Executive Summary

Despite rising child poverty, constraints in implementation and unresolved interethnic tensions, in 2013 UNICEF continued its strong support to the people and Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and its efforts to strengthen child welfare and equity.

UNICEF’s leadership in the area of maternal and child health has led to improved access to life-saving services in primary health care facilities and hospitals. According to the National AIDS Centre, the coverage of services to prevent of mother-to-child has increased to 90 per cent of the country. Improved hygiene and sanitation, capacity building and testing resulted in a 3 per cent decrease in mother-to-child transmission of HIV. WASH activities have also improved conditions in 53 schools, benefitting almost 21,000 children. As a result, Kyrgyzstan is on track to achieve MDG 4 (Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate).

Advocacy and fundraising in education have meant strong gains in providing access to quality education services for children nationwide. In 2013, a further 51 community-based kindergartens were opened with UNICEF support, giving access to more than 5,000 children, including those from marginalized ethnic minority groups. UNICEF campaigned alongside the former president Roza Otunbaeva’s Foundation to prioritize the reduction of barriers to education for vulnerable children and revision of legislation on pre-school education. UNICEF and the World Bank (WB) also supported the Government in its application to the Global Partnership for Education which resulted in a US $12.7 million grant to introduce a one-year readiness programme for all children.

UNICEF supported strengthening gate-keeping mechanisms that have reduced the numbers of children entering residential institutions by 43 per cent, and successfully advocated for the closure of the Pokrovka residential institution in which children with disabilities were living in unsafe conditions. UNICEF also participated in the development of a national programme and draft by-laws to protect children from violence and promote mediation in communities. UNICEF also worked with the Ombudsman’s Office to implement the schools without violence programme in 28 schools nationwide.

The 27 youth centres, established by UNICEF through the peacebuilding programme, are now registered as NGOs to guarantee their sustainability. They are working to bridge divides between youth of different ethnicities as well as provide computer and language courses and entrepreneurial advice. UNICEF also secured funding for peacebuilding initiatives through the Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility. UNICEF secured US $3.2 million in funding for joint-projects in education, social policy and youth to promote peacebuilding from 2014 onward.

Progress in some areas was limited by the inefficient use of resources and lack of implementation. Due to a budget deficit, the planned target for the guaranteed minimum income for poor families, advocated for by the EU and UNICEF, was not met. While the minimum income for poor families did increase with inflation and a further 14,000 vulnerable children were registered to receive support thanks to UNICEF advocacy, high poverty levels and poor targeting require that this support be increased along with a more efficient use of budgetary resources.

Also, although there is growing political will for change, comprehensive child care reform has not taken place as there are almost 11,000 children remaining in residential institutions.

Country Situation as Affecting Children & Women

The Kyrgyz Republic is a low-income country with around 38 per cent of people living in poverty (2012), and around 4.4 per cent living in extreme poverty, resulting in almost 45 per cent of children living in poverty. The GDP per capita is US $1,160 and GINI coefficient was 0.42 in 2012. Infrastructure challenges and slow reform processes create additional complexities for meeting the needs of women and children in the country.
Many people depend on remittances which are also a critical boost to the economy. In 2012, remittances amounted to US $2.06 billion, which represents 31.9 per cent of the gross domestic product.\[3\] This, however, has created situations where children live with relatives while one or both parents work elsewhere, with the subsequent impact on their education, social and emotional development.

Unemployment in 2011 was 8.5 per cent among people aged 15 and older.\[4\] In 2012, this shrunk to around 7.7 per cent.\[5\] The youth employment rate is low, with only 25 per cent of 15-19 year olds employed.\[6\]

These and other factors have contributed to Kyrgyzstan’s HDI low ranking of 125th out of 187 countries and territories in 2013.\[7\]

Bottlenecks and barriers limiting quality health care services to the most vulnerable persist, but improvements have resulted in a 4.4 per cent annual reduction in child mortality since 1990 and mean that Kyrgyzstan is on track to achieve MDG 4.\[8\] Infant and under-five mortality rates have dropped to 24 and 27 per 1,000 live births respectively. Neonatal (49 per cent), pneumonia (13 per cent) and diarrhoea (5 per cent) remain the major causes of child deaths.\[9\]

According to 2013 Ministry of Health (MoH) statistics, maternal mortality decreased by 25 per cent in the country. Osh province and city pilot area had the greatest reduction, by 34.4 per cent and 68.6 per cent, respectively. Despite this, the country is not on track to meet MDG5 (improving maternal health), which has been adopted within the MDG 5 Acceleration Framework (MAF).

The Government recognizes that anaemia is a significant reason for high material and child mortality, especially in rural areas. Research indicates that there has been improvement, but still many children have micronutrient deficiencies. Among children under 2 years old, there has been a drop in anaemia (from 50.6 per cent to 43.8 per cent), iron deficiency (from 62 per cent to 53.2 per cent) and iron deficiency anaemia (from 45.5 per cent to 33.4 percent).\[10\]

Schools do not have any formal state-approved hygiene promotion lessons. Approximately 54 per cent of schools do not have water available for hand washing and soap is usually never available.\[11\] In non-urban areas, the vast majority of school toilets are external pit latrines which are rarely cleaned, not gender sensitive, are too few and do not offer privacy especially for young girls. Only 36.7 per cent \[12\] of health facilities in northern Kyrgyzstan have toilets located inside the buildings. The situation is worse in the south where 25 per cent \[13\] of Primary Health Care centres have no toilets at all and 71 per cent do not provide soap for hand washing. In addition, some large regional hospitals do not have internal water supplies on the maternity and children's wards. Over ten years (from 2002) the rate of reported enteric disease in children under 14 has more than doubled.\[14\] The cause of this relates to decreasing levels of infrastructure availability and maintenance.

General education enrolment rates are growing, but barriers persist for early childhood education (ECE) initiatives. Coverage of children of relevant age with basic education (grades 1-9) increased from 95.9 per cent in 2009 to 97.7 per cent in 2012.\[15\] Although pre-primary enrolment increased from 12.9 per cent in 2010 to 15 per cent in 2013, it remains the second lowest in CEECIS. The marginalization of ethnic groups and too few preschool institutions are impeding the access of many young children to ECE services. A recent UNICEF study estimates that based on net attendance data, over 63,000 children are out-of-school, much more than reported by official government figures. By the age of 17 years old, about 22.9 per cent of young people drop out of school.\[16\]

Despite increasing political will for change, there are almost 11,000 children living in 116 residential institutions. Around 94 per cent of these children have one or both parents alive. Although UNICEF successfully advocated for the closure of the most notorious children's institution in the country, there is still no comprehensive childcare reform policy that would include a review of residential institutions as well as other child protection measures.

Some unaddressed issues related to the 2010 violent conflict in the south continue to create tensions. There are regular tensions and small conflicts in the border regions that are contributing to interethnic problems.
March 2013, the State Agency for Local Self-Government and Interethnic Relations was created, but requires support and capacity building to assist local self-government bodies to mediate conflicts and reduce tensions. UNICEF will continue to focus its education, youth and peacebuilding programmes among vulnerable groups, especially multi-ethnic communities residing along the borders of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

In October 2013 a new Ombudsman was elected in the country. In December the Prime Minister removed the mayors of Bishkek and Osh and opened the position for new elections in December 2013. Important partnerships for advocacy and implementing programme activities will be re-established with the new officials.

[2] Ibid.
[4] National Statistical Committee
[6] National Statistical Committee
[12] Ibid.
[13] Ibid.

Country Programme Analytical Overview

Addressing critical bottlenecks in health care delivery to the most vulnerable, UNICEF focused on improved access to life-saving maternal and child health services in primary health care facilities and hospitals. Infant and under-five mortality rates have dropped to 24 and 27 per 1000 live births, respectively.[1] Based on operational Ministry of Health (MoH) data, maternal mortality is reported to have decreased by 25 percent in the country since 2012.

Over a third of health care facilities in northern Kyrgyzstan have outdoor toilets and a quarter of primary health care centres of in the south have no toilets. As a result, sanitation and hygiene practices are poor. Enteric disease in children under 14 years of age has more than doubled. [2] UNICEF improved the sanitation infrastructure in 53 schools, 32 Community-Based Kindergartens (CBKs) and 17 hospitals, as well as distributed 'Kyrgyz specific' hygiene education booklets and materials covering over 22,000 children. Also, 171 teachers received hygiene training and follow-up surveys were conducted in selected schools to monitor practices.

Only 15 per cent of young children attended primary school in 2013. To close existing equity gaps and improve the quality of learning in preschool education, UNICEF supported the opening of 51 CBKs throughout the country, which are addressing disparities in access for children in rural areas. For example, one CBK opened with UNICEF support in Batken Province targeting the marginalized Luli ethnic community. Following extensive social mobilization visits, more than three times the expected number of children attended the opening day of the CBK.

