UNICEF Annual Report 2016

Kyrgyzstan

Executive Summary

UNICEF’s country programme (CP) in Kyrgyzstan made steady progress in 2016, within a challenging policy environment, with a constrained economic situation and frequent changes in Government. Based on the recognition of UNICEF as a trusted voice for children, partnerships with the Government of Kyrgyzstan and civil society yielded significant achievements for the wellbeing of children.

Early learning and development standards (ELDS) for children aged zero-to-seven, and an individual child development card for parental use, were approved for nationwide dissemination. Professional service providers, caretakers and parents now have detailed guidance on how to support a child’s growth and development from birth.

Approximately 9,000 children from 56 schools and 11 pre-school groups enjoyed improved learning in 317 multilingual education (MLE) pilot classes. Of these, 20 per cent were from ethnic minorities. This was made possible through improved language competencies of 1,000 teachers in target schools, and the methodological support provided to them.

Starting in 2016, 90 per cent of new-borns of HIV-positive mothers were tested for HIV. The transmission of HIV from mother to child declined from 4.1 per cent in 2015 to 2.4 per cent in 2016 (MoH data). This was achieved thanks to UNICEF’s technical assistance and support, beginning with the Ministry of Health (MoH) decision to scale up early HIV diagnosis among new-borns with HIV-positive mothers.

More children are expected to benefit from increased access to hospital care, following the replication of the modelling of a new mechanism for provision of health services to young children within the first 24 hours of hospitalization. The mechanism was modelled with UNICEF support in five pilot hospitals, and was expanded to all seven provincial-level hospitals by the Mandatory Health Insurance Fund (MHIF) and MoH. This intervention contributed to a reduction in unnecessary hospitalization, more efficient use of available resources, and implementation of integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI) principles at hospitals.

The model court supported by UNICEF to achieve child-friendly justice, based on the State Programme on Juvenile Justice, had a positive outcome. In the model district court, children who are victims, witnesses or in conflict with the law benefitted from newly established specialized courtrooms and waiting rooms. Law enforcement officials were specially trained on child-friendly justice so that children are treated in a child-friendly way. As the model proved a success, Kyrgyzstan’s Supreme Court ruled that it should be replicated in an additional 11 courts with state funds. Since that ruling, replication has taken place quickly, and 10 more courts have applied child-friendly justice practices.

With UNICEF support, and thanks to a successful partnership with Parliament, civil society and justice for children experts, criminal legislation was amended in 2016 enshrining child-friendly provisions, including diversion of children in contact with the law from due process to community-based services. The Law on Guaranteed by State Legal Aid was amended to align with international standards; it now guarantees free legal aid to child victims and
witnesses of crimes, and those who are in-conflict with-law in administrative and civil proceedings.

UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) entered a new partnership with the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and MoH to ensure timely and effective implementation of the complex activities of the 'health system strengthening' (HSS) grant (2016-2020), based on a joint review of the national immunization programme. In the coming years, UNICEF will be leading the 'communication and social mobilization' component.

UNICEF continued to promote nutrition as a national priority and multi-sectoral issue, disseminating findings from recent studies on children’s nutrition status and integrating them into national strategies and policies, as well as engaging key stakeholders and building their capacity. In close collaboration with local municipalities and the Kyrgyz CSO Alliance on Nutrition and Food Security, UNICEF organized national awareness-raising campaigns on nutrition – particularly on anaemia, flour fortification and breastfeeding – with active involvement by journalists and youth organizations. The campaigns featured several video spots, TV and radio programmes, flash mobs and extensive discussions on social networks.

In May 2016 members of the Executive Boards of UNICEF and five other UN agencies from 18 countries visited Kyrgyzstan. It was the first such joint visit to the country, and allowed delegation members to see first-hand what UNICEF Kyrgyzstan and other UN agencies are doing to help the most vulnerable children and their families.

The UNICEF@70 celebration in Kyrgyzstan highlighted the organization’s work for children, reaching 1.4 million people and engaging hundreds of children and partners, including the First Lady and the Vice-Prime Minister.

**Humanitarian Assistance**

Kyrgyzstan is highly prone to natural disasters. Earthquakes and floods frequently affect the lives of people, especially those living in rural mountainous areas. While the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MoES) is working to strengthen preparedness and response capacity, a majority of rural communities lack established systemic natural disaster mitigation measures.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan provided small-scale humanitarian assistance in 2016. On 31 March, heavy rains affected 26 families in Ylay-Taala municipality of Kara-Kuldzha district, Osh province. Ten families affected by flooding were provided with family hygiene kits, helping to ensure their health and wellbeing. On 27-28 May, heavy rains affected the Kadamjai district of Batken province. With UNICEF assistance, Kadamjai District Hospital could supply drinking water to its patients. At the request of the, MoES, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan provided five kilograms of water purification tablets to cover the hospital’s needs. As lead agency for the education and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sectors, UNICEF held two coordination meetings to discuss sector preparedness, and participated in a simulation exercise.

The WASH sector contingency plan was updated and agreed on by partners. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued to support sustainable learning for school and preschool students by increasing system efficiency, including through strengthening education workers’ emergency preparedness. In this regard, 58 specialists from district education departments and seven provincial methodological centres were instructed on how to use ‘Education in Emergency’ toolkit materials. Those materials were translated into local languages in 2015, and distributed to schools and preschools since then. The toolkit includes inter-agency network for education in emergencies resource materials, including: guidance notes on conflict-sensitive education and safer school construction; a pocket guide on inclusive education; a
reflection tool for designing and implementing conflict-sensitive education programmes in conflict-affected and fragile contexts; and a self-assessment tool for teachers entitled ‘Is your classroom inclusive and child-friendly?’

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan adapted the KoBo Toolbox – an online information management platform designed for humanitarian environments by OCHA, the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI), and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) – to monitor real-time progress and results for the multi-agency UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) cross-border programme. The know-how and hardware constitute an additional core asset that UNICEF provided to the emergency preparedness asset pool coordinated by the Disaster Risk Coordination Unit.

**Emerging Areas of Importance**

**Climate change** presents significant risks to the health and wellbeing of children in Kyrgyzstan. Its impacts include more frequently occurring natural disasters, such as floods and droughts, changes in precipitation and heat stress. In line with the March 2016 Executive Directive on climate change and children, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan established climate change and resilience building as an emerging priority, and will undertake a climate landscape analysis for children in early 2017, to inform and shape programming in this area.

**Early childhood development (ECD).** In 2016, experts from Kyrgyzstan’s ministries of health and education, with UNICEF technical support, adopted ELDS for children from birth to three years of age. Based on approved standards, experts developed an ‘individual diary’ on child development from birth to seven years. The manual and diary will help parents monitor child development and become aware of deviations at an early stage. In a broad sense, the standards represent a set of statements concerning what children at a given age should, as a minimum, know and be able to do. As of 2017 every new-born child and its parents at all the country’s maternity hospitals will receive the diary of child development, which will help parents and paediatricians to monitor the child’s physical, emotional and cognitive development.

**Second decade/adolescents.** The law on national youth policy and national strategy for implementation of the youth policy were re-drafted with UNICEF support, to better define the duties and responsibilities of national and local governments in adolescent-responsive areas. Some 1,311 adolescents (31 per cent boys, 69 per cent girls) in conflict-prone communities participated in different empowerment initiatives and increased their capacity to mitigate community development challenges. Fifty-three percent showed ability to reduce conflicts, and 48 per said they coped with challenges using the micronarratives monitoring tool. Adolescents and youth feel disenfranchised from equal access to educational and economic opportunities. Many are unemployed or underemployed. Through practical exercise of professional skills and competences, young people are better prepared to engage in socio-political and economic life. With the aim of strengthening their self-esteem and contributions to their communities, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan supported approximately 250 adolescents for non-cognitive skills building, professional orientation advisory and short term internship with public and private institutions.

In collaboration with UNDP and with support from the UN Peacebuilding Fund, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan piloted youth engagement in local council elections in communities seen as being at risk of electoral violence. Over 3,000 adolescents participated in trainings and debates during local council elections, advocating for a peaceful electoral process and the inclusion of youth-related issues on candidates’ electoral agendas. The initiative included trainings on civic journalism among youth and adolescents, which resulted in 12 articles produced by youth being published in local print media, as well as 10 photo-stories and over 44 articles in social media.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CDC</td>
<td>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPD</td>
<td>Country programme document</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEE/CIS</td>
<td>Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMT</td>
<td>Country management team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP</td>
<td>Country programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPMP</td>
<td>Country programme management plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil society organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRA</td>
<td>Disaster risk analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRCU</td>
<td>Disaster Risk Coordination Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRR</td>
<td>Disaster risk reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECD</td>
<td>Early childhood development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECE</td>
<td>Early childhood education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECHO</td>
<td>Department of Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection of the European Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFA</td>
<td>Environmental footprint assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELDS</td>
<td>Early learning and development standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAVI</td>
<td>Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAP</td>
<td>Gender action plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCPAS</td>
<td>Global communication and public advocacy strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>Human immunodeficiency virus / Acquired immune deficiency syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMIS</td>
<td>Health management information system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHI</td>
<td>Harvard Humanitarian Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSS</td>
<td>Health system strengthening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMCI</td>
<td>Integrated management of childhood illnesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRF</td>
<td>Immediate response facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRC</td>
<td>International Rescue Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>Monitoring and evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoES</td>
<td>Ministry of Emergency Situations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCH</td>
<td>Maternal and child health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHIF</td>
<td>Mandatory health insurance fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICS</td>
<td>Multiple indicator cluster survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLE</td>
<td>Multilingual education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoH</td>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHM</td>
<td>Menstrual hygiene management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoES</td>
<td>Ministry of Emergency Situations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOES</td>
<td>Ministry of Education and Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSC</td>
<td>National Statistical Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCHA</td>
<td>Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (United Nations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OOSC</td>
<td>Out-of-school children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBF</td>
<td>Peace Building Fund (UN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIN</td>
<td>Personal identification number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFE/RL</td>
<td>Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RKLA</td>
<td>Regional knowledge leadership area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP</td>
<td>Strategic plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Capacity Development

Rigorous efforts were made to improve parental practices on health and nutrition in communities through social mobilization activities and flash mobs. Tens of thousands were reached with messages on the importance of fortified flour. UNICEF supported the development of knowledge platforms and production of edutainment products aimed at building parental skills. In addition to a regular TV programme on health issues, the public also learned about better parenting skills through four new episodes of the social series ‘Family Stories’ on YouTube and TV channels. Social mobilization of community health workers increased parents’ awareness of danger signs of pregnancy and childhood diseases by training members of 890 village health committees in the three southern provinces, representing 49 per cent of all villages in the country. Forty school forum theatres applied the ‘participatory theatre for change’ approach to promoting tolerance and raising awareness on children’s issues.

