Executive Summary

UNICEF signed its new Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) 2012-16 with the government and has made excellent progress in the first year, raising 47% of CPD budget and fully funding its flagship equity programming.

A revised Child Code was adopted in August 2012, streamlining national law with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and creating stronger gatekeeping mechanisms to prevent the separation of children from their families and their placement in institutions. Joint advocacy efforts by UNICEF, the European Union (EU) and civil society contributed to an increase in both coverage and size of the Guaranteed Minimum Income (GMI) to the poorest children. Despite the legislative progress made in these areas, shortfalls on the practical level need to be addressed. Moreover, the current budget deficit threatens to undermine critical social expenditures, potentially jeopardizing previously agreed targets such as the gradual GMI increase towards 100% of the extreme poverty line by 2016.

A major achievement with regards to the health sector is the reduction of the child mortality rate, with the country now on track to achieve MDG 4 for the first time. The government has prioritized child survival in its agenda, signing A Promise Renewed for Child Survival in June 2012 and committing to Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) through developing a nutrition strategy and revising a law on flour fortification. Due to the proven success of the Gulazyk micronutrient powder (MNP) programme to reduce iron-deficiency anaemia, it was rolled out nationwide covering over 70% of children under the age of 2 in 2012 in partnership with the World Bank (WB), the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) and the Soros Foundation. UN agencies jointly addressed the needs of maternities in remote areas by providing effective perinatal care services for over 35% of births nationwide. Despite these achievements, maternal mortality remains high and HIV continues to spread in the country, making Kyrgyzstan unlikely to meet the targets for MDG 5 and 6.

In southern Kyrgyzstan, 55 municipalities were selected based on an identification of vulnerable children and socio-economic data for cross-sectoral activities with a focus on equity. Main achievements include the continued operation of 17 youth centres in the south to engage adolescents in peace building and a scale-up of WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) activities in support of health targets. Regarding the education sector, 13 new Community-based Kindergartens (CBKs) were opened in December 2012 resulting in the number (currently 15%) of children attending preschool over the coming years, UNICEF has supported the government in getting involved in the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) with WB to receive funding of 12.7 million USD in 2013.

Although fundraising has so far been successful, there remain significant needs and gaps in the CPAP. Very few donors prioritize Kyrgyzstan and further support will be required if the programme is to achieve all its ambitious aims.

Country Situation as Affecting Children & Women

The political situation remained unstable in 2012. Since parliamentary elections in December 2010, three prime ministers were appointed by three different parliamentary coalitions. Frequent changes at decision making level hamper the progress and advocacy efforts for children's issues.

Kyrgyzstan is one of two low income countries in in the CEE/CIS region with GDP per capita of 1,075 USD (2011). A deadlock situation regarding large-scale mining operations in the country prevents the government from collecting a significant amount of tax revenues. Overall industrial production continues to decline which could negatively affect budget revenues, resulting in cuts in budget expenditures and having an adverse impact on the socio-economic situation in the country. In 2012, the government has nevertheless managed to maintain its planned level of social spending. However, current levels of spending are not enough to ensure quality outcomes for children. One of the critical barriers to effective child-centred social protection is poor funding and the government spends only 0.55% of GDP for poverty-targeted cash transfers, while the average for the region is around 2% of GDP.[1]
In Kyrgyzstan, the migration of labour resources constitutes 25% of the whole population and there continues to be a significant phenomenon in the country for reasons of history and economics, impacting heavily on the society. Research shows that migration has strong negative impacts on children's health, academic performance and behaviour. Women must often fill physical roles typically played by men in their households, which involves caring for livestock and heavy agricultural work. In addition, the strain of distance between wives and husbands creates a high level of pressure on their relationship.[2]

At the policy level, the revised Children’s Code creates stronger gatekeeping mechanisms to prevent children from being separated from their families and sent to institutions when other options exist. Kyrgyzstan, with less than 2% of children under the age of three amongst all children in institutions, can be qualified as positive example. However, no systems of family foster care for children under the age of three have been developed. Furthermore, recent research revealed an alarming increase in the number of children in institutions, threatening conditions in which these children live and the proliferation of under-regulated private institutions.[3]

The government has significantly increased its attention to the issue of maternal and child mortality rates. The government has prioritized child survival in its agenda, signing several international commitments including A Promise Renewed for Child Survival (June 2012), and SUN (December 2011). However, lack of cross-sectoral interaction slows the progress in the areas of nutrition, water, hygiene and sanitation. Poor hygiene practices and latrine conditions remain prevalent across the country, especially in rural areas. Furthermore, a relatively high proportion of children are afflicted by under-nutrition. The study conducted in rural Kyrgyzstan shows high rates of anaemia and vitamin A deficiency among children under 2 years old, 44% and 20% respectively.[4] By hindering the psycho-social development of children, under-nutrition leads to reduced productivity and income earning in adulthood thus perpetuating the vicious circle of poverty and ill health.

In the area of education, the system results include approval of the Education Development Strategy for 2012-2020 and the Medium-Term Education Plan with clear benchmarks for preschool education including school preparedness, and the government’s commitment to cover teachers’ salaries for a 240-hours programme. In 2012, about 85% of Kyrgyz children were deprived from early learning and development to their full potential. Recent study shows that the largest group of out-of-school children (OOSC) are 6-7 year olds, representing 45.4% of this age range.[5] Being a recipient of Fast Track Initiative (FTI) III and GPE II grants, the government is committed to introduce a universal one year school readiness programme for all children which will help to close the equity gap by providing ‘a fair start’ for more than 100,000 six-year old children annually and gradually shift to a universal school preparedness programme by 2015.

A wide range of research and data collection activities has been carried out to identify and monitor the removal of barriers and bottlenecks to reach the most disadvantaged children and women, resulting in feeding decision-making and equity-focused programming. The LQAS approach was widely applied in identifying barriers and bottlenecks, in particular for survey on birth certificate in the Joint DFID/UNICEF Equity Programme. It revealed that municipalities where more than 10% of children born in 2010 and children of second or third year of life, have no birth certificates while the overall rate is 98-99%. Another survey in the Equity Programme revealed areas where less than one third of mothers (of children under 5 years old) have adequate knowledge on child diseases requiring immediate hospitalization. A survey on inter-ethnic relations revealed many worrying patterns of inter-ethnic intolerance, particularly among youth and in the south of the country.


**Oblast 2010, 2012**


### Country Programme Analytical Overview

The overall goal of the Country Programme is to support government and civil society efforts to increase equity and social inclusion of the most vulnerable children. A comprehensive analysis carried out in 2012 has identified major barriers and bottlenecks affecting progress towards targets defined in the CPAP. The mix of strategies to address these focuses on advocacy, communication for development (C4D) and building institutional capacities, knowledge management and strategic partnerships are always present as essential parts of programme interventions. A strong emphasis will be placed on inter-sectoral work, as the most effective strategy to respond to multiple vulnerabilities of children and their families.

In the area of social and child protection, the analysis revealed that existing systems remain weak and fragmented. Therefore, interventions are focused on policy dialogue, supporting improvements in normative and institutional frameworks. On the other hand, regional and local authorities will be enabled to translate national policies and laws into concrete outcomes for children and women.

Within health, barriers include weak capacity and poor infrastructure at the level of health facilities and poor linkages within health systems in general in rural and remote areas. UNICEF will continue strengthening capacity of the MoH to manage mother and child health (MCH) services and ensure priority life-saving health interventions.

Stunting and micronutrient deficiencies, particularly anaemia, among women and children are identified as major obstacles in achieving its MDGs. To address this, advocacy on the implementation of the National Nutrition Strategy and enforcement of the law on flour fortification along with *Gulazyk* programme will be a major strategy. Further support will be given to the MoH to restore public trust in the programme despite some negative speculations in the Parliament.

The education programme aims at increasing access to quality and sustainable preschool and basic education. Legislation is being developed to ensure equitable and expanded access to quality preschool education. The programme also emphasizes the quality and availability of teachers.

The country programme continued developing youth centres and other community mechanisms that provide opportunities to learn life skills and bring up voices of disadvantaged and marginalized youth. More structured approach including creation of volunteer clubs and establishing alliances for youth at district and province levels will be applied, with a particular focus on comprehensive measurements of the learning outcomes.

Greater emphasis on equity agenda and generous funding provided by the governments of Japan and the U.K. ($10 million in total) provide excellent opportunities to fully meet the defined targets in the CPAP. Much more will be done in promotion of peace-building and inter-ethnic tolerance among youth. Raising capacity of local authorities at municipal level, raising population awareness and stimulating demands on social services will be another area of the Country Programme interventions. To have this operational, bulk of these activities and respective field monitoring will be delegated to Osh ZO and an additional technical Intermediate Result (IR) in the CPAP will be created in the programme budget system.

### Humanitarian Assistance

Based on the new Country Programme Document (CPD) and CPAP 2012-2016, the office has been implementing multi-sectoral interventions to ensure adequate service delivery to the most disadvantaged children. Particularly peace-building and WASH activities, which were initially implemented as part of the response to the 2010 emergency, have been recognized as crucial by the government and were therefore integrated into longer-term planning along with health & nutrition, child protection, education, early childhood development (ECD), social protection and disaster risk reduction (DRR).
Being a lead agency of the education and WASH sectors within the Disaster response coordination unit (DRCU), UNICEF supported the population in southern Kyrgyzstan affected by floods and mudflows. At the request of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, an initial needs assessment was conducted within the Rapid Emergency Coordination Team based on which the actual response was implemented. Through WASH activities, UNICEF improved hygiene conditions of 600 families in Batken province affected by floods and mudflows, providing hygiene kits and water purification tablets and developing a plan for hygiene education.

In December 2012, the Inter-Agency Contingency planning (IACP) workshop was conducted by OCHA and DRCU to discuss the main scenarios, preparedness and response actions of each sector.

**Effective Advocacy**

*Fully met benchmarks*

UNICEF made use of effective advocacy tools and practices in a range of sectors and has greatly expanded its work with parliament following the constitutional shift towards a parliamentary democracy.