UNICEF continues promote for child care reform as there are nearly 11,000 children in residential institutions. As a result of improved gatekeeping mechanisms there has been a 43 per cent decrease in children being placed in residential institutions since 2012.

Approximately 38 per cent of the overall population live in poverty and 4.4 per cent in extreme poverty (2012) [3]. Almost 45 per cent of children live in poverty. Despite the fact that the Government has not been
able to maintain its commitment to increase the Guaranteed Medium Income (GMI), UNICEF and partners have been able to improve the targeting of these limited resources by identifying a further 14,000 vulnerable children to receive the minimum state monthly benefit package.

Many of the underlying causes that resulted in the 2010 conflict have not been addressed. Through outreach and volunteerism, 27 youth centres are bringing youth of different ethnic backgrounds together and providing skills development courses in computers, languages and entrepreneurship. In addition, the Forum Theatre initiative was implemented in 26 border area schools to improve understanding and relations between ethnic groups and to promote peacebuilding in conflict zones. 1


2 GoK, SES Epidemiological data.

3 National Statistical Committee.

Humanitarian Assistance
Implementing multi-sectoral interventions to increase equity and adequate service delivery to the most disadvantaged children, UNICEF integrated emergency preparedness and risk reduction activities into its education, early childhood development (ECD), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health & nutrition, child protection and social protection activities.

As leader in WASH and an active member in protection and health sectors, UNICEF participated in a number of inter-agency preparedness events. The Inter-Agency Contingency Planning (IACP) workshop on refugee influx emergency response was conducted by UNHCR and the Government in April and December. The IACP discussed two scenarios and response actions involving a large-scale earthquake and a medium-scale mudslide.

UNICEF, UN Agencies and partners participated in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) emergency simulation to test the coordination mechanisms of the response and needs assessment processes when collaborating with the Government. UNICEF contributed to strengthening the coordination of responses, emergency preparedness, and the capacity of its staff and inter-agency counterparts, including the Government.

An incident in the Sokh enclave in January left 4,000 people residing in Batken province in need of humanitarian assistance. UNICEF responded by providing WASH items and education kits to 2,000 children and families. Later in 2013, UNICEF supplied WASH items to 8,000 children in schools and individuals in hospitals who were affected by small-scale floods and mudslides.

Effective Advocacy

Fully met benchmarks

To accelerate the reduction of maternal mortality, UNICEF ensured that the Action Plan for realization of MDG 5/MAF will be integrated through the SWAp mechanism in health care. UNICEF also advocated with health authorities to close facilities that had less than 300 deliveries per year (around 80 per cent of such facilities), and to move women to maternities with advanced services. [1]

Together with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and MoH KR, UNICEF conducted a nationwide survey assessing the Micronutrient Powder (MNP) programme. Preliminary results of the survey indicate that the programme is helping reduce micronutrient deficiencies, including anaemia, among children. These results, along with advocacy efforts ensured continued support from the Soros Foundation for the MNP programme. UNICEF promoted a multi-sectoral approach in the SUN movement by partnering with governmental organizations, donors, civil society, academic institutions, media and the private sector. This resulted in a US $235,000 grant from the SUN Committee for a civil society coalition to support the finalization and implementation of the National Nutrition Strategy (2013-2017).

To promote Early Childhood Education (ECE) activities, UNICEF collaborated with the former president Roza Otunbaeva’s Foundation on a series of campaigns directed at MPs and government officials, advocating better
education opportunities for the most vulnerable children and sensitizing them on the barriers impeding access to quality education opportunities. UNICEF also supported the 'Caravan of Knowledge' campaign which advocated the importance of early childhood reading to 1,500 members of multi-ethnic communities. The campaign resulted in a commitment by parliamentarians to support the expansion and sustainability of various ECE models and advance recommendations to key decision makers to improve the quality, equity and sustainability of ECE services. Additional advocacy to access quality learning materials resulted in the Government of Russia providing textbooks to schools throughout the country to promote multilingualism.

An advocacy campaign on the rights of children with disabilities resulted in the closure of the country's worst residential institution. A series of meetings with the Ministry of Social Development (MOSD) and other governmental authorities resulted in the signing of a MoU to create family-type homes for children with disabilities.

Advocacy with the Bishkek’s Mayor’s Office led to the inclusion of the Bishkek Child Support Centre for child victims of abuse and violence into the municipal budget.

In DRR, follow up actions to be taken by Ministries and agencies on the finalization of the state programme were introduced to the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Civil Protection and approved by the Vice Prime Minister.

At the Batken Economic Forum and the High Level Development Conference (HLDC), UNICEF advocated for effective perinatal care, protection of social spending, education and the inclusion of young people in activities to mitigate conflict and promote peacebuilding.

UNICEF advocated at 12 United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and six joint steering committee meetings that education, social policy and youth joint projects should get priority funding from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund PBF. Together, these three programme areas were awarded US $3.2 million.


Capacity Development

Fully met benchmarks

To address critical gaps in identification, registration and gatekeeping mechanisms for vulnerable children, UNICEF provided 317 social protection and 559 child protection specialists in 30 municipalities with new knowledge on identification, registration and referral processes and on methods of supporting vulnerable children and their families. A Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted for 64 judges, prosecutors and attorneys, followed by a two day workshop on improving data collection systems to bring juvenile justice indicators in line with UN standards.

UNICEF supported a training session on strategic and social planning, monitoring and coaching for local authorities in key conflict-prone areas in 55 southern municipalities. As a result, a new child-sensitive mid-term strategy was developed and four municipalities allocated funds for social services into the local budget.

Health activities focused on improving the local management of hospitals as well as the capacity of Village Health Committees to respond to women and children health concerns. In hospitals, UNICEF supported the capacity development of 3,120 medical workers in perinatal, paediatric and emergency care, increasing their knowledge by 114 per cent. The CD enhanced coordination among the health workforce, reducing hospital stays from 5 days in 2010 to 3.5 in 2013. In addition, capacity development for Village Health Committees (VHCs) aimed at increasing awareness of danger signs in pregnancy danger and childhood illnesses was supported in 180 villages.

Addressing the lack of national capacities in the implementation of regional and national efforts on DRR and emergency preparedness in education, UNICEF supported the training of 35 frontline responders from the Ministry of Emergency Situation, the Ministry of Education (national/regional levels) and NGO partners. The
training included rapid needs assessments, facilitation of temporary learning spaces and the mobilization of teachers, resulting in development of a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan addressing DRR and emergency preparedness needs in Kyrgyzstan. A series of CD trainings on DRR was conducted for school administrators, teachers, children and parents. This led to a 40 per cent increase in knowledge on DRR.

To address the infrastructural and hygiene needs in selected schools, The WASH programme facilitated teacher training in hygiene promotion and provided 1,700 manuals and guidelines to target schools, with 51 teachers and CBK staff in 3 provinces learning how to use the materials. Additional training based on national legislation for WASH designs and guidelines, improved the capacity of schools to maintain and operate a sanitation infrastructure, and increased the capacity of NGO partners to construct child friendly WASH facilities. Detailed designs were provided to 32 schools.

A total of 5,200 youths attended computer and language courses, life skills mentorship sessions, civic competence and conflict prevention in youth centres (YC) nationwide. Training delivered to 200 youth on social research and advocacy resulted in the creation of a youth-led outreach group, comprised of 800 youth discussing their concerns and raising them with communities and decision makers. To bridge divides between youth of different ethnicities, the programme facilitated the creation of 15 forum theatres in conflict prone communities in the south, involving over 5000 community members and 200 young performers.

**Communication for Development**

*Fully met benchmarks*

A communication for development (C4D) formative research project was conducted for the first time in Kyrgyzstan, covering health, education and child protection. The findings were used to complement programmatic research conducted in 2013 and to inform communication activities including those that: 1) restore trust of family members to immunization and MNP; 2) return out-of-school children back to school in the marginalized Luli community and at the national level; 3) raise knowledge of parents and children on how to prevent and report on violence at school; and 4) improve hand-washing and safe water drinking practices.

Communication materials produced jointly by programme and communication teams included films on youth related issues, TV spots on WASH and violence prevention, TV programmes on MNP and immunization, talk shows on forum theatres and print materials on prevention of child abuse at school and at home, DRR, juvenile justice, social policy, gender and ECD. UNICEF started supporting the production of 20 episodes of a family TV programme to help parents and other family members to support their children’s development and education at home. A OneMinutesJr workshop on DRR was conducted in Batken province in November 2013. As a result, children produced 20 films on how to prepare for and react to a disaster.