To provide quality services to children based on analysis of facility-based data, 34 district and health facility management teams (47 per cent of total in country) strengthened their capacity for evidence-based management of maternal/child health (MCH) interventions; 1,070 pre-school, primary and secondary school and university teachers improved their pedagogical knowledge and methodological skills for providing quality multilingual education, and 486 justice specialists broadened their practical skills on child-friendly procedures when working with children in conflict with the law.

With UNICEF assistance, the MoES increased its capacity to promote risk-informed, child-sensitive local development planning. The Ministry’s training centre guided municipalities in application of disaster risk analysis, enhancing their emergency preparedness. Children learned about safe behaviours using an online course and a game developed by UNICEF and the MoES.

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

An in-depth study on out-of-school children in new settlements of Bishkek, mostly inhabited by internal migrants, surveyed 11,774 households and identified 276 OOSC (55 per cent boys) in 221 families. Parents’ educational level and employment status play an important role in school attendance. To establish a knowledge base for policy making and child support, modelling of registering school attendance at the local level will start in 2017. With UNICEF support, the Civil Registry Office, in cooperation with the MoES, started issuing personal identification numbers (PIN) to students enrolled in school. PIN data will help identify children who are out of school and track those who are at risk of dropping out.
Some 1,311 adolescents targeted during peacebuilding interventions were surveyed to analyse their resilience to community challenges. Adolescents appeared mostly concerned about education, security, human rights, justice and conflict. Community challenges reflect tensions and violence along ethnic lines or linked to radicalization. In rural areas respondents were mostly passively positive, feeling capable of coping with community challenges, while in urban areas they are more proactive, feeling empowered to improve the outcome of those challenges. Minority ethnic groups feel less capable to cope with community challenges, or live in more traditional/restrictive communities. Results informed a new four-year partnership programme with the UK Government to address adolescent empowerment, using the ‘youth and child-friendly local governance (YCFLG) model.

UNICEF continued to analyse performance of social protection system in terms of coverage and effectiveness. Allocated and actual public expenditures were closely monitored, with a focus on the poverty-targeted benefit for children. Quarterly reviews resulted in identification of fiscal space that allowed an annual 10 per cent increase in the benefit in October. More than 2,000 additional children enrolled in the benefit programme following this policy change.

External Communication and Public Advocacy

In 2016, key results included: strengthening of UNICEF’s leadership as a voice for children and greater visibility of children's issues, thanks to new strategic media alliances; the launch of new ECD standards and public advocacy on early learning; a trebling of UNICEF’s social media audience; and a series of high-profile UNICEF@70 events.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan launched media alliances and organized press events, increasing UNICEF media mentions by over 45 per cent. To reach an international audience, a series of human interest stories and blogs were published on global web-sites. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan trebled its social media audience: with some 16,000 subscribers, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan’s Facebook page ranks # 2 among non-profit organizations in Kyrgyzstan, while its YouTube channel has 7,500 subscribers and over 4 million views. The UNICEF@70 celebration was utilized to highlight UNICEF’s work for children and inform the public about remaining challenges. The literary campaign ‘Tiny Stories’ was broadcast on two national radio stations reaching over 1.4 million people. Anniversary events in Bishkek and Osh involved over 120 opinion-makers, including the First Lady and the Vice-Prime Minister, hundreds of children and partners. Youth were reached through TEDxYouthBishkek, Jashtar Camps and the ‘Red Jolbors’ Central Asian Ads Festival.

UNICEF undertook policy advocacy with members of Parliament to promote new ECD standards, and public advocacy to explain the importance of early learning. Parents were reached through top-selling weekly Super Info, news agency AKIPress, news website Zanoza.kg, radio station Azattyk (RFE/RL) – all of whom entered longer-term partnerships with UNICEF in 2016 – and women’s magazine Bishkekchanka. The M-report campaign reached 2 million through the national TV channel OTRK and social media, while some 3,000 millennials and children were involved through inter-personal communication. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan began implementation of the global communication & public advocacy strategy (GCPAS) and revised its communication strategy accordingly.

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

Kyrgyzstan’s health experts gained and employed new knowledge in early identification of delay and difficulties in child development, based on the well-established cooperation between UNICEF’s Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan offices. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan supported training of health experts at a regional workshop organized by UNICEF Turkmenistan and led by an Ankara Medical University team. Kyrgyz specialists joined the regional early identification team as experts with enhanced capacity, under expanded cooperation between
leading professionals from Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan initiated an information exchange with UNICEF offices in Uganda and the Philippines and UNICEF Headquarters to learn about other countries’ experiences with health information management systems to enable evidence-based decision-making at facilities using existing, but underutilized, information. Based on this exchange, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan plans to partner with University of Oslo and other international experts to establish such a system and tools in Kyrgyzstan.

The peacebuilding cross-border programme with Tajikistan continued in 2016; partnerships went beyond PBF/IRF to include donors such as the Japanese and UK governments. Adopting a multifaceted approach to deal with the complex challenges posed by border communities, UNICEF’s cross-border activities ranged from education and child protection to youth and adolescent development. Activities were not isolated by sector, but rather cross-sectoral. The cross-border work to expand ECE and promote dialogue and collaboration for conflict prevention, was highlighted as a best practice in the forthcoming UNICEF New York publication Learning for Peace: Narratives from the field, although neither Kyrgyzstan nor Tajikistan participated in the four-year Peace Building, Education and Advocacy - project 2012-2016 in 14 conflict-affected countries. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan and UNICEF Tajikistan also collaborated to organize a cross-border exchange between maternal and child health workers.

Identification Promotion of Innovation

2016 was a year of innovation ‘firsts’ in Kyrgyzstan. UNICEF launched M-Report, a tool that allows youth to share their opinions at no cost, via SMS and online; organized the first TEDxYouthBishkek, with extraordinary audience numbers; and held, in collaboration with Google Developers Group Kyrgyzstan, the country’s first hackathon, ‘Technologies for Children’.

M-Report aimed to increase youth participation in political and social decision-making. In 2016, over 2 million people learnt about M-report through TV broadcasts and social media promotion. Thus far, three polls were conducted on the M-Report platform, involving around 1,200 respondents. Responding to local partners’ recommendations, UNICEF handed the material over to the National Institute for Strategic Studies, which will generate opinion data and analysis. Several million people watched a live broadcast of the first TEDxYouthBishkek, organized by UNICEF with the national TV channel KTRK. More than 300 hundred young people attended the live broadcast to hear 11 prominent speakers address the role of youth. The event had a potential impact of more than 1 million on Twitter, while the official #TedxYouthBishkek topped the national Twitter hashtag list.

The Google Developers Group Kyrgyzstan and UNICEF engaged young professionals and experienced developers to find innovative solutions for challenges faced by children in the country. Following the organization of the first hackathon ‘Technologies for Children’, UNICEF received three nearly ready-to-use products: one mobile application, a website and a data collection tool. Each of these will be integrated into UNICEF programmes. In late 2016 UNICEF partnered with the UK Government to support the Government of Kyrgyzstan in conducting a four-year modelling YCFLG in three districts. The modelling aims at institutionalizing child and adolescent issues in local government planning and budgeting. The same partnership helped the Ministry of Education and Science (MOES) to conduct an innovative conflict-prevention intervention through ECE.
Support to Integration and Cross-Sectoral Linkages

In-country SDG discourse was launched through a policy dialogue between the National Statistical Committee (NSC) and UN task force on the SDGs. The NSC was represented by the head of department on sustainable development statistics, who is also a member of the interagency working group on SDG indicators. The policy dialogue included not only discussion of SDG indicators, but also the issues of effective coordination of stakeholders in SDG localization and monitoring.

The latter, and the need for a common methodological approach between statistical offices in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and consistency with international benchmarks, led to the idea of an international conference on implementation of the national SDGs monitoring system. It brought together CIS statistics committees, and UN regional and country-based offices to take stock of lessons learnt on monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and to discuss methodological and practical approaches to building/enhancing national SDG monitoring systems. Participating UN organizations shared good practices and innovations for building a sound SDG monitoring framework. Kyrgyz ministries participated in the conference and acknowledged timely exposure to SDG processes and requirements.

Many children experiencing multiple deprivations remain ‘invisible’ due to ineffective sectoral information systems and the absence of inter-sectoral linkages between those systems. This prevents these children from accessing basic services, reinforcing their deprivation. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan’s support to the Government in this area was twofold. First, supporting the MOES to develop a ‘School-Student’ automated information system by conducting a situation assessment and designing a local platform for sharing data on children between social line ministries and the state civil registry office. This approach which will be modelled in 2017. Second, planning an assessment of the health information management system that captures inter-operability requirements, so that the MoH will be able to address gaps in the system, while expanding the potential for inter-sectoral information linkages.

