Executive summary

In 2017, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued to support significant achievements for children in the country, through partnerships with the Government, Parliament, local authorities, United Nations agencies, academia, civil society and the private sector.

UNICEF aimed to address remaining gaps for many indicators amongst vulnerable segments of the population, such as children with disabilities or from poor families, by supporting specific work on health, early childhood development, nutrition, education and protection. The goal is to ensure system strengthening for all sectors to deliver equitable services for children.

Having identified the main bottlenecks in accessing quality healthcare for young children, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan helped to improve quality health services for women and children. Optimizing the use of available resources to reduce unnecessary hospitalization, the institutionalization of 24-hour hospitalization practices led to a 34 per cent decline in hospital mortality among young children and a reduction from 51 per cent to 1.2 per cent of late and unjustified hospitalizations in modelling facilities. Having piloted the project in five hospitals since 2015, this initiative was scaled up to all hospitals nationwide in 2017.

UNICEF’s evidence generation and advocacy in social protection resulted in the adoption of new benefits for poor families with children. An analysis showed that the current design of the benefit for poor families with children is not efficient and that it fails to reach the poorest. The findings informed the new design of the child benefit, which will abandon the costly, divisive, and ineffective means test. Following advocacy and policy dialogue, a law introducing the new benefit was adopted in July 2017.

As part of a peace building intervention in southern Kyrgyzstan, 1,750 schoolchildren participated in multilingual education, which led to an observable positive change in attitudes between children of different ethnicities. UNICEF also partnered with a university to prepare bilingual teachers. In addition, 180 students from communities near the Tajik-Kyrgyz border areas learned Russian, which allowed them to better communicate with each other across the border.

During 2017, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued to build the capacity of key counterparts. One of the goals was to promote positive behaviours of the population. Aiming to improve nutrition, the awareness of 16,500 people was raised on the impact of flour fortification, iron deficiency and anaemia. To improve child nutrition outcomes, UNICEF engaged 160,000 caregivers during World Breastfeeding Week. To prevent online violence, UNICEF reached 66,000 children and caretakers with messages on cyber safety. UNICEF continued to support ‘M-report’ – a youth survey tool with 5,100 subscribers. Through this tool, over 25 surveys among young people were conducted in 2017.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued to expand platforms and ways to draw public attention to the most vulnerable children. Eight new media partnerships were initiated with leading outlets.
These resulted in an increase of articles, in-depth interviews and analytical statements on issues affecting children and results delivered by UNICEF. Expanding its collaboration with the private sector, UNICEF entered a new partnership with DemirBank to promote social inclusion of children with disabilities. Around 60,000 of the bank’s clients were reached with a message to ‘open the doors’ for children with disabilities. The goal of this partnership is also to raise the awareness of other companies and to encourage them to follow the bank’s example.

The country is prone to frequent natural disasters and is also considered as highly vulnerable to climate change, which can impact on the hazards. Therefore, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan decided to prioritize this area within the new country programme for 2018-2022, and to invest its limited resources to influence policy decisions, by ensuring that child rights issues are integral to the climate change agenda.

Despite these important achievements, challenges remain to achieve all rights of all children in Kyrgyzstan. Stability in southern Kyrgyzstan remains fragile, with a risk of destabilization for the whole of the country. The root causes still need to be fully addressed, including through promoting peace building and ensuring equal access to justice and services. Gender is a dimension of child vulnerability, with girls being at higher risk of experiencing a range of protection issues. Gaps between national policy intent and implementation across several thematic areas are also evident. A further focus is required on elements supporting national institutional capacity in public administration reform for children. These elements include: generation of evidence for decision-making, documenting climate change affecting children’s well-being, managing cross-sectoral issues affecting children (such as gender, migration, poverty, disability, and violence) and alliance building within the United Nations Country Team, with civil society and the private sector around key thematic areas.

**Humanitarian assistance**

In 2017, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan responded to several small-scale emergencies to support children and families affected by disasters. On 16th January, a cargo plane flying from Hong Kong to Istanbul via Bishkek crashed in a village near the International Manas Airport, 25km north of the capital Bishkek. According to official information, four crew members and 28 residents died. More than 20 buildings were destroyed in the village. Although the Government had announced that in-country resources were sufficient to cover immediate needs, UNICEF facilitated psychosocial support for children and their parents to fill the gap and ensure the provision of this important service which is usually lacking or insufficient.

Two earthquakes with aftershocks on 3rd May (magnitude 5.9) and on 5th May (magnitude 5.8) struck the south of Kyrgyzstan in Chon Alay district of Osh province, near the border with Tajikistan. Five villages were affected (Karamyk, Jekendy, Kara-Teyit, Chuluk and Shibee) with a total population of almost 8,000 people.

In the period from October 2016 to March 2017, the amount of precipitation exceeded the long-term values by 290 per cent of the norm, which led to an increasing number of emergencies in the territory of the country. From the beginning of 2017, 61 landslides damaged 86 houses and killed 45 people. The biggest landslides occurred from the end of April to the beginning of May. On 11th May 2017, the Ministry of Emergency Situations appealed to the Disaster Response Coordination Unit for humanitarian assistance. Upon request, UNICEF provided the Ministry of Emergency Situations with 990 family hygiene kits (including menstrual hygiene materials) and 320 recreation kits, which were distributed to the population affected by the earthquakes and landslides.
As part of preparedness, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan contributed to the development of an Inter-Agency Contingency Plan and participated in a simulation exercise. On 18th and 19th September, the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia provided technical support to UNICEF Kyrgyzstan for the rollout of the new emergency preparedness procedure. Seventeen staff members received general orientation on the procedure. Emergency management team members underwent additional in-depth sessions on the preparedness steps and minimum standards and were familiarized with the expected outcomes. These activities further enhanced UNICEF Kyrgyzstan's preparedness for emergency situations. The UNICEF Regional Office also supported UNICEF Kyrgyzstan with replenishment of contingency stocks to meet the targets during the initial response to emergencies.

**Equity in practice**

As part of a regional initiative, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan initiated an in-depth review on the child poverty-related situation in the country by looking at equity dimensions and specific vulnerabilities. The analysis at the country level resulted in the institutionalization of the nationally-owned measurement of child poverty and the child well-being index. The latter is measured and has been officially disseminated since 2011. However, the disaggregation is limited to the provincial level due to the methodology of surveys.

A multisectoral team of UNICEF programme staff and governmental partners launched grassroots interventions in 2011 in 18 remote rural villages of disadvantaged Batken province in the south of the country. Local data analysis as well as situation and stakeholders’ assessments identified multiple inequities faced by vulnerable children and women in accessing public services. The application of the ten-step determinant analysis shaped and prioritized programming areas, focusing on key bottlenecks and barriers in health, early childhood development, social protection and communication for development (C4D).

The following facts illustrate problems faced by disadvantaged communities. Only one out of six deceased pregnant women arrived timely at a maternity ward. Only one out of five preschool-age children attend preschool education. There is low awareness on social entitlements for poor families with children and confusion due to cumbersome and costly application procedures with zero cases of official complaints filed. Only 26 per cent and 33 per cent of surveyed women in Batken knew the danger signs of pregnancy and childhood illnesses respectively.

An integrated response involved all concerned stakeholders and comprised tailored on-the-job training, skill building and coaching for service providers and empowerment of rights holders. The approach was evaluated and then scaled up to 55 municipalities of three southern provinces including conflict-affected and conflict-prone areas. Content-wise, the approach was extended to child protection, education and youth with local authorities trained on child-sensitive strategic planning.

The evidence base was enriched by a cost-benefit analysis at the level of gross domestic product (GDP) and household, covering access to early education, returning school-age children to school, reducing infant and maternal mortality, and training young people to improve their employability. Investment in early childhood development and youth employability showed the highest economic return.

The equity programme in southern Kyrgyzstan contributed to the accelerated achievement of Millennium Development Goal 4 – Reduce Child Mortality. According to the United Nations
Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, the under-five mortality rate decreased from 65 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 21 in 2016, with an accelerated reduction during the last decade. Equity gaps related to wealth, education status and rural-urban dimension were reduced. While the number of beneficiaries of the monthly benefit for poor families with children decreased since 2013, the amount of the poverty-targeted benefit rose over the past years. This benefit, in the absence of any other targeted measures, affected a trend in reduction of extreme child poverty until 2015 in the view of the expert community.

Several sets of inter-ministerial and intersectoral interventions with governance elements received further continuation within United Nations Programme(s) on Peace Building. They detected and addressed vulnerabilities via the introduction of case management as a modern social work approach, youth participation in local decision-making, multilingual education, and the return of out-of-school children to classrooms.

One of the key lessons learned from the country programme for 2012-2017 is related to the results of the equity programme, in which there was persistent advocacy to link municipality-level work and national-level change. Many interventions and innovative ideas at the local level targeting reduction in equity gaps were not replicated nationwide. This was due to gaps in the existing domestic legislation related to division of labour and clarity on roles and responsibilities between central and decentralised authorities in funding and in the provision of social services for vulnerable children and their families.

The lessons learned and the key equity concerns were considered during the design of the next country programme for 2018-2022. New and emerging areas of programmatic interventions were identified to be paid greater attention to in order to narrow the gaps. These include children with disabilities, girl children, children of migrant parents and adolescent children.

**Emerging areas of importance**

During the reporting year, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan worked in the emerging areas of climate change and adolescence and youth programming.

**The second decade and youth programming.** UNICEF Kyrgyzstan started implementing one of its flagship strategies called ‘Youth and Child-Friendly Local Governance’. In the Kyrgyz context, it is adopted as a framework for child and adolescent-centred and participatory decision-making, which aims to reduce youth’s sense of frustration and abandonment and build their resilience to violent and manipulative ideologies. Planning and budgeting for local development, based on evidence of inequities and vulnerabilities faced by children, is the hub of youth and child-friendly local governance.

The Youth and Child-Friendly Local Governance is gaining momentum in two districts, and 10 municipality coordination groups were established. They are composed of public administration professionals and service providers from different fields and aim to jointly address complex issues such as violence and unemployment. The municipality profiles have been updated for all 10, using the lens of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as on the issues related to youth’s well-being, access to justice and security. The project identified 49 local public policy professionals and service providers who can reach out to the most disadvantaged and trained these actors on child and adolescent-centred local planning. A local needs assessment with 340 adolescents was carried out and the data made available to feed into the local planning for youth well-being. In addition,
a toolkit was developed to train youth on rights-based participation in community affairs and public policy.