Collaboration with the media was boosted through national media coverage of UNICEF activities and the development of social media. Three social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Vkontakte) were created. Weekly press-releases and media statements considerably increased the visibility of UNICEF in the local media. Three MOUs with TV companies were signed to ensure free air time for UNICEF supported public service announcements and other video products. A consolidated web portal about children www.baldar.kg became self-sustained and has around 500 visitors daily.

Three major media trips were organized to cover the visits of the Japanese, British and Russian Ambassadors. Each of the visits generated up to 30 media stories. Three human interest stories (on youth theatres, children with disabilities, equity project) were placed on ICON. All the donor reports include human interest stories or case studies.

For the first time ever in Kyrgyzstan, in November 2013 UNICEF facilitated training for about 50 script writers and TV editors from all over the country on writing socially responsible scripts for serials to support the production of the family TV programme and to build capacity of Kyrgyzstan’s media.
Service Delivery

Fully met benchmarks

UNICEF-supported analysis of the Pokrovka residential institution for children with disabilities (CWDs) revealed repeated failures in norms and standards as well as care and rehabilitation, leading to the deaths of 10 children from 2012 to 2013. This resulted in the transfer of these children to interim care facilities. UNICEF is supporting the MOSD in placing these children in permanent family-type homes.

The child protection programme provided social support, including birth certificates and reintegration services at eight day care centres, covering 1,590 children. Some 181 victims of child abuse were given psychological and legal support through the Child Support Centre in Bishkek. To prevent separation of children from their families, 726 parents received training on components of child development. As a result, 15 children from residential institutions were reintegrated with their biological parents and 416 children were prevented from being separated from their families.

To improve accountability and responsiveness in social cash transfer (SCT) procedures, new mechanisms were developed to enhance the administration of social benefits to the most vulnerable families. Supported by UNICEF, the MOSD endorsed a new regulation and procedures that provide clear guidance on enrolment in social cash transfers and redress mechanisms.

As part of the DFID-funded Equity Project to improve the quality of health services for vulnerable women and children, new life-saving equipment, including obstetric and diarrhoeal management kits, were delivered to 5 hospitals in southern regions. Over 500 women were supported during delivery and up to 12,000 children were treated for diarrhoea. As part of the Delivering as One (DaO) project, medical equipment for ventilation therapy were procured for six target hospitals in the south, resulting in a 64 per cent increase in newborn survival in 2013.[1]

Following the 2012 Out-of-School Children (OOSC) report, a new project on identification and referral of OOSC was launched in eight municipalities. A total of 1,089 children were identified as OOSC or at risk of dropping out. As a result, 140 children were enrolled back in school. The remaining children received social assistance to enable their reintegration and social inclusion in schools.

Over 5,000 children from rural and poor communities benefited from ECE literacy programmes and arts classes provided in 51 new CBKs established in Naryn, Issyk-Kul, Osh, Batken and Jalalabad provinces. Through UNICEF’s support, local authorities and education officials improved the sustainability measures of ECE. This included the introduction of ECE into strategic plans and improving the response to young children’s needs and rights.

Based on infrastructural needs of schools in the southern provinces, the WASH programme constructed and rehabilitated the infrastructure of 53 schools, benefitting nearly 21,000 children. WASH also improved sanitation services at 17 hospitals in the south.

As part of the peacebuilding initiative funded by the Government of Japan, around 3,000 children attended peace-promoting camps in 53 target schools, UNICEF continued to support the network of YCs and following the Government’s requests, six additional YCs were established in Batken province to reach the most vulnerable youth.


Strategic Partnerships

Fully met benchmarks

In health and nutrition, UNICEF leads the Development Partners Coordination Council Working Group (DPCC WG) on MCH, and is co-chair of the MDG 5/MAF WG. UNICEF facilitated the SUN grant proposal process in
association with three NGOs, resulting in a grant from the SUN Committee. In 2013, UNICEF continued its partnership with Soros Foundation and partnered with the CDC to conduct a National Nutrition Survey.

UNICEF led the DPCC education sector and continued its partnerships with state institutions and development agencies to collaborate on the development of an education SWAp. As a result, a Joint Statement with Government and donor partners for SWAp was signed in June 2013. Partners contributed to the drafting of the Action Plan for Education Development (2015-2017). UNICEF also collaborated with the former president Roza Otunbaeva’s Foundation to advocate to government officials for improved access to education for vulnerable children.

UNICEF is co-chair of the DPCC WG on social protection, and has been instrumental in fostering partnerships for the ‘one voice’ evidence-driven policy advice to improve outreach and effectiveness of social protection programmes, which include the monitoring of the social development plan. UNICEF ensured the inclusion of new actors such as the WFP and USAID in meetings where the International Financial Institutions/World Bank presented the results of a recent public sector spending review.

In child protection, UNICEF developed a number of partnerships with governmental institutions to establish a coordination board on juvenile justice and develop a state programme on justice for children. The Country Programme (CP) also collaborated with the Ombudsman’s Office to raise awareness about school violence. In addition, the CP developed strong partnerships with international organizations such as the EU to implement the Optimization Plan to manage and finance residential institutions, and UN agencies to promote a range of child protection issues.

Since 2012, UNICEF is a member of the Disaster Risk Reduction National Platform’s thematic groups on education, awareness raising, seismic safety, humanitarian response and others. These comprise different ministries and agencies as well as international organizations and NGOs. UNICEF is also a member of the Disaster Response Coordination Unit which brings together UN agencies, donor organizations and international and local NGOs to support Government coordination of disaster preparedness and response.

The WASH section partnered with the Community Development and Investment Agency of the Kyrgyz Republic (ARIS) for construction of child-friendly facilities in schools and to undertake a nationwide communication programme. It also partnered with the Regional Water Supply Department to build their capacity.

Further development and refinement of Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility (PRF) joint projects between UNDP, OHCHR and UNICEF resulted in UNICEF being awarded US $3.2 million to conduct peacebuilding activities throughout the country.

UNICEF disseminated information and convened a meeting for NGOs to participate in developing a confidential alternative report for the CRC pre-sessional WG meeting held in Geneva in October. UNICEF’s continued partnership with the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) resulted in support to seven youth centres. In addition, UNICEF partnered with 55 municipality, 13 district and 3 provincial authorities in the south through MoUs and joint reviews. Local level engagement and empowerment was also strengthened through support to interethnic councils and older people’s groups.

**Knowledge Management**

*Fully met benchmarks*

UNICEF developed a mobile technology-based monitoring tool to track changes in caregivers’ health awareness and practices in village health committees (VHCs). Results of the first round of monitoring in 800 households show a low level of awareness of danger signs in pregnancy and childhood illnesses and nutrition.[1]

The mid-term evaluation of the Effective Perinatal Care programme indicated that the project has high
relevance. The report covered 20 hospitals in Batken and Osh Provinces reflected the work of UNICEF and other agencies in this area. UNICEF investments into infrastructure were noted as critically important in reducing perinatal mortality.

The mid-term evaluation Prevention of Abandonment and Institutionalization of Children in Kyrgyzstan rated the project as having a positive influence on mothers who may be at risk of abandoning their children, maternity staff, and MoH and MoSD specialists.

Draft conclusions from a nutrition survey indicated that UNICEF’s micronutrient programme was highly rated and demonstrated efficacy in preventing micronutrient deficiencies among children. The evaluation will provide a solid baseline for the National Steering Committee (NSC) and other stakeholders seeking to implement complementary activities and further development of MNP activities.

The Country Office (CO) also provided technical assistance to the NSC to monitor Child Well-Being Index and to support CEE/CIS regional Trans-MONEE project. With UNICEF technical and financial assistance, DevInfo is officially being used by the NSC, MoH and MoES to monitor progress towards MDGs 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6.

The CO, jointly with Regional Office (RO), Global MICS team and NSC carried out preparatory work to conduct MICS 5 in Kyrgyzstan in 2014. The results will contribute to national and global MDG reporting and will establish a solid basis for development of the next country programme. The CO also started preparing for a Situation Analysis in 2014.

UNICEF also strengthened the capacity of the MoH and NSC in monitoring and evaluation. Through three regional trainings, eight participants improved their skills in recording child mortality rates and monitoring results using methodologies such as LQAS and WHO Quality Assessment Tools.

In WASH, UNICEF started comprehensive GPS mapping of its interventions, clearly depicting communities/sites being supported and the type of support provided at each location in all southern provinces. A file was created and has been integrated into Google Earth, http://goo.gl/maps/SYMb2.

The Office also participated in the Regional DRR consultation in Almaty in November 2013. The Roadmap seeks to better channel UNICEF’s DRR work to increase national capacities and governance systems in this area. Also, a database, http://schooldb.caiag.kg/ was compiled using the nationwide preschool and school safety assessment, and is being improved upon with new features which enable more efficient and effective data usage.