With regards to social policy, additional 38,000 children have been enrolled in the poverty-targeted social cash transfer programme as a result of joint advocacy by UNICEF, the delegation of the EU and the NGO Advocacy Association for Child Rights Promotion. Beside improvement of the coverage, the average amount of cash transfer has increased from 310 KGS to 525 KGS per child per month. UNICEF has been instrumental in both content and process of advocacy, providing evidence and analytical arguments, convening key stakeholders, planning advocacy events and facilitating the respective public discourse. With UNICEF guidance, an open Parliamentarian hearing took place in the Kyrgyz Parliament chaired by Vice Speaker and Vice Prime Minister on social affairs with more than 120 participants. The hearing aimed to review progress in implementation of Social Protection Development Strategy in 2012 and to speed up achievements of key milestones.

In collaboration with WB, UNICEF is applying an equity focus within the new GPE funding proposal with a plan to support the government’s commitment on extended school preparedness provision up to one year (480 hours). These efforts were supported by early childhood education (ECE) advocacy meetings organized in collaboration with the “Roza Otunbayeva Initiative”. The most significant advocacy initiative consisted of parliamentary hearings organized by UNICEF and the Roza Otunbayeva Initiative. The resolution of the parliamentary hearings contains an item on securing state funds for covering ECE teachers’ salaries. This will contribute to effective and sustainable programme implementation of new GPE funds in 2013.

In the health programme, UNICEF succeeded in rebuilding trust into an important MNP programme after suffering from a misinformation campaign. One year after it was scaled up, Gulazyk – a MNP program aimed at preventing micronutrient deficiencies among young children – faced sudden political resistance. Several members of the parliament attacked the programme by spreading misinformation about the MNP product in media and in parliamentary hearings. As a response, UNICEF in concert with the MoH developed an advocacy plan, which refuted the rumours about Gulazyk by means of evidence-based medical and scientific expertise. The advocacy work, both at the national and grassroots levels, helped to mobilize village health committees (VHCs) and primary health care workers and it successfully resulted in rebuilding trust into Gulazyk MNP with coverage of over 70% of children nationwide.

In the area of child protection, UNICEF advocated for the incorporation of the CRC into Kyrgyz law among members of parliament and the wider civil society. The activities proved to be successful as a new version of the Child Code and a package of amendments in juvenile justice were adopted and came into force in August of 2012. Thus, legislation is brought in compliance with international standards and norms.
Capacity Development

Mostly met benchmarks

Following the 2012 revision of the Child Code, 331 specialists in the area of child protection at local level were trained on methods of providing support to vulnerable families in difficult life situation, basics of social services and gatekeeping mechanisms as well as on mediation and probation. Furthermore, a training course on child abandonment in maternity wards was developed by the training institute of the MoH, which was integrated into the training curriculum of the institute and approved by decree of the MoH. A first training of trainers was carried out in the beginning of December of 2012.

With regards to preschool education, UNICEF offered workshops, training and technical assistance packages to NGOs and local governments. As a result, communities benefitted from implementing community-based ECE models including 140 teachers and 500 local authorities on the basic steps for opening and operating CBKs. Funding sources available for capacity training and technical assistance are provided by UNICEF in the ECE establishment phase and later on covered by community or state budget.

192 representatives of local governments and stakeholders (114 from Batken province and 78 from Osh) have improved their knowledge and skills on strategic and social planning to ensure that local strategies, plans and budget are child-sensitive, and contribute to the improvement of social welfare with focus on the most vulnerable citizens.

In southern Kyrgyzstan, UNICEF has contributed to the reduction of infant mortality by promoting effective perinatal care (EPC) based on a systems approach. By means of a comprehensive strategy of strengthening the hospital management and teamwork, optimizing the space in the wards, supporting the development of training modules, improving the infrastructure as well as by supervisory visits, continuous mentoring and on-spot trainings, UNICEF has developed and applied a holistic approach for capacity building at the level of medical facilities. Altogether 353 medical workers were trained in accordance to the WHO “Making Pregnancy Safer” program, 478 received training on newborn resuscitation and 98 on practical skills in EPC. Implementation of taught practices is assessed twice a year and practical supervisory visits with follow-up training conducted three times per annum.

Also at the level of operations, capacity building activities were conducted. Taking into consideration that UNICEF Kyrgyzstan is implementing HACT (Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer to Implementing Partners) since 2007, CO operations staff have duly conducted trainings of implementing partners in Bishkek and Osh on UNICEF financial policies and procedures, HACT and PCA (Programme Cooperation Agreements) tools. All in all, 35 representatives of implementing partners (IPs) were trained in Bishkek and 21 in Osh in 2012.

Capacity-development for local authorities and local offices of central government ministries is a key component of the Equity Programme implemented in Southern Kyrgyzstan. The zone office in Osh plays a critical role in improving local governments and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) capacity to design and implement pro-poor local plans and social services.

Communication for Development

Mostly met benchmarks

The C4D project on media and peace building is an example of a systematic, evidence-based strategic process, which is intrinsically linked to the programme sectors. Firstly, it started and ended with a content analysis that provided for a thorough measurement and revealed an improvement of conflict sensitive media reporting and a significant increase of peace promoting materials.

Secondly, it was realized in partnership with organizations such as UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) and Internews and the involvement of beneficiaries: local media NGOs, seven key media organizations at national and regional levels and two universities (one in the south, one in the north). The collaboration with universities resulted in a number of cost-effective projects beyond the planned activities such as workshops for students, course papers, and exhibitions. The outcome of the collaboration is visible in
the increased interest on conflict sensitive journalism standards, an increased civic position and a re-
consideration of perceptions on effective journalism among students.

Thirdly, it mobilized more than 100 acting journalists and 50 students of journalism around the concept of conflict sensitive journalism through a mix of strategies including capacity building, consultations and coaching during production.

Finally, the project used a cross-sectoral approach by linking peace building reporting with children's rights reporting. The reason for that is that professional and sensitive journalism can mediate conflicts and grievances. Part of that process involves putting a human dimension on big issues. Nothing does that better than reporting on affected children and solutions to alleviate their situation.

Following an ungrounded attack against Gulazyk programme, a set of crisis communication efforts was undertaken in three directions. UNICEF conducted Media campaigns including several media trips, talk shows and specialized TV programs. VHCs were trained to better communicate information about Gulazyk with parents. Furthermore, awareness raising events were organized for the decision makers who were against Gulazyk programme. As a result, a recent survey showed that 70% of parents continued to use Gulazyk regularly and pointed out a positive change in children’s health and development. Moreover, to support the early learning component of Gulazyk, a new book for children and parents were developed.

Furthermore, the participatory approach of the youth and education programmes including peace building school events, youth forum theatres, flash mobs, advocacy campaigns and socially significant projects helped to increase the social role of youth in targeted communities and channel their energy to positive changes.

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**Service Delivery**

*Fully met benchmarks*

Within the Equity Programme, the CO planned specific interventions for improving access to educational services for poor families in target communities. A rapid assessment of the situation and an appraisal of the capabilities of local government organizations, local education departments and municipalities were conducted to identify the capacity gaps and population to be reached. Local NGOs with the approved capacity to reach targeted communities with tailored services were identified for the implementation of the UNICEF equity program in education and ECD. As a result 13 CBKs out of the total planned amount of 55 were opened in 2012, reaching more than 1,300 children. The CBKs have been renovated by local authorities and equipped by UNICEF with appropriate furniture and supplies, including DRR materials and supplies; training was provided on ECD to 140 teachers and 500 local authorities were oriented on the basic steps for opening and operating CBKs. Latrines are in the process of construction or refurbishment in all 55 planned CBKs to be followed by hygiene promotion activities.

The government of Japan has granted 4.5 million USD to UNICEF to improve the learning environment in schools and preschools in the most disadvantaged communities in southern Kyrgyzstan. The project follows the UNICEF equity focus to address the root causes of inequity so that all children benefit from services. More than 25,000 children in 38 schools and 12 preschools from the most disadvantaged communities will have access to quality learning environments over the coming two years.

3,568 children in difficult life situations including disabilities were identified by specialists of municipalities on social issues and social workers and are benefiting from rehabilitation and reintegration services provided at eight day care centres in southern Kyrgyzstan. 300 child victims and witnesses of violence and abuse have benefitted from consultation and rehabilitation services in a child support centre under the mayor's office of Bishkek. 726 parents received support through consultations and trainings on development and education of disabled and vulnerable children. All services have been established based on a needs assessment of municipalities and will be financed from local budget to ensure sustainability.

In terms of nutrition, 250,000 children of 6-24 months of age received Gulazyk micronutrient supplement through the state primary health care system thus covering 70% of children under 2 years nationwide (LQAS
2012 survey). By supporting Association of VHCs, UNICEF ensured trained VHC volunteers work countrywide (excluding only four districts) and reach the most vulnerable and disadvantage families educating about the use of Gulazyk and stimulation of children’s cognitive development. Also, over 40,000 mothers in southern Kyrgyzstan are ensured with EPC services counting up to 35% of all deliveries in the country. Early neonatal and under 5 mortality is now almost two times greater than the national figures reflecting the good results achieved. Along with improving the quality of perinatal care in 20 maternities in terms of equipment and capacity, infrastructure has been renewed by installing new windows in 15 maternities and by repairing sewage system in 7 maternities.

**Strategic Partnerships**

*Fully met benchmarks*

In 2012, Kyrgyzstan signed the pledge “A Promise Renewed” and continued the work within the SUN Movement. Promoting a multi-sectoral approach, UNICEF has been partnering with national level stakeholders such as governmental organizations, donors, the private sector, associations of producers, academic institutions and media as well as with local level authorities and community-based groups. The approach has resulted in the finalization of a nutrition strategy, the revision of the law on flour fortification and it greatly contributed to attracting attention to the issue of micronutrient deficiencies among the population, especially young children and mothers.

Since 2009, UNICEF in Kyrgyzstan has been leading the education and WASH sectors, being an integral part of the disaster response coordination mechanism (DRCU). The DRCU brings together UN agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, donor organizations as well as international and local NGOs to support the government in coordinating disaster preparedness and response. It also became an active member of the National Platform for DRR in education, awareness raising, seismic safety and humanitarian response sectors.

