meeting on role models with youth, popular television programmes, as well as volunteer and civil society movements against child violence and for the rights of persons with disabilities. Around 150 influential persons (the First Lady, the ex-President, academics, business people, civil society activists and artists) promoted reading

to children and committed to supporting optimal nutrition practices through the multisectoral nutrition platform.

The UN's seventieth anniversary, adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 26th anniversary of the CRC provided key platforms for raising awareness about children's rights. Schoolchildren learned about the SDGs and their rights at the 'World's Largest Lessons', organised by the MoES. UNICEF staff spoke about children's rights on popular television programmes and at open lectures dedicated to the UN and the CRC at schools and universities.

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

In 2015 UNICEF Kyrgyzstan engaged in cooperation with neighbours in Central Asia to promote regional stability, and with other countries to develop government capacity.

A joint project with UNICEF Tajikistan was initiated in 2015 to address inequities and conflict drivers in border areas between the two countries. The project brought frontline professionals and young people together to discuss common concerns and build trust. For example, an early childhood development and peacebuilding workshop in December engaged stakeholders from both countries in dialogue about the role of pre-school education as a shared space to promote peacebuilding and build tolerance.

A mission by Kazakhstan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Kyrgyzstan, supported by the UN Country Team (UNCT), may open up a new partnership allowing Kazakhstan to support the realisation of children's rights in Kyrgyzstan. Meanwhile, education experts from Kazakhstan shared experience of providing multi-lingual education in 59 schools in conflict-prone areas of Kyrgyzstan.

More broadly, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan linked Government and civil society representatives with counterparts in Estonia and Serbia to exchange experience on national and local youth work. Kyrgyzstan's delegation learned about youth services and governance mechanisms supporting youth participation in national and local development. The Government now intends to include indicators on decentralised youth work in its national youth strategy.

During a study tour to Armenia, representatives from the MoES and Ministry of Emergencies familiarised themselves with the Armenian experience of DRR in education and the ministry of emergencies' capacity for disaster prevention, preparedness and response. Delegates agreed on key steps to institutionalise DRR in education in Kyrgyzstan.

During a visit by Government officials, NGO staff and academics to Bulgaria, participants learned about policy and practice in delegating planning and financial responsibilities to the local level. The knowledge acquired helped them to finalise an advocacy plan for financial sustainability in decentralised social service delivery.

Identification and Promotion of Innovation

In 2015, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan tried to strengthen its outreach by using innovative tools, including mobile technology and new games for children.

Parents of 90 per cent of children living with HIV in Kyrgyzstan increased their children's compliance with anti-retroviral treatment and created a self-help network as a result of an innovative tool introduced by UNICEF Kyrgyzstan and the Ministry of Health based on a smartphone application. For medical doctors the tool made real-time monitoring of anti-retroviral

treatment and generating reports and data for each client possible, and enabled them to reach out to children living with HIV who are not adhering to the treatment.

Schoolchildren in 50 schools improved their hand-washing practice thanks to the use of the “GloGerm” germ spread simulation kit as part of the WASH Guidebook for teachers. Teachers used the kit to increase the interest of children in WASH issues and demonstrate problem zones on hands that often remain dirty after washing.

To celebrate Child Rights Day, influencers promoted child rights through the use of games. The Quest Game “My Rights” methodology was developed and piloted for 1,000 schoolchildren with the help of young volunteers and members of a foundation that unites Kyrgyzstan’s cyclists, with support from the Ministry of Education and Science. The “IQ Challenge Game”, which brought together 80 well-known Bishkek intellectuals, was dedicated to children who had changed the world and focused on children’s agency, their rights and inclusiveness. After the game, the participants organised a flash mob on Twitter: on the eve of Child Rights Day they changed their account photos into childhood photos and encouraged others to do so by informing them about the CRC.

Support to Integration and cross-sectoral linkages

Often favourable outcomes for children – such as attending school or accessing healthcare when unwell – require a combination of health, education, protection, social welfare and/or other interventions. By seeking to model more active cross-sectoral cooperation, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan tries to ensure access to basic services for the most vulnerable children.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued to facilitate cross-sectoral work to institutionalise case management in social work. It brought together, in a coordinated manner, social and child protection, health, education, juvenile police service providers and local authorities for outreach and social support to the most disadvantaged children and their families. With technical support from UNICEF Kyrgyzstan, and in line with the national social protection strategy for 2015-2017 the Prime Minister signed into law a Government regulation to enact this inter-sectoral approach. Implementation led to the elaboration of guidelines, in-service training, monitoring and coaching programmes.

Education and social and child protection partners’ joint work on out-of-school children (OOSC) resulted in reintegration into formal schooling of about 3,000 of 4,741 children not in school or identified as at risk of dropping out. The multiple barriers faced by vulnerable children were addressed at the local level on a case-by-case basis.

One of the Country Office’s immediate priorities was to change mind-sets and promulgate policies to increase the realisation of the rights of children with disabilities’ by focusing on early identification and early intervention. An inter-ministerial roundtable was organised on early intervention, which emphasised the international classification system based on a functional approach. The Ministry of Health conducted four weeks of training for medical and social workers on how to support children with disabilities and improve the environment so they can live without barriers.

Service Delivery

Particular attention was paid to reducing social disparities by taking steps to ensure that the most vulnerable have better access to services. Poor and inequitable access to services can be one of the structural causes for inter-ethnic tensions.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan has been addressing inequitable access to basic social services since 2012. The Country Programme targets 90 municipalities to promote peacebuilding by improving access to services. The quality of services for women and children has improved in 34 hospitals in southern Kyrgyzstan as a result of UNICEF-supported interventions. Advances include approval of new regulations, training on innovative forms of healthcare, provision of life-saving equipment and the introduction of integrated monitoring and supervision. MoH data for 2013 and 2015 show declines in unnecessary hospitalisation from 64 to 36.7 per cent, wrong diagnosis from 63.3 to 36.7 per cent and wrong treatment (as defined in WHO criteria) from 84.7 to 58.4 per cent.

Based on a 2015 assessment, since 2011 immunisation cold chain storage capacity has increased from 42 to 96 per cent. The country has standard manuals on vaccine management and effective cold chain, developed with UNICEF Kyrgyzstan's support.

Now 1,060 children have access to quality education in 17 newly established and well-equipped CBKs, particularly in poor multi-ethnic communities in border areas with limited social services. This considerably reduces the equity gap and promotes inter-ethnic dialogue.

As a result of UNICEF's support, four hundred professionals from social services, the criminal execution inspectorate, the Ombudsman Institute and the police have greater capacity to provide child-sensitive services for juveniles in conflict with the law, and child victims of violence and abuse. Thirty per cent of national and local authorities learned about the nutrition surveillance system and food processing. Five thousand students in 40 schools accessed multi-lingual education with 2,000 trained educationalists, NGOs and local authority representatives.

Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by the United Nations Human Rights Council of the second national report of the Kyrgyz Republic took place in January 2015. The UPR resulted in 149 recommendations, of which 26 concerned children's rights. The Government approved most of the recommendations, including all child-rights related recommendations, while 18 recommendations were noted (but not approved). UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued to provide technical assistance in support of Government efforts to implement the UPR recommendations, including: amending the Ombudsman Law to align with international standards and comply with Paris Principles; revision of criminal legislation, the Civil Code, the Child Code and the law governing state-guaranteed legal aid to align with international standards; enhancement of the child protection system; and child rights implementation.

In order to implement the 2014 CRC Concluding Observations for Kyrgyzstan, a governmental work group was created with technical assistance from UNICEF Kyrgyzstan to revise the Child Code by introducing articles on corporate punishment, improved rights of children to live in a family environment and a non-violent society. In addition, the Governmental Coordination Council on the Child Rights Council was established at the end of 2015.

To promote ratification of the CRPD and support implementation of the rights of children with disabilities (CWD), the Government's multi-sectoral working group developed a road map on early identification and early intervention for CWD, with UNICEF technical assistance. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan also contributed to an emerging public movement for CWDs by supporting "Barrier-Free Life" events organised by parents, persons with disabilities, Japan's International Cooperation Agency and volunteers.

The successful finalisation and public presentation of the results of the MICS 2014 by Kyrgyzstan's National Statistics Committee contributed to further strengthening the evidence-based national monitoring system for children's rights.

Gender Mainstreaming and Equality

Issues of equitable access to education and health for women and girls raised by UNICEF Kyrgyzstan were included in the final statement of the international conference dedicated to the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, organised by Kyrgyzstan's Parliament in May 2015. At the conference, participants from 11 countries in Europe and Central Asia reviewed and discussed achievements and best practices, new challenges and threats, problems and opportunities concerning implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the region.

In 2015, UNICEF conducted research into women's and girls' health in Kyrgyzstan, especially in relation to WASH in schools for girls. The findings suggest that communication between girls and their mothers and teachers is critical: support from these quarters can help girls feel that menstruation is normal, healthy and nothing to be ashamed of. However, many mothers and teachers feel uncomfortable discussing menstruation, or are uncertain about the appropriate time to begin those conversations.

Meanwhile, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan integrated menstrual hygiene management (MHM) into all of its WASH in Schools projects in the country, including the introduction of MHM rooms. UNICEF's WASH in Schools guidebook for teachers, which includes a module on MHM, has already been adapted and introduced in Kyrgyzstan.