In 2013, UNICEF carried out six surveys and consultations on post-2015 issues, conflict, employment, schools without violence, border schools and CBKs. UNICEF also developed quarterly field summary reports which outline key results achieved and issues identified during field monitoring, including constraints/risks to programme implementation which need to be addressed.


Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation

Fully met benchmarks

UNICEF led the National CRC reporting processes to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, reflecting children’s recommendations nationwide. A comprehensive confidential commentary on children’s rights was prepared for the CRC Pre-sessional WG meeting held in Geneva in October. Key child rights issues were raised in the alternative report and discussed with the UN CRC Committee members. The results will support the design of preparatory activities for the up-coming CRC 25th Anniversary in 2014.

UNICEF’s continued cooperation with the Ombudsman resulted in workshops on child rights and violence prevention in schools being held at the Ombudsman Institute. New violence prevention programmes in 28
schools nationwide were implemented. Under the leadership of the Ombudsman Institute and with UNICEF’s assistance, a research study on torture and violence of children in juvenile institutions was conducted and the results presented at a High Level Regional Conference on Justice for Children held in Brussels in June.

The UN Special Representative SR on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography visited Kyrgyzstan in April. Contributions to her mission’s report were facilitated by UNICEF and commented on by the Government. Additional contributions included a UNICEF report on torture and ill-treatment of children in juvenile justice institutions. The SR’s report will be presented at the 25th session of the Human Rights Council in March 2014.

UNICEF assisted the development of secondary legislation to help implement the Child Code ratified in 2012. By-laws were developed, including those regulating the identification of children and families in difficult life situations, case management, Commission on Children’s Affairs, Municipal Commission on social issues, and the repatriation of Kyrgyz children from other states and provision of housing to orphans. The by-laws were circulated to ministries for approval. They will support the creation of improved social services for vulnerable children.

A ToT was conducted for 64 judges, prosecutors and attorneys, followed by a 2-day workshop for members of the WG on data collection systems, bringing juvenile justice indicators in line with UN standards. Together with the ministries, the Office of the General Prosecutor, the Supreme Court and NatStatCom, the data collection system was revised. UNICEF initiated discussions between the local administration of Batken province in Kyrgyzstan and its equivalent in Sughd province in Tajikistan around the issues of child survival and a woman’s right to health services. The meeting focused on the provision of health services and improved maternal and child care[1] by enhancing the collaboration of public health administrations - including rapid assessments of child and maternal care, developing normative instructions for health facilities and strengthening cross-border emergency services - in the cross-border area.

The youth programme supported efforts to empower youth of different ethnic minorities and to initiate civic engagement and conflict prevention activities. Ethnic minorities represent about 47 per cent of participants in the YCs, showing significant progress in the ability of communities to include youth of different ethnicities.

Gender Equality

Fully met benchmarks

UNICEF continued to prioritize gender mainstreaming in its programme work. Following the gender mainstreaming event for UNICEF staff in 2012, the Country Management Team (CMT) decided to create a Gender Focal Team with three staff members assigned to promote and ensure gender mainstreaming in UNICEF programme areas. UNICEF staff also participated in the review of all Peacebuilding Response Facility proposals, including UNICEF projects on multilingual and multicultural education, youth, and Local Self Government (LSGs), to ensure that gender mainstreaming is addressed.

UNICEF participated in the implementation of the Government’s National Action Plan on Gender Equality for 2012-2014. The Office also raised awareness on gender equality and participated in the 16 day campaign condemning violence against women, held in November and December 2013. Additionally, UNICEF supported the youth against violence campaign in Chui province and assisted in printing and distributing IEC materials on violence against women and girls.

The WASH programme prioritized gender sensitivity in its activities, addressing the issue of young girls not attending school due to a lack of WASH facilities and proper sanitation. New hygiene facilities constructed in a number of schools provide improved privacy and security and are expected to reduce absenteeism. A guidebook on menstrual hygiene management was given to teachers in schools. A KAP survey which will be
carried out in 2014 to measure the results of the project.

In the field of youth development, UNICEF has taken an active stance in promoting the livelihood and leadership of young girls and women by promoting their roles in the community projects initiated by the youth centres and the youth theatres. Young girls and women represent over 59 per cent of the youth centres’ members. Likewise, most of the youth theatre performances are led by young female members. Over half of the advocacy activities and campaigns aim at raising awareness of gender-based violence (GBV) and other discriminatory practices directed at women and girls.

**Environmental Sustainability**

*Fully met benchmarks*

According to the latest statistics provided by the Ministry of Emergency Situations, approximately 2,000 small to medium scale natural disasters, floods, mudslides, avalanches and landslides, occurred in 2013, causing the deaths of 12 people and severe damage to infrastructure, including homes, health facilities and schools, resulting in reduced access to basic services and regularly interrupting the education process for children.

UNICEF continued to mainstream DRR in education, enabling schools and preschools to reduce their vulnerability and increase resilience to potential disasters. The school and preschool safety assessment was finalized and the results were presented to the Government and partners. It found that about 89 per cent of all schools and preschools buildings are structurally unsafe and under constant threat of hazards and risks. UNICEF is closely working with the Government on follow up interventions to ensure children’s safety in schools and preschools. UNICEF supported the training of 35 frontline responders from the Ministry of Emergency Situation, the Ministry of Education (national and regional levels) and NGO partners. The training included rapid needs assessments, facilitation of temporary learning spaces and the mobilization of teachers, resulting in development of a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan addressing DRR and emergency preparedness needs in Kyrgyzstan.

In addition, target schools and CBKs in Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken provinces continued to promote safe behaviour for preschool children and participated in school-based DRR. This resulted in a 40 per cent increase in knowledge on DRR and improved the resilience of children to potential threats.

WASH programme interventions successfully introduced recycling practices of old building materials (timber tiles, window frames and glass, floorboards, bricks, among others) removed from construction sites in a number of schools and kindergartens. Schools and kindergartens have been able to use these materials to build new storage facilities, children’s play areas or double glaze their windows. In addition, WASH interventions increased energy conservation by improving insulation in schools and health centres and reduced pollution caused by coal heating systems.

**South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

UNICEF Kyrgyzstan used results-oriented exchanges and peer-to-peer learning to share best practices on the management of enteroviral infections with Georgia’s CO. UNICEF also initiated a cross-border discussion between local health administrations in neighbouring provinces of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in order to strengthen the collaboration between them. The focus of the bilateral meeting improving health care services, especially for maternal and child care.

WASH provided electronic copies of Russian language guidebooks for teachers on hygiene promotion to Action Contre la Faim (ACF) in Georgia as well as on the use of water disinfection tablets to UNICEF Georgia to help with the response to the of enteroviral infection that broke out in Tkvarchel, Georgia Electronic versions of flyers were also prepared by UNICEF Kyrgyzstan and sent to UNICEF Georgia.

UNICEF supported the participation of members of the Kyrgyz parliament and senior members of the government at the Central Asian Forum on Children with Disabilities held in Dushanbe in August 2013. The forum was an initiative of the Government of Tajikistan in collaboration with UNICEF. The Kyrgyz delegation
expressed their commitment to improve access to services for children with disabilities as well as take further measures to ratify the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

In June 2013, UNICEF and the EU Commission co-hosted over 130 high level representatives from 21 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States at a high level regional conference on justice for children. The conference was an initiative following the UNICEF 2012 report on torture and ill-treatment of children in juvenile institutions presented in Brussels.

In November 2013, UNICEF supported the participation of a high level Kyrgyz delegation in a regional conference held in Georgia. Participants were able to discuss and share knowledge on the budgeting of child protection mechanisms, including the re-direction of resources from residential to alternative care. Participants were also able to visit alternative services such as rehabilitation day care centres for children with disabilities and family-type homes for children without parental care.

In December 2013, UNICEF participated in a high-level Regional Ministerial Education Conference on 'Including All Children in Quality Learning’ held in Istanbul, Turkey. The event launched a Call for Action to advance equity in access to education and learning and to contribute to on-going regional discussions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The youth programme collaborated with the International Center for Non-profit law and the East-West Management Institute on developing a social contracting scheme for youth development. These agencies shared their knowledge of a similar project implemented in Bulgaria and the contributing factors for stronger outcomes for disadvantaged youth.
**Narrative Analysis by Programme Component Results and Intermediate Results**

**Republic of Kyrgyzstan – 2450**

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<th>PC 1 - Equitable, Quality, and Responsive Systems for Children</th>
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**PCR 2450/A0/05/001 Outcome 1.1 Equitable and Responsive Systems children and women have increased access to quality and responsive services, including social benefits**

**Progress:** Addressing critical bottlenecks on the provision of health services to the most vulnerable, UNICEF and partners in the health sector worked to improve access to life-saving services in primary health care and hospital facilities. The provision of prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) services increased from 40 per cent to 90 per cent in the country and mother-to-child transmission of HIV decreased by 3 per cent. Currently 95 per cent of pregnant women are tested for HIV as part of their antenatal care. Improved temperature management in the facilities reduced incidence of hypothermia in newborns by 18 per cent over the past year. In addition, better case management of deliveries and improved equipment reduced the incidence of asphyxia in newborns by 79 per cent in the past three years in five of the largest target maternities in Osh and Batken provinces. An estimated 61,000 newborns benefitted from improved health care services using the Effective Perinatal Care model based on WHO standards.