**Climate change** and environmental degradation undermine children’s rights around the world. Following the UNICEF Executive Directive ‘Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Children’, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan together with UNICEF Headquarters (Division for Data Research and Policy) commissioned the ‘Climate Landscape Assessment for Children (CLAC)’ report. The CLAC report was based on a desk review of available documentation and meetings with development partners active in climate change adaptation and mitigation activities. It provided the essential baseline information on climate, environment and energy issues affecting children and gave recommendations, which have been incorporated into the new country programme. Based on the analysis and the global priority agenda, and taking into consideration that Kyrgyzstan is prone to frequent natural disasters and highly vulnerable to climate change, UNICEF decided to invest its limited resources to influence policy decisions. This is being done by ensuring that child rights issues are integral to the climate change agenda, as well as mitigating risks that children can be exposed to during and after disasters.

**Strategic Plan 2018-2021**

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan is starting a new country programme in 2018, coinciding with the Strategic Plan. While this is positive in terms of possible and stronger alignment of the country-specific interventions and strategies to the global plan, it presents some challenges as many policy-related changes and instructions are under development. Once they are finalized it might be necessary to revisit country-specific indicators and targets to ensure consistency and clear contribution of UNICEF Kyrgyzstan to the globally agreed priorities.

The new country programme will contribute to all five of the goal areas of the UNICEF Strategic Plan and have three integrated clusters aiming at providing leadership in: (a) child rights-based decision-making; (b) equitable access for child survival, learning and development, and; (c) child protection and peace building. The programme effectiveness outcome will focus on: (a) overall coordination and monitoring; (b) external relations and public awareness; (c) communication for social and behavioural change; and (d) partnership for children.

The country programme is aiming to address the remaining gaps for many indicators amongst vulnerable segments of the population, such as children with disabilities or from poor or migrant families. UNICEF will continue to support specific health, early childhood development, nutrition, education and protection-related work to ensure system strengthening for all sectors to deliver equitable services for children, with an effort to contribute to the reduction of inequities.

The change strategies (HOW) defined in the Strategic Plan will be prioritized and implemented. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan will continue programming at-scale by demonstrating models of new ways of achieving results for children, particularly in the field of integrated service delivery for vulnerable children, such as those with disabilities, left without parental care, or in conflict with the law.. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan will establish a dedicated gender staff post to ensure effective gender-responsive programming throughout different sectors. Investment will be made in climate change, to position the children’s agenda as a part of broader interventions planned by the Government and development partners. Inclusion will be a cross-cutting strategy for out-of-school children, especially girls and adolescents, who will be given a chance to participate in the shaping of their society.
Upstream work will be complemented by inputs to combat negative social norms and attitudes and to develop household strategies to empower caregivers. Communication for social change will be implemented across all segments of the population, with a strong investment in gender equality.

The strategies of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021 on ‘developing and leveraging resources and partnerships for children’ and ‘harnessing the power of business and markets for children’ will be applied locally. Leveraging resources from key development partners, especially international financial institutions as well as bilateral development agencies active in Kyrgyzstan, is important for placing the needs of the most vulnerable children into the focus of the development agenda will also harness the power of business for children. Ties with academic institutions enable UNICEF to connect with the young audience and draw their attention to the children’s agenda.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan will further invest in data and evidence-generation and their use by decision-makers at national and local levels, aligned with the global strategy of ‘winning support for the cause of children from decision-makers and the wider public’.

On the ‘UN working together’ strategy, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan will continue to contribute to greater synergies and coordination with United Nations agencies as part of the Delivering as One agenda and in line with the spirit of the Common Chapter of the Strategic Plan. It will be ensured through the continuation of joint programmes and projects, particularly on peace building. UNICEF, with other agencies, will further strengthen joint planning, implementation and monitoring of results in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2018-2022.

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

**Acronyms**

- CLAC – Climate Landscape Assessment for Children
- CMT – country management team
- CPMP – Country Programme Management Plan
- C4D – communication for development
- GPE – Global Partnership for Education
- HACT – harmonized approach to cash transfer
- HIV – human immunodeficiency virus
- NGO – non-governmental organization
- OHCHR – Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- SDG – Sustainable Development Goal
- UK – United Kingdom
- UN – United Nations
- UNAIDS – Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
- UNDAF – United Nations Development Assistance Framework
- UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
- UNDSS – United Nations Department of Safety and Security
- UNICEF – United Nations Children's Fund
- WASH – water, sanitation and hygiene
- WHO – World Health Organization

**Capacity Development**
During 2017, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued to build the capacity of key counterparts. One of the goals was to promote positive behaviours among the population. Aiming to improve nutrition, the awareness of 16,500 people was raised on the impact of flour fortification, iron deficiency and anaemia. To improve child nutrition outcomes, UNICEF engaged 160,000 caregivers during World Breastfeeding Week. To address online violence, UNICEF reached 66,000 children and caretakers with messages on cyber safety.

Aiming to promote positive social norms, edutainment cartoons on climate change, gender parity and friendship between ethnicities were developed to be broadcast in 2018. A vast repository of material reappeared on television and in cinemas to sensitize children and parents on child rights, violence prevention, school readiness and disaster risk reduction.

Another goal of capacity development interventions was to increase the demand for services, such as immunization. A study on knowledge, attitudes and practice of parents, medical workers and religious and other influencers on immunization was produced to inform a communication strategy and training materials to increase parents’ trust of vaccines.

To early identify developmental delays in children, 1,000 teachers were familiarized with UNICEF’s Early Learning Development Standards and 1,000 parents were familiarized with a diary on child development. These tools enable teachers and caregivers to timely detect such delays and provide recommendations on promoting child development.

UNICEF raised the capacity of 150 social workers, border guards and justice professionals on child-friendly procedures, which they now apply in their work. Furthermore, UNICEF produced a manual for schools to increase the preparedness and resistance of children to disasters and emergencies.

As a result of two-day training, 30 representatives of child-related non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have better capacities to apply C4D theories and approaches. Five case studies are available for communication specialists to learn C4D in practice.

Evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy

In 2017 UNICEF Kyrgyzstan generated evidence in a number of programme areas, as a contribution to the achievement of results. This included a qualitative analysis on barriers to enrol poor children to the mean-tested benefit, which concluded that the benefit failed to meet its objectives and that targeting was not effective in reaching the poorest. The findings informed the design of a new approach, with a universal child allowance zero to three-year olds, and a grant to the third and every subsequent child. The approved law will substantively reduce ‘exclusion’ error among the poorest.

UNICEF partnered with the Government, the United Nations, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and civil society to establish a Youth Development and Well-being Index. Research was conducted, including a survey among 1,070 youth on participation, economic opportunities, education, health, and protection. This index data will inform the upcoming National Youth Concept and feed into the overall National Development Strategy 2018-2040.

Furthermore, UNICEF assisted the Government in the identification of main bottlenecks in accessing quality healthcare for young children. As a result, a process was initiated that led to a minimization of cases of late hospitalization, reduced unjustified hospitalizations and improved
timeliness of service provision. Another result of this evidence-based policy advocacy was the scale-up of this initiative to all hospitals nationwide in 2017. A 34 per cent decline in hospital mortality among young children and a reduction from 51 per cent to 1.2 per cent in late and unjustified hospitalization in pilot areas were the result of the institutionalization of 24-hour hospitalization practices. Compliance with standards, rational use of medicine and parents’ satisfaction were improved.

Another success of UNICEF’s advocacy was the introduction of new child-friendly procedures in legislation. This includes deposition of testimony, diversion of children from the formal justice system, juvenile probation and free legal aid for children in contact with the law.

**Partnerships**

In 2017, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan bolstered strategic partnerships among different stakeholders.

The partnership with the Government led to the take-up of several issues in health, education, child protection, and youth programming, while the partnership with Parliament resulted in the adoption of the Criminal Code and the Law on Probation that introduced child-friendly interviewing and diversion of juveniles. New parliamentary working groups were established to revise the Child Code and draft a new Law on Social Services. Additionally, in cooperation with the Foundation ‘Roza Otunbayeva’s Initiatives’, Parliament instructed line ministries to make the early learning and development standards available to all parents and relevant professionals.

Enhancing its partnership with the private sector, UNICEF joined forces with DemirBank to promote social inclusion of children with disabilities, reaching 60,000 of the bank’s clients with a message to ‘open the doors’ for children with disabilities.

Engaging over 400 children, the partnership with the Football Federation continued to promote peace, tolerance and girls’ rights.

A multi-stakeholder partnership continued with the Scaling Up Nutrition movement. Parliamentarians, Government representatives, academia, business, civil society and the United Nations expanded efforts promoting healthy nutrition. This partnership was recognized with the Scaling Up Nutrition Champion Award 2017 and resulted in an increase of fortified flour production from 18 per cent (2015) to 51 per cent (2017).

During UNICEF’s co-chairmanship of the Education Development Partners Coordination Council, a number of key achievements were made. These included a mapping of development partners and their resources, the development of the 2018-2020 Action Plan of the Education Development Strategy 2012-2020, as well as the initiation of a comprehensive education sector analysis in partnership with the World Bank and funded by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) were initiated.

Being in a UN ‘Delivering as One’ country, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued joint efforts with other United Nations agencies, particularly in the field of sustaining peace and social coherence within Peacebuilding Fund-supported projects.

**External communication and public advocacy**

In 2017, UNICEF substantially raised the visibility of issues affecting children in Kyrgyzstan. Major results included the engagement of the public in the early childhood development campaign #SuperDad; bolstering of public pressure to protect the rights of children with
disabilities and adolescents affected by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV); and doubling of the number of inquiries to child helpline 111 addressing violence and abuse of children. UNICEF mentions in the media increased by 50 per cent, the social media audience doubled, and a new C4D programme to address vaccination hesitancy was launched.

To strengthen UNICEF’s leadership as a voice for children, new media alliances were established with leading television companies, newspapers and radio stations. High level advocacy visits, press tours, and media events were organized, and compelling stories published on global websites to raise awareness on issues affecting children and the results achieved with UNICEF support.

To reach a greater audience, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan invested in the development of a new website and in social media presence. With some 32,000 followers, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan’s Facebook page ranks # one among non-profit organizations in Kyrgyzstan, while the YouTube channel has had over 15 million views, mainly providing edutainment content for children and parents.