In cooperation with the UN Gender Theme Group, UNICEF participated in the campaign on violence against women, particularly with regard to promoting children's rights, protecting girls and boys against violence, and fostering tolerance between different ethnicities and communities. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan promoted a gender-sensitive approach to the provision of psychosocial support for child victims of violence and sexual abuse, through awareness-raising and building professionals' capacity for child- and gender-sensitive approaches to working with children.

Environmental Sustainability

Issues of environmental sustainability were discussed during the 'World's Largest Lesson', an international initiative to teach pupils about the new UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UNICEF staff and the Minister of Education and Science conducted interactive learning activities about environmental sustainability for a total of 100 children of secondary school age.

In 2015 the WASH Programme implemented environmental sustainability initiatives during construction and renovation of 50 schools. Building materials removed from schools were recycled. Thermal-efficient windows were installed, and leaking and inefficient internal heating systems were replaced, resulting in reduced coal and power consumption and associated emissions. New, 'winter-proof' water supply systems were constructed in schools, resulting in the saving of water resources (many taps work on a 24-hour basis to prevent water pipes from freezing). Energy-efficient lighting was installed. In addition, strict environmental protection clauses were inserted into all construction contracts.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan also undertook standard environmental initiatives in both the Osh and

Bishkek offices at minimal cost. Printing is double sided as a default, and all paper used is recycled. Office windows were replaced with thermally efficient alternatives, as part of UNICEF's contribution to UN House maintenance (about US\$8,000). UNICEF Kyrgyzstan used energy-efficient light bulbs (about US\$100 was spent to replace inefficient bulbs). Finally, carbon emissions were reduced through cargo consolidation and more efficient route planning.

Effective Leadership

Guided by the rolling management plan for 2014-2015, management priorities and their implementation were regularly reviewed during Country Management Team (CMT) meetings and programme and operations meetings. By monitoring key performance indicators, the CMT functioned as a platform for risk management, identifying potential risks and taking mitigating measures. A business continuity plan was in place, based on the enterprise risk assessment. The CMT also followed up on priority issues raised at regional management team meetings. During programme coordination meetings, programmatic performance indicators were reviewed, and during Zone Office team meetings, progress was reviewed against the Zone Office programme. Individual staff members' responsibilities for achieving objectives and priorities were reviewed during performance appraisal system discussions.

The mid-term management review began in autumn 2014, followed by the finalisation of the Country Programme mid-term review (MTR) in May 2015. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan will retain its current 2012-2016 programme structure; implementation of the update to the Country Programme management plan focused on improving the office structure and effectiveness. This included the establishment of positions and changes of reporting lines in response to the latest programmatic requirements and resource management. Staff participated in developing the update; the new staffing structure was approved by the programme budget review.

Thanks to 'Ethics in UNICEF' training by the ethics advisor from UNICEF HQ, the team-building retreat conducted in September resulted in better self-awareness on the part of staff members. It generated the team's reflection on procurement and publications workflow, reviewing findings, recommendations and follow-up actions since the last retreat in December 2014. Global Staff Survey results were also reviewed and discussed at the retreat.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan has a dynamic local staff association (LSA), which holds general staff meetings regularly to reflect staff concerns. The Country Office management regularly meets with LSA executive committee members at joint consultative committee meetings to discuss staff concerns and staff welfare issues.

Financial Resources Management

The UNICEF Kyrgyzstan Country Programme utilised a total of US\$10.2 million in 2015. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan established a financial resource management system, and the monthly monitoring report issued by the Regional Office also served as an effective monitoring instrument. The report covered monitoring areas such as resource management, donor reporting, direct cash transfers, audit observations and premises. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan data reported in the monthly report was duly addressed by the CMT and appropriate follow-up actions were taken.

According to the UN harmonised approach to cash transfer (HACT) framework, the assurance activities implementation plan is a practical tool to monitor and ensure that the funds transferred to implementing partners (IPs) are used for the appropriate purpose and in accordance with UNICEF work plans. As per the UNICEF Kyrgyzstan assurance plan for 2015, spot-checks and

audits of IPs were conducted, for a total value of US\$1,932,724. By December 2015, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan had completed four audits of IPs with a total value of US\$455,512, and by the end of the year the Country Office had completed micro-assessments of 10 IPs, with a total value of US\$802,433.

Monitoring of programme implementation improved through regular analysis during programme and CMT meetings. Funds were reviewed regularly against planned programme activities. In particular, funds from earmarked donor contributions were closely monitored to meet the target goals for effective fund utilisation.

As a follow up to the audit recommendation, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan reviewed and verified the accuracy of transactions by conducting random checks of supporting documents of payments on a quarterly basis. No deviations were identified as a result of random checks in 2015.

Fund-raising and Donor Relations

The Country Office developed its resource mobilisation strategy for the 2012-2016 Country Programme to proactively mobilise resources for children and ensure predictable and long-term funding to facilitate quality programming.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued to mobilise resources for peacebuilding and conflict-prevention programmes – largely to address the structural causes of inter-ethnic tension and youth radicalisation – by reducing disparity in access to basic services, promoting coherent and integrated community actions and civil rights promotion among young people.

In this context, the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) provides key resources for UNICEF Kyrgyzstan's Country Programme. In addition to the ongoing implementation of US\$3.2 million from the Peace Recovery Facility funds, in 2015 UNICEF Kyrgyzstan received US\$673,000 from the PBF Immediate Response Facility for two initiatives: the gender promotion initiative (US\$398,000) and the cross-border project with Tajikistan (US\$275,000). The UK Government began its support for the 'Conflict Stability Security Fund' by providing US\$2,259,147 to a cross-border conflict-prevention and stability programme; the funding was shared by Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan also raised funds from traditional sources. Major government donors for the current Country Programme include the governments of the UK, Japan and the Russian Federation. Key UNICEF National Committee supporters are from the France, Sweden, Switzerland, and the U.S. Thanks to effective cooperation and fundraising efforts, joint UN programmes are becoming an increasingly important funding source.

Fundraising efforts are targeted based on analysis of the donors' specific areas of interests. Numerous discussions and negotiations, joint field visits, presentations of evidence-based analysis and information have taken place.

The Country Office reached 100 per cent of the Country Programme ORR ceiling. The overall funding level is nearly US\$43.2 million for the current Country Programme Cycle (98.9 per cent of the ceiling).

Evaluation

In advance of developing its new Country Programme, in 2016 UNICEF Kyrgyzstan will evaluate its current Country Programme: terms of reference for the evaluation were cleared by

the Global Evaluation Reports Oversight System (GEROS). In preparation for this, MTR of the 2012-2016 Country Programme was officially finalised in 2015. This resulted in clear articulation of results achieved, programmatic amendments for the rest of the programme cycle, fine-tuning of indicators and budget adjustments. The MTR evaluation and the 2016 Country Programme evaluation will be key elements in designing the next Country Programme.

During the reporting period, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan commissioned an evaluation of the school without violence (SwV) programme. Thanks to advice from GEROS, the TOR and evaluation report of the SwV programme received a highly satisfactory rating. The Country Office began developing its management response to the SwV evaluation report in 2015.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan provided inputs to multi-country evaluations, including “Increasing Access and Equity in Early Childhood Education” (RKLA 3) and “Impact of Juvenile Justice System Reforms of Children in Conflict with the Law” (RKLA 2). The findings were shared with key stakeholders and contributed to further programmatic planning for the post-MTR period of Country Programme implementation.

The evaluation of the equity programme in Southern Kyrgyzstan, finalised in late 2014, fed further policy dialogue and fundraising efforts with the UK Government and provided justification for a new joint peacebuilding programme with UNICEF Tajikistan.

The Country Office’s integrated monitoring and evaluation plan (IMEP) was transferred into the online PRIME system, as UNICEF Kyrgyzstan participated in PRIME piloting. The IMEP was regularly updated, and TORs and reports were uploaded in a timely fashion into PRIME; the CMT monitored implementation.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan’s 2015 contribution to UN House Common and Shared Services amounted to US\$82,700 for the Country Office in Bishkek and US\$67,500 for in Osh Zone Office (ZO).

As a result of savings resulting from 2015 common services and premises arrangements in ZO, UNICEF was reimbursed almost US\$5,600 in costs by OHCHR for the 12 months of 2015.

Limitations on access to colour printer usage introduced in 2010 saved UNICEF Kyrgyzstan approximately US\$3,200 in 2015.

Since 2012, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan has split its commitment of funds for the cost of fuel between programme and operations. Transportation costs associated with field travel are now charged to individual outputs and grants. In 2015 the total cost of fuel was US\$26,500 of which US\$19,300 was charged to programme and US\$7,200 to operations.

As use of economy class air travel is a standard practice in UNICEF Kyrgyzstan, approximately 78 trips (by staff and consultants) that exceeded nine hours of travel were conducted using economy class tickets. Given that the total cost of economy tickets was US\$71,600, compared to a potential business class ticket cost of US\$177,600, this helped UNICEF Kyrgyzstan to save approximately US\$106,000 in 2015.

The shift to unlimited Internet tariff with a fixed payment scheme resulted in a saving of approximately US\$8,000 per year. Video-conferencing facilities enable successful discussions between Bishkek and Osh, and with the Regional Office and other locations. This saves not only the telecommunication costs, but also rationalises travel of staff members between Bishkek and

ZO, resulting in significant cost savings. According to statistics from the Polycom DVC system, there were 58 video-conference sessions between the Bishkek Country Office, Osh ZO and the Regional Office in Geneva in 2015 (10 calls to Geneva and 48 calls to Osh).