To close existing equity gaps and improve the quality of learning in pre-school education, UNICEF directed significant funds towards campaigning for better access to education and quality of early childhood education. In collaboration with the Roza Otunbaeva Foundation, UNICEF led a series of awareness-raising campaigns among MPs and government officials, advocating for better education opportunities and on the barriers impeding access to quality preschool education. Similarly, the programme consolidated efforts from different stakeholders to promote early literacy and reading activities. To address critical barriers to access to education of the most vulnerable children, UNICEF facilitated the preparation and submission of a proposal package to GPE, resulting in a US $12.7 million grant to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to help ensure further access to early education programmes and adequately prepare children for the transition into primary education.

Redress mechanisms were developed and endorsed by ministries to help with the administration and delivery of social cash transfers. These provide clear guidance and contacts for complaints and additional information regarding access to and registration for social cash transfers.

UNICEF also supported the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic’s active participation in its global commitments, including the Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed (APR) and The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) campaigns. UNICEF’s work to promote SUN resulted in a global grant from the SUN Committee.

**[1]** Republican AIDS Center system data, Bishkek, 2013.
**[2]** Ministry of Health data, Bishkek, 2013.
**[3]** The Roza Otunbaeva Foundation is a public organization established by the former President Roza Otunbaeva and promotes the improvement of social issues in the Kyrgyz Republic.

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<th>IR 2450/A0/05/001/001 Output 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 nutrition services and diagnostic, preventative and treatment interventions for HIV.</th>
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**Progress:** UNICEF advocated for quality improvement of the health sector as well as supported the development of a national plan on Quality of Perinatal Care (QoC) that will be realized in the coming years. UNICEF strengthened unified monitoring and supervisory practices. In 2013, a roundtable initiated the development of detailed instructions for supervisory visits of national trainers. Through regional trainings, a total of eight officials from the MoH and NSC improved their capacity in M&E.

Nearly 95 per cent of medical workers in target maternities were trained on EPC services through UNICEF initiatives. In 2013, 124 medical workers in hospitals improved their perinatal care skills, and 200 midwives learned the basics of neonatal resuscitation as planned. Supervision and bedside training on evidence-based nursing practices, improved the quality of maternal and newborn services in 20 maternities. A revision of the national normative basis and the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, including guidelines for mothers with HIV improved young child and infant feeding practices.

UNICEF initiated the implementation of early infant diagnosis and infectious control resulting 102 children born to HIV mothers being tested using new technologies (75 per cent of all children were registered). In addition, 1,200 medical workers (100 per cent of the target) in primary health care and hospital facilities as well as civil society organizations strengthened their competence in PMTCT.

UNICEF continued its involvement in developing a multi-sectoral coordination platform and promoting SUN. UNICEF supported the Government in developing the National Nutrition Strategy, which is under review. Together with an expert group and the Parliamentary Social Policy Committee, amendments to the Law ‘On Flour Fortification’ were submitted to the Government.

At the service delivery level, UNICEF is working with ministries involved in nutrition and helping to build capacity in M&E, quality assurance and quality control of nutrition intervention, especially in Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) programmes, as well as flour
fortification and universal salt iodization initiatives in the country.

IR 2450/A0/05/001/002 Output 1.1.2. 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:** To address critical barriers impeding the of the most vulnerable children to education, UNICEF facilitated the preparation and submission of a grant proposal package to the GPE, resulting in a US $12.7 million grant being given to Kyrgyzstan. The grant will increase equitable access to the year one school preparedness programme at the pre-school level.

In the first half of 2013, a large communication and advocacy campaign on ‘Promotion of Governmental Policies with Regards to Issues of Preschool Education’ was launched in collaboration with the Roza Otunbaeva Foundation. The initiative will contribute to ongoing government efforts to improve education policies and secure state funding for equitable access to quality ECD services. As a part of this, UNICEF participated in several meetings with parliamentary deputies to highlight the importance of ECD and school-readiness initiatives in their policy agendas. In addition, UNICEF discussed with MPs the changes and revisions that will be made to the secondary legislation regarding preschool education to ensure equitable access.

UNICEF is working with stakeholders to promote early literacy and reading activities following the approval of the Early Learning and Development Standards for 3-7 year olds.

UNICEF launched a classroom observation exercise in all new CBKs. This tool enables the monitoring of the learning environment, serving as a proxy indicator to assess the quality of education in preschool institutions. It has been shared with the MoES as a routine monitoring tool.

UNICEF continues to support the MoES in improving the OOSC indicators and monitoring mechanisms. RO technical assistance provided a comprehensive road map for addressing the issue of OOSC and the Monitoring Framework in the country. The NSC used revised forms and indicators to collect data on OOSC from across the country.

PCR 2450/A0/05/002 Outcome 1.2. Child Welfare Policies and Systems make progress in addressing key recommendations of international treaties, including the CRC.

**Progress:** Following the adoption of the Child Code in 2012, [1] UNICEF supported the strengthening of gate-keeping mechanisms resulting in a 43 per cent reduction in the number of children placed in residential institutions. Despite this, there are still nearly 11,000 children in 116 institutions.[2] MoH medical staff and social workers were given important guidelines and knowledge on preventing child abandonment.

In addition, further steps were taken to improve the living conditions of children in institutions. As a result, 49 children with disabilities were removed from the Pokrovka institution to other institutions as a temporary measure.

In 2013, the social protection development strategy, paid particular attention to supporting mechanisms that assist victims of violence. The Bishkek Child Support Centre, setup in 2011 and benefitting 181 children, was included in the local budget and will be replicated in two other municipalities in 2014 (preparations started in 2013).

To ensure access to justice for children in conflict with the law and victims of crimes including violence, a draft state programme and a series of draft by-laws were developed based on analyses of current judicial practices in the court system. Findings of the study on torture and ill-treatment of children in juvenile justice institutions were presented by the Ombudsman’s Office and representatives of civil society at a conference in Brussels.

In the area of poverty-targeted social cash transfers, in addition to UNICEF’s joint policy advocacy with the EU delegation, expert community and NGO Advocacy Association for Child Rights Promotion, significant barriers relating to information and understanding of social cash transfers enrolment procedures and eligibility criteria, were addressed with vulnerable families. Over 39,150 posters and brochures were distributed in remote areas as well as through the media. At the end of April, the Ministry of Social Development reported an increase of SCT enrolments as a result of a GMI increase. Despite the Governance Metrics International (GMI) target not being met due to a significant budget deficit, nearly a further 14,000 vulnerable children were registered in 2013. This process was monitored using a set of tools the Coordination Council chaired by the Vice Prime Minister, adopted as a result of a UNICEF Determinant Analysis.

Social contracting was limited due to management issues in the Ministry of Social Development. However, a Task Force has been established to improve social service delivery. Critical bottlenecks caused by poor management of social contracts and their reduction in the budget share were addressed with the Ministry of Social Development.

[2] UNICEF, Report on the analysis of the social and legal status of children in institutions (2012), Over 2,400 are children disabilities. Around 94 per cent of all children living in residential care have one or both parents and are therefore not real orphans but so-called ‘social orphans’ and could remain with their families if adequate social support was provided.
**IR 2450/A0/05/002/001 Output 1.2.1 Child Protection & Justice for Children**

**Progress:** In the field of child protection, new regulations were developed and adopted by the Government on the municipal commissions, guardianship, commission on child affairs, adoption and accreditation of foreign organizations, identification and case management of children in difficult life situations. Further transformation plans were developed to implement the optimization plan. A decree to transform infant homes is under way.

Since 2012, 43 per cent fewer children have been placed in institutions. In addition, UNICEF successfully advocated for the closure of the Pokrovka institution due to unsafe living conditions. As a result, a MoU was signed on the establishment of the first FTH for children from Pokrovka.

Training was provided to the MoH where 100 medical and social specialists gained new knowledge on preventing child abandonment. Training courses were incorporated into an updated MoH curriculum. In addition, a large-scale study analysing reasons for child abandonment was conducted. Simultaneously, an evaluation of efforts preventing child abandonment and institutionalization of children under 3 was finalized.