In the education sector, a strategic partnership is being strengthened with the WB and EU leveraging resources to improve equity in access to a high-quality learning environment. UNICEF as the coordinating agency for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) facilitated the meetings in preparation of the GPE application package. UNICEF as chair of the Development Partners Coordination Council (DPCC) on education is engaged in coordinating external aid in the area of education and is contributing to the SWAp establishment planned to be implemented in the Kyrgyz education sector from 2013.

As a result of strategic partnership with the EU Delegation to the Kyrgyz Republic, UNICEF has provided international and local technical support to the government for elaborating an optimization plan on management and financing of residential institutions. This is a milestone achievement as the country is a recipient of budgetary support from EU. Moreover, UNICEF continues to co-chair the Development Partner’s Coordination Council Working Group on social protection with EU.

**Knowledge Management**

*Fully met benchmarks*

Data and analytical evidence have been generated through numerous surveys, studies and other research projects to establish CPAP baselines, to track progress in different areas and to provide up-to-date information on the situation of children:

The Child Well-Being Index is monitored by the National Statistical Committee (NSC) and respective analysis of the situation and trends by sector and province was published.

The NSC jointly with MoH conducted several surveys/studies (on birth registration, LQAS monitoring of Gulazyk nutritional programme, etc.) to inform respective governmental bodies on the situation and progress in various programme areas.

Monitoring of iodized salt consumption across the country been carried out by the NSC.

UNICEF co-facilitated a multi-agency survey on inter-ethnic relations providing a unique comprehensive and
Continues to apply the human rights based approach to programming (HRBAP) principles by supporting the government in identifying the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, and by strengthening capacities of

Implementation of research agenda of Equity Programme in Southern Kyrgyzstan resulted in work on and results for 7 studies/surveys and several sectoral assessments including assessments of capacity of local authorities and training needs, of interethnic relations in schools, infrastructure and equipment in health clinics and others.

A research plan clearly defines roles, accountabilities and deliverables for knowledge activities. National partners played a key role in planning and designing the above mentioned research projects. The CO facilitated access of national partners to relevant external knowledge sources and networks. Financial assistance has been provided to strengthen the capacity of major partners. Technical assistance was provided to the NSC to implement the CEE/CIS regional Trans-MONEE project.

Data and evidence collected have been widely used for programming. Based on the nationwide assessment of access to water, sanitation and hygiene in schools and hospitals, a UNICEF hygiene promotion guidebook for teachers was adapted to the local context and published. Then an analysis of requirements for WASH in schools and primary healthcare centres has been commissioned. Gaps and weaknesses in standards and norms were discussed with/by all stakeholders to address issues.

Annually updated DevInfo databases (such as Kyrgyz-Info, Health-Info, Gender-Info and others) play an important role in data dissemination. With UNICEF support, DevInfo is being officially used by the NSC, MoH and MoES to monitor MDG progress. Throughout the year, the country programme made efforts to introduce the LQAS innovative approach to partners.

**Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation**

*Mostly met benchmarks*

Recommendations of the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) were addressed in UNICEF supported interventions, most notably the adoption of a revised Child Code in August 2012, so that ultimately every child can enjoy its rights and develop to its full potential. Moreover, UNICEF continues to apply the human rights based approach to programming (HRBAP) principles by supporting the government in identifying the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, and by strengthening capacities of decision makers and service providers to fulfill their obligations and of communities to know and claim their rights. Specifically, the HRBAP approach was applied to the projects implemented in a number of targeted communities in Batken and Jalalabad with no preschool education provision, which resulted in improving access to preschool services for disadvantaged groups in 13 communities. Additionally, UNICEF has worked in close partnership with OHCHR and other UN agencies in supporting reporting process of Kyrgyzstan to human rights treaty bodies and implementation of recommendations stemming from those treaty bodies (UPR, CRC and CEDAW).

**Gender Equality**

*Mostly met benchmarks*

Emphasis was put on advancing gender mainstreaming both internally and externally. In August 2012, a gender mainstreaming capacity building workshop was organized for UNICEF staff members from the offices in Bishkek and Osh for a total of 38 participants from operations and programme sections. The training course presented various aspects of gender mainstreaming including data disaggregation, gender analysis as
well as monitoring and evaluation. The role of UNICEF in encouraging gender sensitivity among governmental and nongovernmental partners was especially stressed. On the second day of the training, programme units developed gender sensitive interventions within their existing rolling work plans. Additionally, UNICEF provided one and a half day capacity building on gender mainstreaming to representatives of the UN Country Team (UNCT) including gender focal points in order to strengthen coordination and collaboration in promoting gender issues through various programmes implemented by the UNCT.

On the external level, UNICEF along with other UN agencies supported national consultations on the preparation of the fourth periodic report of Kyrgyzstan to the Committee on the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. Additionally, UNICEF is contributing to the implementation of the Government's National Action Plan on Gender Equality for 2012-2014.

WASH activities also paid attention to gender sensitivity. Because poor hygienic conditions of sanitation facilities pose a greater challenge to girls than to boys, UNICEF developed respective specifications and applied them in the design, construction and renovation of latrines and washrooms. The new facilities provide improved privacy, security and dignity especially to girls and are expected to reduce their absenteeism that had previously resulted from the lack of appropriate sanitation facilities. Furthermore, UNICEF and partners will be working with the government on getting improved latrine designs included in the national norms and standards.

### Environmental Sustainability

**Mostly met benchmarks**

According to the Ministry of Emergency Situations statistics, the number of disasters caused by natural hazards has drastically increased. In 2012, 357 small to medium natural disasters occurred, mainly floods and mudflows, avalanches, and landslides. These disasters caused severe damage to infrastructure including homes, health facilities and schools, reducing access to basic services and regularly interrupting the education process. In consequence, interventions on mainstreaming DRR in education have been implemented, enabling schools and preschools to reduce their vulnerability and increase resilience to potential disasters. CBKs that had participated in the project implementation in 2011 continued to promote safe behaviour education for preschool children in Batken and Leilek rayon.

The UNICEF WASH section supports the refurbishment of latrines and washrooms in schools and health centres. A WASH facility can have a potentially detrimental effect on the groundwater if improperly designed. Therefore, in the design and implementation of infrastructure projects the WASH section pays particular attention to fulfilling respective standards in order to avoid the contamination of groundwater. The WASH programme has established a close cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure environmental sustainability in all construction projects.

### South-South and Triangular Cooperation

In Spring 2012, the program on the prevention of micronutrient deficiency among children 6-24 months contributed with a presentation and facilitation to a regional workshop on improving the nutritional quality of complementary foods for children 6-23 months through home fortification in Sub-Saharan Africa. Teams from 14 countries participated in this round table. In the follow-up of this event, staff of the MOH ad UNICEF in Zambia visited Kyrgyzstan in August 2012 in order to learn about the approaches of implementation in Kyrgyz provinces and to share experiences. A number of knowledge transfers were conducted, sharing training modules, communication materials, advocacy papers and survey results. In consequence, the experience of Kyrgyzstan is now used and built upon in the implementation of nutrition programmes in some countries of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Additionally, UNICEF supported the participation of members of the Kyrgyz parliament and senior members of the government in a study tour to Georgia on child care reform. Georgia's achievements in child care reform were also shared through a visit of the Georgian government in May 2012 to Kyrgyzstan. During this official visit, UNICEF study on Analysis of Situation of Children in Residential Institutions in Kyrgyzstan was
presented, creating a good platform for Georgia to share their success and lessons learnt on developing alternative services for vulnerable children and transforming institutions. This south-south cooperation contributed to the Kyrgyz government’s initiatives on child care reform.
**Narrative Analysis by Programme Component Results and Intermediate Results**

**Republic of Kyrgyzstan - 2450**

**PC 1 - Equitable, Quality, and Responsive Systems for Children**

- **On-track**

**PCR 2450/A0/05/001 PCR1.1 Equitable and Responsive Systems**

Children and women have increased access to quality and responsive services, including social benefits.

**Progress:**

Leading the MCH group in the SWAp, the country office supports the allocation of funds to MCH services in an integrated way. The plans of UNICEF are in line with the MoH, sharing views both on the expected results as well as barriers and bottlenecks. During the first year of the CPD, the normative base and standards were developed. All the strategic documents in the health sector prioritize the access of women and children to quality responsive services and the importance of evidence-based interventions. As a result in 2012, the need for resuscitation of newborns was decreased threefold and 256 newborns survived, thanks to specific life-saving equipment (reports of maternities). By adopting a national nutrition strategy for 2013-2017 and commitment to the SUN initiative, the government showed that nutrition is considered a priority area. More efforts are needed to improve the access of drug using women to quality care, however, as the number of drug users continues to increase, which negatively affects the mother-to-child HIV transmission.

The results of the national OOSC report launched in November 2012 pointed out that the country should allocate significant resources to ECE programs to close the existing equity gaps and improve access to preschool-education services. The government has committed to allocate the 12.7 million indicative GPE funding on expanding access to early education programs in 2013 in order to increase the hours of operation of school preparation classes from the existing 240 hours to 480 hours by 2016 with a special focus on OOSC.

However, unless these programs are extended up to one year and universal provision is supported by state funding, they are unlikely to adequately prepare children for the transition into primary education. Under the leadership of ex-president Roza Otunbayeva, UNICEF thus organized a number of advocacy meetings and a high level parliamentary hearing aimed at calling attention to the importance of ECE, to the school readiness program and to securing state funds for preschool teacher’s salaries in the 2013-2015 Mid-Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF). Until now, funds have been secured for a 240 hour program, which reached 54% of 6-7 years old in 2012.

- **On-track**

**IR 2450/A0/05/001/001 IR 1.1.1 MCH Systems and Policies**

The Ministry of Health manages and monitors the provision and performance of quality and responsive priority life-saving health services for children and mothers from poor and vulnerable families, including nutriservices and diagnostic, preventative and treatment interventions for HIV.