Supply Management

In 2015 total supplies delivered by UNICEF Kyrgyzstan amounted to US\$2.96 million, split between programme supplies (97 per cent) and operations stocks (3 per cent). Additionally, US\$2.15 million was spent on institutional services, of which approximately 65 per cent was spent for (re)construction. Local procurement constituted 91 per cent and offshore procurement 9 per cent of all transactions. The main categories of supplies included: children's books and publications in local languages, furniture for kindergartens and social protection centres, vaccines and safe injection supplies, cold chain refrigerators, medical equipment and diarrhoeal kits, locally-composed hygiene kits, fire-protection equipment, ICT and office equipment.

The supply plan was revised monthly and reported to CMT. Procurement activities included suppliers' pre-qualification, tendering, conclusion of long-term agreements, maintenance, streamlining of institutional service contract procedures, local shipments, supply distribution and monitoring. Within the HACT framework, programme cooperation agreement (PCA) supply components were reviewed. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan's supply staff also participated in a review of national humanitarian legislation.

In 2015, 55 tenders and 18 Contract Review Committee (CRC) meetings were conducted for 31 contracts, including one cleared by Regional Office CRC.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan supported the Government and UN agencies with procurement services worth a total of US\$1,600,000. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued assisting the Ministry of Health with ordering, customs clearance and settlement of financial accounts for vaccines and accompanying stocks worth US\$1,000,000. In November, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan provided the Ministry of Emergencies with contingency supplies worth US\$124,560.

UNICEF's two warehouses in Bishkek and Osh contained supplies worth US\$500,000. At the year's end a stocktaking exercise found \$303,000 worth of contingency inventory stock.

UNICEF participated in joint UN common procurement team activities, sharing long-term agreements and tenders. Kyrgyzstan supply staff extended technical support to the Ukrainian and Turkmenistan Country Offices.

Security for Staff and Premises

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan's security for staff and premises is managed through the office of the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), including the UN House shared services. Based on the UN security risk assessment, the security of staff and office is managed by the UN security plan, including 24-hour operations of radio room and security guards, and the UN staff security warden system. UN security plan implementation provides a secure and conducive environment for Country Programme implementation. The total UNICEF contribution to the 2015 UN security budget was US\$13,800.

All UN radio rooms and UN staff in possession of a VHF radio perform radio security checks in Bishkek and in Osh once a week. These checks cover radio equipment, ensure communication can be transmitted and received between radios in the network, identify weaknesses and lead to remedial actions being taken. Weekly radio checks are also performed for UN vehicles.

In 2015 UNDSS offered simulation exercises, training and drills for wardens and UN staff members. Furthermore, to ensure compliance with minimum operating security standards requirements, first aid training was given to UNICEF staff in Bishkek Country Office and Osh Zone Office. The main purpose was to increase staff awareness of first aid for life-saving actions in emergencies.

Human Resources

Based on the MTR results, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan's new staffing structure was approved by the regional programme budgetary review committee. The new organograms for the Country Office and Zone Office help to ensure that UNICEF Kyrgyzstan is appropriately structured to achieve its post-MTR targets.

To complement staff capacity and ensure cost-effectiveness, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan engaged local expertise whenever available, as well as international expertise, contracting consultants and research institutions, NGOs and the private sector. The Office works closely with the CEE/CIS Regional Office to identify technical experts and benefit from interagency and inter-country cooperation.

Following the 2014 Global Staff Survey the Country Office management and local Staff Association directly discussed the issues that had emerged. The issues were transparently addressed and discussed during a joint consultative committee meeting and at the September staff retreat. The retreat encouraged staff members' self-awareness, constructive feedback, transparent decision-making, better interaction across sections and effective workflow management (procurement and publications).

The UNICEF Kyrgyzstan Training Plan was carefully prepared to enhance staff skills and competencies. It provided learning opportunities to staff to enhance their knowledge and skills to perform more effectively in their jobs. The plan also included learning and development opportunities through e-learning, readings and webinars. Moreover, Country Office management approved up to five learning days for staff members for individual development opportunities.

The 2015 UNICEF Kyrgyzstan Learning Plan included the following group training: 1. First aid training; 2. UNICEF policies & procedures, new HACT framework & PCA guide training for UNICEF staff in Bishkek and Osh; 3. ICT Training, Office 365; 4. C4D strategy development; 5. HACT on-line; 6. Ethics in UNICEF and ethics on-line courses; and 7. Evasive driving courses. The total estimated amount spent for training/learning needs in 2015 was US\$52,626 of which US\$17,300 was spent for group training and US\$35,326 for individual learning needs.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

In 2015 a number of improvements were also made to the office's ICT infrastructure. These included:

1. Migration from Lync 2013 to Skype for business
2. Migration of the WSUS Server from Windows 2008 Server to Windows 2012 Server
3. New ICT office profile updated with information related to Bishkek and Osh offices

4. ICT training conducted on existing IT infrastructure and Office 365 cloud for staff at both offices
5. Internet bandwidth and tariffs optimised due to increased international traffic on migration to Office 365;
6. Mobile scanners for each section purchased in preparation for Global Shared Services Centre
7. Optimised and upgraded mission control gateway installed in Bishkek and Osh
8. Bishkek and Osh offices duly equipped with Polycom DVC system. Video Conference meetings were conducted regularly and successfully between Bishkek and Osh and with other Country Offices, the RO and Headquarters.
9. Support for UNICEF “greening initiative” by avoiding printing documents if e-version is sufficient and by using double-sided printing.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan effectively utilises digital/social media, which is increasing its outreach very rapidly in Kyrgyzstan. UNICEF doubled its presence on social media platforms, particularly on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter. The Facebook page shared constant updates of donor-funded projects, contributing to good visibility and transparency. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan’s posting on social media raised public awareness of key child rights issues and generated news in the mass media. One of the successful contributions to expanding UNICEF messages through social media was contact with Kaganat Media Company in Kyzyl Suu autonomy of China (which broadcasts in the Kyrgyz language) with a request to share UNICEF social series, cartoons and other video materials.

UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, was piloting the application of smartphones to achieve better health outcomes among patients.

Programme Components from Results Assessment Module

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 Equitable and Responsive Systems children and women have increased access to quality and responsive services, including social benefits

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Working closely with the Regional Office, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan used findings and recommendations from multi-country evaluations of UNICEF’s work in early learning and school readiness, infant and under-five mortality and justice for children. This contributed to RKLA results, and also helped the Country Office to intensify policy and public advocacy to tackle barriers hindering marginalised children’s and families’ access to social services. This resulted in the major achievements highlighted below:

- A universal, state-funded and full-year (480 hour) compulsory school preparation programme was launched in September. The Government identified particularly marginalised communities where 100 alternative early learning spaces were opened in 2015. This was a result of long-standing UNICEF efforts to model innovative early learning programmes, leverage resources and accelerate efforts to reduce inequities in preschool education.
- Kyrgyzstan continued scaling-up the OOSC intervention to address barriers to education access and learning outcomes. The MoES formulated priority actions for the OOSC road map in a draft regulation, and plans to adopt an inter-ministerial action plan for 2016-2017, to ensure that all children are enrolled and learning in school, are underway.

- UNICEF was part of a working group established by the MoES that will assist with finalisation and introduction of a draft regulation on teacher training and appraisal.

Kyrgyzstan has achieved MDG4. MICS 2014 findings demonstrated a reduction of equity gaps for some indicators. UNICEF continued to play a leading role in maternal and child health within the sector-wide approach (SWAp) in Health and the MDG acceleration framework processes. The MoH's issuance of a decree to operationalise quality control at the level of health facilities was a foundation for further development. Capacity building of health staff and provision of equipment contributed to improvement of access of women and children to essential health services at 34 hospitals, which were monitored and supervised in an integrated way.

More than 20,000 cases of measles were identified and two supplementary immunization activities were organized. The 'effective vaccine management' assessment conducted this year demonstrated a significant increase in the quality and storage capacity of the cold chain for immunization: from 42 per cent (2011) to 96 per cent (2015).

UNICEF supported the MoH to implement a package of activities to prevent HIV transmission to young children, identify infection early, initiate appropriate treatment in a timely fashion and maintain it. Advocacy efforts were undertaken to retain HIV prevention among children as a MoH priority for the period of transition between reduced funding from the Global Fund and increased Government accountability for keeping HIV prevalence low. Provision of prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services increased from 23 per cent (2011) to 97 per cent (2014) in the country and mother-to-child transmission of HIV decreased by 3 per cent (data will be updated in January 2016). Importantly, a process for disclosure of HIV status to children was initiated.

As the leading nutrition agency in Kyrgyzstan, UNICEF continues to support the Government in implementing cost-effective, evidence-based, nutrition-specific interventions. According to MICS 2014, the stunting rate among children under five fell from 18 per cent (MICS 2006) to 12.9 per cent. The exclusive breastfeeding rate increased from 32 to 41 per cent.

Promoting multi-sectoral approaches to solve nutrition issues in the country, UNICEF was able to create a nutrition-friendly environment by developing national policies and strategies and uniting donors, business networks, academics and civil society around nutrition. Because of this joint work, the Government approved the new amendment to the Mandatory Flour Fortification Law, as well as the state food security and nutrition programme for 2015-2017.