Together with national and local partners, UNICEF developed regulations covering children in difficult life situations, including children without birth certificates or registration. As a result of this work, 4,100 children in difficult life situations were identified. Of those, 2,108 children were without birth certificates, with 581 children receiving birth certificates.

The Bishkek Child Support Centre for victims of violence was included in the local budget. Furthermore, a schools without violence programme was implemented in 28 schools nationwide. Pilot schools were given manuals and guides on school mediation, all of which were approved by the MoES.

As a result of UNICEF advocacy, the national coordination board on juvenile justice was established. Also a draft state programme on justice for children was developed and approval is pending. Moreover, draft regulations on diversion methods and rehabilitation programmes were developed.

The findings of the study on torture and ill-treatment of children in justice institutions were presented by the Office of the Ombudsman’s and representatives of civil society at a conference in Brussels held in June 2013.

An inventory of indicators collected from state authorities’ data on children in conflict with the law and victims of crime were given to the Government as recommendations in order to bring the indicators in compliance with UN indicators.

**IR 2450/A0/05/002/002 Output 1.2.2 Social Policy and Protection**

**Progress:** The overall trend of a gradual increase in GMI has been maintained. Its value grew from KGS 580 in 2012, to KGS 640 in 2013. However, this is still only 75 per cent of the planned target of KGS 965 to Extreme Poverty Line, as per the National Social Protection Development Strategy 2012-2014. The annual target was not fully achieved due to a significant budget deficit. However, the share of the benefit increased from 0.5 per cent of the GDP in 2013 to 0.68 per cent in the social protection budget for 2014. Disaggregated administrative data on improved coverage will be available towards the end of January 2014.

Informed by the ‘10-step Determinant Analysis’ (DA), an applied and action-oriented review revealed barriers to the access of disadvantaged families with children to a complaint/redress mechanism in the social cash transfer (SCT) scheme. This was addressed by the respective regulation endorsed by the ministerial order.

Barriers were largely related to a lack of understanding by vulnerable families on SCT enrolment procedures and eligibility criteria. To remedy this, 39,150 leaflets and posters with tailored information were distributed among disadvantaged communities. The same messages were additionally aired through local radio in remote areas of Batken province.

Staff turnovers in the Ministry of Social Development and its poor management of social contracting resulted in resynchronisation with the overall annual budget planning process and a reduction of the budget share for social contracting. Social contracting was scrutinized by UNICEF according to commissioned review procedures and practice in 2012-2013. The findings and recommendations to address uneven performances were accepted by the Ministry and key stakeholders. However, it was only in December that the Task Force to improve social service delivery was established.
PC 2 - Increased Access to Quality Social Services

On-track

PCR 2450/A0/05/003 Outcome 2.1 Equitable access to Quality Services by 2016 with the focus on the most vulnerable groups in specifically targeted areas, more women, girls and boys have access to and use a continuum of integrated social services, including sanitation services.

Progress: Additional 14,000 children from low-income families were enrolled in poverty-targeted social cash transfer scheme.

On-track

IR 2450/A0/05/003/001 Output 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: Actions on further lobbying of the state programme on schools, preschools rehabilitation, repair and reconstruction are ongoing based on the findings of the nationwide school, preschool safety assessment presented to the Government, international and donor community in mid-2013. More specifically:

- Follow up actions to the school safety assessment focused on the finalisation of the state programme and were presented to the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Civil Protection and approved by the Vice Prime Minister.
- School safety database [1] updates to provide more efficient and effective data storage.
- Range of school-based DRR activities conducted in 10 pilot schools in Batken and Leilek districts.
- Teachers, children, parents and local administrators from 38 schools, 12 preschools and 45 CBKs in southern provinces trained on DRR.

In the area of child/social protection, interventions on strengthening gatekeeping and developing alternative social services are in progress. More specifically:

- 54 children were prevented from being institutionalized through gatekeeping work and support to social work and specialists in five provinces.
- 167 municipality specialists, social workers and pedagogues were trained on the identification and support to children and their families.
- In 47 out of 55 target municipalities, UNICEF supported capacity building activities to improve strategic planning skills of local authorities and key stakeholders representing vulnerable groups.
- 67 duty-bearers from 9 municipalities underwent training to produce evidence-based and equitable local development strategies
- UNICEF worked with the Coordination Council of the Social Protection Development Strategy (2012-2014) to adopt monitoring tools based on UNICEFs Determinant Analysis. These tools identify and remove barriers to accessing cash transfers in UNICEF-targeted municipalities in the south.
- 2,000 leaflets distributed in 55 municipalities with information on social assistance services to address barriers related to low awareness of social assistance and eligibility criteria.
- 10 communities of different ethnicities in Osh and Batken provinces were supported in their efforts to reduce tensions by participating in the monitoring of vulnerable and disadvantaged children, youth and their families.
- Community members trained on monitoring public service delivery, especially cash transfers to vulnerable and skipped generation households.
- 51 new CBKs opened in 2013, giving around 5,000 children access to quality ECD programmes.
- 53 preschools and schools in the south repaired and refurbished improving quality of teaching and learning environment.
- 1,800 children were involved in peace and tolerance school-based camps.
- 5,000 children in 26 border schools continued a peace and tolerance building project.
- Russian language course materials were distributed to children throughout the country.
- 495 medical workers provided capacity building training in EPC and NRT services, in line with WHO standards.
- UNICEF-procured diarrhoea kits were distributed to treat up to 12,000 children.
- 2,041 medical workers in primary health care and hospital facilities were trained on IMCI.
- 130 medical workers were trained on providing emergency care.
- 6 youth centres opened in 2013, with a total of 27 nationwide offering computer, language and entrepreneurial courses. 5,200 youths attended the courses.
- An employability survey was conducted in Batken province and the results were presented in roundtables facilitating dialogue between stakeholders.

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

**Progress:** On the supply side, UNICEF strengthened outreach to 537 VHCs in 180 villages nationwide to improve priority life-saving health services among vulnerable families. The lack of transportation to health care facilities was addressed by developing an emergency transportation plan in each village. An innovative mobile technology-based monitoring system was established, and the first round of monitoring was conducted by VHCs during their regular home-visits showing good results on breastfeeding practices (91 per cent of all infants under 6 months of age were breastfed, 60 per cent exclusively). Results indicated that 44.5 per cent of caregivers could name 4 or more danger signs in pregnancy and 61.7 per cent could name 3 or more danger signs related to childhood illnesses.[1]

Three TV programmes and a new TV spot were broadcast on the national TV channel to raise awareness and knowledge about MNP. A video spot and documentary film on immunization are under development.

Within the WASH programme, UNICEF has completed or partially completed renovation and construction of civil works and WASH facilities in 53 schools in all southern provinces and 32 new latrines have been constructed in CBKs. Supervision of the installation of internal heating systems in 18 CBKs was also completed. Site assessments and final design documents were prepared for the construction of WASH infrastructure in 17 hospitals. A report was commissioned which paves the way for methodologies that better enforce National WASH design regulations and sanitary practices. Hygiene promotion materials were produced and distributed in 53 schools and 30 CBKs and training of teachers regarding their use completed. UNICEF maintained contingency plans as well as emergency supplies (for 10,000 persons) and obtained funds to replenish stocks in 2013.


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

**Progress:** To address significant ECE supply side bottlenecks, 13 community groups that were established in 2012 continued to provide support to CBKs set up in the same year. In 2013, additional Community Initiative groups were created to mobilize local resources to establish and maintain 48 CBKs in the southern provinces of Osh, Jalalabad, Batken and three CBKs in northern provinces. The funding of the recurrent and overhead costs (staff salaries and maintenance) of the CBKs was approved by members of the village councils and will be covered by local budgets. A CBK model, consisting of training support and provision of teaching and learning materials, was piloted in Leilek district, diversifying the type of assistance from UNICEF’s side and offering greater flexibility based on local needs.

A number of study tours, advocacy meetings and media discussions on the importance of early learning were organized with the Roza Otunbaeva Foundation to support the work of local groups and NGOs. This ‘Caravan of Knowledge’ strengthened the knowledge of 1,500 representatives of multi-ethnic communities in the south of the country on early childhood development, and particularly on the importance of reading to and with a child. The representatives also discussed broader issues pertinent to early learning and school readiness in their communities, existing resources and local solutions.

UNICEF also received a small budget to integrate early childhood development components into MNP. UNICEF will support village health committees in setting up mobile libraries to promote parents engagement in development activities with their children, particularly focusing on reading for and with young children.