Service Delivery

In partnership with WHO, GAVI, the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the MoH, UNICEF conducted a national immunization and vaccine-preventable disease (VPD) surveillance programme review. The findings, lessons learned and recommendations informed the plan for use of the HSS grant from GAVI to the Government (2016-2020) and development of the multi-year plan for immunization 2017-2021.

To improve the quality of hospital services provided to women and children, UNICEF supported a series of trainings for 101 internal quality control committee experts from 34 district hospitals (out of 75).

Four clinical standards on child resuscitation were developed for the first time in Kyrgyzstan. This was based on the outcomes of supervisory visits by MoH specialists, with UNICEF Kyrgyzstan’s support, to the 10 hospitals with the highest levels of child mortality.

Some 768 hospital-based health specialists improved their skills in infection control measures at a training directed to medical staff providing services in direct contact with patients and biological waste. This module was incorporated into the curriculum of the Kyrgyz State Medical Institute for Postgraduate Studies, ensuring its sustainability within the national in-service training scheme.

UNICEF improved WASH facilities in eight prioritised hospitals. As a result, 57,000 children and mothers annually will have access to improved water and sanitation facilities inside
Individual child development cards for children from birth to age seven were developed to help parents monitor and assess their child's physical, cognitive and psychological development. This was one outcome of UNICEF-supported development of ELDS, approved by the Kyrgyz Academy of Education in 2016.

With UNICEF technical support, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development drafted standards for multifunctional services for children in difficult life situations. Legal aid, social support, case management and rehabilitation services were provided to more than 160 children (100 per cent) in conflict and in contact with the law in Bishkek.

**Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation**

According to the findings of the independent evaluation of the current country programme, the human rights-based approach to programming was present throughout its implementation, through promoting the rights of disadvantaged children. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan is increasingly prioritizing issues of specific groups of children that are excluded or discriminated against based on their status: children belonging to ethnic minorities, those with disabilities, survivors of gender-based violence, children with HIV/AIDS, and children in conflict with the law.

In 2016, UNICEF promoted ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. A joint high-level international conference on disability was organized with civil society, development partners, and the Government. Following advocacy by UNICEF and other partners, the Government decided to recommend that Parliament ratify the treaty in 2017. Thanks to UNICEF’s facilitation, Kyrgyzstan completed its accession to The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-Country Adoption in November 2016. UNICEF further extended its support to the Office of the Ombudsman to strengthen its capacity to monitor implementation of the rights of the most disadvantaged children, particularly though reviewing criminal cases of sexual violence against children, monitoring closed facilities and residential institutions for children and producing a set of recommendations and a specialised report on how to improve their situation.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan supported the Government to strengthen the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council on Social Protection and Children’s Rights, as well as the Coordination Council on Juvenile Justice. Thanks to effective advocacy, the Government decided to introduce a single coordination mechanism and address the issue of proliferation and fragmentation of state programmes and plans related to children.

Finally, implementation of recommendations for implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women and relevant recommendations from the recent Universal Periodic Review were reviewed and taken into consideration when prioritizing issues to be addressed in the forthcoming United Nations Development Assistance Framework and new Country Programme of Cooperation for 2018-2022.

**Gender Equality**

Based on recommendations from the gender programme review conducted in June 2016, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan identified gender-responsive adolescent health as a target priority. UNICEF carried out formative research on menstrual hygiene management (MHM). National stakeholders improved their understanding of existing practices and key barriers faced by girls at school regarding WASH. Boys and girls, mothers and teachers gained access to
learning materials about MHM and puberty aimed at breaking the silence and taboos around menstruation and providing age-appropriate information. The blog on this topic reached a broad international and local audience: https://blogs.unicef.org/blog/kyrgyzstan-talking-menstruation/

To address girls’ concerns, such as early marriage, a football match between Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan was dedicated to the International Day of the Girl Child. At the beginning of the match, the players were accompanied by girls for the first time in Kyrgyzstan. At youth centres, adolescent girls were encouraged to take leading roles at social events. A dialogue on traditional gender roles organized by UNICEF opened discussions among youth centre participants on gender stereotypes, harmful practices and social norms. In geographic areas with strong traditions, special events were organised for girls only, to help them engage in social life. In interpersonal communications aimed at engaging young people around the youth social polling (‘M-report’), upper-grade school girls at 12 pilot locations were encouraged to raise their voice by giving interviews, which were disseminated on social networks.

Environmental Sustainability

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan identified initial steps towards increased engagement in this emerging area, following internal discussion of the Executive Directive on addressing climate change for children (CF/EXD/2016-002). The Office further enhanced understanding of the issue using the proceedings of the regional meetings on urbanisation and climate change. Preparations were underway for a climate landscape analysis for children, which will be held in 2017 to guide future programming. UNICEF and the MoES worked together to refine the disaster risk analysis (DRA) methodology. During the pilot phase, two rural municipalities improved their resilience and preparedness to emergencies by applying DRA. They identified key risks and vulnerabilities in their territories, and updated local development plans to include provisions and budget for prevention and disaster risk management.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan used global guidance on ‘Greening UNICEF’ as a reference for reducing its carbon footprint. The office’s environmental footprint assessment initiative was based on the Secretary General’s initiative, whereby all United Nations agencies, funds, and programmes continue to reduce their climate footprint and report greenhouse gas emissions annually. The report included data on office energy consumption, diesel/gasoline consumed in vehicles, travel by air (emissions from air), water/paper consumption, waste to landfill, recycled paper usage, etc. All Bishkek and zonal office staff were urged to be conscious about the impact of our operations on the environment. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan maintained standard environmental practices by printing double-sided, recycling used paper, using energy-efficient light bulbs, as well as reducing the carbon footprint through cargo consolidation and efficient travel planning.

Effective Leadership

The UNICEF Kyrgyzstan annual management plan (AMP) for 2016 outlines management priorities and serves as an action plan to achieve agreed results. It included management, operational management, programme, and communication priorities, following consultations with all staff during the annual management review. Progress reviews were conducted during programme and country management team (CMT) meetings, while during the annual management review, the achievement of key management objectives, lessons learned and areas for improvement were addressed. Risk management was an integral part of office operations and daily activities and was monitored by office management. A detailed risk control self-assessment exercise was conducted in March, during the annual management review/country programme management plan (CPMP) retreat, and reviewed in September 2016. One risk mitigation measure was the initiation of a pilot with eTools, a UNICEF global
platform to further strengthen the results-based management and management for results approaches.

Business continuity was strengthened through updates, training, and drills conducted in Bishkek on 23-24 July and in Osh on 20-21 October 2016. Terms of reference and membership in statutory committees specified in the annual management plan were reviewed, updated, endorsed by CMT and approved by the Representative. The Office submitted the CPMP 2017, due to the one-year extension of the current CP through 2017. The Office underwent a comprehensive process of reviewing the programme requirements for the remaining period of the CP, projecting resource availability and analysing the most effective human resource structure. The process was based on the mid-term management review process and the all-staff annual management review/CPMP retreat. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan has a dynamic local staff association, which holds general staff meetings regularly to reflect staff concerns. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan management met regularly with its executive committee members at joint consultative committee meetings, to discuss staff concerns and welfare issues.

**Financial Resources Management**

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan’s CP expenditures in 2016 totalled US$6,103,036. The Office established a financial resource management system. The monthly monitoring report issued by the UNICEF Regional Office also served as an effective monitoring instrument. The report covers monitoring areas such as resource management, donor reporting, direct cash transfers, audit observations and premises. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan data reported in the monthly report were duly addressed by the CMT and appropriate follow-up actions were taken.

According to the UN harmonised approach to cash transfers (HACT) framework, the assurance activities implementation plan is a practical tool to monitor and ensure that funds transferred to implementing partners are used appropriately and in accordance with UNICEF work plans. As per the UNICEF Kyrgyzstan’s assurance plan for 2016, spot-checks and audits of implementing partners were conducted for a total value of US$1,392,118. By December 2016, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan had completed three audits with a total value of US$410,521.

Monitoring of programme implementation improved through regular analysis during programme and CMT meetings. Funds were reviewed regularly against planned programme activities. Funds from earmarked donor contributions were closely monitored to meet targets for effective funds utilization.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan reviewed and verified the accuracy of transactions by conducting random checks of supporting payment documents on a quarterly basis. No deviations were identified through these random checks in 2016.

The Office underwent an internal audit in November 2016. A draft action plan was prepared by management to follow up on audit recommendations and observations, to address the recommendations before the established deadlines.

**Fundraising and Donor Relations**

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan successfully continued implementation of its resource mobilization strategy to ensure predictable and flexible funding for quality programming. The Office employed a mix of resource mobilization tactics, including engagement with current donors, targeted fundraising within the UN system and cultivating new opportunities with non-traditional partners.
In 2016 around US$5.07 million of other resources was mobilized. UNICEF increased the ORR ceiling by US$6.5 million in May 2016. The current OR ceiling for the CP is US$40.92 million, of which UNICEF Kyrgyzstan successfully mobilized US$38.3 million, accounting for 93.7 per cent of the ceiling.

Currently, the main donors are the Government of Japan (supporting the ‘Advancing Peace through Enhanced MCH in Kyrgyz Republic’ programme) and the Multi-Donor Trust Fund, supporting various peace-building programmes. The UK Government also began its support for the ‘Conflict Stability Security Fund’ by providing US$2,268,135 to a cross-border conflict-prevention and stability programme for Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan also raised funds from traditional sources. In addition to the UK, major government donors for the current CP included the governments of Canada, Japan, and the Russian Federation. Key UNICEF national committee supporters were France, Sweden and Switzerland.

However, the donor environment is challenging in Kyrgyzstan. Due to changing donor priorities and Kyrgyzstan's lower-middle-income status, resources are expected to dwindle in the coming year.