UNICEF also supported active participation by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to meeting its global commitments, including Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed, and the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) movement.

OUTPUT 1 MCH Systems and Policies - the Ministry of Health manage and monitor the provision and performance of quality and responsive priority life-saving health services for children and mothers from poor and vulnerable families

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Kyrgyzstan has achieved MDG4. MICS 2014 findings demonstrated a reduction of equity gaps in some indicators. UNICEF continued to play a leading role in maternal and child health within the Health SWAp and MDG acceleration framework processes.

Main programme achievements: The MoH's issuance of a decree on operationalising quality control at health facilities is a foundation for further development. Capacity building of health staff and provision of equipment contributed to improvement of women's and children's access to essential health services at 34 hospitals, which were monitored and supervised in an integrated way. Comparison of MoH reports from 2013 and 2015 demonstrated a reduction in unnecessary hospitalisations of young children (from 64 to 36.7 per cent), in wrong diagnoses (from 63.3 to 36.7 per cent), and in incorrect treatment (from 84.7 per cent to 58.4 per cent). Awareness of up to 10 per cent of pregnant women about danger signs during pregnancy and childhood diseases was increased through streamlined messages.

UNICEF supported the MoH to implement a package of activities to prevent HIV transmission to young children, identify infection early, initiate appropriate treatment in a timely fashion and maintain it. Advocacy was undertaken to retain HIV prevention among children as a MoH priority during the period of transition between reduced funding from the Global Fund and increased Government accountability for keeping HIV prevalence low. Provision of PMTCT services increased from 23 per cent (2011) to 97 per cent (2014) in the country and mother-to-child transmission of HIV decreased by 3 per cent (data will be updated in January 2016). Importantly, a process for disclosure of HIV status to children was initiated.

More than 20,000 cases of measles were identified and two supplementary immunisation activities were organised. The effective vaccine management assessment conducted in 2015 demonstrated a significant increase in the quality and storage capacity of the cold chain for immunisation: from 42 per cent (2011) to 96 per cent (2015). The country has up-to-standard standard operating procedure manuals on vaccine management and effective cold chain systems.

Further development. To improve the access of vulnerable children to life-saving services, systemic changes were initiated to develop a new type of payment for emergency transportation of children in severe conditions and services provided within the first 24 hours of hospitalisation. UNICEF initiated advocacy efforts and capacity building exercises to raise awareness on the importance of early identification/intervention and the issue of medicalised non-evidence-based approaches to the management of children with disabilities.

OUTPUT 2 MORES ensures increased equity in access to pre-school education, a better quality teaching and learning environment in basic education, and effective responses to the needs of out-of-school children (RKLA 3)

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF is the co-ordinating agency for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) in Kyrgyzstan. During 2015, as part of the GPE, important changes were made with regard to school preparation and alternative preschool provision.

The first full year of Nariste school preparation classes commenced on 1 September. A total of 3,199 preparatory classes were opened throughout the country, with total coverage of 76,692 preschool-aged children. The 480-hour school preparatory programme was designed to provide preschool-aged children with equal opportunities for learning in first grade. The course, which employs games, play, poetry and drawing among other media, aims to develop children's cognitive processes (thinking, attention, memory, motor skills and imagination) and to prepare them for social adaptation and successful entry into the education system. A total of 6,700 primary school teachers, head teachers, methodologists and deputy directors were trained to implement the programme effectively and well.

By Decree 816 of 2 December, the Government approved model personnel numbers for preschool education establishments with short-stay (three-hour) attendance of children. The Decree provides for specific number of teachers, assistant teachers and other personnel for groups in short-stay kindergartens. To address the shortage of preschool education establishments, the MoES – with support from international organisations, including UNICEF, the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, and Aga Khan Foundation – began to introduce alternative types of preschool educational establishments (short-stay community-based kindergartens and private kindergartens) into the country's preschool education system in 2003. This year's Decree provides an opportunity to increase the coverage of preschool education. The MoES plans to open 100 alternative kindergartens in 2016 in underserved regions or where pre-school education is inaccessible. New community-based kindergartens will be fitted with furniture, visual aids, developmental toys and sanitation facilities, if needed. Further training will be delivered to educators and teachers in the new kindergartens.

OUTPUT 3 MCH Systems and Policies the Ministry of Health manage and monitor the provision and performance of quality and responsive health services for HIV prevention and treatment interventions for children, pregnant women and adolescents

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF supported the MoH to implement a package of activities to prevent HIV transmission to young children, identify infection early, initiate appropriate treatment in a timely fashion and maintain it. Advocacy efforts were undertaken to retain HIV prevention among children as a MoH priority during the transition between reduced funding from the Global Fund and increased Government accountability for keeping HIV prevalence low.

With support from UNICEF, the MoH continued to scale-up early identification of HIV among new-borns born to mothers living with HIV. Coverage of early identification increased from 48 per cent in 2014 to 69.6 per cent in 2015. The transmission rate continued at 2.97 per cent. The main barriers identified to effective early identifications were poor coordination between different levels of the healthcare system, weak integration of AIDS services into general health services and interruptions in the availability of test kits.

To ensure better health outcomes for children living with HIV infection through improvement of compliance with antiretroviral treatment, UNICEF supported the MoH to develop a network of families of children living with HIV. The network was maintained through use of mobile technologies and already covers 50 of the 320 children. Information, reminders, feedback functions and peer-to peer communications are core approaches of the innovative monitoring system, which is useful for families and improves access to life-saving services.

As timely disclosure of HIV status to sick children contributes to reduced stigma, improved family relations, emotional stability and compliance with treatment, UNICEF supported the MoH to train 21 healthcare, psychology and social workers to provide primary care services to 82 per cent of children registered as living with HIV on the practical skills needed to lead this process. This resulted in disclosure of status to 60 of 483 infected children (aged 0-14). A regional plan to ensure disclosure of status to children is being developed. Before this, only two of the children knew their status.

OUTPUT 4 The Ministry of Health manage and monitor the provision and performance of quality and responsive health services for children and mothers from poor and vulnerable families, including nutrition services and diagnostic

Analytical Statement of Progress:

As the leading nutrition agency in Kyrgyzstan, UNICEF continued to support the Government in implementing cost-effective, evidence-based, nutrition-specific interventions. According to the MICS 2014, the stunting rate among children under five fell from 18 per cent (MICS 2006) to 12.9 per cent. The exclusive breastfeeding rate increased from 32 to 41 per cent. In addition, interventions to address micronutrient deficiency – home fortification with micronutrient powder for six-to-24-month-old children (Gulazyk), and mandatory flour fortification programmes for the population – were being fully implemented and coordinated with the Government.

As the Kyrgyzstan convener of the SUN global movement since 2011, UNICEF promoted multi-sectoral approaches to solve nutrition issues in the country. This has created a nutrition-friendly environment by developing national policies and strategies and uniting donors, business networks, academia and civil society around nutrition. Because of this joint work the Government successfully approved the new amendment to the mandatory Flour Fortification Law, as well as the State Food Security and Nutrition Programme for 2015-2017.

Main programme achievements. By developing tools and jointly conducting integrated monitoring, with Government and civil society, of all nutrition interventions implemented in the country UNICEF contributed to building stronger partnerships and increasing ownership to the programmes. The monitoring capacity of key staff (more than 75 per cent in the MOH and around 20 per cent at the Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration) was strengthened. The results of the monitoring, particular implementation of the laws on promoting breastfeeding, preventing iodine deficiency and mandatory flour fortification, were widely discussed and action plans were put in place to address issues revealed. More than 40 civil society organisations were engaged in the monitoring process.

As part of the SUN Movement, a network comprised of Government, academia, civil society organisations and the United Nations was formalised. The Government is ready to build a multi-sectoral coordination platform on food security and nutrition. The Food Security and Nutrition Programme served as the common results framework for all key nutrition players in the country.

Further development. UNICEF will continue to seek to achieve sustainable results and further multi-sectoral approaches in nutrition, using the best SUN examples, involving other relevant players to prioritise nutrition in the Government's main policies and strategies.

OUTPUT 5 The Ministry of Education and Science support inclusive and quality education through systematic and effective addressing the issue of OOSC, fostering multilingual and multicultural education policy, promoting the issue of teacher quality and availability, improving emergency preparedness of the sector and generating knowledge to advance the issue of quality and inclusiveness of basic education. (RKLA4)

Analytical Statement of Progress:

At the request of the Bishkek Mayor's Office, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued to scale-up the OOSC intervention to another 15 schools in Bishkek, based on results achieved and lessons learnt. An innovative, automated monitoring system was being piloted in 10 selected schools, where attendance and absence of students was tracked daily and reported in real time. In addition, a non-traditional learning and teaching method was piloted to help teachers to better identify and address the learning gaps of children at risk of dropping out and those who returned to school but have poor learning achievements. The National Conference on OOSC was postponed to May 2016 at the request of the MOES. Recommended priority actions for the

OOSC roadmap were formulated in a draft MOES regulation, which is intended to lead to the adoption of an inter-ministerial action plan for 2016-17 to ensure that all children are enrolled and learning in school.

Further work to institutionalise forum theatres established in border and conflict-prone area schools was undertaken in close collaboration with the C4D units at the Country Office and headquarters levels. Theatre for Development concepts, standards and processes were offered to target schools, to enhance their contribution to behaviour change at the individual and community levels.