As a part of the World’s Children Day celebration and a global #KidsTakeOver initiative, a girl with disability took over one of the member of parliament positions and called for the ratification of the UN Convention on Persons with Disabilities.

**South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation**

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan supported the capacity development and knowledge exchange on children’s rights to be protected from abuse and violence and to live in a family environment between the Ombudsman’s Office and the Ministry of Labour and Social Development with child protection actors in Armenia, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan and Russia.

In addition, UNICEF supported South-South cooperation by benefiting from the experience of Georgia in relation to juvenile probation, which was considered relevant to study for the Kyrgyz context. As a result of a visit from an expert from Georgia, a plan on modelling of probation was developed and approved and is being implemented, and the first social workers under probation services were hired in modelling districts, leading to a better integration of children in conflict with the law.

To accelerate progress in maternal and newborn health in Central Asia and the Caucasus, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan in partnership with Aga Khan University, the University of Central Asia, the Coalition of Centres in Global Child Health, the SickKids Centre for Global Child Health and the World Health Organization (WHO) conducted an inter-country forum in Bishkek. The 120 participating experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, committed to achieve the SDGs in the area of child survival. The main outcome of the forum was the commitment of countries to prioritize newborn survival based on the action plans developed during the event.

**Identification and promotion of innovation**

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued to support the National Institute for Strategic Studies to implement ‘M-report’ – an online and SMS-based youth survey tool with over 5,100 subscribers. Over 25 surveys among young people were conducted during 2017 on key dimensions of child and youth well-being, including climate change, school bullying, cyber security and healthy lifestyles. The Government utilized the tool by ordering a poll on youths’ professional choices and delivering information on measures taken to address security issues raised in the polls. The
Software is ready to run district and municipality-level surveys and to disaggregate local data from nationwide surveys.

UNICEF supported consultations of key stakeholders to prepare the design of a real-time Internet connectivity mapping of all schools in Kyrgyzstan. This will use the database on school safety with geographic information system (GIS) locations, which needs to be updated and used for the Internet connectivity mapping. More than 80 per cent of schools are in rural areas, and the mountainous terrain creates connection and cost issues for internet connectivity. Around 40 per cent of schools are without Internet access due to a shortage of funds. The mapping will help the Government and UNICEF Kyrgyzstan to identify gaps, monitor progress and target investments so that the digital gap in education is reduced and system efficiency and effectiveness are strengthened.

**Support to integration and cross-sectoral linkages**

As a result of advocacy and cross-sectoral coordination, the early identification and early intervention programme is now an integral part of the state programme on family support and child protection. This combines efforts in the health, education and social protection sectors in the provision of services at the community level to children with developmental delays.

In addition, the adaptation to the local context of the Guide for Monitoring Child Development instrument for early identification of developmental delays of children gave the opportunity to identify issues faced by children during home visits. For the first time, this tool was made available to nurses in selected areas, which enabled them to identify young children in need of support from health and social protection sectors. Furthermore, a cross-sectoral working group developed home visiting modules based on universal and targeted visiting to be tested in selected areas, to identify children’s needs.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan also continued to provide technical assistance to the inter-sectoral Coordination Board on Justice for Children, which had been established under the Government as a result of UNICEF’s advocacy. The Coordination Board unites law enforcement and social sector ministries, Parliament, the judiciary, NGOs and UNICEF to monitor the implementation of the State Programme on Justice for Children. Successes during the year included the replication of the modelling in two districts, the establishment of local coordination groups in modelling districts, and the specialization of all actors in the area of access to justice for children.

In addition, the Government approved a regulation on the identification by schools of children who are out of school or at risk of dropout and the referral of children in vulnerable situations to social workers for cross-sectoral case management.

For internal cross-sectoral programming, UNICEF identified issues including disability, gender-responsive adolescence programming and parenting.

**Service delivery**

The improvement of the quality of health services for women and children over a three-year period in 34 hospitals demonstrated the effectiveness of integrated monitoring rounds. These combine effective perinatal care, the integrated management of childhood illness approach, and the neonatal care programme. The following improvements were achieved between 2013 and 2017: a reduction of incorrect intravenous injections (from 68 to 13 per cent), less unreasonable
pain (82 to 32 per cent), fewer wrong diagnosis (63 to 22 per cent) and wrong treatment (85 to 27 per cent) and less unnecessary hospitalization (64 to 25 per cent).

The improvement of newborn survival is indicated by the reduction of the proportion of foetal and infant deaths in hospitals from 28.4 per cent in 2014 to 25.8 per cent in 2017, and by the fact that the reduction often exceeded the national average. Over 22,000 women and newborns received assistance at delivery in health facilities with improved conditions, including access to hot water, thereby reducing infection risk.

In the area of education, 1,750 students of grades 1-7 participated in multilingual education classes offered by about 90 trained teachers, resulting in an observable positive change in attitudes between children of different ethnicities. Based on a Memorandum of Understanding, Batken State University introduced multilingual education pilot programmes to prepare bilingual teachers. In addition, 180 students at Tajik-Kyrgyz border areas learned the Russian language, enabling them to better communicate with each other.

In child protection, the capacity of 245 specialists on juvenile probation services and child-friendly procedures was enhanced. One hundred and twenty children in contact with the law were provided with psychosocial support and rehabilitation and resocialization programmes within the modelling of access to justice for children in Karakol (eastern Kyrgyzstan) and Suzak (southern Kyrgyzstan). Once this modelling is finalized, the results will be presented to the Government for nationwide replication.

### Human rights-based approach to cooperation

The Concluding Observations of the respective Treaty Committees on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women as well as relevant recommendations from the recent Universal Periodic Review were reviewed and taken into consideration while developing the new country programme and the UNDAF.

UNICEF produced a number of internal and external reports related to the situation of human rights of children in Kyrgyzstan. As a part of the United Nations Secretary-General initiative on Human Rights up Front and the European Union-Kyrgyzstan Human Rights Dialogue, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan provided critical information on the key areas of concern that require further attention of the Government and the international community in addressing children’s rights, especially of those marginalized and excluded. These concerns include the situation of children and young people in the post-conflict context; the impact of migration on children, particularly on children left behind by labour migrant parents; violence against girls and boys; and discrimination against and segregation of children with disabilities.

In 2017, UNICEF jointly with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued the promotion of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. As a result, the subject was included in the Parliamentary hearing at the end of November.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued supporting the Government in strengthening the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council on Social Protection and Children’s Rights, as well as the Coordination Council on Juvenile Justice.

### Gender equality
The UNICEF Situation Analysis (2015) and internal gender assessment recognized gender as one of the dimensions of child vulnerability in the country where girls are at higher risk of experiencing violence. Girls also have unique needs which, if proper infrastructure is not available at schools, can, for example, lead to school dropout. Based on this information, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan decided to strengthen national gender-responsive programming across the new Country Programme (2018-2022), including establishing a staff position of gender officer.

As part of targeted gender interventions in 2017, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan published materials on menstrual hygiene management to be distributed to all schools. One hundred schools enhanced their ability to communicate on puberty and menstrual hygiene management with adolescent girls and their parents. With tools and knowledge, the teachers are better able to explain best hygiene practices before, during and after menstruation.

Furthermore, to celebrate the National Day of the Girl, over 400 schoolchildren in disadvantaged migrant areas learnt about negative consequences of child marriages and bride kidnapping.

Mainstreaming gender in peace building, UNICEF developed training material on tolerance and gender aspects in peace building and utilized it to raise the capacity of 40 teachers and 800 parents in pilot areas in southern Kyrgyzstan. This intervention provided skills to recognize conflict situations and to respond to them in a gender-sensitive manner. In addition, a curriculum and learning material on gender issues were developed to reach 500 children in the pilot areas.

A study which includes attitudes and skills towards vulnerable groups is available to inform the revision of training and communication materials and activities for local self-governance to prevent alienation of vulnerable women and girls.

At the policy level, with UNICEF support, a draft National Action Plan on Gender (2018-2020) was developed to streamline the work of national and international actors in the country.

**Environmental sustainability**

In response to the Executive Directive ‘Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Children’, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan commissioned the ‘Climate Landscape Assessment for Children’ report. The report included a desk review and meetings with partners active in climate change adaptation and mitigation activities. It provided the essential baseline information on climate, environment and energy issues affecting children. The CLAC findings were discussed with all staff to identify ways how UNICEF can include climate change considerations in programming and how a children’s agenda can be promoted in climate talks.

By sharing the CLAC findings with United Nations agencies and development partners, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan started strengthening its engagement in climate change-related dialogue. The CLAC recommendations were incorporated into the new country programme and used in developing the UNDAF outcomes, outputs and activities. UNICEF also included climate change in the new project on school safety, which will enhance school preparedness to emergencies, improve seismic retrofitting methods and support children’s resilience. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan identified the disaster risk reduction and the water, sanitation and hygiene sections to transition to a climate change section in the new country programme.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan strengthened its engagement in the UNDP-led National Adaptation Plan process, which is financed by the Green Climate Fund. This is a new initiative with a high potential for directing significant amounts of climate adaptation funding from the Green Climate
UNICEF has an opportunity to influence the direction of the National Adaptation Plan’s strategic goals and to identify activities, processes and entry points for integrating child outcomes with climate change adaptation.

The office supported the ‘Greening of UNICEF’ initiative. In 2017, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan estimated the environmental performance of the offices in Bishkek and in Osh. The assessment covered UNICEF office operations such as facility energy, fuel consumed in UNICEF vehicles, waste management, mission travel, paper usage and water consumed. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan avoided printing documents if the e-version was sufficient to read and used double-sided printing.

**Effective leadership**

The annual management plan for 2017 outlined UNICEF Kyrgyzstan’s priorities and served as an action plan to achieve agreed results. It included the development of the new country programme 2018-2022 and the audit action plan, implementation of the harmonized approach to cash transfer (HACT) which was improved in accordance with audit recommendations, the new resource mobilization and partnership strategy 2018-2022, and a career development plan. It also prioritised actions to increase the visibility of UNICEF as a leading and trusted voice for child rights and undertaking the assessment of the Climate Change Agenda for Children.

The progress towards the actual achievement of the objectives was reviewed during programme and country management team (CMT) meetings. Key management indicators reports were produced and discussed at the CMT meetings. During the annual management review, the achievement of key management objectives, lessons learned and areas for improvement were addressed.

A risk control self-assessment exercise was conducted in February. Business continuity was strengthened through business continuity plan updates, based on the recommendations that resulted from drills conducted in late 2016.