Through close monitoring and monthly reporting at programme and CMT meetings, the Office maintained high standards in effective utilization of available resources. As a result, all 11 grants that expired in 2016 were 100 per cent utilized. The Office submitted 11 donor reports (out of twelve) on time, and in line with quality standards; one report was sent a day late.

**Evaluation and Research**

During the reporting year, all programme staff attended a training on results-based management to strengthen the internal results-based monitoring and evaluation (M&E) function, and thus enhance the preparedness of the programme sections for developing programme strategy notes and the CPD (with identified results frameworks, indicators, targets and baselines) for the next programme cycle (2018-2022).

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan adopted the plan for research, impact monitoring and evaluation (PRIME), and focused resources on a few critical studies and evaluations that contributed to programme learning. The Office commissioned two evaluations: an independent evaluation of the current CP and UNICEF strategic positioning, and an evaluation of the MLE component of the UNICEF/OHCHR unity in diversity programme. Evaluation terms of reference and reports were cleared by the global evaluation reports oversight system (GEROS), and evaluation management responses were duly developed and submitted to the EMR Tracking System. In addition, formative research on girls’ hygiene at schools, an appraisal of governance of the social protection and child care system in Kyrgyzstan and an analysis of child poverty and trends were all completed in 2016.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan participated in the C4D evaluation conducted by UNICEF Headquarters. The main report, entitled “Communication for Development: An Evaluation of UNICEF’s Capacity and Action”, includes a case study on Kyrgyzstan.

A joint review of the national immunization and VPD surveillance programmes was conducted by professionals from the MoH, WHO, UNICEF, GAVI, and the US CDC. The main objective was to identify system strengths and weaknesses and make recommendations regarding global and regional immunization and disease control targets,
such as the polio ‘endgame’ and measles/rubella elimination.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued cooperation with the National Statistical Office (NSO), in the framework of the regional Trans-Monee Programme.

The results of these activities served to inform the programme strategy note and CPD development.

**Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings**

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan’s 2016 contribution to UN House common and shared services amounted to US$72,099 for the office in Bishkek and US$64,000 for the Osh zone office.

Because of savings due to 2016 common services and premises arrangements at the Osh ZO, UNICEF was reimbursed US$7,356 by OHCHR for the period January through July 2016.

Limiting access to colour printer usage enabled UNICEF to save approximately US$1,600 in 2016.

Since 2012 UNICEF Kyrgyzstan has split its commitment of funds for cost of fuel by programme and operations. Transportation costs associated with field travel are charged to individual outputs and grants. In 2016, the total cost of fuel was US$15,000, of which US$10,000 was charged to programme and US$5,000 to operations.

As the use of economy class air travel is a standard practice in UNICEF Kyrgyzstan, approximately 60 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$45,500 (compared to a potential business class ticket cost of US$130,000), this saved about US$84,500 in 2016.

The shift to an unlimited Internet tariff with a fixed payment scheme resulted in a savings of approximately US$3,600 per year. Video-conferencing facilities enable successful discussions between Bishkek and Osh, and with the UNICEF Regional Office and other locations. This saves not only on telecommunication costs, but also rationalizes travel of staff members between the two offices, resulting in significant savings. According to statistics from the Polycom DVC system, there were 60 videoconference sessions between Bishkek, Osh and the Regional Office in 2016.

**Supply Management**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Total value of supplies received.</th>
<th>In USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme supplies</td>
<td>$3,248,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational supplies</td>
<td>$103,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>$1,124,234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>including construction</td>
<td>$840,205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2. Total value of construction via partnership (e.g. HACT)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2016, the Office supply function focused on implementation of two UNICEF global supply strategies: service delivery and institutional contracting. Within service delivery the focus was on handling the CP supply component and facilitation of procurement services. The overall value of programme supplies pipelined within those two strategies was US$5,211,365, of which US$590,327 were programme supplies and US$4,621,038 for procurement services. Procurement service orders included such essential commodities as vaccines, micro-nutrient products and anti-retroviral medications and tests. Separately procured were operations supplies with a value of US$103,000. In direct implementation of the CP supply component, the value of goods and services procured via programme cooperation agreements and Government activities under HACT separately constituted US$133,000.

In 2016, 14 tenders and eight contract review committee meetings were conducted for 15 contracts. Overall, 57 contracts for supplies and institutional services were raised in 2016, and 36 contracts raised earlier were managed and finalized.

The supply unit continued to maintain a supplies database for commodities and services in demand, such as printing publications, IT supplies, furniture, vehicle maintenance, communication, research, and conference management services.

The supply unit took an active part in joint UN procurement interventions, resulting in the conclusion of long-term agreements (LTAs) on behalf of all UN agencies in Kyrgyzstan, such as air tickets and conference management services. UNICEF also shared with the UN its long-tome LTAs for financial services, thus contributing to HACT implementation.

An ongoing trend is an increasingly weighted procurement of institutional services (total value of pipelined institutional contracts in 2016 – US$1,200,000), with the weight of 50 per cent services for total procurement activities in 2016, compared to 33 per cent or less in previous years. In 2016, the Office underwent an internal audit, which noted occasional single sourcing in institutional contracting, forced by short grant expiry terms.

In 2016, the supply unit enhanced office technical capacity by processing LTA and bid records and raising purchase orders against LTAs in VISION.

Two warehouses were functional, in Bishkek and Osh, with year-end stock value of approximately US$212,000, of which programme supplies accounted for only US$1,000 and emergency prepositioned stocks for US$211,000. Due to stock decreases, the physical volume of the zone office warehouse was reduced by releasing one of the premises.

**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 UN House shared services. Based on a UN security-risk assessment, the security of staff and premises was managed by the UN security plan, including 24-hour operations of radio room and security guards and a UN staff security warden system. UN security plan implementation provided a secure and conducive environment for CP implementation.

Radio room and radio holders with UN organisations perform weekly radio security checks by VHF at the Bishkek and Osh offices. 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 2016 UNDSS provided training for wardens and UN staff members.
To ensure compliance with minimum operating security standards, business continuity drills were conducted in Bishkek on 23-24 July and in Osh on 20-21 October 2016.

**Human Resources**

Based on results of the 2015 mid-term review (MTR) results, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan’s new staffing structure was approved by the regional programme budgetary review committee. The new organograms for the Bishkek and Osh offices helped to ensure that they are appropriately structured to achieve post-MTR targets.

In October 2016 the Office submitted its CPMP 2017 for a programme budget review, given the one-year extension of the current CP, through 2017. Due to compelling reasons associated with the rapidly changing socio-economic and policy environment, the CP’s post-MTR commitment, planning for the next CP (2018-2022) and the current situation of resource mobilization opportunities, there was a need to review and change office structures effective as of January 2017.

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. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan works closely with the Regional Office to identify technical experts and benefit from inter-agency and inter-country cooperation.

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. The Office training plan included several group trainings: Infographics; new HACT framework & training for UNICEF implementing partners in Bishkek and Osh; FACE on-line; Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC) on Agora/webinars for focal points; and a career support workshop. The total estimated amount spent for training/learning needs in 2016 was US$92,719, of which US$69,269 was spent for group training and US$22,970 for individual learning needs.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

In 2016, the information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure of the Bishkek and Osh offices was improved as follows:

1. New backup system VEEAAM 9 installed
2. Migration of the file/print server from Windows 2008 to Windows 2012 completed
3. New ICT office profile updated with information related to the 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 optimized, due to increased international traffic, on migration to Office 365
6. Mobile scanners for each section distributed to work effectively with GSSC
7. UNICEF universal wi-fi installed at Bishkek office
8. Bishkek and Osh offices duly equipped with polycom DVC system. Video conference meetings were regularly conducted between Bishkek and Osh, and with other UNICEF offices, the Regional Office and UNICEF Headquarters.
ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 Outcome 1.1 Equitable and Responsive Systems children and women have increased access to quality and responsive services, including social benefits

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF’s Unity in Diversity project, supported by the UN Peacebuilding Fund, promoted the rights of minority children to learn in their native language and supported learning in state and official languages to provide full opportunities for the integration of ethnic minorities into social and political life. As a result, by the end of 2016 about 9,000 children in 56 schools and 11 pre-school groups enjoyed improved learning in 306 multilingual education pilot classes, of whom around 20 per were from ethnic minorities. Two university resource hubs and 12 resource schools provided routine methodological support to other schools. The end-line assessment of MLE showed that the level of ethnic stereotypes in MLE pilot schools and communities were reduced among parents from 16 per cent to 1 per cent, among teachers from 11 per cent to 0 per cent and among students from 10 per cent to 4 per cent. The project achieved exceeded parental expectations for girls using languages in various spheres, and attitudes in the community toward the use of several languages in school learning processes became much more positive. This was made possible because of improved language competencies and methodological skills of 1,000 teachers at target schools.

In 2016 Kyrgyzstan adopted new ELDS for children from birth to three years of age. Based on these standards, experts developed an ‘individual diary’ for parents on child development from birth to seven years. The manual and dairy will help parents monitor child development and become aware of deviations at an early stage. As of 2017, every new-born child and its parents at all maternity hospitals will receive the diary, and based on it, parents and paediatricians will monitor the health and physical, emotional and cognitive development of the child. The ECD manual (covering children from birth to three years) was widely distributed to parliamentarians, key stakeholders and individual parents.