UNICEF is a part of an MOES-established working group that will assist in finalisation and introduction of a draft regulation on teacher training and appraisal.

OUTCOME 2 Child Welfare Policies and Systems - significant progress in addressing key recommendations of international treaties, including the CRC

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Following adoption of the Child Code in 2012, UNICEF has supported the strengthening of gatekeeping mechanisms. This has resulted in a decline in the number of children in residential institutions. The number of children referred to infant homes (now specialised rehabilitation centres for families and children) fell by 30 per cent between 2011 and 2014; including a decline of 60 per cent in infant homes under the Ministry of Health, and 7 per cent in institutions under the Ministry of Social Development and MOES. There is still room for improvement in areas such as: promoting a common vision for childcare system reform; revising legislation that does not comply with the Child Code; creating sustainable services and identifying financial mechanisms for the services; and raising awareness among policy-makers, service providers and parents of the potentially negative effects of institutional care and positive effects of a family environment for children's development. To ensure a common interpretation of the Child Code, commentaries to the Child Code were developed in 2015.

The greatest achievement was development and approval of a regulation on identification and case management of vulnerable children and their families. This by-law is a first step to creating modern social work in the country, with a clear division of responsibilities and pathways.

To address the weak capacity of stakeholders, capacity-building activities were carried out for MoH medical staff, social workers and case managers on important guidelines and knowledge for preventing child abandonment, gatekeeping, and identifying and managing cases of vulnerable children and their families.

In addition, emergency steps were taken to improve the conditions of children with disabilities. As a result, in 2013 some 49 children with disabilities were removed from the Pokrovka institution. At the end of 2014, the first family-type home was opened for eight children with disabilities from that facility.

In 2014-2015, the Government paid particular attention to child victims of abuse and violence and to creating support mechanisms to assist victims of violence. The Bishkek Child Support Centre, established in 2011 and benefitting 181 children, is now officially financed from the local budget and was replicated in three other municipalities in 2014-2015.

To ensure access to justice for children in conflict with the law and victims and witnesses of crimes, a state programme on justice for children for 2014-2018 was developed and approved in

2014. A series of by-laws was developed based on analyses of current court practices. The Ombudsman's Office and representatives of civil society presented the findings of the study on torture and ill-treatment of children in juvenile justice institutions at a conference in Brussels. In 2015, modelling of effective justice for children was initiated as stipulated in the Government programme.

Social protection system strengthening progressed in all core determinants: data and knowledge generation, the enabling environment, 'supply', and 'demand'. This was enhanced by econometric simulation 'ex ante' impact analysis of proposed changes to the poverty-targeted benefit in policy dialogue.

Recent national data on child poverty indicates a small decrease, from 45.2 to 37.9 per cent, between 2013 and 2014.

Enabling environment and 'supply':

Poor and vulnerable children and their families were prioritised for complex social support (outreach, case management, cash and services) in 2015-2017. As a result of this commitment, and continuous UNICEF advocacy and budget-tracking by experts and NGO partners, a gradual increase in the guaranteed minimum income (GMI) was maintained, including an increase in 2015. The GMI is the social threshold that defines the size of poverty-targeted benefit for children. However, even with increases, the GMI represents only 16 per cent of the minimum subsistence level and 32 per cent of the poverty line. The low GMI level is the main reason for low coverage of the needy and accounts for the high exclusion error. To address this bottleneck progressive change was introduced to the legal framework in August 2015, by replacing the variable level of the benefit with a fixed one. In the absence of a universal child benefit, this change is a first step towards equitable coverage. Thanks to this measure an additional 4,000 children had been enrolled in the benefit scheme as of 1 December. It is envisaged that institutionalising outreach to the most vulnerable and case management will also contribute to improved coverage and effectiveness of social assistance.

Creating 'demand' and changing public attitude:

Policy advocacy and communication efforts were enhanced through engagement with traditional and, primarily, social media along with accelerated internal acquisition of 'twenty-first century' skills and digital fluency. Well-targeted public advocacy and campaigning around the need to extend social protection and invest in children led to evidence-based messaging, 'live' reportage and posts on Facebook, YouTube, blogs and web platforms. Visual communication materials portrayed the distribution of the social protection budget, in which 89 per cent goes to non-poor groups and citizens. This was instrumental in bringing about legislative change to introduce a 'flat' rate as a step towards a comprehensive child benefit.

OUTPUT 1 Authorities prevent and respond effectively to cases of violence, abuse and neglect, separation of children from their families, ensure rights to birth registration, prevent and protect children in conflict with the law.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

A significant step was made in development of modern social work. Thanks to UNICEF advocacy, a Government regulation on "Identification and Case Management of Children in Difficult Life Situations" was approved.

A high-level national forum "The Child Has the Right to live in a Family: Taking stock and Accelerating Actions" was held in Bishkek in June. The Government led the event and

participants included the Prime Minister, Vice Prime Minister, and four ministers (Social Development, Education, Health and Interior), all of whom committed to childcare system reform.

An international expert provided technical support to the Ombudsmen's Office to build its capacity on child rights violation and the complaints mechanism, and to develop and print a special report on child rights violations. Together with the Ombudsman, an analysis of criminal cases against children began in 2015.

Eighty staff from the State Agency on Execution of Punishment and the Juvenile Colony (a juvenile correctional facility) gained new knowledge and skills on justice for children, restorative justice and mediation, while 31 professionals gained increased knowledge on the "Cognitive behavioural approach to children in conflict with the law". An international conference on protection of children in conflict with the law and children affected by abuse and violence was held in Bishkek on 27 March 2015. A roundtable discussion was conducted on the Multi-Country Evaluation RKLA 2 results and access to justice report. The theory of change, concept and action plan for modelling the juvenile justice system in Bishkek was developed and being implemented. As part of the modelling, 13 inspectors from the criminal executive inspectorate were trained on child-friendly justice. Twenty-seven children released or on parole received reintegration support. Internal instructions on the modelling were developed for all actors. A Parliamentary Working Group is examining changes to the Child Code and criminal legislation amendments. Commentary on the Child Code was finalised, printed, presented and disseminated. Brochures on prevention of child abandonment were printed, and will be distributed soon.

UNICEF and local authorities in Talas established a Child Support Centre for child victims of violence and abuse. The local government and council identified premises and allocated some funds for staffing costs. UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Labour and Social Development to draft minimum standards for Child Support Centres that provide psychosocial and legal support to child victims of violence and abuse and services to child victims of abuse and violence. An international expert delivered a workshop on standards, and a first draft was being developed in late 2015. UNICEF conducted an evaluation of the SwV programme: the evaluation showed that the programme democratised the topic of violence in schools and contributed to awareness-raising on child rights and ways to report and address violence in schools. A total of 81 social pedagogues (academic discipline concerned with the theory and practice of holistic education and care) and local officials were trained on the SwV programme. A package of SwV basic materials was developed and ready for printing.

OUTPUT 2 Social Policy and protection implements effective response policies, programmes and services that target child poverty, including an equitable social cash transfer system

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Replacement of the variable amount of the GMI benefit with a fixed one led to nearly 4,000 poor children being newly enrolled in the scheme (Source: administrative data of the Ministry of Social Development as of 1 December 2015). As standards of living among the poorest diverge only marginally, the 'flat' rate brings equity and with an increase in value has the potential to improve impact on reducing child poverty. Support to and close monitoring of policy implementation was a priority for UNICEF and will take place next year to ensure achievement of intended results. Ex-post analysis will be done upon availability of household budget survey data for 2015.

In 2015 UNICEF continued to facilitate cross-sectoral work aimed at the introduction and institutionalisation of case management as a modern social work approach. It brings together, in a coordinated manner, social and child protection, health, education, juvenile police service providers and local authorities for outreach and social support to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and their families. In line with the national social protection strategy for 2015-2017, Governmental regulation to enact this inter-sectoral approach was signed by the Prime Minister in June 2015. Implementation of the regulation received support from UNICEF and resulted in the elaboration of implementation guidelines, tailored training, post-training practice monitoring and coaching programs currently used in sensitisation, orientation and training sessions led by the Kyrgyz Ministry of Social Development. Knowledge management and sustainability of the in-service training was ensured via direct engagement of the Department (Chair) of Social Work and Practical Psychology of the leading local university, officially certified and assigned by the Ministry of Education for professional education of the social workforce. In addition to direct engagement in the training of service-providers, the Chair initiated elaboration of a special syllabus for pre- and in-service training of social workers. In this multi-stakeholder initiative National Association of Social Workers alumni were tasked with ensuring that best practices and international standards of modern social work were adopted, in line with the national normative framework and system-readiness level. Growing partnership across sectors and public administration levels (i.e. central, regional and local) around detecting and addressing social vulnerabilities posed implementation challenges and requires further support from international stakeholders and oversight by civil society, including right-holders.

OUTCOME 3 Equitable Access to Quality Services with a focus on the most vulnerable groups in specifically targeted areas, more women, girls and boys have access to and use a continuum of integrated social services, including sanitation services

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued its work in target communities to ensure that girls, boys and women have access to, and use, healthcare, education and child protection services, as well as adequate WASH facilities and social protection mechanisms.