**Progress:**

Critical barriers identified to reduce maternal and child mortality include low awareness among the population for MCH, weak quality control and referral systems as well as output- rather than outcome-oriented payment structures regarding health services. Intensifying efforts towards achieving MDG 4, the main focus has been on improving the quality of services by supporting the implementation of an EPC programme in deprived regions of southern Kyrgyzstan. As a result, 40,224 women in labour (35% of deliveries nationwide) were provided EPC services (MoH Monitoring report 2012). Currently, 95% of all maternities have medical workers trained on EPC. To monitor the quality of care, UNICEF has successfully advocated the MoH to establish an M&E unit for MCH programs under the National Center of Mother and Child Health.

Due to delays in the procurement of supplies for early infant diagnostics, children are still tested for AIDS only at the age of two to six months. Notwithstanding, the percentage of children that are born to HIV
positive mothers tested has increased from 3.3% to 11.9% between 2011 and 2012 (Republican AIDS Center 2012). Moreover, with UNICEF’s advocacy, revised National Standards on the Prevention of mother-to-child-transmission (PMTCT) of HIV and Paediatric AIDS were approved and respective indicators on the capacity development of medical workers, as outlined in the agreement with the Global Fund, were achieved.

To prevent infectious diseases, UNICEF focused on improving cold chain management of vaccines. By leveraging resources from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), UNICEF procured cold chain equipment to health facilities in the south, resulting in a 22.8 percentage point increase of health facilities having special equipment for managing cold chain (Republican Center of Immunization, 2012). Regarding the prevention of micronutrient deficiencies, a national nutrition strategy for 2013-2017 was developed.

**On-track**

**IR 2450/A0/05/001/002 IR1.1.2 MOES ensures increased equity in access to pre-school education, a better quality teaching and learning environment in basic education, and effective responses to the needs of out-of-school children**

**Progress:**

In preschool education, the major bottleneck addressed was the lack of commitment for secured teacher salaries for implementation of one year school readiness. The underlying cause was partially related to state budget deficit and potential cut off of the education budget. Thus, programme strategy included costing of the programme implementation and identification of the possible funding sources (i.e. savings in education budget) and advocacy with key decision. The advocacy strategy called an attention to decision makers and the public on the importance of early learning with the ultimate goal to secure state funding for teacher salaries.

As the coordinating agency for the GPE, UNICEF worked on setting the preconditions for the institutionalization of universal one-year pre-primary education by 2016 after consultations with WB, the MoES and the Local Education Group. The proposed GPE project is in line with the policy commitment to expand access to quality pre-primary education preparation classes reflected in the Education Development Strategy for 2012-2020 and the Medium Term Action Plan for 2012-2014. This will contribute to addressing the barriers to education for the poorest and most vulnerable children. The National OOSC Report launched in November 2012 revealed that the largest group of out-of-school children are 6-7 year olds, representing 45.4% of this age range. Geographic location, poverty, living without one or both parents and especially a combination of these factors are significant risks associated with exclusion from pre-primary education. On the supply side, the lack of pre-school institutions is a major reason for low enrolments.

A methodological framework for monitoring OOSC was developed and a policy analysis for the identification of policy gaps that lead to exclusion of children was completed. In collaboration with the EU, UNICEF supported the MoES to ensure the sector’s preparedness for the SWAp planned to be introduced in 2013.

**On-track**

**PCR 2450/A0/05/002 PCR1.2 Child Welfare Policies and Systems icant progress in addressing key recommendations of international treaties, including the CRC**

**Progress:**

In 2012, Kyrgyzstan undertook concrete steps in bringing national policy and legislation in line with the CRC, most notably through enforcement of a revised Child Code in August 2012. The code creates stronger gatekeeping mechanisms to prevent the separation of children from their families and their placement in institutions. Moreover, local self-government bodies are now charged with child protection responsibilities including the identification of vulnerable children and families in need of support. Additionally, the code introduces a new and distinct concept of justice for children, providing for the protection of children in conflict with the law as well as children that are victims and witnesses of crime. To enforce the revised Child Code, regulations on foster care, social standards and an assessment of social service needs were also developed and approved by the government. Additionally, a strategy on juvenile justice system reform and regulation
on a coordination board on juvenile justice have been developed.

Inconsistencies within the national legislation and corruption in the area of inter-country adoption are being gradually addressed through Kyrgyzstan's accession to the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-Country Adoption and adoption of a Revised Child Code. In order to effect changes in the lives of children without parental care, with joint efforts of the Kyrgyz Government, the EU delegation and UNICEF, an optimization plan on the management and financing of residential institutions for 2013-2016 was developed and adopted. Through capacity building of municipality specialists on social issues and social workers, a total of 1,096 vulnerable children were identified for rehabilitation and support to prevent their separation from biological families.

In the area of poverty-targeted social cash transfers, an additional 38,000 children have been enrolled in the programme as a result of joint policy advocacy by UNICEF, the EU delegation, the expert community and the NGO Advocacy Association for Child Rights Promotion. Besides an increase in coverage, the average amount of the cash transfer has increased from 310 to 525 KGS per child per month, thereby reaching 50% of the extreme poverty line. The funding for an increased value of social cash transfer is covered by the state budget. In advocating for the GMI increase, UNICEF with key stakeholders held the government accountable in translating commitments into budgetary decisions and thereby supported the government in removing one of the critical barriers on insufficient funding of poverty-targeted benefit.

Progress:

In the field of child protection, major bottlenecks in the form of discrepancies within national law have been removed. A new version of the Child Code and amendments to crime, crime procedural, crime executive, family and civic codes were approved and came into force in August 2012. Subsequently, secondary legislation including a regulation on foster care and standards for services was approved by the government in October 2012. The new legislation is revised in line with the CRC and recommendations of the UPR Committee and international experts. Nevertheless, there continue to be challenges and bottlenecks with the poor government coordination, insufficient capacity and constant change/turnover of cadres.

Local assistance is provided to the MoH to improve abandonment prevention of children under 3 and new indicators on children under 3 in institutional care were approved by the MoH and the NSC. To enhance the capacity of staff from maternity wards on abandonment prevention a training module was developed and approved by the MoH.

Based on the findings of an analysis of residential institutions, an optimization plan for managing and financing residential institutions was developed with technical support of the EU, UNICEF international and local experts. Moreover, an interagency working group was established to develop mechanisms towards the graded transformation of residential institutions.

Contributing to the implementation of a social protection development strategy, a child care system with gatekeeping mechanisms was tested in three districts promoting deinstitutionalization and the creation of alternative services. Furthermore, a school without violence program is being developed and a referral system in cases of violence against children is created in Bishkek.

A strategy on juvenile justice system reform and regulation on the establishment of a coordination board were developed and are currently under discussion.

On-track

IR 2450/A0/05/002/001 IR1.2.1 Child Protection & Justice for Children authorities prevent and respond effectively to cases of violence, abuse and separation of children from their families, ensure rights to birth registration, prevent and protect children in conflict with the law.

IR 2450/A0/05/002/002 IR1.2.2 Social Policy and Protection implements effective response policies, programmes and services that target child poverty including an equitable social cash transfer system.
**Progress:**

One of the critical barriers to reduce child poverty is low public expenditures on social protection and poverty-targeted cash transfers in particular, which results both in low coverage and a low transfer value.

To address this challenge, UNICEF in alliance with the EU and a network of NGOs and experts advocated for a value increase of the threshold defining the size of the poverty-targeted cash transfer to reach 50% of the extreme poverty line. A decree to this effect was signed by the Prime Minister and came into force in November 2012. As a result, the Guaranteed Minimum Income (GMI) increased from 310 KGS to 525 KGS per child per month. According to the National Social Protection Development Strategy (NSPDS) 2012-2014 the GMI is planned to be further increased in 2013 to reach 75% of the extreme poverty line, a goal which is currently at risk due to the budget deficit however.

In consultation with the ministerial and independent experts, the CO applied the 10-determinants framework to social protection. A lack of monitoring, limited documentation (e.g. birth certificates) and poor access especially to the poorest children in most remote areas were identified as some of the most critical barriers. The determinants matrix will now serve as the basis for a monitoring framework to the further implementation of the NSPDS.

Effective support to vulnerable and poor children and their families besides income supplements is achieved via social service delivery. UNICEF supports the comprehensive review of policy and practice since 2008 aimed to improve transparency and accountability including redress of social contracting. The review reveals deviations from set procedures and significant gaps in recording and reporting practices, which will be addressed in detail by the 2013 activities.

### PC 2 - Increased Access to Quality Social Services

- **On-track**

**PCR 2450/A0/05/003 PCR2.1 Equit. Access to Quality Services by 2016 with the focus on the most vulnerable groups in specifically targeted areas, women, girls and boys have access to and use a continuum of integrated social services, including sanitation services**

**Progress:**

UNICEF supports the government in the provision of quality services to the most vulnerable children and women, focusing its strategy on service delivery, capacity building and communication for development based on a cross-sectoral and integrated approach. The most vulnerable communities were selected based on an identification of vulnerable children and adolescents at municipality level and the application of criteria such as child poverty rates, geographical remoteness, maternal and child mortality rates, access to education and health services, access to water and sanitation and susceptibility to future conflict. In total, 55 municipalities in southern Kyrgyzstan with a population of approximately 700,000 (55% below 28 years) participated in UNICEF activities, which emphasize non-discriminatory contact with both Kyrgyz and Uzbek populations.

In 2012, UNICEF in partnership with 13 vulnerable municipalities opened 6 CBKs in Jalalabad province and 7 CBKs in Batken province, thus giving opportunity to 1,200 children to receive ECD services. Moreover, WASH promotion, half-day school-based tolerance camps and trainings of teachers and education officials on DRR were implemented in 28 province institutions reaching more than 9,000 children. A baseline KAP survey has been conducted to serve as a baseline indicator to track behavioural changes and determine the impact upon completion of the project.