UNICEF supported the production of 20 episodes of a family programme to help parents and other family members support their children’s development and education at home. A master class for 50 script writers and TV editors was held on writing socially responsible scripts for this family programme and as a capacity building measure.

Drama clubs established in 26 border schools continue to use forum-theatre techniques to promote peace and tolerance not only in their respective communities, but also in the communities in their catchment area. Over 170 school teachers from 6 districts increased and strengthened their knowledge on the foundations of conflicts, tolerance, mediation and the use of interactive training methods.

Weak identification, referral and case management systems for OOSC – due to the absence of clear guidelines and responsibilities of various bodies - resulted in low outreach to children by education services the in Luli community, a marginalized ethnic minority. Barriers prevented many children from attending school. As a result of UNICEF research and advocacy, 140 children from 6 to 10 years old came to grade 1 for the first time in September 2013. Local OOSC project revealed 1,089 OOSC in 8 municipalities in which multi sector and multi-layer initiatives are being carried out.

IR 2450/A0/05/003/004 Output 2.1.4 Improved living standards, increased employment opportunities and reduced frustration and alienation among the poorest children, youth and families result in increased peace and stability and decreased ethnic tension in the conflict affected areas of southern Kyrgyzstan.
Progress: Welfare and living standards are improving as a result of improved service delivery and youth education and training as well as capacity development of communities and local authorities. As a third priority, new measures were introduced to bring together communities and reduce feelings of frustration and animosity among them and the likelihood of recurrent violent and non-violent conflict. Substantial progress has been noted in all three streams.

In terms of education, the establishment of 51 new CBKs will give around 5,000 children an opportunity to attend annual quality early learning programmes. Around 5,200 young people participated in language, computer and entrepreneurial courses and 17,090 participated in civic education, volunteerism and peace-building activities at youth centres supported by UNICEF.

UNICEF assisted local authorities in strengthening their capacity for creating and sustaining services and building social partnerships around children’s needs and rights. A total of 4,544 government officials were trained.

Local engagement with 10 communities and the community leaders and elders there helped to identify, report and resolve issues related to vulnerable and disadvantaged children, youth and their families and contributed to a reduction in tensions.

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

**PCR 2450/AO/05/004 Outcome 3.1 By 2016, an alliance consisting of government, NGOs and communities, contribute to the increased and sustainable civic engagement of and partnerships for child rights.**

**Progress:** In an effort to build capacity and as part of the sustainability strategy, the 21 youth centres supported by UNICEF in 2012 were legally registered as NGOs in 2013. Together with other organizations and volunteers, the youth centres have served as a significant platform to voice youth issues as well as share knowledge and ideas on increasing participation in advocacy efforts. Reflecting ethnic diversity and an increasing level of trust built among youth participants, the volunteers have been able to use this dialogue platform based on conclusions drawn from surveys and a large scale research they conducted on their own, as part of the post-2015 agenda.[1] This study was conducted to provide important knowledge on equity gaps, interethnic relations and the situation of young people which lay the baseline for programme cooperation with the Government and other stakeholders.

Similarly, youth forum theatres have given the participants the opportunity to communicate sensitive issues in over 15 conflict-affected areas. As a result, the Youth programme mobilized and strengthened the network of youth forum theatres in the areas that were highly affected by inter-ethnic violence in 2010. In addition, UNICEF, in partnership with the Bishkek Business club, supported a series of tools to document the outcomes of this experience, which will be released at the beginning of 2014. Since their inception as extracurricular activities, youth forum theatres have produced over 100 community performances showcasing sensitive issues concerning children and youth for an audience of nearly 5,000 community members.

Youth centres (27 nationwide, including six new ones established in 2013) reached out to ethnic communities with peacebuilding activities. They also offered computer and language courses reaching 5,200 young people.


**IR 2450/AO/05/004/001 Output 3.1.1 By end 2016, national and local authorities in targeted areas, as well as alliances for children involving the private sector, CSOs and the media facilitate a secure enabling environment for the active engagement and participation of adolescents and youth in activities promoting social cohesion, peace building and reconciliation.**

**Progress:** To address youth vulnerability, the network of youth centres was legally registered as NGOs. Outreach groups, volunteer clubs, boards of trustees and sports leagues established in 2012 gained momentum bringing together over 800 youths of different backgrounds to learn life-skills and discuss youth issues at the community level. One of the key achievements was the interethnic composition of youth centre members. This reflects the increasing levels of trust built between members of different ethnicities.

Furthermore, a large-scale research project was conducted by groups of young volunteers to capture the perspectives of youth and adolescents on post-2015 priorities. In addition to these opinions, the outreach teams conducted community studies on conflict profiles and employability. The research results contributed to the global discussion as well as UNICEF’s mapping of programming and planning in the field of youth and adolescent development.

The youth centre outreach volunteers conducted over 50 surveys on the vulnerabilities faced by youth and led over 140 awareness raising campaigns and meetings with the communities. Youth theatres operating in 15 conflict-affected communities gave performances on critical issues concerning children and youth. Youth-led outreach was recognized as one of the regional innovations in youth civic engagement and leadership. UNICEF partnered with the Bishkek Business Club to document this experience as a useful example other countries of CIS/CEE can learn from.

Youth-led theatre clubs have completed over 100 community performances for about 5,000 community members on critical issues concerning children and youth. A series of forum theatre performances were filmed and aired in the format of talk shows. The forum theatre experience was developed into a film documentary expected to air in January 2014.

Computer courses provided a strong platform for youth civic education. Young people used the computer course to research civic rights
and how they can become involved in improving civic rights in their respective communities. 14,472 youth benefited from these activities. Successes include human rights and girl's/women's rights projects and developing proposals to donors or local authorities on issues identified as priorities for children and youth. Seven inter-ethnic councils ‘Birimdik’ (Unity) were established in the second half of 2013. Inter-ethnic councils include representatives of existing community based structures such as courts of elders, women’s councils, youth committees, heads of villages and 2-3 active leaders from border village. The councils meet monthly to discuss issues that, unless resolved, might cause conflicts in the communities. Joint activities were developed to improve interethnic relationships.

**IR 2450/A0/05/004/002 Output 3.1.2 Data collection and monitoring, analysis and evaluation systems inform policy making and budgeting around issues related to youth and children, including child rights.**

**Progress:** Technical assistance was given to the Ombudsman’s Office to address critical bottlenecks in the child rights and juvenile justice system. Initiated by UNICEF in 2012, the report on torture and ill-treatment of children in the juvenile justice system, conducted in close partnership with NGOs and the Ombudsman’s office, was finalized and launched. This report was presented during the International High-Level Conference on Justice for Children in Brussels at the end of June 2013. The participation of a high-level official delegation from Kyrgyzstan was supported by UNICEF.

In 2013, the Ombudsman’s Office was supported in developing a chapter on child rights protection for the Ombudsman’s 2013 Annual Report. Specialists from the Ombudsman’s Office were educated on child rights to enhance the capacity of the Ombudsman’s Office in handling child rights complaints. As a result, 36 complaints on child rights violations were handled by the Child Rights Department of the Ombudsman’s Office in 2013. Child rights services were established in all seven provinces of the Kyrgyz Republic. Simultaneously, the School Without Violence programme was implemented in 28 schools under the supervision of the Ombudsman’s Office.

The CO carried out and supported a wide range of surveys, studies, and research and data collection activities to provide required information on the situation of children to decision makers with a particular focus on the equity dimension. Namely, the Regional Trans-MONEE project activities were successfully completed in cooperation with the National Statistics Office and the database and analytical reports were promptly submitted for clearance. They are now available on the NSC website.

Preparatory work for the MICS5 began in 2013. A MICS5 survey design workshop in July and a MICS5 data processing & analysis workshop in October were attended by relevant NSC staff and a national MICS consultant. The Country Survey Plan and detailed budget were submitted to NYHQ.

A national survey assessing the efficacy of the MNP to prevent micronutrient deficiencies among children was carried out jointly with the US CDC and the MoH. The preliminary results of biochemical measurements (Hb-level, iron deficiency anaemia, etc.) among children are very promising and will create a comprehensive and scientifically solid baseline for implementation and further development of the Gulazyk programme.

National capacity in the area of M&E was supported in the following manner:

1. A one week LQAS training in Tashkent in July was attended by three governmental officials and a UNICEF programme officer
2. Technical support was given to the MoH to strengthen the E-Register monitoring and reporting system
3. A training programme on national M&E practices was developed for government institutions and corresponding training for national partners was carried out in July
4. Technical assistance was given to the NSC to support the CEE/CIS regional Trans-MONEE project
5. Support was given to DevInfo systems in the MoH and the NSC

**PC 800 - Cross Sectoral Costs**

**PCR 2450/A0/05/005 Cross-sectoral**

**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. related to the implementation of cross-cutting programme functions such as Communication for Development, Monitoring and Evaluation, Knowledge Management, Gender Reviews, etc. This Programme Component also includes support costs that contribute to operating costs.
IR 2450/A0/05/005/001 NA

**Progress:** Efforts were made to integrate C4D in each programme area and to discontinue the practice of running C4D projects separately. Despite some difficulties of understanding and accepting a new mode of collaboration between programme and communication teams, it resulted in an increase in C4D initiatives.