In the area of child and social protection, interventions were underway to strengthen gatekeeping and development of alternative social services. UNICEF undertook interventions on effective planning and delivery of quality social services in collaboration with implementing partners in all 62 target municipalities in southern and northern Kyrgyzstan. In addition to formal workshops, on-the-job training was provided to social workers and municipality leading specialists on social issues. As a result of enhanced capacity, over 5,000 children in difficult life situations were identified, and 1,600 were provided with support. Good progress was made towards identifying “invisible” children lacking birth certificates (as part of the Equity Programme, 3,356 children in target communities received birth certificates) and these cases were referred to the State Registration Service. Trained and certified psychologists provided psychosocial support to 172 children affected by an earthquake in southern Kyrgyzstan.

UNICEF-supported interventions focused on quality, access and demand for healthcare services by vulnerable and at-risk women and children. Support was provided to strengthen the clinical skills of healthcare personnel, conduct monitoring and supervision, provide cost-effective life-saving medical equipment and improve basic infrastructure. In 2015 UNICEF supported 30 training events to improve antenatal, perinatal, child and resuscitation care. Since 2012 some 2,386 health workers have been trained (86 per cent of healthcare personnel providing services to beneficiaries), covering 32 hospitals and 38 primary healthcare facilities. The quality of services provided to new-borns at 22 hospitals was improved through the provision of life-saving

equipment (10 hospitals in 2015). As a result, 63,600 women in delivery and new-borns (46 per cent of all births nationwide) and more than 22,360 children under five years old (48 per cent of those treated annually at hospitals nationwide) received healthcare based on evidence-based medicine. This has led to a reduction in unnecessary hospitalisation, incorrect diagnoses and prescription of wrong treatment. New-born survival was improved by optimisation and rationalisation of services, and more effective service provision. On the demand side, UNICEF covers 680 villages in the south by raising awareness of danger signs of childhood illnesses and pregnancy through village health committees. According to a UNICEF assessment, health awareness in the target villages increased from 77 to 96.2 per cent between 2013 and 2015.

UNICEF and its partners published and introduced a guidebook for teachers on WASH in schools at 90 target schools, along with innovative GloGerm handwashing kits: 2,252 teachers were trained to use the guidebook and 42,230 students improved their handwashing practice. UNICEF and partners also worked with parents and communities to increase awareness of the health benefits of investing in school WASH. Schools that performed well and practised daily handwashing also received infrastructure support, including water supply and washbasins, internal toilets and MHM rooms for girls. WASH facilities were renovated in 50 schools, benefitting 22,500 students. A WASH website for schoolchildren was also developed. UNICEF improved water and sanitation facilities at 10 hospitals and sector capacity for emergency preparedness and response. In November, UNICEF provided hygiene kits and water containers to people affected by an earthquake in southern Kyrgyzstan.

Fifty-six schools, five kindergartens and five school preparatory classes were piloting multi-lingual education (MLE) models in 2015. Teachers and school administrators received regular support from trained MLE mentors and MLE innovation labs for effective implementation of the project. Exchange visits took place between schools and with Kazakhstan, and a study tour to Finland was supported in October. The MOES and UNICEF identified 17 sites in the most remote and vulnerable communities for the establishment of community based kindergartens as part of the project on “Improving structural stability through child and youth empowerment, peacebuilding and cross-border cooperation in the Fergana Valley”. Local authorities have committed to the project, and renovated almost all 17 sites. UNICEF officially opened the CBKs in November and December. Meanwhile, a further 11 CBKs were opened under the Equity Programme during 2015 to provide early learning services for about 5,500 children annually. National and local government agreed to support salaries and upkeep for all of the facilities.

Since April 2012, some 75, 553 young people attended youth centres. Of these, 57.6 per cent (43,518) are girls. Of those attending the youth centre 57,433 participated in courses and training at youth centres in southern Kyrgyzstan. “Income generation activities for youth centres” was successfully piloted in 2014, with four of the five youth-led businesses involved producing a cash flow. The effort was scaled-up to an additional 18 youth centres in southern Kyrgyzstan.

OUTPUT 1 In coordination with national Government, district and local authorities in at least 23 municipalities, provide for a continuum of quality, basic and guaranteed social services

Analytical Statement of Progress:

No further progress can be reported, as project activities were fully completed by the end of March 2015, in line with the project implementation plan. Evaluation of the overall equity programme, including this component, was completed and the report is available.

OUTPUT 2 Local authorities and communities in selected municipalities promote the increased use of priority life-saving health services for vulnerable children and women

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF contributed to the improvement of maternal and child health through support for interventions focused on quality, access, and demand for services by vulnerable women and children. The main support was provided to strengthening clinical skills of health personnel, conducting monitoring and supervisory visits, providing life-saving medical equipment and improving basic infrastructure.

To improve the access of vulnerable children to essential life-saving services at the community level, UNICEF supported the MoH in the issuance of decrees on: (i) optimisation of the system for delivery of services at primary health facilities, with closure of beds where safe and quality services cannot be ensured; (ii) normative base for emergency transportation of children with severe health conditions; (iii) operationalisation of quality processes at hospitals; (iv) development of a new type of payment for services provided within 24 hours of hospitalisation, based on the integrated management of childhood immunisations pocket guideline.

Since 2012 UNICEF supported the organisation of 96 trainings (30 in 2015) aimed at improving antenatal, perinatal, child and resuscitation care. In total 2,386 health workers have been trained (86 per cent of available health personnel providing services to beneficiaries) with coverage of 32 hospitals and 38 primary health care facilities. The quality of services provided to new-borns at 22 hospitals was improved through the provision of life-saving equipment (10 hospitals in 2015). As a result, 63,600 pregnant women and new-borns (amounting to 46 per cent of all births nationally wide) and more than 22,360 children under five years old (48 per cent of young children treated yearly at hospitals nationwide) received health services based on evidence-based medicine. To align indicators and focus, UNICEF monitored visits of health insurance experts with updated clinical practices, and supported training for personnel of Compulsory Health Insurance Fund (MHIF).

Comparison of child health monitoring data for pilots in 2013 and 2015 demonstrated a reduction in unnecessary hospitalisation from 64 per cent in 2013 to 36.7 per cent in 2015, as well as declines in incorrect diagnoses (from 63.3 per cent to 36.7 per cent) and in incorrect treatment, from 84.7 per cent to 58.4 per cent.

According to the external evaluation, UNICEF “has contributed to new-born survival in target maternities as the implemented Effective Perinatal Care (EPC) has halved the amount of new-borns in intensive care unit. In addition, improved capacity of the hospital management has made the service provision more effective. Rationalized use of medicines, improved teamwork and optimization of the space in the wards are good examples of the new mind-set deriving from effective perinatal technologies”.

UNICEF support for improved awareness by women of danger signs during pregnancy resulted in positive trends, as described in an MOH 2015 report. For example, the percentage of women who know four or more danger signs of pregnancy increased from 77 per cent in 2013 to 96.2 per cent in 2015, and the percentage of women who have heard about danger signs during pregnancy increased from 88 percent in 2013 to 98 per cent in 2015.

The SMS-based monitoring system is an effective tool for tracking the progress and reprogramming activities to improve results in communities.

OUTPUT 3 In targeted municipalities, local authorities in cooperation with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) promote positive behavioural outcomes among communities and

mobilise increased demand for quality early education and child protection services; and selected municipalities in the south promote demand for 'safe and tolerant schools' (RKLA 3 and 4).

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Fifty-six schools and five kindergartens, as well as five school preparatory classes, are piloting multi-lingual education models. Teachers and school administrators are receiving regular support from trained MLE mentors and MLE innovation labs for effective implementation of the project. UNICEF facilitated a number of exchange visits among the pilot schools and districts, as well as between schools in Kazakhstan (supported by the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities) and Kyrgyzstan. A study tour was held to Finland in October to study best MLE practices in primary and preschool.

The MoES and UNICEF identified 17 sites in the most remote and vulnerable communities for the establishment of community based kindergartens as part of the “Improving structural stability through child and youth empowerment, peacebuilding and cross-border cooperation in the Ferghana Valley” project funded by the UK Conflict, Stability and Security Fund. During the reporting period, project launch events were organised in districts, with the participation of provincial and district-level education officials, local administrations and other stakeholders to ensure their commitment to funding and sustaining the interventions. As a result, local authorities renovated almost all 17 sites and secured funding for teacher salaries and utility costs. In November-December 2015, UNICEF officially opened all the CBKs. National State Pedagogical University trainers held 12-day training events for teachers who will work in the newly established CBKs.

In addition to the targeted 14 municipalities in the south, during second half of 2015 UNICEF, together with the Bishkek city education department and implementing NGO partners, introduced an OOSC intervention package in five new settlements around Bishkek. A comprehensive analysis of OOSC was undertaken in all new settlements of Bishkek, where high numbers of school non-attendance and dropout were reported, due to internal migration. A national conference on OOSC was postponed to May 2016, as per the request of the MOES. By end-2015, more than 5,000 children had been identified as being out of school or at risk of dropout, of which more than 3,000 had received support to engage them in regular learning processes to minimise the risk of dropout.

A programme cooperation agreement was launched with the Foundation for Tolerance International to enhance further student-led forum theatres and other peace-building activities in 42 schools located in border areas and conflict-prone communities. UNICEF further expanded the Theatre for Development concept, standards and processes in these target schools. Moreover, a coordination platform was initiated to better align priorities and activities of all stakeholders supporting the forum theatre or other types of theatres in the country.