The Country Programme Management Plan (CPMP) 2018-2022 was submitted to the Regional Programme Budget Review. Prior to that, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan undertook a comprehensive process to review the programme requirements for the new country programme, the projection of resource availability, and the analysis of an effective human resource structure. The process was based on the discussions of the annual management review, results of the programme effectiveness retreat conducted in March and the CPMP workshop held in June 2017.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan has a dynamic local staff association which held general staff meetings regularly to reflect staff concerns. The UNICEF management regularly met with the LOCAL STAFF ASSOCIATION executive committee members at the Joint Consultative Committee to discuss Global Staff Survey results, staff concerns and welfare issues.

**Financial resources management**

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan had a total of US$4,936,632 of expenditure in 2017. A financial resource management system was established and used to regularly monitor office management performance through reports and dashboards on InSight. The monthly key performance indicators report issued by the UNICEF Regional Office also served as an effective monitoring tool. Monitoring of programme implementation was improved through regular analysis during programme and CMT meetings. Funds were regularly reviewed against planned programme
activities. The funds from earmarked contributions from donors were closely monitored to meet the target goals for effective fund utilization.

An audit task force team was established to follow up on the findings of the audit held in November 2016. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan managed to implement all action points during the second quarter of the year, and the audit status report was timely submitted to the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations and uploaded on TeamMate. As a result, all audit recommendations were closed in November 2017. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan revisited and completed the Micro-Assessment and Assurance Plan as per audit recommendation and the HACT procedure. In addition, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan established mechanisms to plan, implement, monitor and report on assurance activities. For example, for programmatic visits, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan ensured that these are planned based on the established criteria, monitored and consistently reported in programmatic visit reports and in VISION. As per the UNICEF Kyrgyzstan Micro Assessment and Assurance Plan for 2017, five spot checks and one audit of implementing were conducted. The overall cash transfer to implementing partners in 2017 was US$899,258.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan reviewed and verified the accuracy of transactions by conducting random checks of supporting documents of payments on a quarterly basis. No deviations were identified through the random checks in 2017.

### Fundraising and donor relations

In 2017, nearly US$1.95 million of Other Resources were mobilized. During the Country programme 2012-2017, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan mobilized US$37.08 million of Other Resources by end-2017, which amounts to 148 per cent of the original US$25 million Other Resources planned ceiling.

The main government donors included the Governments of Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. Key UNICEF National Committee supporters were from Canada and Switzerland.

Through close monitoring and monthly reporting at CMT meetings, high standards in effective utilization of available resources were maintained. As a result, all 10 grants expiring in 2017 were 100 per cent utilized. All donor reports were submitted on time and in line with quality standards.

A new fundraising and partnership strategy was developed to expand the mobilization of predictable and flexible funding for quality programming. To nurture donor interest, the visibility and donor recognition plans for key donors were put in place, including regular advocacy visits, and coverage on social and traditional media. Photos, videos and human interest stories by UNICEF Kyrgyzstan were published on global websites, including the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the National Committees for UNICEF in Japan and Spain, and the global UNICEF website. In addition to engagement with current donors and targeted fundraising within the United Nations system, new opportunities were explored with non-traditional partners, resulting in leverage of resources to launch the start of the new country programme in 2018.

### Evaluation and research

In 2017, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan adopted the plan for research, impact monitoring and evaluation (PRIME) consisting of 12 studies, surveys and research activities. By the end of the year, a 75
per cent implementation rate of the Plan was achieved, with nine activities completed and three activities in progress, including the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018.

With the country programme cycle concluding in 2017, evaluation management responses for two evaluations commissioned in 2016 were submitted and their implementation of closely monitored during the year. By the end of 2017, all the evaluation management responses activities were completed.

The evaluation recommendations guided the development of a well-defined theory of change and a results framework for the new country programme. These have more focus on integrated programming approaches and establishing systems that prevent vulnerabilities, rather than systems generating reactive responses. Expanding public advocacy and C4D to strengthen UNICEF’s strategic positioning as the leading credible voice for children, including the most disadvantaged, was particularly stressed.

The evaluation recommendations also guided the development of the programme strategy note with a respective overarching theory of change and hierarchy of results, which was the basis of the Country Programme Document (2018-2022) approved by the UNICEF Executive Board. In addition, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan updated the communication and public advocacy strategy, introduced key performance indicators for communication and advocacy interventions linked to the global ones. A C4D task force chaired by the Deputy Representative was established to integrate C4D closer into programmes, and three thematic areas prioritized: early childhood development, the rights of children with disabilities, and engagement of youth.

**Efficiency gains and cost savings**

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan’s contribution in 2017 to the UN House Common and Shared Services amounted to US$75,655 for the country office in Bishkek and US$51,497 for the Osh zone office.

As a result of savings from 2017 common services and premises arrangements in the Osh zone office, UNICEF was reimbursed US$7,660 by OHCHR and US$4,443 by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) for the period from January through June 2017.

Limited access to colour printer usage enabled UNICEF to save approximately US$1,600 in 2017.

Since 2012, UNICEF has split the commitment of funds for the cost of fuel to be used by programme and operations. In this regard, the transportation costs associated with field travels are charged to respective Outputs and grants. In 2017, the total cost of fuel comprised US$14,500 out of which US$9,200 were charged to the programme and US$5,300 to operations.

Taking into consideration that the use of economy class air travel is an encouraged practice in UNICEF Kyrgyzstan, approximately 68 trips (staff and consultants) that exceeded nine hours of travel were conducted by using economy class tickets. The total cost of economy class tickets were US$54,400 compared with business class tickets cost of US$136,000, thus saving approximately US$81,600 of UNICEF resources in 2017. In total, five business class air tickets were purchased in 2017, with the total cost of US$10,300.
Supply management

In 2017, the supply function focused on the implementation of three UNICEF Global Supply Strategies - service delivery, emergency preparedness and contracting, prepositioning contingency stocks and procurement by the Government via the Procurement Services modality.

The overall supplies value in 2017 was US$5.5 million, of which US$696,043 was procurement by the office and US$4.6 million were supplies under Procurement Services. Procurement Services orders included essential commodities such as vaccines, cold chain equipment, antiretroviral drugs and HIV tests. Increasing weighted procurement of institutional services is a growing tendency and in 2017, the total value of pipelined institutional service contracts was US$447,243. The value of operations supplies was US$49,527. The value of the HACT supply component (goods and services) committed for procurement under Programme Cooperation Agreements and by the Government constituted approximately US$343,800.

In 2017, there were 19 biddings and 12 Contract Review Committee meetings conducted to review 12 contracts. A total of 93 contracts were raised in 2017.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued to maintain the supply database for the main commodities and services in demand, such as printing publications, information technology supplies, furniture, vehicle maintenance, communication, research and conference management services. UNICEF benefited from the United Nations joint procurement activities, namely for procurement of mobile communication, air tickets and conference management services. UNICEF also shared with the United Nations its Long-Term Agreements for financial services, thus contributing to HACT implementation.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan also promoted registration of pre-qualified suppliers at the United Nations Global Market Place website within the global UNICEF project on harmonization of quality assurance procedures and processes in supplier/vendor management and ethical screening.

The supply practices were optimized by processing bid records and raising Purchase Orders in VISION in accordance with bid results.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan’s supply function extended its support to UNICEF Ukraine in construction contracting.

In 2017, two warehouses were operated in Bishkek and Osh with the year-end inventory value of goods of US$211,505, consisting of contingency stocks only. The total value of goods managed through the warehouses was US$501,076. A replenishment of contingency stocks was done twice in 2017 – with the first consignment of contingency stocks located at the UNICEF partner’s facility.

| UNICEF Kyrgyzstan 2017 Value of Received Supplies (goods and services) – US$ |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Programme supplies                                            | $224,688.78      |
| Programme Supplies Channelled via Procurement Services        | $4,567,274.25    |
| Operational supplies                                          | $49,526.87       |
| Services                                                      | $655,278.04      |
| Construction                                                  | $27,555.89       |
Security for staff and premises

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan’s security for staff and premises is managed through the office of UNDSS, including the UN House Shared Services. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan’s 2017 contribution to the UN emergency communication budget amounted to US$11,832. Based on the UN security risk assessment, the security of staff and premises is managed under the UN Security Plan, including 24-hour operations of the radio room and security guards, and the UN staff security warden system. The UN Security Plan implementation continued to provide a secure and conducive environment for country programme implementation.

The UN Radio Room performed radio security checks with UN organizations in Bishkek and Osh once a week by very high frequency (VHF) to check radio equipment, ensure that 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 2017, UNDSS conducted security and safety training for UN drivers.

Human resources

In 2017, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued the effective implementation of the country programme based on the changes approved by the Regional Programme and Budget Review Committee in 2016. The revised organogram optimized the resource allocation to achieve the targets of the annual management plan in 2017.

To complement staff capacity and ensure cost-effectiveness, UNICEF engaged local and international expertise, research institutions, NGOs and the private sector.

Following the results of the Global Staff Survey 2017, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan management and the local staff association discussed the issues that were raised.

Staff members were encouraged to have performance evaluation discussions with a clear connection between results and individual objectives. One of the priorities was the enhancement of staff career. A training plan was prepared to enhance staff skills and competencies. It also included learning and development opportunities through distance learning. The plan comprised the following group training:

- First Aid and disaster response;
- UNICEF policies/procedures, HACT and Programme Cooperation Agreement;
- Business Continuity Plan;
- Report Writing;
- ‘Safety in Cross-Fire Situations’;
- Security for Female Staff Training;
- Security training for UN drivers;
- Communications equipment and radio protocol;
- Kyrgyz language course;
- E-tools training;
- Professional Operational Driving courses.
No additional trainings on UN Cares and standards on HIV were conducted in the reporting year as all staff already passed it in previous years.

The total estimated amount spent on training and learning needs in 2017 was US$41,116: comprised of US$13,078 for group training and US$28,038 for individual learning needs.

In 2017, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan supported the following numbers of staff members on:
- Learning days – five staff;
- Flexible working hours – six staff;
- Part-time work arrangement combined with paternity leave – one staff member;
- Part-time work arrangement at 50 per cent – one staff member;
- Special Leave Without Pay – two staff;
- Stretch assignments – nine staff.