Health services have been targeted towards a total of 63,124 children under 5 and 20,918 deliveries in 35 municipalities. Under the UN Delivering as One approach, over 35% of total deliveries in Kyrgyzstan are supported with life-saving health services. An assessment of family group practitioners with beds in this municipality discovered several barriers in the provision of quality medical services to women and children, which was addressed in the development of capacity building activities for medical staff.
Furthermore, capacities of local authorities and specialists were strengthened in various sectors to improve services in support of the most vulnerable women and children. In the field of social protection, 192 representatives of local governments and civil society enhanced their knowledge on latest social policy and public administration reform in 40 out of 55 municipalities after an initial needs assessment had been conducted. Regarding child protection, 245 professionals were trained on new methods of family and children support.

The extent to which bottlenecks are addressed in the target 55 municipalities is assessed through comprehensive field monitoring undertaken by Osh Zone Office (ZO). Osh ZO is also responsible for the overall coordination and day-to-day management of engagements in the Equity Programme.

**On-track**

**IR 2450/A0/05/003/001 IR 2.1.1.** 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 and provide adequate support to implement local emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction.

**Progress:**

UNICEF initiated comprehensive programmes in 17 of the 23 target municipalities as well as 38 more in the south. To promote awareness on issues related to pregnancy and childhood diseases among poor and vulnerable families, a manual of training modules for the primary health care level was developed.

Within child protection, activities to develop alternative services and preventing institutionalization were launched initially in 18 municipalities. 1,312 children in difficult life situation including disabled children and children in conflict with the law were provided with care services in eight day care centres.

Education activities focused on the establishment of CBKs and training for teachers. As a result, 13 CBKs were established and 140 teachers were trained serving at least 1,300 four to six year-old children. A Japanese funded project for the improvement of learning environments and infrastructure was launched, incorporating WASH promotion, tolerance camps and DRR training for teachers and officials.

More than 3,000 schools and preschools nationwide were assessed on risk vulnerability/safety by engineers and DRR experts to build a database on school and preschool.

UNICEF has created four new youth centres in northern Kyrgyzstan in addition to the existing 17 in the south. To date 20% of the youth centres get funding from the local budgets to cover utility costs, security and some salaries.

A needs assessment of local authorities in 55 municipalities on strategic and social planning resulted in the development of a training package to improve social policy making. Based on an assessment of barriers to social benefits in two out of 12 districts, an action plan to address the identified supply-sided barriers was drafted. Critical barriers identified were high costs incurred by families in the application process which reduce the value of expected benefits and thus its poverty reduction potential.

**On-track**

**IR 2450/A0/05/003/002 IR 2.1.2** Local authorities and communities in selected municipalities promote the increased use of priority life-saving health services for vulnerable children and women, better access to adequate sanitation in primary health care centres and in school, the adoption of good hygiene practices by school children, women and families.

**Progress:**

A formative research strategy was elaborated to obtain missing qualitative information (‘whys’ and ‘hows’) necessary for developing the cross-sectoral communication strategy to address main attitudinal and behaviour concerns of the participating groups in the areas of child health, nutrition, child protection, well-being and preschooling. The Health Promotion Centre was supported to train VHCs to communicate
information on Gulazyk and a film was developed on danger signs of pregnancy to respond to lack of knowledge and awareness of life-saving facts among family members and caregivers, which remains to be one of the bottlenecks on the way towards ensuring access to and use a continuum of integrated social services among vulnerable children.

Within the WASH programme, UNICEF has commissioned a report analyzing existing requirements and construction standards for WASH. Findings and recommendations will be used as a basis for advocacy works to streamline the processes, update norms and standards and remove bureaucratic barriers. Overall, a lack of funds specifically allocated to WASH Operation and Maintenance has been identified as a major bottleneck. Under the Equity Programme, UNICEF supported the design and construction of sanitation facilities in 12 CBKs and finalized the preparations for WASH infrastructure support in 17 health centres. To reduce the risk of hypothermia among newborns, a total of 161 plastic windows and 35 doors have been installed in 16 health facilities.

New hygiene promotion materials, gender-based and specifically adapted to the context in Kyrgyzstan have been developed for distribution in selected schools and pre-schools in 2013. In order to be able to respond to potential localized emergencies, UNICEF has maintained contingency plans as well as emergency supplies (for 10,000 persons) and it has obtained funds to replenish stocks in 2013.

**On-track**

**IR 2450/A0/05/003/003 IR 2.1.3** In targeted municipalities, local authorities in cooperation with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) promote positive behavioural outcomes among communities and mobilize increased demand for quality early education and child protection services in selected municipalities in the south, and promote demand for safe and tolerant schools.

**Progress:**

13 Community Initiative Groups were created, composed of representatives of local councils, school teachers, parents and other community stakeholders to mobilize local resources for the establishment and maintenance of CBKs. Their work was supported by a number of study tours, advocacy meetings and media discussions on the importance of early learning organized by ex-president Ms. Roza Otunbayeva. In 13 newly established CBKs the local municipalities have agreed to take over the running costs of the CBKs following the completion of the donor-funded start-up phase. A new approach to mobilizing local authorities and communities on issues related to quality early education is being developed by Osh ZO and the CO.

Work to build peace and tolerance through education is underway in 26 border schools of Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken. More than 60 school children and 15 teachers and volunteers participated in a five-day camp on using forum-theatre techniques as a means of conflict transformation. Each school has established theatre clubs and set up tolerance resource rooms. Supporting the strategic integration of core competencies of peaceful and tolerant behaviour into the state curriculum and other policy documents, a comprehensive situation analysis has been conducted and its results are presented to key stakeholders.

In order to achieve the expected behavioural changes, educational activities are complemented by a communication strategy. Formative research and a plan of activities were developed to promote the change of attitudinal stereotypes and behaviour practices to reduce school bullying. In the field of child protection, a media company was selected to implement a communication campaign promoting nonviolent methods of discipline of children in their families. All communication activities contribute to addressing major barriers including adverse social practices and the lack of awareness regarding good practice of preschool education and child protection.

**PC 3 - Adolescents and Youth Civic Engagement and Partnerships for Child Rights**

**On-track**

**PCR 2450/A0/05/004 PCR 3.1** by 2016, an alliance consisting of government, NGOs and communities, contribute to the increased and sustainable civic engagement of and partnerships for Child Rights
**Progress:**

UNICEF has been partnering with the Ministry of Youth, Labour and Employment and a number of youth-lead and youth-serving civil society organizations on the implementation of a more engaging and conciliatory youth policy. The programme has been progressing towards setting key preconditions such as skills, knowledge and structures for increasing positive perception of well-being, tolerance, peace and co-existence. A number of studies were conducted to provide important knowledge on equity gaps, inter-ethnic relations and the situation of young people, which lay the baseline for programme cooperation with the government and other stakeholders.

The 21 youth centres supported by UNICEF in the country have been integrated into one platform together with other youth organizations to voice up youth issues, and to share knowledge and practices on advocacy and participation. Teams of young volunteers in the youth centres have acquired skills on conducting small social research in specific situation of their peers in vulnerable situation. They have also learnt to strategize and plan based on the needs and issues identified among the youth. Community youth strategies are developed based on the data coming from the social research conducted by these teams.

The programme component has also progressed in consolidating partnership to enforce child rights and to achieve conflict sensitive and child/youth engaging media coverage. A research project commissioned by UNICEF has created awareness about torture and ill-treatment of children in the juvenile justice system. All the 16 children’s complaints to the Ombudsman office in 2012 have been followed up, which even supersedes the target indicated in the CPAP. Journalists from key mass media have acquired skills of conflict sensitive reporting.

The government was supported to address identified barriers regarding funding of youth policies, the development of youth networks and partnering with the youth organizations. While the national youth policy is in place, major bottlenecks include the lack of clear implementation strategies and mechanisms with shortfalls in funding and adolescent-unfriendly formulation and implementation. Youth policy appears to be a low priority area in the government, which is also reflected in the general shortage of data addressing the issues and concerns of children and adolescents. The CO will be addressing key bottlenecks related to the social and cultural practices, which is when people especially in rural communities including youth rarely demonstrate will and awareness to recognize the rights of the youth and adolescents to voice up their concerns and participate.

**On-track**

**IR 2450/A0/05/004/001 IR3.1.1** by end 2016, national and local authorities in targeted areas, as well as alliances for children, involving the private sector, CSOs and the media facilitate a secure enabling environment for the active engagement and participation of adolescent youth in activities promoting social cohesion, peace building and reconciliation

**Progress:**

Youth centres have been integrated into a wide youth advocacy network. Outreach groups, volunteer clubs, boards of trustees and sports leagues were established in each of 21 youth centres bringing together over 18,400 youth to voice up youth issues at the community level. Considering the level of division and hostility between the groups after the 2010 violence, one of the key achievements is the engagement from different ethnic groups including 12% of Uzbeks and 13% of other minorities in youth centres. Three fourth of these youth are of Kyrgyz ethnicity, over 12% are Uzbeks and 13% represent other minorities. Moreover, a network of youth theatres is being established in 15 conflict affected communities as a mechanism of communicating sensitive youth issues, and over 120 youth organizations were mapped throughout the country to be utilized for youth participation projects. Limited available data and a low budget for youth policies have been major barriers for more effective youth policy making, however.

The CO has developed a Conflict Sensitivity strategy that will guide conflict prevention and peace building efforts. The strategy aims at creating an awareness of the conflict sensitive approaches in the programming so as not to undermine peace building objectives and to maximize its positive impact. Also, Youth Strategy paper was developed to shape an integrated programming approach of the CO focusing on key areas
including youth policy and coordination, youth livelihood, welfare and participation.

Communication activities focused on the training and support of media organizations towards reporting and broadcasting in a conflict sensitive and child/youth engaging way. Journalism professors from two universities conducted training on peace building and child rights. Seven media projects were selected to receive funding to promote peace and reconciliation, which has resulted in the publication of over 300 productions to date. The results of two content analyses indicated a positive shift in conflict-sensitive reporting, mainly by lessening the emphasis on inter-ethnic relations.