OUTPUT 4 Improved peace and stability and a lessening of ethnic tension in the conflict affected areas of Southern Kyrgyzstan through raising of living standards, increased employment opportunities and reduced frustration and alienation among the poorest children, youth and families in the Programme target areas

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF-supported interventions have improved the delivery of essential social services, reaching out to the most vulnerable and strengthening local authorities' capacity to improve community welfare.

In addition to 61 CBKs established previously under the Equity Programme, 11 CBKs were opened during the reporting period, providing early learning services to about 5,500 children annually. In total 8,000 children have benefitted from equitable and expanded access to preschool education since the Equity Programme began. More than 50 per cent of CBK attendees are girls.

Birth certificates remained a basic but crucial problem. Obtaining birth certificates enables the most vulnerable to access social services, thus narrowing equity gaps and reducing feelings of alienation and frustration. Through coordinated efforts by UNICEF and local child protection stakeholders, 3,356 children in target communities received birth certificates. Of these 2,618 were identified in the baseline study. The other 738 had not yet been born. In the target communities 95.3 per cent of children received birth certificates.

Service quality for women and children improved in 30 hospitals in the south thanks to UNICEF interventions such as training, provision of life-saving equipment, integrated monitoring and supervision in hospitals. In total, 780 health workers from 30 hospitals were trained on perinatal, child and resuscitation care, and conditions in 10 hospitals improved through provision of life-saving equipment. As a result, about 60,000 women and new-borns, and 22,360 children under five received health services based on evidence-based medicine. UNICEF covers 680 villages in the south at the community level by raising awareness of danger signs of childhood illnesses and pregnancy through village health committees. According to a UNICEF assessment, health awareness in the targeted villages increased to 96.2 per cent, from 77 per cent in 2013.

Since April 2012, some 75,553 young people have attended youth centres, of whom 57,6 per cent (43,518) were girls. Of those attending a youth centre, 57,433 participated in courses and training at youth centres in southern Kyrgyzstan. Efforts to encourage income-generation activities at youth centres was successfully piloted in 2014, with four out of five of the youth-led businesses involved producing a cash flow. In 2015 this effort was scaled up to an additional 18 youth centres in southern Kyrgyzstan. Both income generation and internship programmes are core components of the project.

OUTPUT 5 In coordination with national Government, district and local authorities in at least 23 municipalities, provide for a continuum of quality, basic and guaranteed social services (in the area of child protection)

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In the area of child and social protection, interventions were underway to strengthen gatekeeping and develop alternative social services. UNICEF undertook interventions on effective planning and delivery of quality social services in collaboration with implementing partners in all 62 target municipalities in southern and northern Kyrgyzstan. The Regulation on 'Identification and Case Management of Children and Families in Difficult Life Situations' was piloted in the 62 target municipalities. Training was conducted for 1,200 child protection specialists on methods for providing support to vulnerable families in difficult life situations, the basics of social services and gatekeeping mechanisms, how to plan and deliver quality social and child protection services for vulnerable children and their families and juvenile justice. Awareness-raising among local communities on the rights of children to birth registration was carried out to decrease the number of children without birth certificates and ultimately improve their access to social services. Posters and brochures were developed and printed jointly by UNICEF and UNHCR in the Kyrgyz Republic. A total of 4,050 posters and 5,900 brochures in

Russian and Kyrgyz languages were printed and disseminated in all 62 municipalities.

Good progress was made towards identification of “invisible” children (without birth certificates); over 6,000 cases were identified in the south during the three-year project. These cases were referred to the State Registration Service.

In addition to formal workshops, on-the-job training was provided to social workers and leading municipal specialists on social issues. As a result of enhanced capacity, over 5,000 children in difficult life situations were identified, and provided with consultations by leading specialists and social workers, and over 1,600 children received services support.

Trained and certified psychologists provided psychosocial support to 172 children affected by an earthquake in southern Kyrgyzstan. At the initial stage, psychologists from the pool of trained psychologists were activated and a rapid assessment of the situation of children in affected households was carried out. The psychologists identified 250 families with 494 children in need of psychosocial support.

OUTPUT 6 In coordination with national Government, district and local authorities in at least 23 municipalities provide adequate support to implement local emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

As Kyrgyzstan remains highly prone to natural disasters and other potential threats, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued to support the Government and other partners to enable them to better understand risks and vulnerabilities, the Core Commitments for Children in emergencies and humanitarian response standards, in order to build up capacity at the system level.

A variety of activities to strengthen the capacity of communities, schools, preschools, Government agencies and partners to cope with disasters and emergencies, and to reduce risks for children and their families, resulted in increased knowledge and skills among children in target municipalities on disaster preparedness. Significant efforts resulted in development of a set of learning materials on disaster risk reduction, school-based DRR guidance and modelling of the DRR Resource School. This has enabled children, teachers and parents to be better prepared, exercise disaster risk reduction and safe behaviour skills and have greater capacity to cope with potential threats. Technical support provided to the Government since 2011, as part of the safe schools initiative, has resulted in approval by the Government of a “Safe Schools, Safe Preschools: 2015-2024” programme and allocation of initial funding for the 2015 action plan calling for retrofitting of 100 schools and preschools.

Modelling work on disaster risk analysis in 2015 resulted in three more municipalities in southern provinces implementing risk analysis for better DRR planning and strategic, sustainable development. The work conducted by local working groups, with the support of experts, will enable local authorities to undertake more risk-informed strategic planning in support of needs-based budget allocations for DRR measures for 2016.

OUTPUT 7 Local authorities and communities in selected municipalities promote better access to adequate sanitation in primary health care centres and in schools, and the adoption of good hygiene practices by school children, women and families.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Ninety schools participated in the Russian Federation-funded WASH in Schools project. Project activities included publication and use of the “Guidebook for teachers on WASH in Schools”, which also included innovative “GloGerm hand-washing kits”. A total of 2,252 teachers were trained to use the guidebook and 42,230 students improved their handwashing practices. UNICEF and partners also worked with parents and communities to increase awareness of the health benefits of investing in school WASH. Schools that performed well and practiced daily handwashing also received infrastructure support, including water supply and washbasins, internal toilets and menstrual hygiene management rooms for girls. WASH facilities were renovated in 50 schools, benefitting 22,500 students. To increase engagement of children and other interested stakeholders, UNICEF developed a [WASH website](#) that is maintained by the NGO network. Children and adults can now report WASH issues at their schools and call on duty-bearers to act or share their success stories using the website. The website is also a knowledge management tool: WASH publications, presentations and training materials are available for visitors to the site.

With Russian Federation funding, key Government partners received tailor-made technical support: primarily the Department for Development of Drinking Water Supply and Sewerage and the Department for Disease Prevention and State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan participated in the Canadian-funded global MHM research initiative to improve understanding of current MHM practices and barriers faced by girls in schools in Kyrgyzstan. Data collection and analysis was completed in mid-December. The research findings will be presented and discussed with WASH stakeholders in early 2016, and are expected to contribute to increased incorporation of MHM in the national WASH in Schools programme in Kyrgyzstan.

With Japanese Government funding, UNICEF is improving water and sanitation facilities at 10 hospitals. Technical designs were finalised, and construction and renovation began in late 2015 and will continue throughout 2016. An estimated 50,000 mothers and new-borns will benefit from improved WASH facilities every year. UNICEF also provided technical supervision for WASH facility construction in six CBKs and renovated rooms for children in conflict with the law.

As WASH sector lead agency, UNICEF conducted training to improve sector capacity for emergency preparedness and response. This led to a draft sector contingency plan. UNICEF maintained WASH supplies as a contingency for possible in-country emergencies (for 10,000 persons). In November, UNICEF provided hygiene kits and water containers to people affected by the earthquake in southern Kyrgyzstan.

OUTCOME 4 An alliance consisting of government, NGOs and communities, contribute to the increased and sustainable civic engagement of and partnerships for Child Rights

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2015 UNICEF continued its partnership with the Ministry of Youth, Labour and Employment and a number of youth-lead and youth-serving civil society organisations on progressing towards increasing positive perception of wellbeing, tolerance, peace and co-existence among youth and setting key preconditions such as skills, knowledge and infrastructure. UNICEF provided expert technical support to the Intersectoral Working Group on the Youth Strategy for 2016-20. The Country Office facilitated inclusion of diverse youth groups into consultations around those frameworks. As a result a draft Youth Strategy has been developed. However the document has not been endorsed yet, because the Government was re-structured and the Ministry of Youth disbanded.

UNICEF achieved some important systemic change with regard to the situation of youth and their prospects of developing a favourable environment. It ensured coverage of gender mainstreaming, civic participation and social vulnerability in the youth work curricula for civil society leaders and civil servants working in the youth sector.

Youth work has been included in the draft National Youth Strategy and the Draft Law on Implementation of Youth Policy. There is also a well-articulated ambition to include high level indicators related to youth work in the Results Framework of this strategic document. A subject called "State Youth Policy" will be introduced to the "Public and municipal administration" MA course which will be delivered in 90 hours and will be worth three credits.

In 2015, the 2014 Kyrgyzstan MICS survey report was officially launched. The survey findings on youth awareness on HIV, reproductive health, tobacco and alcohol use, overall happiness, education and so on provided strong and comprehensive evidence for further improvement of youth policies and programmes.