The 2016 national conference on out-of-school children summarized the achievements and lessons learnt since 2012 and explored the possibility for strengthened collaboration among line ministries to comprehensively address data, policy and methodology (implementation) gaps to improve identification and help to children not in school or at risk of dropout. As a result, modelling of cross-sectoral collaboration in one district will be launched early 2017. Kyrgyzstan has achieved MDG4. Findings from the 2014 multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS) demonstrated a reduction of equity gaps in some areas of MCH. UNICEF continued to play a leading role in maternal and child health within the sector-wide approach to health and MDG acceleration framework processes. The MoH’s issuance of a decree to operationalize quality control at health facilities provides a foundation for further development. Capacity building of health staff and provision of equipment contributed to improved access for 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 real 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 by mothers to young children (PMTCT), identify infection early, initiate
appropriate treatment in a timely fashion and maintain it. Advocacy efforts were undertaken to retain PMTCT as a MoH priority during the transitional period of reduced funding from the Global Fund and increased Government accountability for keeping HIV prevalence low. Provision of PMTCT services increased Kyrgyzstan from 23 per cent (2011) to 97 per cent (2014) in and mother-to-child transmission of HIV decreased by 3 per cent. 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 has fell from 18 per cent in 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 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.

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

**OUTPUT 1** Output 1.1.1 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:**
The MoH, jointly with development partners within SWAP process, conducted a mid-term review of the health programme. Findings and recommendations of the multi-country assessment of UNICEF health programs, the PFM in child health and a comparison of data from MICS 2006 and 2014 were analysed during the review. An M&E department was formed within the National Centre of Mother and Child Health to address existing gaps in the structure of monitoring systems for MCH. To operationalize the new department, a normative document on functional responsibilities and organizational procedures was developed, New staff with practical monitoring experience were recruited. As a result, a team of Ministry experts conducted integrated supervision and monitoring visits to 34 hospitals (42.5 per cent of total). Findings from the monitoring helped to better: link services being provided to women and children within the same health facility, develop local plans to enhance internal quality control processes and clarify the role of management and different department heads, as well as to improve horizontal and vertical coordination between health facilities within one province.

UNICEF supported an MoH working group to develop 11 clinical standards on management of new-born's care and resuscitation. Two hundred copies of clinical standards, approved by the "evidence-based committee", were printed and distributed to each health facility in the country where delivery and child care services are provided. UNICEF also supported a working group of the MoH to develop an instrument on integrated monitoring of health facilities, to incorporate into one package indicators on: immunization, IMCI, Infection control and PMTCT.

To ensure better coordination between clinical and health insurance systems, UNICEF supported a working group of the MoH and the mandatory health insurance fund (MHIF) to align indicators related to MCH. For improved access by young children to efficient quality hospital care, UNICEF supported the MHIF to develop a new type of payment for services
provided within first 24 hours of hospitalization. UNICEF also supported the organization of a series trainings for 101 experts of “internal quality control committees” from 34 district hospitals (out of 75 in the country). With support from UNICEF, the MoH facilitated supervisory visits to the 10 most remote district hospitals with the highest level of child mortality to provide support for improving practices, to improve child resuscitation outcomes. UNICEF supported the MoH to increase parents’ awareness on the danger signs of pregnancy and childhood diseases, and to improve child care practices through the organization of training sessions for members of 890 village health committees (86 per cent of all villages in the country) and 85 health promotion units of the three southernmost provinces. UNICEF, in partnership with WHO, GAVI, US CDC and the MoH, conducted the national immunization and VPD surveillance programs review. The findings, lessons learned and recommendations informed planning for the HSS grant from GAVI to the Government and the development of the multi-year plan for immunization (2017-2021).

**OUTPUT 2 1.1.21 MOES 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:**
The MOES and MoH established a thematic working group that developed early learning development standards for children from birth to three years of age (ELDS 0-3). The age validation was completed in 2015, to determine whether the expectations are accurate and valid for the age range reflected in the standards. In 2016 UNICEF achieved validation and approval of the ELDS 0-3, which support a child’s growth and development from birth to when they start pre-school. The ELDS were presented to Parliament in November 2016 to promote new ECD standards and public advocacy to explain the importance of early learning. Advocacy and widespread dissemination will be supported next, to make the ELDS accessible to all, as it represents a quality resource, informing teachers, parents and all adults who contribute to children’s education, development and care.

UNICEF led the analysis that informed the Teacher Training Institute (TTI) and State Pedagogical University to develop pre- and in-service teacher training for the ELDS for the three-to-seven age group. A peace-building module was added to the curriculum. Focus group discussions and in-depth interviews were designed to help improve the quality of TV productions on health and better parenting and print materials for children and parents, as well as to formulate strategies and plans for C4D interventions in the areas of ECD. Individual child development cards were developed based on a UNICEF-supported validation and finalization of ELDS 0-3, which were approved by the Kyrgyz Academy of Education in 2016. The cards help parents to monitor and assess the physical, cognitive and psychological development of their child, including indicators of developmental delays for timely referral to a specialist. This forward movement was assured at a Parliament committee meeting, with participation by Government representatives, in which the committee chair specifically highlighted the importance of ECD, early intervention and an inter-sectoral approach.

The Office undertook policy advocacy with members of Parliament to promote new ECD standards, as well as public advocacy to explain the importance of early learning. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan used traditional media to reach parents and caregivers through top media outlets: weekly ‘Super Info’ (circulation 600,000), newswire ‘AKIPress’ (1,620,000 unique visitors/month), web-based media ‘Zanoza.Kg’ (200,000 visitors/month), radio Azattyk (Radio Liberty/Free Europe) and Bishkekchanka magazine (circulation 5,000), with a special edition of ‘ECD diary’. Caregivers also learned about better parenting through four new series of the social serial “Family stories” on YouTube and TV channels
OUTPUT 3 Output 1.1.11 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:
During the reporting period UNICEF continued to provide support to the MoH to implement a package of activities consisting of interventions for: preventing HIV transmission to young children, early identification of HIV infections, timely initiation of appropriate treatment and provision of psycho-social support services to affected families. To maintain the HIV prevention programme aimed specifically at women and children on the Government’s priority list, several advocacy efforts were undertaken, particularly in relation to gradually reduced funding from the Global Fund and increased Government’s accountability to keep HIV prevalence low. The MoH, with support from development partners, established a working group to develop a “state programme on stabilization of the spread of the HIV infection in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2017-2021” and a concept paper for the HIV prevention strategy for 2030. These strategic documents were drafted in November 2016. UNICEF provided technical expertise for scaling-up early infant diagnosis of HIV among new-borns of HIV-positive mothers. Based on MoH data from January – November 2016, more than 90 per cent of new-borns born to HIV-infected mothers were tested within the first two months and received appropriate ARV treatment. To improve conditions at primary health care facilities, where HIV-infected children receive routine day-to-day services, in 2016 UNICEF extended renovation work to another two facilities in the area most affected by transmission of HIV through past unsafe health practices. This increased the number of HIV-infected children with access to friendly, up-to-date health facility infrastructure. Challenged by the absence of the strong coordination mechanisms, network connections and communications, UNICEF is modelling the application of mobile technologies and specially developed software to improve the compliance of patients with ART treatment, enhance their access to health-related information/services and maintain peer-to-peer and parent-to-parent communication and empowerment.

OUTPUT 4 Output 1.1.12 MCH Systems and Policies 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:
UNICEF continued its support to the Government for implementing cost-effective and evidence-based nutrition interventions. According to MICS 2014 (published in 2016), the stunting rate among children under five fell from 18 per cent in 2006 to 12.9 per cent in 2014. The exclusive breastfeeding rate rose from 32 to 41 per cent during this period. In addition, interventions to address micronutrient deficiencies (home fortification with micronutrient powder for six-to-24-month-old children and mandatory flour fortification programmes for the population) were implemented and coordinated with the Government.

UNICEF promoted multi-sectoral approaches to address nutrition-related issues in the country and successfully placed the issue high on the political and public agendas. It also influenced national policies and strategies and leveraged donors, business networks, academics and civil society around this important issue. Thanks to these and continuous advocacy efforts, the Government approved the new amendment to the Mandatory Flour Fortification Law, as well as a food security and nutrition programme for 2015-2017. UNICEF also extended its support to the MoH to strengthen its M&E capacity and develop an integrated monitoring system and tools for all MCH interventions. The development of M&E tools and conducting of integrated monitoring of nutrition interventions by the Government, private sector and civil society resulted in stronger partnership and ownership for the programme. The monitoring capacity of key staff (more than 75 per cent of MoH staff and around 20 per cent at the Ministry of Agriculture was strengthened. The monitoring was an integral part of the SUN Movement, a network represented by the Government,
Outcomes: The process of establishing a SUN Secretariat as a liaison between the Government and SUN Movement stakeholders is ongoing. Some key achievements during the reporting period were: a Parliamentary SUN Movement network was established; the national multi-sectoral platform on food security and nutrition coordination was institutionalized through a memorandum of understanding among leaders of all existing networks; the MoH included supplies for addressing acute malnutrition in the procurement plan for 2016 and was considering other nutrition supplies, which will lead to the sustainability of results; and the Ministry of Agriculture is working on developing a sustainable mechanism for the country’s flour fortification programme.

**OUTPUT 5**

1.1.2 By end 2016, 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:**

The end-line assessment of MLE showed that it exceeded expectations and positive attitudes of girls’ parents and communities regarding language use in various spheres. MLE also sharply reduced the level of ethnic stereotypes among parents, teachers and students. Government and other stakeholders have acknowledged the success and potential of MLE, and UNICEF initiated a four-year partnership with the UK Government to expand an integrated modelling of MLE in conflict-prone areas.

An in-depth study on OOSC in new settlements of Bishkek, mostly inhabited by internal migrants, surveyed 11,774 households, identifying 276 children not in school (55 per cent boys) in 221 families. Children not attending school during the whole year are aged 6-13 years. Parents’ educational level and employment status play an important role in school attendance and drop-out. To establish the knowledge base for timely policy making and child support, UNICEF completed all technical preparations to model registration of school attendance at the local level.