IR 2450/A0/05/004/002 IR3.1.2 Data collection, monitoring and analysis and evaluation systems inform policy making and budgeting around issues related to youth and children, including child rights

Progress:

The CO carried out and supported a range of surveys and studies to provide required information on the situation of children to decision makers with a particular focus on equity (e.g. multi-agency survey on inter-ethnic relations among youth, survey on birth certificates, LQAS Monitoring Survey for Gulazyk programme, Child Well-Being Index, E-register of newborns, etc.). A research data dissemination plan was developed to ensure that findings are reachable by partners, the public and decision-makers in particular.

In order to address the limited capacity of the government, UNICEF supported the establishment of an M&E division in the MoH, an Education Management Information System in the MoES and the NSC's data dissemination policy. Trainings were conducted to enhance knowledge and skills to analyze and make use of gathered data. Moreover, Trans-MONEE project activities have been supported in 2012 – data bases and analytical reports are available on the NSC website. UNICEF also supported the NSC, the MoH and the MoES in introducing DevInfo as a tool to monitor the progress of MDGs 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6.

A joint UN Memorandum of Understanding was signed on technical assistance to the Ombudsman office to contribute to the capacity building of the Ombudsman Institute to implement the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) and to monitor and address violations of child rights. Furthermore, research on the ill-treatment of children in the juvenile justice system was recently finalized. A positive trend is visible in the number of registered cases of violations of rights of children in conflict with the law that have been handled by the Ombudsman Institute, which increased from 20% in 2011 to 100% in 2012. Moreover, violations of child rights are addressed regularly to the general prosecutor’s office and the parliament.

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Progress:

Support costs that cut across multiple Programme Components and Multiple Focus Areas of the MTSP were included in the CPD approved Programme Component 'Cross-sectoral costs'. The support costs are associated with staff costs, office equipment costs, communication, travel, etc. to the implementation of cross-cutting programme functions such as Communication for Development, Monitoring and Evaluation, Knowledge Management, Gender Reviews and etc. This Programme Component also includes support costs that contribute to operating costs.

IR 2450/A0/05/005/001 NA

Progress:

C4D strategies were applied in a number of sectors including the reduction of child abuse, promotion of
WASH practices, enhancing parenting skills, and the increase of knowledge about *Gulazyk* and danger signs of pregnancy.

A new C4D strategy was developed to change attitudes and practices on child development and preschool education. Formative research is currently in process to guide the C4D strategies with regards to promoting equity in the south of the country and rebuilding trust in immunization.

More than 30 advocacy films and TV programmes were developed to strengthen the voices of children and youth. They have been aired on central TV channels and during high level meetings. Among them are a film on youth and peace building, a TV programme on preschool education, two programmes on child adoption and one minute videos and media reports on juvenile justice made by young people themselves.

Social media (Facebook, Twitter and VKontakte) sites were set up for UNICEF in Kyrgyzstan as a tool to engage in discussions with participating groups.

The project on media for peace building was finalized with a positive shift in conflict-sensitive reporting. A content analysis at the end of the project registered a decrease in emphasis on inter-ethnic relations among media products.

**On-track**

**IR 2450/A0/05/005/002 Monitoring and Evaluation**

**Progress:**

An annual Review meeting was carried out to present the new CPAP 2012-2016 on 26th January 2012. Another review meeting took place on 16th December 2012 to review results of the first year of CPAP implementation. A retreat dedicated to the finalization of rolling work plans (RWPs) (14-15 February 2012) including a session on determinant analyses was conducted.

The Integrated Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Plan (IMEP) has been developed and used to monitor the CO’s data collection and research activities. The M&E Team led and facilitated the Monitoring Results for Equity Systems determinant analysis across sections, as well as annual planning and reporting processes. The production of research-based evidence by sections and partners was closely supervised.

The LQAS approach has been promoted and become a widely used tool for instant and cost-effective data collection. The production of research-based evidence also includes technical assistance to the NSC to support CEE/CIS with the regional Trans-MONEE project and promotion of DevInfo as a monitoring and reporting tool.

The M&E team maintained and coordinated the M&E system and processes in VISION to ensure that all staff members adhere to requirements and procedures, the CO’s monitoring system is in place and key country programme (CP) performance indicators are tracked/analyzed and provided regularly to the Country Management Team to guide programme and management decisions.

**On-track**

**IR 2450/A0/05/005/003 Operational costs Bishkek CO**

**Progress:**

The Country Office managed the operational budget activities as per the CPAP, the Rolling Management Plan (RMP) and the operations work plan. The proper utilization of funds has been controlled and monitored by the operations manager and the M&E Officer through SAP and management dashboard reports. The IR implementation rate was regularly presented and reviewed by the Country Management Team (CMT).

**On-track**

**IR 2450/A0/05/005/004 Operational costs Osh ZO**
Progress:

With the 2012-16 CPD and taking into consideration the resource mobilization strategy, operation of the Osh zone office (ZO) has been extended for at least 2 years, funds permitting. As stipulated in the CPD and CPAP, the Osh ZO is responsible for the implementation of key elements of PC 2 (Increased Access to Quality Social Services in Southern Kyrgyzstan). In 2012, the Osh ZO developed the Zonal Office Management Plan (ZOMP) for the period 2012-2013 supporting the implementation of CP Cycle 2012-2016. The ZOMP 2012-13 was endorsed by the CMT.

The CO and Osh ZO managed the operational budget activities of Osh ZO as per CPAP, the ZOMP and the operations work plan. The proper utilization of funds had been controlled and monitored by the operations manager through SAP and management dashboard reports. The IR implementation rate was regularly presented and reviewed by the CMT.

In 2012, the Osh ZO budget comprised of approximately USD 80,000. The CO has ensured savings through common services arrangements by means of sharing the office space and services in Osh ZO with OHCHR. As a result, the OHCHR contribution to common services and premises budget in Osh comprised USD 22,970 for the period from January through September 2012. The reimbursement cost for the last quarter 2012 is being paid by OHCHR in 2013.

On-track

IR 2450/A0/05/005/005 Operational costs Bishkek CO 10%

Progress:

Given the effective resource mobilization strategy, where applicable the operations unit was receiving 10% of funds allocated for administrative support services of Bishkek CO and Osh ZO budgets. The CO managed the OR-funded operational budget activities as per the CPAP, the RMP and the operations work plan. The IR funds were duly utilized to support programme/project activities that were in line with respective RWPs and in accordance with donors’ requirements. The proper utilization of funds had been controlled and monitored by the operations manager through SAP and management dashboard reports. The IR implementation rate was regularly presented and reviewed by the CMT. In 2012, the CO established the temporary appointment post of a logistics assistant in Bishkek in order to undertake day-to-day responsibility for timely, appropriate and efficient maintenance of logistics, supply and warehouse management activities in support of the programme.

On-track

IR 2450/A0/05/005/006 Gender Mainstreaming within UNICEF programmes and interventions.

Progress:

A number of challenges in the area of gender mainstreaming were addressed throughout 2012. In order to address insufficient capacity, 38 participants of UNICEF programme and operations units from Bishkek and Osh offices gained knowledge and skills through a two-day capacity building workshop on gender mainstreaming organized in August 14-15, 2012. Emphasis was put not only on traditional data disaggregation, but on carrying out gender analysis and applying gender lens in planning, designing, managing and monitoring of all UNICEF interventions. As an outcome of the workshop, a Gender Action Plan was elaborated in order to track progress on effective gender incorporation within existing interventions. The role of UNICEF in facilitating and promoting gender sensitivity among governmental and nongovernmental partners was also reinforced.

Another milestone achievement is the development of a Terms of Reference for a Gender Focal Team and its approval by the CMT in December 2012, with the aim of creating a Gender Focal Team in early 2013. To ensure that gender considerations are properly reflected in UNICEF projects and initiatives, a gender checklist was endorsed, which is to be filled by corresponding NGO/government partners when entering a project agreement with UNICEF. This will ensure that through specific and targeted questions greater
attention will be paid to gender stereotypes and bottlenecks that impede gender sensitive results-based programming.

As a member of the United Nations Gender Thematic Group, UNICEF made modest contributions towards implementing the Government’s National Action Plan on Gender Equality for 2012-2014 including raising awareness on gender and participation in a campaign against violence against women. Furthermore, UNICEF provided support to the Kyrgyz government in carrying out national consultations on the preparation of the fourth periodic report of Kyrgyzstan to the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which is due this year.

**PCR 2450/A0/05/800 Programme Support**

**Progress:**

PCR Support is introduced to reflect results that are associated with the Biennial Support Budget. The CO has adopted the following result statement for the PCR-Support: 'Effective and efficient programme management and operations support’. PCR-Support includes the salaries and related non-staff costs of Representative, Deputy Representative, Operations Manager, IT/Communication, Administration and Finance staff. That also includes operating costs associated with business continuity and risk management, rent, office furniture and equipment, office security, maintenance of vehicles, telecom, staff development and learning, and staff well-being etc.

**IR 2450/A0/05/800/001 Governance and Systems**

**Progress:**

In 2012, the CO governance and systems as defined in the RMP (2012-2013) were functioning fairly well. The office governance systems, including the country management team (CMT), the Programme Coordination Team, the Contract Review Committee, the PCA Review Committee, the Joint Consultative Committee, the Local Property Survey Board, the Central Review Body, the Local Training Committee and the Bid Opening Committee and budget management practices functioned as expected. Effective 2012, the CMT has endorsed two additional statutory committees, namely the Assurance Plan Activities Development (APAD) group and the Gender Focal Team.

The APAD group is established to provide a competent, independent and unbiased review of the results of assurance activities. The review by the APAD group includes the planning of micro-assessments, spot checks, on-site reviews, special audits, scheduled audit and programme monitoring and its adherence to UNICEF applicable policy and procedure.

The objective for creation of a Gender Focal Team was to facilitate interventions aimed at knowledge-sharing and capacity enhancing of UNICEF staff members to enable them to effectively incorporate gender considerations at all stages of planning, designing, implementing and monitoring of programmes with the overall goal of promoting girl’s/women’s rights and gender equality.