OUTPUT 1 National and local authorities in targeted areas, as well as alliances for children, involving the private sector, CSOs and the media facilitate a secure enabling environment for the active engagement and participation of adolescents and youth in activities promoting social cohesion, peace building and reconciliation

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2015, the government received UNICEF support to address identified barriers regarding funding of youth policies, development of youth networks and partnering with youth organisations. Although a national youth policy was in place, major bottlenecks included the lack of clear implementation strategies and mechanisms, shortfalls in funding and lack of adolescent involvement in its formulation and implementation.

UNICEF provided expert technical support to the inter-sectoral working group on the 2016-20 youth strategy. The Country Office facilitated the inclusion of diverse youth groups into consultations around the frameworks. As a result, a draft youth strategy was developed. However, by end-year the document had not been endorsed because the Government was re-structured and the Ministry of Youth disbanded.

UNICEF completed a seven-month course on youth work with 28 young civil society leaders involved in youth development in their communities. Participants learned the basics of child protection, diversity management, social designing, local youth development planning and other aspects of promoting youth work. Over 5,300 young people participated in activities organised by the youth workers. UNICEF joined Germany's cooperation agency, GIZ, in taking a multi-ethnic group of youth workers from around the country to Germany where they learned about mechanisms for cooperation between local authorities and various youth organisations.

The youth workers created 30 new youth services in pilot municipalities, including a youth radio, a gym, youth centres, an arts centre for children with disabilities and a dance club. These services greatly contributed to bridging gaps between youth and the authorities, which have demonstrated that they can be responsive to the needs of diverse youth, while the young people showed models of positive participation for the public good.

UNICEF-supported youth centres initiated employability programmes in two interlinked streams. One is development of social and emotional skills in conjunction with entrepreneurship

development; the other covers professional orientation and internships for adolescents. The learning methodology facilitates development of critical thinking and analysis skills and other life skills, such as conflict prevention, leadership, communication, career planning and entrepreneurship.

OUTPUT 2 Data collection, monitoring and analysis and evaluation systems inform policy making and budgeting around issues related to youth and children, including child rights

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2015 the Country Office continued its work on data and evidence generation to monitor the situation of children and women in the country and assess progress achieved.

Recent data, reports, studies and evaluations relevant to the situation of children were analysed and a 'Situation Analysis of the Rights of Children in Kyrgyzstan' was commissioned. The Country Office evaluated the SwV programme and began preparations for the Country Programme evaluation.

The MICS report was finalised; its official launch was conducted jointly with the National Statistical Office complemented by a media public relations campaign. MICS provided a statistically solid and internationally comparable 'snapshot' of the situation of children and women in Kyrgyzstan. In conjunction with previous MICS and demographic and health survey data, it revealed trends in child mortality, mother and child health, child protection and other areas, which were used to feed the MTR and provided critical information for global UN MDG reporting.

The Country Office continued efforts to raise national capacity for monitoring and evaluation. Technical assistance was provided to the National Statistical Office to monitor child wellbeing and support the CEE/CIS regional Trans-MONEE programme. Three days of training on evaluation in governmental institutions was carried out for Government employees in August. With UNICEF technical and financial assistance, an education management information systems was developed by the Ministry of Education.

OUTCOME 5 Cross-sectoral

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The Outcome is associated with cross-cutting programme functions such as communication for development, Country Office performance monitoring and knowledge management, gender and so on. It also covered operational issues such as staff costs, office equipment costs, communication, travel, etc. All of these functions were routinely performed in 2015.

OUTPUT 1 Communication

Analytical Statement of Progress:

To extend the strategic use of social mobilisation, behaviour and social change communication and advocacy approaches, a C4D strategy is now available for UNICEF staff and partners. A platform to exchange C4D experiences was introduced at UNICEF Kyrgyzstan, and the process was enriched through evidence generation and formative research that helped to measure behavioural practices and attitudes in several areas, including the effectiveness and influence of 'edutainment'. C4D approaches were used in most programme areas.

UNICEF contributed to the creation of a comprehensive policy to strengthen efforts to ensure that the provisions and principles of the CRC are widely known and understood by adults and children alike. A child rights movement was initiated as part of the CRC@25 campaign in November 2014. By the end of 2015, Kyrgyzstan had achieved the following results:

- Following a central government decision, CRC articles were being displayed at all health and education facilities.
- The CRC is now available in the forms of child-friendly booklets, animated cartoons and interactive games. The MOES accepted the CRC Quest game “Our Rights” as an alternative methodology to teaching child rights in schools.
- Public discourse is ongoing, thanks to engaged influencers, volunteers and traditional and social media. Around 600 opinion-makers and 6,000 young activists committed to promoting children’s rights after learning about them through professional or interest-based activities. Traditional media used child rights language 260 times, although mainly in a negative context, in 2015. The UNICEF Facebook page in Kyrgyzstan, which aims to promote a child rights culture is the fastest-growing site among non-profit organisations in Kyrgyzstan. Its share remained at 2 per cent of all Facebook users in the country. The discourse was boosted by milestone events such as the UN’s 70th anniversary and endorsement of the SDGs in 2015 schoolchildren participated at the “World Largest Lessons” on SDGs, lectures were held during educational and extracurricular activities such as debates, youth camps and popular television programmes.

OUTPUT 2 Operational costs Bishkek CO

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The Country Office participated actively in the UNDAF MTR and finalisation of the UNDAF MTR Report. The Country Office’s official MTR meeting took place on 2 July 2015 and a report was developed. A revised Country Programme action plan (CPAP) results and resources matrix, with more challenging than expected results, was developed.

Country Programme implementation was monitored regularly. IMEP and PRIME were regularly updated and monitored. The M&E team led and facilitated the planning and reporting processes, including those for the MTR.

The M&E team maintained and coordinated the M&E system in RAM and VISION to ensure that all staff members adhered to requirements and procedures. The Country Office’s monitoring system was in place and key performance indicators were tracked/analysed and provided regularly to guide programme and management decisions.

OUTPUT 3 Operational costs Bishkek CO

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The Country Office managed operational budget activities as per the CPAP, rolling management plan and operations work plan. The proper utilisation of funds was controlled and monitored by the operations manager and the M&E officer through SAP and management dashboard reports. The immediate response (IR) implementation rate was regularly presented and reviewed by the CMT.

OUTPUT 4 Operational costs Bishkek CO

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In response to the then prevailing emergency situation, the Osh Zone Office was established in January 2010, reporting to the Bishkek Country Office for an initial period of two years. This was followed by approval of an extension until the end of 2013. In the March 2011 programme budget review, it was indicated that: "The status of the Zone Office to be reviewed before the end of 2013". Therefore, taking into consideration the 2012-2016 Country Programme document (CPD) and effective resource mobilisation strategy, the Country Office requested the extension of Osh ZO until the end of 2015, based on programmatic needs and the availability of funding. The CEE-CIS Regional Director endorsed the recommendation, extending the Osh ZO through end-2015. As stipulated in the CPD and CPAP, the Osh ZO was responsible for implementation of key elements of Programme Component 2. In 2012, the Osh ZO developed a management plan for the period 2012-2013, supporting implementation of the Country Programme cycle 2012-2016, which was endorsed by the CMT.

OUTPUT 5 Operational costs Bishkek CO

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Given the effective resource mobilisation strategy, where applicable the operations unit was receiving 10 per cent of funds allocated for administrative support services to the Bishkek Country Office and Osh Zonal Office budgets. The Country Office managed OR-funded operational budget activities, as per the CPAP, rolling management plan and the operations work plan. IR funds were duly utilised to support programme/project activities that were in line with respective rolling work plans and in accordance with donors' requirements. The proper utilisation of funds was controlled and monitored by the operations manager through SAP and management dashboard reports. The IR implementation rate was regularly presented and reviewed by the CMT.

Document Centre

Evaluation and Research

Title	Sequence Number	Type of Report
Addressing main reasons of deterioration of nutrition and development of children and their mothers through capacity building of Nutrition and ECD in Emergencies Programme	2015/004	Research
SitAn-2015	2015/003	SitAn
2014 Kyrgyzstan MICS Final Report	2015/002	Survey
Evaluation of the School without Violence Programme	2015/001	Evaluation

Other Publications

Title
Guideline on provision of Early Infant Diagnosis of HIV among newborns
Nutrition for population, booklet
Booklet on Iodized Salt
Booklet "Behaviour of pregnant women"

Investment in Nutrition – health preserving policy
Nutrition and Early childhood development
Methodological manual for teachers on DRR and safe behaviour for 1-3 grades
Education programme - Principles of everyday safety for 1-5 grades
INEE Guidance Note on Conflict Sensitive Education, in Russian
INEE Toolkit on Safer School Construction, in Russian
Multilingual education film
Children about their rights (5 videos)
2 videos with role models for youth and one video for public against child violence
Features on violence with phycologist's interview (6 videos)
Educational film on types, reasons and consequences of violence
About ability. Explanation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (in Russian and Kyrgyz)
Bilingual education
Handbook of language immersion (in Russian, translated from English)
Piloting of multilingual education programs: a guide
«Allocation of the social protection budget» (visual communication material) in Russian and Kyrgyz
«Distance learning video course for laboratory specialists on diagnostics of intestinal parasites » DVD in Russian
Commentaries to the Child Code of the Kyrgyz Republic (2012)
Pocketbook for Adolescents during Trial Proceedings
Pocketbook for Adolescents: Rights of Juveniles during Detention
Colouring Book: Bum Adventures (School without Violence)