**Effective use of information and communication technology**

In 2017, the information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure of UNICEF Kyrgyzstan was improved.
- UNICEF Kyrgyzstan successfully migrated to the new Windows 10 operating system;
- Vital files of were posted to the team site;
- The new ICT Office Profile was updated with information related to the Bishkek country office and the Osh zone office;
- Staff members were encouraged and proactively used UNICEF cloud services such as One Drive and Team Site;
- The eTools project was initiated;
- The offices in Bishkek and Osh were equipped with a new Logitech Web Conference System which supports Skype for Business group calls and presentations;
- The Bishkek country office and Osh zone office were duly equipped with a Polycom DVC video conference system.

Video conference meetings were regularly conducted between Bishkek and Osh offices and with other country offices, the UNICEF Regional Office and UNICEF Headquarters.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan effectively utilized digital/social media, which increased its outreach very rapidly. UNICEF doubled its presence on social media platforms, particularly on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter. The Facebook page shares constant updates on donor-funded projects, contributing to good visibility and transparency. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan’s posting on social media raised public awareness of key child rights issues and generated mass media news.

**Programme components from RAM**

**ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS**

**OUTCOME 1** Equitable and responsive systems children and women have increased access to quality and responsive services, including social benefits.

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF continued assisting the Government in systems strengthening in mother and child health, nutrition, HIV, early childhood development and education.
In 2017, with support of UNICEF, a new 24 hours hospitalisation standard for children in need of medical services was initiated. It has led to a minimisation of cases of late and unjustified hospitalisations, 42.4 per cent of hospitals increasing the number of midwives or nurses and 78.1 per cent of pilot hospitals observing reductions in early neonatal mortality rates. More than 22,000 women and newborns received assistance at delivery in health facilities with improved conditions, including access to hot water, thereby reducing the risk of infections. At least 80 per cent of the health workers in target hospitals have improved their knowledge and skills in primary resuscitation care for newborns.

Capacity building of health service providers on prophylaxis for HIV transmission from mother to newborns was integrated into effective perinatal services. Hospitals providing services to 65 per cent of the country’s deliveries were trained, and almost 90 per cent of newborns born to HIV-infected mothers received appropriate antiretroviral treatment.

With the technical assistance of UNICEF, the country has 62 regional supervisors on nutrition, 1,082 primary healthcare and 440 hospital care level professionals who can provide quality nutrition services. Some 62 per cent maternity facilities were re-certified as Baby-friendly Hospitals.

As a result of technical assistance and advocacy from UNICEF and partners, the production of fortified flour in the country increased from 17 per cent to 54 per cent this year.

UNICEF supported advocacy to ensure ownership and allocation of state resources for its dissemination. The Parliamentary Committee on Social, Education and Health Affairs instructed the Government to make sure that relevant ECD standards are available to all parents and relevant professionals throughout the country. Amendments to the Government Regulation on Student Registry were approved in 2017, based on which the overall local state administration accountability with regards to out-of-school children increased. This was a result of UNICEF and other partners advocacy and technical assistance. The school preparatory age is included as a compulsory education age; so now children from age five to 16 will be registered as enrolled/non-enrolled to the educational organisation. Data sources include not only household registry books, but also a list of temporary living residents. This will help to identify risks of non-enrolment, non-attendance and drop out of children of vulnerable internal migrants. Finally, the policy clarified a 10-day timeframe for flagging the risk of dropout.

UNICEF co-chaired the Education Development Partners Coordination Council in 2017. A number of key initiatives were undertaken including a mapping of development partners and their resources, the development of the 2018-2020 Action Plan to implement the Education Development Strategy 2012-2020, and conducting a comprehensive education sector analysis in partnership with the World Bank with the financial and technical support of the GPE.

A draft State programme on the introduction of multi-lingual education in all schools of Kyrgyzstan from 2018-2030 was developed, costed and discussed.

**OUTPUT 1 MCH Systems and Policies:** The Ministry of Health manage and monitor the provision and performance of quality and responsive health services for HIV prevention and treatment interventions for children, pregnant women and adolescents.

**Analytical statement of progress**
UNICEF continued to provide technical support to the Ministry of Health in implementing interventions aimed at the prevention of HIV transmission to young children, early identification of HIV infection, initiation of an appropriate and timely treatment and provision of the psychosocial support services to the affected families. The field work for an analysis of the situation in the transmission of HIV from mother to child was completed, and the final report is expected in 2018.

Capacity building of health service providers was undertaken on integrating prevention of HIV transmission from mother to newborns into effective perinatal services. Health providers from 34 hospitals providing services to 65 per cent of the deliveries were trained and monitored on the performance of early HIV infant diagnosis. To ensure availability of supportive HIV counselling services at the primary health care level, the working group developed a home visiting module specifically for children living with HIV.

Technical expertise was provided to the Ministry of Health in the scaling up of the early infant diagnosis of HIV among newborns who were born with perinatal HIV contact. Based on the data of the Ministry of Health, 89 per cent of newborns born to HIV-infected mothers were tested within first two months of their life and received appropriate antiretroviral treatment to prevent HIV transmission effectively. The preliminary data found that in 2017, one child out of 98 born to mothers with HIV who received the prophylaxis, was diagnosed as HIV-infected. To improve the conditions of the primary health care facilities at which HIV infected children receive routine day-to-day services, UNICEF supported the work of additional two facilities in the area most affected by transmission of HIV through unsafe health practices in the past. It allowed increasing the number of HIV-infected children having access to friendly up-to-date health facility infrastructure.

UNICEF is modelling the application of mobile technologies to improve the compliance of patients with ART treatment, enhance their health-related information and services, and to maintain peer-to-peer as well parent-to-parent communication and empowerment.

The Ministry of Health with the support of the development partners, including UNICEF, established a working group to develop the “State Programme on Stabilisation of the Spread of the HIV infection in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2022” and a “Concept paper of the HIV Prevention Strategy for 2030” which is currently under approval process. Implementation of priority interventions outlined within these documents will further contribute to the improvement of access of women and children at risk to HIV prevention and disease management services.

**OUTPUT 2 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 diagnostics.

**Analytical statement of progress**
UNICEF continued supporting the Government and other key partners in implementing cost-effective and evidence-based nutrition interventions promoting every child’s right to survive through improved nutrition. With UNICEF technical assistance, a series of capacity building activities aimed at provision of integrated infant and young child feeding and nutrition services, covered health professionals from both primary and secondary levels facilities throughout the country. As a result, the country has 62 regional supervisors on nutrition, and 1,082 primary healthcare professional (14 per cent out of total 8,000) and 440 hospital care level professionals (75 per cent of total) who will be able to provide good quality nutrition services to the population.
In addition, 62 per cent of maternity facilities (34 out of total 56), were assessed and re-certified as a part of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative.

To strengthen the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacity of the health, agriculture and economy sectors, UNICEF assisted in the revision and harmonization of the national nutrition and food security indicators with those used globally. Assistance was also provided to develop a joint plan on achieving six World Health Assembly global nutrition indicators by integrating them into relevant sectoral policy documents.

UNICEF also extended its support to the Ministry of Health for strengthening its routine data collection capacity. This included developing an integrated monitoring system and tools for all mother and child health-related interventions, including a surveillance system for neural tube defects.

The development of the M&E tools and the conduct of integrated monitoring of nutrition interventions by the Government, the private sector and civil society resulted in a stronger partnership and ownership for the food security and nutrition programme (2015-2017).

Another highlight was the major focus on flour fortification programme as one of the key complex and multisectoral interventions to prevent iron deficiency anaemia in the country. All planned activities were successfully completed in coordination with the Government, Parliament, business and civil society networks. UNICEF served as the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) donors’ facilitator and has managed to promote the issue high in the political and public agendas. UNICEF and partners were able to influence national policies and strategies and leverage donors, business networks, academia and civil society around this important subject.

Thanks to these and continuous advocacy efforts, the Government approved the new Law “On making amendments to the Code of the Kyrgyz Republic on Administrative Liability” with the aim of expanding the access of the population to fortified flour. This law imposes a penalty in the form of a fine for import of unfortified flour with the right for seizure. As a result of joint work, the production of fortified flour in the country increased from 17 per cent to 54 per cent this year. These results were also recognized at the global level and a Scaling up Nutrition Champion Award for 2017 was given to a Kyrgyz Member of Parliament.

**OUTPUT 3** By end 2016, the Ministry of Education and Science support inclusive and quality education through systematic and effective addressing the issue of out-of-school-children, 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.

**Analytical statement of progress**

Thanks to UNICEF and other partners advocacy and technical assistance, amendments to the Government Regulation on Student Registry were approved in June 2017. The overall local state administration’s (including village and city municipalities) accountability with regards to out-of-school children has increased as a result of the Regulation.

The school preparatory age was included as a compulsory education age. As such, children from age five to 16 will be registered as enrolled/non-enrolled to the educational organisation in all the reporting forms. The data source includes not only household registry books, but also a list of temporary living residents, which will help to identify risks of non-enrolment, non-
attendance and drop out of children of vulnerable internal migrants. Finally, the policy clarified the timeframe for flagship risks of dropout as 10 days. This means that if a child misses school for 10 days, the case must be reported by the school to local social workers for management. The school will take and report on certain measures to return a child before 10 days absence occurs.

The process of registering children by the Civil Registry Office in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science issuing unique personal identification numbers continued.

The Prime Minister’s Office organized a series of consultations on the digitalization of education, including education sector e-management issues. UNICEF continued to advocate for the rights of many vulnerable children with multiple deprivations who remain ‘invisible’ for public service delivery system and thus keep being unreported.

UNICEF co-chaired the Education Development Partners Coordination Council in 2017, and facilitated a number of initiatives. These included: a mapping of development partners and their resources; the development of the 2018-2020 Action Plan to implement the Education Development Strategy 2012-2020; and conducting a comprehensive education sector analysis in partnership with the World Bank with the financial and technical support of the Global Partnership for Education. The GPE/UNICEF/World Bank/UNESCO Methodological Guidelines on Education Sector Analysis were translated into Russian and used extensively.

A draft State programme on the introduction of multi-lingual education in all schools of Kyrgyzstan from 2018-2030 was developed, costed and publicly discussed. The Ministry of Education and Science organized a study tour to a multi-lingual education school and presentation of the draft programme on November 20, 2017. The draft programme considered all the recommendations of the evaluation, and further consideration and the approval process will be led by the Ministry.

OUTCOME 2 Child welfare policies and systems progress in addressing key recommendations of international treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF’s analysis of the performance of social protection system as well as allocated and actual public expenditure in general and poverty-targeted benefit for children in particular, informed a new policy change. More than 2,000 additional children were enrolled in the benefits programme following the policy change.