A management review provided a good rating for risk management by the office in all major areas of programme management. Assurance activities that include field monitoring visits, spot checks, micro-assessment and audit plans were on track. To ensure adequate assurance activities, the office had signed long term agreements on micro-assessment and audit of IPs. As a result, by the end of the first year of the country programme several of the implementing partners (IPs) had been micro-assessed (four) and audited (one). In order to build capacity of IPs, the CO conducted trainings of IPs in Bishkek and Osh on UNICEF Financial Policies & Procedures, HACT, PCA tools.
IR 2450/A0/05/800/002 Financial Resources and Stewardship

Progress:

The CO has duly maintained the common services and premises budget 2012. The non-staff costs associated with recurring operational costs such as common premises maintenance, office security, emergency security activities as well as purchase of office furniture and equipment, maintenance of vehicles, communication costs etc. were timely paid and analyzed. Given the new CPD, new staff on board and expansion of the CO, the UNICEF share to the UN House common services and premises budget has been increased due to additional office space allocated for UNICEF effective October 2012.

On-track

IR 2450/A0/05/800/003 Human Capacity

Progress:

In view of the newly approved 2012-16 CPD and Country Programme Management Plan (CPMP), and taking into consideration the new staffing needs, in the beginning of 2012 the CO managed to conduct and finalize recruitment of several National Officer (NO), International Professional (IP) and General Service (GS) categories posts for both the Bishkek CO and Osh ZO. This includes the recruitment of NO, IP and GS posts as per the new CPD. As a result, more than 92% of posts as per the CPMP were duly filled. 100% of staff had their PAS/PER completed on time. In addition to the official performance appraisals, staff members also have regular feedback discussions with managers and supervisors to discuss their work, aspirations, challenges and career opportunities. Staff were represented and participated actively in all key office committees.

The UNICEF Kyrgyzstan Learning Plan 2012 comprised of the following group trainings conducted in the course of the year:

2. Training sessions on the internal control framework, the segregation of duties, ViSA and APPROVA (for all staff in Bishkek CO and Osh ZO, in May’12)
3. UNICEF financial policies & procedures, HACT, PCA tools (for all staff and implementing partners in Bishkek and Osh, in September 2012)
4. C4D training (for all programme staff, in June’12)
5. Gender mainstreaming in UNICEF programmes (for all staff, in August’12)
6. PPP training in Central Asia (for Bishkek CO, Osh ZO programme and several operations staff, colleagues from UNICEF COs of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, October 2012)
7. Evasive driving courses (all Bishkek CO and Osh ZO drivers, October’12)
Effective Governance Structure

The CO developed a comprehensive Rolling Management Plan (RMP) for 2012-2013, which lays out management priorities for this period and serves as an action plan to achieve agreed results. Membership of the Country Management Team (CMT) and all committees were reviewed, revised and noted in the new RMP. Management priorities and objectives were regularly reviewed during CMT, programme and operations meetings. Responsibilities of all staff members for achieving the objectives and priorities are reviewed during PAS (Performance Appraisal System) discussions.

A new CPD and CPMP for 2012-2016, which were endorsed by the Programme and Budget Review (PBR) in March 2011 and approved by the executive board in September 2011, enabled the CO to start a new country programme effective from January 2012.

The following formal governance mechanisms are in place: CMT, Programme Coordination Team meeting, Contract Review Committee, PCA Review Committee, Joint Consultative Committee, Local Property Survey Board, Central Review Body, Local Training Committee and Bid Opening Committee. The effective 2012 CMT has endorsed two additional statutory committees, namely the Assurance Plan Activities Development (APAD) group and the Gender Focal Team.

The APAD group is established to provide an independent and unbiased review of the results of assurance activities. The review by the APAD group includes the planning of micro-assessments, spot checks, on-site reviews, special audits, scheduled audit, programme monitoring and its adherence to UNICEF policies and procedures. The objective for the creation of a Gender Focal Team was to facilitate interventions aimed at knowledge-sharing and capacity enhancement of UNICEF staff members to enable them to effectively incorporate gender considerations at all stages of planning, designing, implementing and monitoring of programmes.

In total six CMT meetings, three all-staff meetings, 26 Monday-morning meetings and two operations meetings were conducted. In addition, nine programme meetings were conducted to assess progress on implementation and review the standard set of programme implementation indicators. The CO ensured participatory management and transparent decision-making processes within the office by means of all-staff meetings in order to:

- Share any significant information that affects the CO’s objectives and priorities
- Involve staff in key management decisions
- Present the new PAS
- Share outcomes of the GSA (Global Staff Association) meeting
- Make HR updates
- Organize the all staff retreat in May 2012

Based on the results of the CO audit in Aug-Sep 2011, the CO has timely followed-up on audit recommendations in 2012 in a timely manner. As a result, all audit recommendations (1 high and 8 medium priority) were closed by the OIA (Office of internal Audit) effective 25 October 2012.

With the 2012-16 CPD and taking into consideration the resource mobilization strategy, the operation of Osh ZO has been extended for at least 2 years, funds permitting. As stipulated in the CPD and CPAP, Osh ZO is responsible for the implementation of key elements of Programme Component 2. In 2012, the Osh ZO developed a ZOMP for the period 2012-2013 supporting the implementation of the CP Cycle 2012 – 2016, which was endorsed by the CMT.

Strategic Risk Management

The Country Office conducted the Risk and Control Self-Assessment (RCSA) in 2012 to identify risk areas pertaining to the country context and reduced two risk categories/areas from high to medium-to-high: Results-based management & Measurement and Reporting on Results and Knowledge Management and Information Sharing following action points already implemented within the CO.
In 2012, the UNICEF country office updated two Business Continuity Plans (BCPs) for Bishkek and Osh with updated risk assessment. Both BCPs are uploaded on Early Warning – Early Action under Kyrgyzstan and action points are described within the same system.

Also, the Early Warning – Early Action of Kyrgyzstan reflects the risk assessment and key preparedness actions stated in the respective sections. The next update of risk assessment and preparedness actions will be done in January 2013.

Evaluation

The CO has developed a rolling IMEP for 2012-13 which was maintained up-to-date, reviewed by the senior management and shared with programme specialists at every CMT meeting throughout the year to better plan evaluations in key programmes, strategies and management areas. In 2012, no evaluation was conducted by the CO.

With regard to national evaluation capacity, the CO has maintained a close relationship with the International Program Evaluation Network (IPEN) which promotes evaluation activities and strengthens the community of professionals in the CEE/CIS region. Through a national focal point of the IPEN, the CO continued to ensure a good source of evaluation experts in the country and beyond in the region.

The CO is fully able to obtain quality capacity on evaluation management processes with technical guidance provided by the regional office as well as a regional facility which provides quality assurance of evaluation terms of references. In 2012, the CO has been engaged in designing and developing terms of references of several multi-country evaluations which are scheduled to be carried out in 2013. Following the recent UNICEF publication on the manual of equity-focused evaluation, the CO has been fully updated with designing methodology and implementing equity-focused evaluations. The overall evaluation function in the office, particularly in planning evaluations with a focus on addressing equity issues is highly capable.

In 2012, the CO completed the management response of the “Evaluation of the Welcome to School Initiative (2011)”. The findings and recommendations were thoroughly reviewed and discussed during the development process of the RWP 2012-13 for the education programme. Both CPAP 2012-16 and the RWP which began its cycle from this year have included the recommendations.

The CO continued its support to developing in-country capacity for quality evaluation. Technical support has been provided to the MoH in establishing an M&E department, which included a five-day training on M&E and data collection & analysis. Moreover, two governmental officials (from the prime minister's office) responsible for M&E policy in governmental structures have enhanced their skills and knowledge during a three day M&E conference in Astana. IPEN activities on rising M&E culture in governmental structures have been supported by UNICEF.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

In 2012, the security gateway to internal resources migrated to the new mission control firewall. The new security gateway provides more secure and stable connection to Vision (SAP), Intranet and e-mail services. The action was implemented both at the Bishkek CO and the Osh ZO.

Backup internet connection was ensured at Bishkek CO and Osh ZO. It provides continuous communication in case of connection breakage of primary internet connection.

Hewlett Packard G7 servers were mounted and installed at the Bishkek CO. According to the global migration plan, old servers based on Windows 2003 were migrated into the Windows 2008 virtual platform. At Bishkek CO two physical machines with seven virtual servers on board have been installed. This includes the main servers such as mail server, file/print server and domain controller.
Hewlett Packard G5 servers were mounted and installed at Osh ZO. According to the global migration plan, old servers based on Windows 2003 were migrated into Windows the 2008 virtual platform. At Osh ZO one physical machine with 3 virtual servers on board has been installed. This includes the main servers such as file/print server and domain controller.

A Polycom digital video conference system was installed at Osh ZO. A video connection between Bishkek and Osh has been established.

**Fund-raising and Donor Relations**

In 2012, UNICEF funded and allocated 64% of the 2012-16 Country Programme and 69% of the 2012-2013 RWP. At year-end, PC1 was 78% funded, PC2 67% funded and PC3 42% funded. A targeted 2013 fundraising strategy was developed in order to focus new proposals on areas of the country programme not yet met. Following the successful fundraising with the government of Japan (4.5 million USD) and DFID (5 million GBP), numerous meetings were conducted with embassies represented in Bishkek and Astana, as well as National committees. Besides, the visit of the Finnish National Committee was facilitated. It was aimed to collect video footage for fundraising initiatives in Finland.

The fundraising results also include the Youth Theatre Project (British Government, £192,800, July 2012), the Prevention of Tetanus C4D (German National Committee $251,843, July 2012), Reading Child (Swedish National Committee, $443,180, October 2012) and the Printing of Textbooks (Russian Federation, $500,000, November 2012).


The CO closely monitored the quality of donor reports and managed to send all 18 donor reports on time. Moreover, the fundraising strategy was updated.

**Management of Financial and Other Assets**

The CO has established tools and mechanisms to improve contributions management, budget control and financial procedures, bank reconciliations, accounting and timely liquidation of cash assistance. The CO was using the monthly monitor report developed by the CEECIS Regional Office in 2012. The report covers monitoring areas such as core resources management, donor reporting, grants expiring, direct cash transfers (DCTs), audit observations, premises and the Regional Contingency Fund. The CO data reflected in the monthly report were duly reviewed by the CMT.