As per the guidelines of the OOSC monitoring framework, the Civil Registry Office and the MOES started issuing a unique PINs to every student enrolled in school (Grades 1 to 11), known as the school student automatic information system. Protocols were being developed for registering students whose parents lack identity documents, and data processing was underway in late 2016. Once this is clarified, MOES school and pre-school databases supported by UNICEF with a unique child PIN will help to reveal by name those children who are out of school and track those who are at risk of school dropout. Many vulnerable children experiencing multiple deprivations remain ‘invisible’ to the public service delivery system, leading to persistent under-reporting.

To further support the MOES PIN system and the Civil Registry Office, UNICEF provided support for a situation assessment and the design of a platform for data-sharing on children between social line ministries at the local level. Business processes for using the platform will be modelled to identify and better support all children in vulnerable situations who remain without basic services provided by education, health, social protection, statistics and civil registry at local, district and national levels. A district with a wide range of vulnerable children, including ‘out-of-school’, internal migrants, early marriage, etc. was selected by a national technical working group, in consultation with district specialists. Results of the first stage of the modelling (of a total of four) will be available in 2017.

**OUTCOME 2**

Outcome 1.2 Child Welfare Policies and Systems progress in addressing key recommendations of international treaties, including the CRC
Analytical Statement of Progress:

Child Protection: In line with concluding observations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2014, UNICEF’s model on child-friendly justice was demonstrated in one district court. Starting in 2016, all children who were victims, witnesses or in conflict with the law within the jurisdiction of 11 first instance courts were treated in a child-friendly way and benefitted from newly established specialised courtrooms and waiting rooms. As the model proved a success, Kyrgyzstan’s Supreme Court ruled that it should be replicated in more courts with state funds. Since that ruling, replication has happened at high speed; 10 more courts, including Bishkek city court and district courts in Osh and Issyk-Kul provinces, are now child-friendly.

With UNICEF support and through successful partnership with the Parliament, civil society and justice for children experts, the recent text of criminal legislation enshrines child-friendly provisions, including diversion of children in contact with law. The Law on state-guaranteed legal aid was amended in line with international standards and now guarantees free legal aid to child victims and witnesses of crimes and those whose who require support in administrative and civil proceedings.

Social Policy: Continuous UNICEF analysis of the performance of social protection systems and allocated and actual public expenditure – especially for poverty-targeted benefits for children – informed policy advocacy and public discourse. The latter resulted in an annual 10 per cent increase in the amount of the benefit in October, maintaining the trend toward improved adequacy and increased coverage of children by social assistance programmes. More than 2,000 children enrolled to the benefit programme since this policy change came in force.

This progress occurred despite the prevailing policy environment, focused on addressing ‘inclusion’ errors. In the absence of clear official criteria for effectiveness and performance indicators in social protection, some national and even international stakeholders disagree on the performance of the country’s major social assistance scheme: the monthly benefit for poor families with children. For some high-level decision-makers, effectiveness is equated with a reduction in the number of beneficiaries. Few development partners seek to replace the state-guaranteed income supplement with “productive measures” to improve livelihood opportunities, such as public works, food for work etc.

Still, more vulnerable children and their families in selected disadvantaged rural municipalities were identified and referred for social support, receiving cash benefits and social services thanks to the institutionalization of outreach and case management (10 per cent increase over the baseline). Endorsed by Government regulations, case management contributed to the change in the way social protection system operate, shifting from reactive to proactive.

OUTPUT 1 Output 1.2.1 Child Protection & Justice for Children 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:

UNICEF joined its efforts with the European Union delegation to support the Government to identify major bottlenecks and challenges to the establishment of effective child care and child protection systems in Kyrgyzstan, completing an appraisal of the system that informed the draft state programme on family support and child protection (2017-2027). A major barrier, according to the appraisal, is related to lack of clarity on the roles and responsibilities of municipal bodies and central authorities for providing social services for vulnerable
children and their families.

Effective monitoring of the state programme on justice for children continued through UNICEF’s technical support to the national coordination council on juvenile justice and the coordination group on the modelling of juvenile justice in Bishkek. Thanks to UNICEF support, a mid-term review of the state programme was conducted, resulting in a clear set of recommendations on the way forward.

Amendments to the draft criminal legislation related to juveniles was presented to the Parliament for the third and final hearing. The revised Law on Guaranteed State Legal Aid now guarantees access to legal aid for children and adults through consultative (advisory) services and qualified support (defence lawyers) beyond criminal cases; i.e., for administrative and civil cases as well. This legislative initiative has great potential to enhance equitable access to justice for children and create greater demand for fulfilling not only the rights of juveniles in conflict with the law, but also better protecting victims and witnesses of crimes, as well as redressing violations of all children’s rights.

Work on amendments to the Child Code continued, since expected approval of the criminal legislation by the Parliament will lead to changes in the functions of authorities stipulated by the Child Code. Child-friendly justice procedures that define roles and engagement of social workers, lawyers and guardians of children in conflict with the law were introduced in Bishkek City at all police departments, crime executive inspections and courts. Internal instructions for police investigators and social workers/case managers were drafted and being discussed among all stakeholders in justice for children.

OUTPUT 2 Output 1.2.2 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:
The upward trend in child poverty reached nearly 41 per cent of children in 2016. In-country disparities have grown. This intensified UNICEF policy and public advocacy to ensure an adequate social protection response; i.e., increased coverage and amount of the benefit. At the end of the year, more than 2,000 children were newly enrolled in the state-funded, poverty-targeted programme, in response to the annual 10 per cent increase in the guaranteed minimum income and the level of ‘flat’ rate benefit.

Policy change was reinforced during technical dialogue with the NSC, centred on integration of child-related targets and indicators. The NSC led national discussion and consultations on the SDGs in 2016. Consultations around indicators expanded to cover effective coordination of stakeholders in SDG localization and monitoring. The latter – and the need for a common methodological approach by CIS statistical offices and consistency with international benchmarks – led to the decision to organize an international conference on ‘Implementation of the national SDGs monitoring system’. The conference took place in September, bringing together CIS statistical offices, UNICEF Offices and the Regional Office to take stock of lessons learnt through MDG monitoring and discuss methodological and practical approaches to build/enhance national SDG monitoring systems. Participating UN organisations shared good practices and innovations for building a sound SDG monitoring framework. Kyrgyz ministries participated in the conference and acknowledged timely exposure to SDG processes and requirements. In the absence of a clear Governmental vision on SDG localization, the conference was a useful step toward advancing the post-2015 development agenda.
The social policy website Mnenie.kg with a mobile platform for adolescent participation through M-Report, was established in partnership with National Institute for Strategic Studies, and has a dedicated page on the SDGs. The page serves as a resource to increase understanding on SDGs and their relevance to national development.

UNICEF completed technical assistance on institutionalization of outreach and case management for poor and vulnerable children and their families. More than 370 social managers and social workers received training, coaching and supervised practice. Curriculum and a set of instructional materials on case management were integrated into pre-service professional training of social workers.

Budgetary standards and financial norms for central and local social service planning and delivery passed ‘peer’ expertise. Its roll-out is framed within the bigger reform agenda aimed at developing social service systems and markets. Parliament’s social committee led this process.

Commissioned by UNICEF analysis at the level of local delivery, identified bottlenecks affecting access to social assistance (arbitrary application of eligibility criteria and underutilisation of the management information system) were introduced recently. The system offers an opportunity to improve work processes and gather reliable data for policy analysis and planning. However, its administration faces certain roadblocks caused by limited technical capacity at the local level to use and manage it, and at the central level, to transform data into evidence. These bottlenecks impede social protection system performance in poverty reduction and mitigation of vulnerabilities. UNICEF will continue to provide technical support for addressing them and make sure that data is used for policy-making for children.

OUTCOME 3 Outcome 2.1 Equit. Access to Quality Services by 2016 with the 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:
By narrowing the gap among those facing deprivations of their rights – children from minority ethnic groups, rural areas, adolescents and women – UNICEF also contributed to building more cohesive and sustainable peaceful society, addressing the causes that fuel a narrative of frustration, resentment and violence among adolescents. Peacebuilding programmes, particularly the cross-border Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan programme, seek to improve access to quality social service delivery for deprived children living in the Ferghana Valley, while also contributing to forging cross-border cooperation among communities, thus mitigating tensions and reducing the potential for conflict.

To demonstrate an effective justice system for children that corresponds to the international standards, UNICEF continued its support for modelling the juvenile justice system in Bishkek. Eight child-friendly police and court premises for children in conflict and contact with the law were established and served children: 53 children (47 boys, including one Russian and one Uzbek, and six girls) received reintegration support via the modelling project, and one more centre for child victims of violence became functional in the city of Talas (Talas Oblast in the north of the country). Legal aid, social support, case management and rehabilitation services were provided to more than 160 children (100 per cent) in conflict and in contact with the law in Bishkek.

UNICEF improved water and sanitation facilities at 10 hospitals, with the Japanese Government’s contribution. As a result, about 17,900 children and 39,800 mothers now use improved WASH facilities in hospitals; more than 55,000 patients are estimated to use the
facilities annually. UNICEF supported the MHIF and the MoH to develop and expand the modelling of provision of health services to young children within the first 24 hours of hospitalization from five pilot hospitals to all seven provincial level hospitals as of 1st January 2017. This new type of funding from the health insurance fund contributed to increased access by children to hospital care, reduced unnecessary hospitalization and made more efficient use of available resources and implementation of IMCI principles at hospitals.

Preliminary data from the targeted 34 hospitals with strengthened and upgraded child resuscitation services and equipment indicates that the rate of unnecessary hospitalization decreased from 88 to 77 per cent from 2014 to 2016. The national team of child resuscitators was formed after a training conducted by UNICEF. This team developed four clinical standards on the management of critical health conditions in children, which were approved by the MoH for national use. The trainings conducted under the UNICEF project were the first-ever specialized capacity building activities for health providers in child resuscitation since 1990; the speed and range of growth in child resuscitation services was remarkable.