This progress was observed in a policy environment which focused on addressing inclusion errors. In the absence of clear official criteria of effectiveness and of performance indicators in social protection, the key stakeholders came to the agreement that the major social assistance scheme - a monthly benefit for low-income families with children - is ineffective as it has a high ‘exclusion error’ (60 per cent of children in poorest quintiles are not reached by the poverty benefit). Therefore, this was perceived as an ‘inclusion error’.

An analysis commissioned by UNICEF Kyrgyzstan and the subsequent policy dialogue led to the change in the design of the poverty benefit towards more universal. This will be endorsed by the respective legal act coming into force in 2018. However, the new Government initiated a three-month delay in its implementation due to strongly perceived fiscal impact of the new
design. The latter was officially contested by the Minister of Finance at the Parliamentarian meeting on December 20, 2017.

Nonetheless, more vulnerable children and their families in selected disadvantaged rural municipalities were identified and referred for social support. They received cash benefits and social services due to the institutionalisation of outreach and case management (10 per cent increase over the baseline). Endorsed by the Governmental Regulation, the case management contributed to the change in the way social protection system operated, moving from reactive to proactive manner.

UNICEF’s model on child-friendly justice demonstrated in one district court was replicated in 11 first instance courts of the country, including in Bishkek city court and district courts in Osh and Issyk-Kul provinces. The model ensures that children who are victims, witnesses or in conflict with the law or otherwise interacting with the formal justice system, are treated in a child-friendly way through newly-established specialised courtrooms and waiting rooms.

With UNICEF support and a successful partnership with the Parliament, civil society and experts on child-friendly justice, the revised Criminal Law enshrined child-friendly provisions, including diversion of children in contact with the law. The Law on Legal Aid was amended in line with international standards and now guarantees free legal aid, including to child victims and witnesses of crimes, and those whose rights have been violated during administrative and civil proceedings.

**OUTPUT 1** Child Protection and 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 provided technical assistance and advocated for the approval of the State Programme on Family Support and Child Protection (2017-2027). The Programme places greater emphasis on family support and the establishment of preventive services, as well as investing in positive, non-violent parenting. A major barrier remains on its implementation, due to the lack of clarity on the roles and responsibilities of municipal bodies and central authorities regarding the provision of social care services for vulnerable children and their families.

Effective monitoring of the implementation of the State Programme on Justice for Children was ensured through UNICEF’s technical support to the National Coordination Council on Juvenile Justice and coordination groups on the modelling of justice for children in Bishkek, Suzak and Karakol. Child-friendly procedures were introduced in newly-established waiting rooms and rooms for investigation and hearings in the police stations and courts in modelling districts.

The new criminal law and the Law on Guaranteed State Legal Aid served to ensure better access to justice for all children, with the provision of child-friendly procedures such as a deposition of the testimony and diversion approaches. The new provisions now guarantee access to legal aid for children through consultative (advisory) and qualified (defence lawyers) support to child victims and witnesses of crimes including in administrative and civil cases as well. This legislative initiative has the great potential to facilitate the enhancement of equitable access to justice for children and the realization of their the rights of juveniles in conflict with the law. It also serves to better protect victims and witnesses of crimes and redress violations of all
children’s rights. To support the smooth enforcement of the new legal provisions, UNICEF supported the development of standards of free legal aid for children and on child- friendly procedures. The concept of juvenile probation was also developed with UNICEF technical assistance.

Specialized capacity development of all players in the justice system, including lawyers, on the new provisions is ongoing with UNICEF support.

Work on amendments to the Child Code continued, since approval of the criminal legislation led to changes of existing functions of authorities stipulated by the Child Code.

The Government organised a countrywide awareness-raising campaign on internet safety with UNICEF support reaching 66,000 children, parents and teachers.

UNICEF, together with State Border Service, developed a new module on child-friendly procedures at border points which is expected to facilitate safe migration and border crossing for all children. The module is incorporated into curricula of the Training centre of State Border Service. Training of the 18 Training Centre Master Trainers was conducted, and supervision sessions provided during the training of 29 border guards from all Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan border points.

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

**Analytical statement of progress**

The findings of the analysis of the poverty-targeted benefit for children concluded that means tested targeting (based on income) was not effective in reaching the poorest. This informed policy dialogue and technical support for the new design of a new benefit which became more universal. The new design shaped the new Law on the State Benefits, which was adopted on 21 June 2017, and led to the cancellation of a planned annual increase of the guaranteed minimal income (GMI) by 10 per cent. Once implemented, the law will substantively increase coverage of poor and vulnerable children and contribute to the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 1.3. UNICEF will continue providing its technical support to the Government in the elaboration of implementation package and monitoring plan.

Policy and public advocacy related to the benefit reform engaged international finance institutions – particularly the International Monetary Fund/IMF – along with decision-makers, professionals and the general public. Technical consultations took place with the exchange of evidence and discussions around the fiscal impact of the reform, the potential efficiency gains within the sector, and focusing on less effective social protection programmes which reach non-poor and vulnerable. These national developments have been echoed in International Monetary Fund global concern about the right for social protection and how to reconcile this with its preferred targeted approach. The country level dialogue with international finance institutions will be continued, as the Government is considering introducing some changes to the Law. Good progress was observed with an in-depth review of normative provisions and practice in needs assessment, planning including budgeting, organising, provision and effectiveness of social services delivery at local level. Solutions to address major bottlenecks associated with the unclear funding mechanisms for the provision of social services were designed based on a costing model developed with UNICEF support. Further steps suggest incorporating the element
of delegation and financing within one of the local service delivery systems or within the mechanisms by which services are commissioned, procured, financed, and monitored.

Draft normative acts binding the proposed changes were reviewed by the Governmental entities and passed the first discussions by the relevant Parliamentary committee.

OUTCOME 3 Equitable 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
UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued contributing to a 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 ones, aim to improve access to quality social service delivery for deprived children living in the Fergana Valley, while also contributing to forging cross-border cooperation among communities, thus mitigating the tensions and reducing the conflict potential.

In 2016, UNICEF and other UN agencies initiated a peace building project to reduce tensions in border communities of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Based on this initiative, UNICEF continued focusing on building trust between border service guards and adolescents in communities with 30,000 children, and on helping local authorities and service providers prioritizing child and adolescents’ issues in local planning. As an example, border service guards explained their work and challenges in a Youth Camp attended by 500 adolescents. As a result, the majority of border service guards and young people reported a better understanding of their role in border conflict prevention. UNICEF built the capacity of teachers in all schools (23) in the border areas, reaching over 5,000 secondary school-age children with sustainable Russian language courses, the common language of communication with their Tajik neighbours.

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 would better cope with challenges than preventing or mitigate them. This study informed the programme of a new four-year partnership with the United Kingdom Government initiated in late 2016, to support the Government of Kyrgyzstan in conducting modelling of youth and child-friendly local governance in three districts, reaching the most disenfranchised adolescents.

Around 1,750 students of grade 1-7 (46 per cent girls; Kyrgyz - 58 per cent, Uzbek - 31 per cent, Tajik - 11 per cent) participated in multi-lingual education classes in 18 pilot schools taught by approximately 90 trained teachers. The multi-lingual education approach enabled marginalised children of an ethnic minority to feel included in society and facilitated communication and their interaction with peers from a different background.

In building on the scientific evidence on the potential of early childhood development in social cohesion, UNICEF in partnership with Queen’s University in Belfast and a Northern Irish non-governmental consortium, Early Years, initiated a model of peacebuilding in early childhood learning and development interventions in selected geographical areas.

The peace building cross-border programme with Tajikistan also included multi-sectoral activities, supported by donors such as Japan and United Kingdom (UK) Governments,
embracing education, child protection, health, and adolescent development work. The expansion of early childhood education to over 1,500 children was also used to promote dialogue and collaboration for conflict prevention. The forthcoming UNICEF New York publication “Learning for Peace: Narratives from the Field” highlights the activity as a best practice.

Exchange visits initiated among education professionals from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan were expanded to the health sector. Fifty-four medical doctors and technical staff from the Ministries of Health from both countries met in border locations to share experiences around Maternal and child health care. Participants established mechanisms for regular exchange of information between the heads of health facilities and doctors on a quarterly basis, particularly on cases of medical care provided to mothers and children. The Batken Province State administration invested local resources to activities for aimed at improving collaboration of Kyrgyz and Tajik health workers.

Seventeen child-friendly police and court premises for children in conflict and contact with the law have been established and serve children. Around 675 justice and child protection specialists have strengthened their knowledge on the principles of restorative justice and child-friendly justice procedures and are ready to apply them in practice. Within the modelling project, 120 children are provided with reintegration support.

UNICEF assisted the Ministry of Emergency Situations with development of the disaster risk analysis methodology and a related training module. UNICEF also equipped two training centres of the Ministry of Emergency Situations with materials and multimedia equipment, and they are now better able to train municipalities on risk-informed and child-sensitive local development planning.

The Ministry of Education and Science revised the national curriculum and integrated disaster risk reduction education in several subjects. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan and the Ministry developed the School-Based Disaster Risk Reduction guidebook for schools. UNICEF also supported the Ministry in implementing the Government Programme “Safe Schools and Preschools 2015-2024”.

UNICEF continued promoting and scaling up the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in Schools programming, with an increased focus on girls. Schools teachers from 106 pilot schools have gone through training and were capacitated to work with children and their parents to enhance their awareness of the puberty, menstrual hygiene management and actions required to improve WASH for girls.

Overall, 107 trainers from two organisations and 29 schools increased their knowledge and skills in hygiene promotion, strengthening linkages between WASH and nutrition for better health and education outcomes for children.

In June 2017, at the request of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, UNICEF provided 990 family hygiene kits to address the needs of the population affected by the earthquake and landslide in Chon-Alay and Uzgen Districts. Additionally, the WASH sector response plan in the Inter-Agency Contingency Plan was updated.

**OUTPUT 1** Improved peace and stability and a lessening of ethnic tensions in the conflict-affected areas of Southern Kyrgyzstan through raising 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
In 2016, UNICEF and other UN agencies initiated a peace building project to reduce tensions in border communities from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Based on this initiative, UNICEF continued focusing on building trust between border service guards and adolescents in communities with 30,000 children, and on helping local authorities and service providers to prioritise child and adolescent issues in local planning. As an example, border service guards explained their work and challenges in a youth camp attended by 500 adolescents. As a result, the majority of border service guards and young people reported a better understanding of their role in border conflict prevention. UNICEF built the capacity of teachers in all schools (23) in the border areas, reaching over 5,000 secondary school age children with sustainable Russian language courses, the common language of communication with their Tajik neighbours.