Monitoring of programme implementation improved through regular analysis and presentations of implementation data during programme and CMT meetings. Other regular resources (ORR) and other resource emergency (ORE) funds were reviewed regularly based on planned programme activities. RR funds were analyzed and reallocated between projects during the year. More than 99% of RR had been utilized by 26 December 2012. More than USD 2.689 million out of USD 2.722 million (thus 99%) of OR expired in 2012 had been timely spent. Three DCTs are outstanding >9 months, out of total 139 DCTs issued in 2012 (which comprises 2.1%).

Taking into consideration the VISION implementation effective from January 2012 and technical issues associated with the timely liquidation of three outstanding DCTs in the system, the CO has followed-up with HQ and subject matter experts in order to resolve the problem. It is worth mentioning that the implementing partners have reported on those DCTs to the CO on time.
To ensure accurate asset management in the CO all low cost items (>50 but <$500) are identified and recorded in the excel inventory database by the asset focal point. The excel inventory database is a working document updated whenever a new item is purchased, a custodian is assigned or any asset has been moved. All assets worth more than $500 were migrated in 2011 from Lotus NEP Database to the VISION Asset Accounting module where all asset movements are now tracked. All items regardless of cost are assigned a specific tag number (barcoded) for control/tracking purposes.

In compliance with UNICEF policies the necessary mandatory activities are performed in order to control/secure CO’s assets, including physical counts (twice a year), random checks and monitoring. The asset focal point is responsible for appropriate recording, monitoring and reporting of all activities related to assets.

Security and authorized asset use are guaranteed by the asset custodian forms where staff members acknowledge possession of assets and guarantee return on leaving the organization or changing organizational units. If any IT or Communication equipment is requested for temporary use, e.g. during a business trip or conference / training, the staff member submits a request for equipment form to the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) assistant who follows up on timely return of the equipment in good condition.

Supply Management

The 2012 supply component with a value of over one million USD was an integral part of the annual programme implementation. Although the supply component was timely planned, the bulk of orders were placed in the second and third quarters of the year, which might have been caused by a prolonged familiarization with VISION introduced in January 2012.

7% of procured supplies were assets and disposables for the Bishkek and Osh offices, and 93% of suppliers addressed the needs of different projects. 12% supplies were ordered offshore, with 88% procured locally. The main sources of procurement were local markets and global long term agreement (LTA) suppliers.

In 2012, the CO managed to close the 2011 audit recommendations. As one of the recommendations, a market survey was conducted in summer 2012 to assess the availability of locally sourced supplies and services, pre-qualify vendors, and to update the vendor master file maintained by the CO. As a result, a number of pre-qualified suppliers were identified in the following areas: Conference services, construction, production of furniture, IT and office equipment, logistics, publishing, social research, office stationary, etc. Another audit recommendation was the improvement of supply monitoring practices. Regular supply plan implementation reports, as well as warehouse stock reports, were made available for the CMT review. The supply plan was revisited in the middle of the year. The newly introduced management system VISION also provided for better monitoring and reporting on the procurement processes and inventory.

The CO continues to maintain two warehouses in Bishkek and Osh with the total value of stock slightly over 0.5 million USD, of them contingency stock for the value of approx. 380.000 USD. In the beginning of the year, the CO encountered a number of problems with transitional orders and related inventory entries but managed to settle them in summer 2012. The CO has conducted an internal inventory exercise in July 2012 and, as a year-end requirement, a physical inventory in December 2012.

Apart from the supply activities planned within the CPAP, the CO facilitated two significant procurement services agreements in 2012. The first one for 400.000 USD funded by JICA was aimed at the upgrade of the existing country cold chain. The second one, funded by the WB for approximately 1.362.000 USD, was for the procurement of the country wide supply of Gulyazyk sprinkles and related communication, training, distribution services. The CO also continued to provide support to the MoH to secure a chain of vaccines and accompanying stocks, as well as nutritional supplies (premix for flour fortification, iodine test kits, etc).

In 2012, the CO participated in joint procurement activities together with other UN organizations, such joint tendering, sharing valid LTAs, etc. Joint UN efforts were made to reach understanding with governmental structures on customs legislation, especially in emergency situations. The CO provided inputs into supply division innovation initiatives (furniture and construction) as well as on VISION issues within the supply
PAS discussions with a clear connection between results and individual objectives have been conducted in Bishkek CO and Osh ZO.

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan staff members and individual consultants, travelling for UNICEF purposes, passed the Basic Security in the Field training II before the deadline of 01 June 2012, as it was mandatory for all individuals covered by the UN Security Management System. This course contained vital security information for personnel, family members and others covered by the UN Security Management System (UNSMS).

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

The CO continues to apply cost saving and efficiency measures introduced in 2011. Most notably, these measures include:

- The use of economy class air travel (although travel by business class is allowed) has been standard practice with UNICEF in Kyrgyzstan since 2000
- Usage of the colour printer has been minimized by giving access to the deputy representative, operations manager and executive assistant only
- High volume documents (for round tables, seminars, hand-outs for partners etc.) are printed by printing companies and not in the office as it requires frequent replacement of cartridges, which is very expensive and results in depreciation and short life cycles of office equipment
- Using Skype for international calls instead of land lines or office mobile phones is common practice
- "Green office" environmental initiatives to decrease the consumption of water, electricity, paper, etc. are applied
- Savings through common services arrangements: common services and premises in Bishkek (UNICEF/UNDP/UNFPA/UNHCR) and Osh (UNICEF/OHCHR)

Changes in AMP & CPMP

The CO has developed the new Rolling Management Plan for 2012-2013, which reflects the management of governance systems, risk-management and control processes, the establishment of new partnerships, and review of work flows.

The Rolling Management Plan 2012-2013 presents the management priorities for the country office to achieve agreed results. 2012-2013 is the first biennium to implement the new CP 2012-2016. The RMP is considered as a living document, and open to revision in the course of a two year period. The plan is based on the CPAP 2012-2016, the CPD 2012-2016 and the internal audit that was conducted in 2011. The RMP 2012-2013
defines programme, operational and management priorities for the next 24 months and sets out a plan of action to achieve the objectives and targets of the RMP.

The RMP 2012 also includes a monitoring strategy, staff accountabilities, and mechanisms on inter-agency collaborations. In addition to the new CPD and CPAP, the changes in RMP are associated with the inclusion of the audit action plan, new CO and Osh ZO organograms, the CO Assurance Plan, the Assurance Plan Development Group (APAD) ToR, the APAD group checklist, the Gender Focal Team ToR and the Learning Plan 2012.

The UNICEF Kyrgyzstan Learning Plan 2012 comprised of the following group trainings conducted in the course of the year:

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7. Evasive driving courses (all Bishkek CO and Osh ZO drivers, October’12)

The information about the VISION APPROVA Manager and the ViSA administrator has been added to the RMP 2012-13. In November 2012, UNICEF Kyrgyzstan has hosted the CEE/CIS Regional Management Team Meeting.

### Acronyms

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>APAD</td>
<td>Assurance Plan Activities Development</td>
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<td>BCP</td>
<td>Business Continuity Plan</td>
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<td>CBK</td>
<td>Community-Based Kindergarten</td>
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<td>CCC</td>
<td>Core Commitments for Children in humanitarian action</td>
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<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women</td>
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<td>CEE/CIS</td>
<td>Central and Eastern Europe/Commonwealth of Independent States</td>
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<td>CMT</td>
<td>Country Management Team</td>
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<td>CO</td>
<td>Country Office</td>
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<td>CP</td>
<td>Country Programme</td>
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<td>CPAP</td>
<td>Country Programme Action Plan</td>
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<td>CPD</td>
<td>Country Programme Document</td>
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<td>CPMP</td>
<td>Country Programme Management Plan</td>
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<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organization</td>
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<td>C4D</td>
<td>Communication for Development</td>
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<td>DCT</td>
<td>Direct Cash Transfer</td>
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<td>DFID</td>
<td>United Kingdom Department for International Development</td>
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<td>DPCC</td>
<td>Development Partners Coordination Council</td>
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<td>DRCU</td>
<td>United Nations Disaster Response Coordination Unit</td>
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<td>DRR</td>
<td>Disaster Risk Reduction</td>
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<td>ECD</td>
<td>Early Childhood Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECE</td>
<td>Early Childhood Education</td>
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<td>EPC</td>
<td>Effective Perinatal Care</td>
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<td>ERP</td>
<td>Enterprise Resource Planning</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>GMI</td>
<td>Guaranteed Minimum Income</td>
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Evaluations

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<td>2012/012</td>
<td>Study</td>
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<td>Survey on birth registrations in programmatic areas of Batken, Jalal-Abad and Osh regions</td>
<td>2012/013</td>
<td>Survey</td>
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<td>Study of knowledge and awareness among the population of Batken, Osh, and Jalalabad oblast of the danger signs of childhood illness and complications in pregnancy and knowledge of rights to social benefits</td>
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<td>ALL CHILDREN IN SCHOOL BY 2015; Global initiative on Out-of-school children. Kyrgyzstan country study</td>
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<td>Cost benefit analysis of the equity programme in southern Kyrgyzstan</td>
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Other Publications

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<td>2 Statistics on the Newborn Register for 2011 year</td>
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<td>4 Справочник нормативных правовых актов в сфере проведения государственного санитарного, ветеринарного и фитосанитарного надзора (Collection of laws and normative documents on control of food, animals, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, in Russian)</td>
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<td>6 Клинический протокол по Профилактике Передачи ВИЧ от матери ребенку (Clinical Protocol on PMTCT, in Russian)</td>
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<td>7 Перекидное пособие для консультирования беременных женщин по тестированию на ВИЧ и ППМР, (Booklet for pregnant women on PMTCT consultation, in Russian)</td>
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<td>8 Брошюры по Планированию Семьи для дискордантных и ВИЧ позитивных пар, (Booklet for family planning purposes for couples with partner being HIV positive – in Russian)</td>
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