Changes in the healthcare system, particularly changes related to behaviour, stereotyping and upgraded everyday clinical practice among health workers, required maintaining routine, internal quality improvement processes and leadership over a long period of time. Despite the complexity of the process, with the comprehensive approaches taken during the planning and implementation of this project, a real change was taking place in improving child survival at the targeted 34 hospitals, which constitute half of those in the country. For instance, according to preliminary statistics, early neonatal mortality rates decreased from 11 per 1,000 live births in 2014 to nine in 2016, and the perinatal mortality rate declined from 19 per 1,000 total births in 2014 to 16 in 2016.

As sector lead for WASH, UNICEF continued supporting sector coordination for emergency preparedness and response, with an updated WASH sector contingency plan and support provided for populations affected by floods in Batken Province. In partnership with the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan and the MoES, UNICEF provided family hygiene kits to Ylai-Taala municipality and water purification tablets to Kadamjai Hospital to address the needs of the flood-affected population.

The MOES launched the Government programme “Safe Schools and Preschools 2015-2024”, following a school safety assessment conducted in 2015 by UNICEF. This programme will expand the retrofitting/construction of 100 priority schools and preschools. UNICEF followed the progress through regular meetings with responsible ministry staff and observations. Implementation slowed due to funding constraints caused by the deepening economic crisis in the region and low revenues this year, which UNICEF is trying to overcome by leveraging resources from other sources.

**OUTPUT 1**

Output 2.1.2 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:**
With UNICEF’s advocacy, the MHIF and MoH developed and extended the modelling of the new mechanism for provision of health services to young children within the first 24 hours of hospitalization from five pilot hospitals to all seven provincial hospitals. This new funding from the MHIF contributed to increased access by children to hospital care, a reduction of unnecessary hospitalizations and more efficient use of available resources and implementation of IMCI principles at hospitals. Starting in January 1, 2017, this new funding will be implemented nationally, contributing to improved access by all sick children to
relevant, short-term hospital services. The effort exemplifies optimization of services using available resources by improving efficiency.

The past year was marked by an important contribution by the national team of child resuscitators, which was formed after the PALS training. The team developed four clinical standards for managing of critical health conditions in children, which were approved by the MoH for national use. PALS training conducted as part of a UNICEF project, were the first ever-specialized capacity building activities for health providers in child resuscitation since 1990, the speed and range of growth of child resuscitation services has been remarkable. PALS training is incorporated into the routine curriculum of postgraduate program at the medical university. The results of the monitoring of trained PALS instructors influenced prioritization of this type of services within the two-year plan for reforms in the health sector and allocation of US$1.5 million to procure necessary equipment to ensure implementation of life-saving interventions outlined in PALS.

At resuscitation units, 153 (94.4 per cent) of 162 young children in a critical health situation received timely, quality treatment and ventilation through stationary medical devices provided to five hospitals in July 2016. As a result, in just six months the death of 153 children was prevented at those five hospitals.

Advanced ventilation equipment, adjusted to low birthweight babies in severe critical health situations, particularly 12 breathing devices, donated to nine remote district hospitals, along with upgraded clinical practices by health workers, helped to prevent the death of 347 out of 583 new-borns who received treatment.

Social mobilization of village health committee workers increased awareness among parents about danger signs of pregnancy and childhood diseases; members of 890 committees in southern provinces (83.1 per cent of all villages in the southern provinces of Kyrgyzstan, representing 49.4 per cent of committees in the country).

**OUTPUT 2**

Output 2.1.3 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:**

After events in 2010, some social and political pressure was put on ethnic minorities to acquire Kyrgyz as state language and less support was given to minority languages, as some politicians see them as obstacles to the unity and integrity of Kyrgyzstan’s society. However, the education system was not methodologically ready to introduce MLE in pre-schools and schools. UNICEF’s ‘unity in diversity’ project, supported by the UN Peacebuilding Fund, highlights the rights of minority children to learn in their native language, while supporting learning in state and official languages to provide full opportunities for meaningful integration of ethnic minorities into social and political life. As a result, about 9,000 children at 56 schools and 11 pre-schools enjoyed improved learning in 306 multilingual education (MLE) pilot classes about 20 per cent were from ethnic minorities. Two university resource hubs and 12 resource schools provided routine methodological support to other schools. The end-line assessment of MLE showed that the level of ethnic stereotyping in MLE pilot schools and communities was reduced among parents from 16 to 1 per cent, among teachers from 11 to 0 per cent and among students from 10 to 4 per cent. The project achieved expanded expectations by parents for girls using languages in various spheres, and community attitudes towards using several languages in school learning processes became much more positive.
Three handbooks for school teachers, four methodological guides for preschool teachers, three dictionaries, and a set of best MLE lesson plans were developed and distributed to pilot schools and preschools. Final versions approved by the MoES and teaching and learning materials were being distributed nationwide. All publications are digitalized. Overall 1,000 school and university teachers were trained in all aspects of MLE through a series of workshops. As part of the baseline assessment in 2014, language testing of 213 teachers showed that one-third possessed minimal levels of language literacy and other 30 per cent were at an elementary level. Extra efforts were spent to improve teachers’ language skills; post-test results from 2016 are expected in 2017.

OUTPUT 3 Output 2.1.4 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 and other UN agencies initiated in 2016 a multi-agency peacebuilding project to reduce tensions in border communities in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. UNICEF focuses on building trust between border service guards and adolescents in communities over 30,000 children, and on helping local authorities and service providers to prioritize children’s and adolescents’ issues with local authorities. As an example, border service guards explained their work and challenges at a youth camp attended by 500 adolescents, the vast majority are reported having a better understanding of their own role in preventing border conflicts. UNICEF is also building capacities of teachers at all schools (23) in border areas, reaching over 5,000 secondary-school age children with Russian language courses, the common language of communication with their Tajik neighbors.

Some 1,311 adolescents (69 per cent girls) in conflict-prone communities increased their capacity to cope and mitigate community development challenges. A study using the micro-narratives method showed that 53 per cent had confidence in their ability to mitigate conflicts, while 48 per cent felt they could better cope with challenges, rather than prevent or mitigate them. This study informed the programme of a new four-year partnership with the UK Government, initiated in late 2016, to support the Government of Kyrgyzstan to conduct a four-year modelling of youth and child friendly local governance in three districts, reaching the most disenfranchised adolescents. UNICEF’s work in decentralized local governance and peacebuilding was documented and presented at the Geneva Peace Conference 2016.

The peacebuilding cross-border programme with Tajikistan also included multi-sectoral activities, supported by donors such as the Japanese and UK Governments, embracing education, child protection, health, and adolescent development. Expansion of ECE to over 1,500 children was used also to promote dialogue and collaboration for conflict prevention. The forthcoming UNICEF publication Learning for Peace: Narratives from the Field highlights the activity as a best practice. Exchange visits initiated between education professionals from the two countries were expanded to the health sector: in April and November, 54 medical doctors and technical staff from ministries of health from both countries met at border locations to share experiences around MCH. Participants established mechanisms for regular exchange of information between heads of health facilities and doctors, particularly on cases of medical care provided to mothers and children on quarterly basis. Moreover, the Batken Province administration has budgeted activities for 2017 aimed at improving collaboration between Kyrgyz and Tajik health workers.

UNICEF continued its work to improve access to quality basic health care services in the most deprived provinces in the south of the country. In 2016, this involved upgrading life-
saving equipment and strengthening monitoring capabilities at health facilities, training and providing integrated supervisory and monitoring visits to MCH wards. This work, conducted in 34 hospitals (28 in the south) sought to institutionalize internal quality control processes at health facilities. As a result, in 2016 over 90 per cent of children facing acute health crises received timely quality treatment and ventilation.

OUTPUT 4 Output 2.1.11. By end 2016, 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:
To demonstrate an effective justice system for children in line with international standards, UNICEF continued to support modelling of the juvenile justice system in Bishkek. As a result, eight child-friendly police and court premises for children in conflict and contact with the law were established and serving children. A model child-friendly court facilities established in Leninsky District of the capital, with support from UNICEF, was replicated in 10 additional courts in different parts of the country; replication was fully funded from the public budget.

The system of duty lawyers and social workers was being used by relevant city departments to facilitate continuous specialized services for children in conflict with the law. All law enforcement agencies have introduced specialization of those responsible for juvenile justice. All Bishkek city districts have formed coordination groups, chaired by the heads of district courts, to facilitate effective implementation of the modelling project on the ground. Fifteen visits were undertaken to monitor trials, quality of free legal aid and defence lawyers’ dossiers for cases of children in conflict with the law. Findings from the monitoring served to inform decisions by the national coordination council on juvenile justice, chaired by a Vice-Prime Minister. Two joint monitoring visits were carried out with the Ombudsman Office, to observe the situation of children in closed facilities for juveniles in conflict with the law. Violations were identified and addressed. The work of the Ombudsman, supported by UNICEF, was presented and shared with Ombudspersons from the region during a high-level roundtable on preventing torture and ill-treatment of children. The Ombudsman's Office received and handled 58 cases related to children between January and November 2016.

Some 486 specialists from social affairs departments, the police, crime execution inspection, courts, prosecutor's offices and the Kyrgyz Bar Association have strengthened knowledge about the principles of restorative justice and child-friendly justice procedures and are ready to apply them in practice. Fifty-three children (47 boys, including 1 Russian and 1 Uzbek, and 6 girls) received reintegration support through the modelling project. In addition, one more center for child victims of violence became functional in the city of Talas (Talas Oblast in the north of the country).

The Ministry of Internal Affairs noted in November 2016 that compared to 2015, the number of juvenile offences declined by 20 per cent, crimes against children by 19 per cent and crimes of sexual nature by 43 per cent.