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The peace building cross-border programme with Tajikistan also included multi-sectoral activities, supported by donors including the Japan and UK Governments, embracing education, child protection, health, and adolescent development work. The expansion of early childhood education to over 1,500 children, was also used to promote dialogue and collaboration for conflict prevention. The forthcoming UNICEF New York publication ‘Learning for Peace: Narratives from the Field’ highlights the activity as a best practice.

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UNICEF continued to improve access to quality basic health care services in the most deprived provinces in the south of the country. In 2016, life-saving medical equipment was upgraded, monitoring capabilities strengthened at health facility level, and training and integrated supervisory and monitoring visits provided to the maternal and children wards. This work, conducted in 34 hospitals, 28 in the south, aimed to institutionalize internal quality control processes at the facility level. As a result, in 2016 over 90 per cent children in critical health situation received timely quality treatment and ventilation.
OUTPUT 2 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 that corresponds to the international standards, UNICEF continued its support in modelling of access to justice for children in Bishkek. This was also replicated in two additional locations, Suzak and Karakol. As a result, 17 child-friendly police and court premises for children in conflict and contact with the law have been established and serve children.

Around 675 specialists from social affairs departments, police, crime execution inspection, courts, prosecutor’s offices and the Kyrgyz Bar Association have strengthened knowledge on the principles of restorative justice and child-friendly justice procedures and are ready to apply them in practice. Within the modelling project, 120 children were provided with reintegration support.

A scheme of duty lawyers and social workers was used by related city departments to facilitate continuous specialised services for children in conflict with the law. All law enforcement agencies have introduced specialisation of those responsible for juvenile justice. All Bishkek city districts, as well as Suzak and Karakol, introduced coordination groups, chaired by the heads of district courts, to facilitate effective implementation of the modelling project on the ground.

During the year, 21 visits were undertaken to monitor trials, ensure the quality of free legal aid and the defence lawyers dossiers related to cases of children in conflict with the law. The monitoring findings informed the decisions of the National Coordination Council on Juvenile Justice, chaired by a Vice-Prime Minister. Three joint monitoring visits were carried out with the Ombudsman Office and the National Preventive Mechanism to observe the situation of children in closed facilities for juveniles in conflict with the law. A number of violations were identified and address accordingly. The work of the Ombudsman, supported by UNICEF, was presented and shared with Ombudspersons from the region during the high-level roundtable on the prevention of torture and ill-treatment of children. The Ombudsman's Office received and handled 72 cases related to children.

OUTPUT 3. 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 2017, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan supported the Government and non-governmental partners in improving their understanding of disaster risks and vulnerabilities, in order to enhance child-sensitive disaster risk management in the country.

With funds provided by the European Commission, UNICEF assisted the Ministry of Emergency Situations with development of the Disaster Risk Analysis methodology and related training module. The methodology was included in the organizational and methodological directive and action plan on population preparedness in the area of civil defence for 2017-2018, endorsed by the Prime Minister on 16 January 2017. UNICEF also equipped two training centres of the Ministry of Emergency Situations with materials and multimedia equipment, and they are now
better able to train municipalities on risk-informed and child-sensitive local development planning.

The Ministry of Education and Science revised the national curriculum and integrated the disaster risk reduction education in several subjects. To maintain and further enhance the resilience of children and schools to emergencies, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan and the Ministry developed the School-Based Disaster Risk Reduction guidebook for schools. The guidebook supports school administration and teachers by explaining step-by-step the measures to taken to identify and manage risk at the school level. The guide also promotes children participation through the Young Lifeguard movement that enhances children’s safe behaviour skills through peer-to-peer learning. The guidebook was reviewed by the Kyrgyz Academy of Education and t with UNICEF support, 10,000 copies (50 per cent in Kyrgyz and 50 per cent in the Russian language) became available to schools throughout the country. Having these guides, all schools will have improved capacity in understanding and managing the disaster risks.

With funds provided by the Government of Japan, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education and Science in implementing the Government Programme “Safe Schools and Preschools 2015-2024”. Under the overall leadership of the Ministry, UNICEF and partners started working in 10 schools in all regions to establish knowledge management (resource) centres on school-based disaster risk reduction and climate change. As per the project implementation plan, these 10 schools will also be supported regarding the development of engineering designs for seismic reinforcement. The Government will be able to re-use these designs to strengthen other similar schools to improve their seismic safety. The hardware and soft components of this project will improve the resilience of children and further strengthen the school level preparedness to emergency situations.

OUTPUT 4 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
UNICEF continued promoting and scaling up the WASH in Schools programming, with an increased focus on girls. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education and Science with the development of a basic package of communication materials on menstrual hygiene management. Materials developed by UNICEF in partnership with Save the Children were formally endorsed by the Kyrgyz Academy of Education for use at schools. The target audiences include school children, specifically girls, parents, teachers and school administrations. Schools teachers from 106 pilot schools underwent training and were capacitated to work with children and their parents to enhance their awareness around puberty, menstrual hygiene management and the actions required to improve WASH for girls. On request of the Ministry of Education and Science, UNICEF published and handed over 120,000 menstrual hygiene management publications, to reach all schools and support them in awareness-raising and making school facilities girl-friendly.

With Global WASH Thematic funding, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan supported nutrition sector partners active on School Meals Programme (World Food Programme and Mercy Corps) using the WASH in Schools guidebook for teachers. Overall, 107 trainers from two organisations and 29 schools now have knowledge and skills in hygiene promotion, strengthening linkages between WASH and nutrition for better health and education outcomes for children.
Under the Japan-funded "Advancing Peace through Enhanced Maternal and Child Health in the Kyrgyz Republic" project, UNICEF supported 10 health care institutions with the renovation of their WASH facilities and improved temperature management. Children and pregnant women now enjoy access to improved facilities in these institutions.

As sector lead for WASH, UNICEF continued supporting coordination for emergency preparedness and response. In June 2017, on request of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, UNICEF provided 990 Family Hygiene Kits to address the needs of the population affected by the earthquake and landslide in Chon-Alay and Uzgen Districts. Additionally, the WASH sector response plan in the Inter-Agency Contingency Plan was updated.

**OUTCOME 4**

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 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 informed the development of the Country Programme Document (2018-2022).

In social protection, a study was conducted to identify barriers to the implementation of the fixed Monthly Benefit for Poor Families with Children and Child Poverty Profile. The impact of cross-border cooperation programme was assessed, and the Youth Development Index was calculated and analysed for the first time in Kyrgyzstan. An analysis of the introduction of 24-hour paediatric hospitalisation practice in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan was undertaken. A conceptual theory of change was developed to guide UNICEF Kyrgyzstan’s programmatic interventions in assisting the Government by demonstrating innovative approaches in the provision of integrated and multi-functional services for children with disabilities aged up to eight years.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan's evaluation management responses for two evaluations commissioned in 2016 (the evaluation of the 2012-2017 country programme and the Evaluation of the Multi-Lingual Education Programme) were closely monitored during the year. By the end of 2017, all the evaluation management responses activities were completed.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued its work to raise national capacity for monitoring and evaluation. The International Parliamentarian Forum for Evaluation was conducted in Bishkek, and reflected in UNICEF Icon and Evaluation News bulletin. Technical assistance was provided to the National Statistical Committee to monitor child well-being and support the regional Trans-MONEE programme. The National Youth Programme 2017-2022 was approved by the Government. The UNICEF-supported SMS-based survey tool gained impetus with over 5,100 subscribers and 25 surveys conducted on key dimensions of child and youth well-being. The surveys covered themes including climate change, school bullying, cyber-security, local governance, and healthy lifestyles.

The National Youth Strategy draft (2017-2022) was approved as a National Programme, due in part to development and civil society partners, including UNICEF. The document has a result framework with activities stressing cross-sectoral approaches, inclusive participation,
employability and education priorities, and peacebuilding. In parallel, UNICEF contributed with expertise to the Law on Youth Policy.

The State Agency for Youth and Sports established the Youth Development and Well-being Index supported by a number of partners, including UNICEF. Qualitative and quantitative research was conducted, including a survey among 1,070 youth between age 14-28. The survey identified development indicators across dimensions of civic participation, economic opportunities, science and education, health, protection, information technology, family and culture. Generally, youth demonstrated average development and well-being indicators across those key dimensions, with the lowest figures on economic opportunities, culture and civic engagement. These index data will inform the upcoming National Youth Concept and feed into the overall National Development Strategy 2018-2040

M-report text and SMS-based youth survey tool, customised for the Kyrgyz context, are operational with over 5,100 subscribers with 1,000 more to come as recruitment advocacy actions are rolling out locally. Over 25 surveys among young people, with the retention rate from 400 to 1,200 people, were conducted during the year on key dimensions of child and youth well-being. The surveys covered themes including climate change, school bullying, cyber-security, local governance, and healthy lifestyles. The Ministry of Education and Science and Ministry of Interiors demonstrated an interest in the tool: one by ordering a poll on youths' professional choices, the other by delivering information on measures taken to address security issues raised in the polls. The software is ready to run district and municipality level surveys and to disaggregate local data from nationwide surveys, which makes it a relevant M&E tool to gauge the impact of local services.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan started implementing one of its flagship strategies called “Youth and Child-Friendly Local-Governance”. In the Kyrgyz context, it is adopted as a framework for child and adolescent - centred and participatory decision making and resource allocation for their better well-being and expanded employability opportunities. Youth and Child-Friendly Local-Governance is gaining momentum in two districts, and 10 municipality cross-sectorial coordination groups were established for approaching complex issues in a cross-sectoral manner. The municipality profiles were updated for all 10 with the lens of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the SDGs as well as on the issues related to their well-being, access to justice and security. The project identified 49 local public policy professionals and service providers who can reach out to most disadvantaged, and trained them on basics of child and adolescent-centred local planning with the lens of Convention on the Rights of the Child and SDGs. A local needs assessment with 340 adolescents was undertaken, and the data is available to feed into the strategies for youth engagement. A toolkit was developed to train youth on rights-based participation in community affairs and public policy.

**OUTPUT 1** Data collection, monitoring and analysis and evaluation systems inform policy making and budgeting around issues related to youth and children, including child rights.