OUTPUT 5 Output 2.1.5. By end 2016, 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:
In 2016 UNICEF Kyrgyzstan worked with the Government and other partners to improving understanding of risks and vulnerabilities, to harness child-sensitive disaster risk management in the country. UNICEF strengthened the capacity of the MoES to promote
risk-informed and child-sensitive local development planning through training and participation in regional knowledge management events. UNICEF and MoES training worked together to further refine the disaster risk analysis methodology and related learning materials. The materials will be used to train municipalities to produce better analysis and risk-informed local development planning. With UNICEF technical assistance, the Ministry started piloting DRA in two municipalities, and will finalize the DRA methodology based on the experience gained through the pilots and recommendations. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan also supported the initiative by Ministry leadership to review all available methodologies for risk assessment and analysis, in order to develop a unified methodology accepted by the Government and development partners.

Following the UNICEF-commissioned safety assessment of schools and preschools in 2015, the MOES launched the “Safe Schools and Preschools 2015-2024” programme, through which the Government began to retrofit/build 100 priority schools and preschools. UNICEF followed the progress through regular meetings with responsible ministry staff and observations. A slowdown in implementation took place due to funding constraints caused by the deepening economic crisis in the region and low revenues in 2016.

UNICEF also advocated for maintaining disaster risk reduction education in the national curriculum. The MOES was engaged in revising the curriculum and planned to provide the principles of everyday safety for grades six-ni-11, as an extra-curricular class. This may not give the same level of focus, understanding and DRR skills to children, which is important considering the country proneness to disasters. To further support and enhance resilience of children to emergencies, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan developed and gave to MOES a set of interactive learning tools on DRR/ Principles of Everyday Safety. These included a game developed for primary school children (Android application) and a web based application on DRR for schoolchildren in higher grades. Both applications are available in Kyrgyz and Russian languages and are easily accessible on mobiles free of charge. Applications allow children to learn and test their safe behaviour skills in a child-friendly interactive manner.

**OUTPUT 6** Output 2.1.6 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:**
In 2016 UNICEF’s WASH programme continued to implement activities defined in the work plan, with an increased focus on research, evidence generation and promotion of adequate and sustainable WASH in education and healthcare institutions.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan, in partnership with Save the Children, carried out formative research on MHM to identify current practices and barriers girls face in schools in Kyrgyzstan. Data collection and analysis were finalized earlier this year and findings validated with main partners. The findings and recommendations of the research were presented and discussed at a national awareness-raising event with key WASH stakeholders in April 2016. The First Lady of Kyrgyzstan, Parliament members, the Minister of Education and Science, MH representatives, governors and relevant non-governmental organizations and selected heads of district education departments took part in the meeting. This was the first high-level event to break the silence about this culturally sensitive topic in Kyrgyzstan. The participants unanimously acknowledged the existing problems and adopted key recommended actions. As part of the recommendations, UNICEF developed and disseminated an electronic version of the basic package of training and communication materials on awareness-raising about puberty, MHM and actions required to improve WASH for girls, parents, teachers and school administrations. MHM research findings and recommendations were showcased at several high-level events and spurred many decision-makers at all levels to action: Global MHM conference in New York, UNECE/WHO meeting of parties to the water and health protocol in
Geneva and the WHO regional meeting on inter-agency and inter-sectoral collaboration for health and wellbeing in Paris.

With funding provided by the Government of Japan, UNICEF supported 10 hospitals to improve their water and sanitation facilities. Renovation works were completed and handed over to beneficiaries. As a result, about 17,900 children and 39,800 mothers now use improved WASH facilities in hospitals, and over 55,000 patients will access the facilities annually.

As sector lead for WASH, UNICEF continued to support sector coordination for emergency preparedness and response. Key results included an updated WASH- sector contingency plan and support provided by UNICEF to populations affected by floods in Batken Province. At the request of the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan and the MoES, UNICEF provided family hygiene kits to Ylai-Taala municipality and water purification tablets to Kadamjai Hospital to address the needs of the flood-affected population.

OUTCOME 4 Outcome 3.1 by 2016, 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:
UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued to raise national capacity for monitoring and evaluation: the International Parliamentarians’ Forum for Evaluation was held in Bishkek in June 2016 (as reported in UNICEF Icon and the Eval News bulletin). Technical assistance was provided to the NSC to monitor child wellbeing and support the regional Trans-MONEE programme.

End-line research conducted for the three-month peacebuilding programme carried out by UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA demonstrated a significant contribution to decreasing the level of tensions and conflicts among young people in communities affected by ethnic violence in 2010. The end-line study recorded five incidents of violent youth behaviour, against 44 at the time of the baseline study. That was achieved through expanding youth participation in local community development in an inclusive manner, as well as by giving youth an opportunity to voice their concerns in a safe environment.

UNICEF model of Justice for children in Bishkek resulted in establishment of at least 11 child friendly procedures by the Supreme Court, following that model. The programme built the capacity of the Ombudman’s Office in to monitor implementation of the rights of most disadvantaged children, particularly though reviewing criminal cases of violence against children, monitoring closed facilities and residential institution for children and producing a set of recommendations and specialised report for improving their situation.

UNICEF’s technical support to the State Agency for Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Education and Science within the UN Youth Group also in cooperation GIZ’ “Perspective for Youth” Programme resulted in a draft of the National Strategy for Youth Policy Implementation for 2016-2020, now pending approval by the Government. UNICEF also achieved some important system changes regarding the situation of youth and their prospect to develop a favourable environment. The Youth Work curricula review made peacebuilding and civic participation themes more salient. Participants of the youth work curricula course had an opportunity to exchange experience with their peer youth workers in other country regions that have not been part of PBF engagement. The subject called “State Youth Policy” was introduced to MA course in "Public and municipal administration" which is delivered in 90 hours and three credits.
OUTPUT 1
Output 3.1.1 by end 2016, 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:
The final draft of the national youth strategy for 2016-2022 was developed, with technical support from UNICEF, and was submitted to the Government. The document includes a results framework with activities stressing inclusive participation, education priorities and peacebuilding.

UNICEF collaborated with UNDP to support the UN Peacebuilding Fund, piloting youth engagement in local elections in communities that have experienced substantial electoral violence in the past. Some 3,000 adolescents and youth have improved knowledge about electoral messaging for peaceful balloting and civic journalism, and have advocated on youth-related issues with candidates for office in local councils. Twelve youth produced articles published in local mainstream media; 10 photo-stories and over 44 social media articles were published by young people.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan launched M-Report in November 2016 (“M” stands for 'molodezh' – youth in Russian language). It is an innovative tool that allows youth to share their views and opinions on issues that are important to them, at no cost, via SMS and online, and aims to bring youth voices to the attention of decision-makers. This tool was handed over to the Government’s National Institute for Strategic Studies, which is the main Kyrgyz research institution, established to provide data and analysis for decision- and policy-making at the national level. Over 1,400 M-reporters signed up to use this tool. Four polls were conducted, covering youth’s preferences for leisure, employment choices, volunteering and participation in local elections.

UNICEF successfully advocated for and modelled a professional readiness programme. Over 220 youth were placed in internships with public and private companies, acquiring employability skills. As a result, the MoES included the internship programme as part of the national road map for professional orientation of young people, to will be piloted in 100 schools in 2017. The agency for youth affairs, sports and physical culture began to scale up the internship programme in Naryn Province.

OUTPUT 2
Output 3.1.2 Data collection, monitoring and analysing and evaluation systems inform policy making and budgeting around issues related to youth and children, including child rights.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF continued its work on data and evidence generation to monitor the situation of children and women in the country and progress achieved. Recent data, reports, studies and evaluations relevant to the situation of children were provided and used in the course of the UN Common Country Assessment.

A joint review of the national Immunization and VPD surveillance programmes was conducted by professionals from the MoH, WHO, UNICEF, GAVI and the US CDC in Kyrgyzstan in 2016. The objective of the review was to identify system strengths and weaknesses and to make recommendations in light of global and regional immunization and disease control targets, such as the polio “endgame” and measles/rubella elimination.

UNICEF continued its cooperation with the NSO, in the framework of the regional Trans-Monee Programme.
The Office continued efforts to raise national M&E capacity; the International Parliamentarian Forum for Evaluation was conducted in Bishkek (reflected in UNICEF Icon and Eval News bulletin). Technical assistance was provided to the NSC to monitor child wellbeing and support the Trans-MONEE programme.

UNICEF supported the Ombudsman’s office to monitor child rights violations and produce a special report for the national Parliament.

**Document Center**

**Evaluation and Research**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sequence Number</th>
<th>Type of Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joint National – International Review of the National Immunization Program in Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>2016/005</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appraisal of the governance of the child care and social protection system in Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>2016/007</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of the Multilingual Education Component of the Unity in Diversity Project in Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>2016/004</td>
<td>Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHM Research report - Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>2016/003</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANALYSIS OF THE INCLUSIVE EDUCATION POLICY, PROGRAMS AND PRACTICE IN KYRGYZ REPUBLIC</td>
<td>2016/002</td>
<td>Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVALUATION OF UNICEF COUNTRY PROGRAM (2012 - 2016) AND STRATEGIC POSITIONING</td>
<td>2016/001</td>
<td>Evaluation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other Publication**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dairy for monitoring of Child development from 0-7 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Learning Development Standards 0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodical recommendations on the use of visual aids in teaching a second language and set of visual aids (cards, posters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manual on design and implementation of multilingual programs: How to develop and introduce the sustainable program on Multilingual Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lessons Learned**

**Document Type/Category/Title**

**Programme Documents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Type</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPD</td>
<td>Kyrgyzstan Country Programme Document</td>
<td>Kyrgyzstan_CPD_2012-2016.pdf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>UNDAF Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>Kyrgyzstan_UNDAF_2012-2016.pdf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>