**Analytical statement of progress**
UNICEF continued to support the generation of data and evidence 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 informed the development of the country programme for 2018-2022.
In social protection, a study was conducted to identify barriers to the implementation of the fixed Monthly Benefit for Poor Families with Children and Child Poverty Profile. The impact of the cross-border cooperation programme was assessed, and the Youth Development Index calculated and analysed for the first time in Kyrgyzstan. An analysis of the introduction of 24-hour paediatric hospitalisation practice in Kyrgyzstan was undertaken. A conceptual theory of change was developed to guide UNICEF Kyrgyzstan's programmatic interventions in assisting the Government by demonstrating innovative approaches in the provision of integrated and multi-functional services for children aged up to 8 years with disabilities.

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Work continued to raise the national capacity for monitoring and evaluation, and the International Parliamentarian Forum for Evaluation was conducted in Bishkek and highlighted on UNICEF's global internal website and its Evaluation News Bulletin. Technical assistance was provided to the National Statistical Committee to monitor child well-being and support the regional Trans-MONEE programme.

**OUTCOME 5 Cross-sectoral**

**Analytical statement of progress**
The outcome is associated with cross-cutting programme functions such as communication for development, external relations, performance monitoring, knowledge management and gender. It also covered operational support for delivery of programme results and operational matters associated with staff costs, office equipment, communication, and travel. All these functions were successfully performed/operated in 2017.

**OUTPUT 1 Operational costs Bishkek country office.**

**Analytical statement of progress**
UNICEF Kyrgyzstan managed its operations budget and operational activities as per the CPMP, the Annual Management Plan and the operations work plan in support of programme implementation. The proper utilization of funds was controlled and monitored by the operations manager and the M&E officer through SAP and management dashboard reports. The programme implementation rate was regularly presented and reviewed by the Country Management Team. In the first quarter of 2017, the operations section conducted an operations staff retreat where all programme assistants were invited. The retreat agenda included topics on operations workplanning, new workflows and backstopping arrangements, review of the UNICEF Kyrgyzstan financial transaction checklist, the business continuity plan, warden groups, contractual services, HACT and CSO procedures implementation status, the audit action plan review and enhancement of collaboration between programme and operations units.

**OUTPUT 2 Operational costs Bishkek country office**

**Analytical statement of progress**
The Osh zone office was established in June 2010 in support of the emergency response in the south. This was followed by approval to extend its operations until the end of 2013. Taking into consideration the extension of the country programme 2012-2016 to 2017 and the effective resource mobilization strategy, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan requested the extension of Osh zonal office until the end of 2017, based on programmatic needs and availability of funding. The UNICEF Regional Director endorsed the recommendation of the Regional programme and budget review for the extension of Osh zonal office until end 2017.

As a result of savings due to 2017 common services and premises arrangements in Osh zonal office, UNICEF was reimbursed US$7,660 by OHCHR and US$4,443 by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security for the period from January through June 2017.

OUTPUT 3 Operational costs Bishkek CO 10 per cent

Analytical statement of progress
Given the effective resource mobilization strategy, whenever applicable UNICEF Kyrgyzstan was able to allocate up to 10 per cent of funds received for the essential administrative support services of the Bishkek country office and Osh zonal office.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan managed the Other Resources funded operational budget activities as per the CPMP, the annual management plan and the operations workplan. The funds utilized to support programme activities were in line with respective rolling workplans and in accordance with donors’ requirements. The proper utilization of funds was controlled and monitored by the Operations Manager and the M&E Officer through SAP and management dashboard reports. The implementation rates were regularly presented to and reviewed by the CMT.

OUTPUT 4 Gender mainstreaming within UNICEF programmes and interventions.

Analytical statement of progress
The UNICEF Situation Analysis (2015) and internal gender assessment recognized gender as one of the dimensions of child vulnerability in the country where girls are at higher risk of experiencing violence. Girls also have unique needs which, if proper infrastructure is not available at schools, can for example lead to school dropout. Based on this information, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan decided to strengthen national gender-responsive programming across the new country programme (2018-2022), including establishing a staff position of gender officer.

As part of targeted gender interventions in 2017, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan published materials on menstrual hygiene management to be distributed to all schools. One hundred schools enhanced their capacity to communicate on puberty and menstrual hygiene management with adolescent girls and their parents. With the tools and knowledge, the teachers are better able to explain best hygiene practices before, during and after menstruation.

To celebrate the National Day of the Girl, over 400 schoolchildren in disadvantaged migrant areas learnt about negative consequences of child marriages and bride kidnapping.

Towards mainstreaming gender in peace building, UNICEF developed training material on tolerance and gender aspects in peace building and utilized it to raise the capacity of 40 teachers and 800 parents in pilot areas in southern Kyrgyzstan. This intervention provided skills to recognize conflict situations and to respond to them in a gender-sensitive manner. In addition,
A curriculum and learning material on gender issues were developed to reach 500 children in the pilot areas. A study which includes attitudes and skills towards vulnerable groups is available to inform the revision of training and communication materials and activities for local self-governance to prevent alienation of vulnerable women and girls.

At the policy level, with UNICEF support, a draft National Action Plan on Gender (2018-2020) is now available to streamline the work of national and international actors in the country.

OUTCOME 6 Programme Support

Analytical statement of progress
The Outcome is introduced to reflect results that are associated with the biennial support budget. Effective and efficient programme management and operations support is the result statement of programme support outcome. The outcome includes salaries and related non-staff costs of the Representative, Deputy Representative, operations manager, information and communication technology, administration and finance staff. It also includes operating costs associated with business continuity and risk management, office rent, office furniture and equipment, office security, maintenance of vehicles, telecom, staff development and learning, and staff well-being.

OUTPUT 1 Governance and Systems

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF Kyrgyzstan updated its governance documents and revisited the composition of statutory committees to reflect changed office structure and the latest policies and procedures, and to support implementation of the country programme. This included timely update of work flow and business processes taking into consideration the office priorities and annual management plan indicators.

The Annual Management Plan for 2017 outlined the key office priorities for this period and served as an action plan to achieve agreed results. It included the new Country Programme 2018-2022 and audit action plan, implementation of HACT, the new resource mobilization and partnership strategy 2018-2022, a career development plan, increased visibility of UNICEF as a leading and trusted voice for child rights and assessment of the Climate Change Agenda for Children.

The progress towards the actual achievement of the objectives was reviewed during programme and country management team meetings. Key management indicators reports were produced and discussed at the CMT meetings. During the annual management review, the achievement of key management objectives, lessons learned and areas for improvement were addressed. A risk control self-assessment exercise was conducted in February. Business continuity was strengthened through business continuity plan updates based on the recommendations that resulted from drills conducted in late 2016.

A new Country Programme Management Plan for 2018-2022 was submitted to the Regional Programme Budget Review Committee. Prior to that, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan undertook a comprehensive process to review the requirements for the new country programme, the projection of resource availability, and the analysis of an effective human resource structure. The process was based on the discussions of the Annual Management Review, results of the
Programme Effectiveness retreat conducted in March and the CPMP workshop held in June 2017. UNICEF Kyrgyzstan has a dynamic Local Staff Association which held general staff meetings regularly to reflect staff concerns. The UNICEF Kyrgyzstan management regularly met Local Staff Association executive committee members at the Joint Consultative Committee to discuss Global Staff Survey results, staff concerns and welfare issues.

OUTPUT 2 Financial Resources and Stewardship

Analytical statement of progress
The office established a financial resource management system and regularly monitored office management performance through reports and dashboards on InSight. The monthly Key Performance Indicators report issued by the Regional Office also served as an effective monitoring tool. Monitoring of programme implementation was improved through regular analysis during programme and CMT meetings. Funds were regularly reviewed against planned programme activities. The funds from earmarked contributions from donors were closely monitored to meet the target goals for effective fund utilization.

An Audit Task Force Team was established to follow up on the findings of the audit held in November 2016. The Country Office managed to implement all action points during Q2 of 2017, and the Audit Status Report was timely submitted to the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations and uploaded on TeamMate. As a result, all audit recommendations were closed in November 2017. The office revisited and completed the Micro-Assessment and Assurance Plan as per audit recommendations and the HACT procedure. In addition, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan established the mechanisms to plan, implement, monitor and report on assurance activities.

OUTPUT 3 Human Capacity

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF Kyrgyzstan continued effective implementation of the country programme based on the changes approved by the regional programme and budget review committee in 2016. The revised organogram optimized the resource allocation to achieve the targets outlined in the 2017 Annual Management Plan. To complement staff capacity and ensure cost-effectiveness, the office engaged local and international expertise, research institutions, NGOs and the private sector. Following the results of the Global Staff Survey 2017, the UNICEF Kyrgyzstan management and the local staff association discussed the issues that were raised in the survey. Staff members were encouraged to have performance evaluation discussions with a clear connection between results and individual objectives. The joint consultative committee regularly met to address staff welfare issues.

Evaluation and research

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<tr>
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Youth Development and Well-being Index 2017/006 Study
Child Poverty Profile in Kyrgyzstan 2017/005 Study
Designing a Theory of Change: Conceptual ideas towards modelling early and transdisciplinary approaches for children with disabilities and their families towards the UNICEF task-force group meeting on children with disabilities 2017/004 Study
The Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative in Kyrgyzstan: Sustainable breastfeeding outcomes through integration 2017/003 Study
Main barriers to the determination of Monthly Benefit to Poor Families with Children as a fixed amount 2017/002 Study
Research on children having suffered from violence and their families 2017/001 Study

Other publications

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<td>The quality of maternal and child health services provided in pilot hospitals in Osh, Jalalabad, Batken and Issyk Kul oblasts 2014-2017</td>
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<td>Analytical review of documents on the system of home visits in the Kyrgyz Republic</td>
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<td>Monitoring of the implementation of the Law on Prevention of Iodine Deficiency in the Kyrgyz Republic</td>
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<td>Maximising the Quality of Scaling Up Nutrition Programmes Framework (MQSUN) + Technical Assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic. Scoping Visit Report. 9-13 October 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guidelines for children and parents on internet safety</td>
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<td>Basic package of communication materials on menstrual hygiene management, consisting of a Guidebook for teachers, a Guidebook for parents, a Girls’ puberty book for ages 10-13, and a Girls’ puberty book for ages 14-18 years</td>
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<td>Guidebook on disaster risk reduction for general schools of the Kyrgyz Republic</td>
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Lessons learned

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Programme documents

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