A C4D formative study and a KAP survey were conducted at the beginning of the year. Based on the findings, communication strategies and plan of actions were developed to 1) restore trust of family members to immunisation and Gulazyk; 2) to identify out-of-school children in the Luli community; 3) raise knowledge of parents and children on how to prevent and address violence at school and how to report on cases of violence. The research has also informed advocacy and communication initiatives in an area of ECD, WASH and Out of School Children.

Communication materials produced through the joint effort of programme and communication teams include films on youth related issues; TV spots on WASH and violence prevention; TV programmes on Gulazyk and immunization; talk shows on forum theatres; as well as print materials on preventing child abuse at school and at home, DRR, juvenile justice, social policy, gender, ECD. The production of 20 episodes of a TV programme for the whole family began. It aims to help parents and other family members to support their children's development and education.

The work with media was boosted through national media coverage of UNICEF activities and development of social media. Three social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Vkontakte) were created and have more than 350 subscribers. Weekly press-releases and media statements considerably increased the visibility of UNICEF in the local media. Three MOUs with TV companies were signed to ensure free air time for UNICEF-supported public service announcements and other video products. A consolidated web portal about children www.baldar.kg became self-sustainable and has around 500 visitors daily. A human interest story on youth theatres was placed on ICON as a lead article. A story on children with disabilities was shared with the Norwegian National Committee. All the donor reports included human interest stories or case studies. About 50 script writers and TV editors from all over the country were trained on writing socially responsible scripts for serials to increase the critical mass of socially committed video producers.

IR 2450/A0/05/005/002 Operational costs Bishkek CO

**Progress:** Country programme implementation, RKLA and IMEP were regularly updated and monitored. The M&E team led and facilitated the Monitoring Results for Equity Systems determinant analysis across sections, as well as the annual planning and reporting processes. A series of bilateral RWP meetings was carried out with sections to update/adjust respective RWPs.

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/analysed and provided regularly to the Country Management Team to guide programme and management decisions.

The UNICEF Country Office provided inputs for the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDAF annual reports and budget implementation. An UNDAF evaluation and monitoring workshop for UN sister agencies was organized jointly with the Office of the UN RC.

The production of research-based evidence by sections and partners was closely supervised. CP implementation was regularly monitored by sections, senior management and the M&E officer. A field trip monitoring system was established in the CO and Osh Zone Office – both of which are fully operational.

M&E training was carried out in September to order to raise M&E capacity among UNICEF staff. Newly advanced statistical and research techniques on the hard-to-reach, marginal or excluded population were presented to programme staff. A session on MTR processes, MICS5 preparations, RKLA issues and equity-focused evaluations was also carried out.

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 use of funds was 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).

IR 2450/A0/05/005/004 Operational costs Bishkek CO 10 per cent

**Progress:** In response to the then-prevailing emergency situation, the Osh Zone Office was established in January 2010 and reported to the Bishkek CO for an initial period of two years. This was followed by a DFAM approval to extend these terms until the end of 2013. The March 2011 PBR indicated that "The status of the Zone Office [is] to be reviewed before the end of 2013". Taking into consideration the
2012-2016 CPD and effective resource mobilization strategy, the CO requested that the terms for the Osh ZO be further extended until the end 2015 subject to programmatic needs and the availability of funding. The CEECIS Regional Director endorsed this recommendation. As stipulated in the CPD and CPAP, the Osh ZO is responsible for the implementation of key elements of programme component 2. In 2012, the Osh ZO developed a Zonal Office Management Plan for the period 2012-2013 supporting the implementation of the CP Cycle 2012 – 2016, which was endorsed by the CMT.

IR 2450/A0/05/005/005 Operational costs Bishkek CO 10 per cent.

Progress: The operations unit received 10 per cent of the funds raised for administrative support of budget activities in the Bishkek CO and Osh ZO. 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 was controlled and monitored by the operations manager through SAP and management dashboard reports. The IR implementation rate was regularly presented and reviewed by the CMT.

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

Progress: In line with UNICEF’s mandate to promote gender equality in its programmes, and following the gender mainstreaming event for UNICEF staff in 2012, the Country Management Team (CMT) decided to create a Gender Focal Team with three staff members assigned to promote and ensure gender mainstreaming in UNICEF programme areas. A work plan on gender mainstreaming in programmes was discussed and will be updated in early 2014.

As a member of the UN Gender Thematic Group, UNICEF made contributions towards implementing the Government’s National Action Plan on Gender Equality for 2012-2014, including raising awareness on gender and participating in the 16 day campaign to against violence against women which occurred at the end of November - beginning of December 2013. UNICEF also supported the youth against violence campaign in Chui province and the printing and distribution of IEC materials raising awareness of and condemning violence against women and girls.

PCR 2450/A0/05/800 Programme Support

Progress: PCR Support was introduced to reflect results that are associated with the Biennial Support Budget. The CO found that there was ‘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. This 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, staff wellbeing, etc.

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

Progress: In 2013, 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. The APAD group that was established and endorsed by CMT in 2012 continued to provide an independent and unbiased review of the results of assurance activities in 2013 and actually proved to be an effective statutory committee of the CO. 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. According to the HACT framework, the Assurance Activities Implementation Plan is a practical tool for programme and finance managers to monitor and ensure that the funds transferred to IPs are used for the appropriate purpose and in accordance with the Rolling Work Plans. As per the UNICEF Kyrgyzstan CO Assurance Plan for 2013, the CO planned to conduct spot checks and audits of Implementing Partners with total value of US $2,781,533. As of December 2013, the CO managed to complete 10 audits of IPs with a total value of US $1,739,640 and spot checks of IPs with a total value of US $1,041,893.

IR 2450/A0/05/800/002 Financial Resources and Stewardship

Progress: The CO duly maintained the 2013 common services and premises budget. 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 promptly paid. UNICEF’s contribution to the UN House common services and premises budget increased due to the additional office space allocated for UNICEF in October 2012 to accommodate the new CPD, new staff on board and expansion of the CO.
IR 2450/A0/05/800/003 Human Capacity

**Progress:** In view of the new CPD (2012-2016) and Country Programme Management Plan (CPMP) and taking into consideration the new staffing needs, the CO managed to conduct and finalize the recruitment for several National Officer (NO) and General Service (GS) posts for both the Bishkek CO and the Osh ZO. As a result, almost 95 per cent of posts as per the CPMP were duly filled. All staff had their PAS/PER completed on time. In addition to the official performance appraisals, staff members also had 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.
Effective Governance Structure

To respond to the prevailing emergency situation, the Osh Zone Office was established in January 2010 and will report to the Bishkek CO for an initial period of two years. This was followed by a Division of Financial and Administrative Management (DFAM) approval to extend the terms until the end of 2013. The March 2011 PBR indicated “The status of the Zone Office to be reviewed before the end of 2013”. Taking into consideration, 2012-2016 CPD and the effective resource mobilization strategy, the CO requested the extension of Osh Zone Office until the end of 2015 subject to programmatic needs and availability of funding. The CEECIS Regional Director endorsed this recommendation. As stipulated in the Country Programme Document (CPD) and Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP), the Osh ZO is responsible for the implementation of key elements of Programme Component 2. In 2012, the Osh ZO developed a Zone Office Management Plan for 2012-2013 supporting the implementation of the CP Cycle 2012 – 2016, endorsed by the CMT.

The governance system of Osh Zone Office consisted of CMT approved performance indicators, weekly staff meetings, programme coordination meetings (8) and quarterly Zone Office team meetings. Weekly staff meetings were dedicated to information sharing, coordinating the week ahead and determining the progress of short-term office priorities. During programme coordination meetings, performance indicators were reviewed and during Zone Office team meetings, progress against Zone Office programme and management priorities were reviewed. The minutes of meetings and the status of action point implementation were shared with all CO staff ensuring up-to-date information on the situation in the 3 southern provinces covered by the Zone Office. As part of the Zone Office knowledge management framework, quarterly field summary reports were shared with all staff.

The CO Rolling Management Plan (RMP) for 2012-2013 reflected management priorities for this period and served as an action plan to achieve agreed results. Management priorities and objectives were regularly reviewed during CMT, programme and operations meetings. Responsibilities of all staff members for achieving the objectives and priorities were reviewed during PAS (Performance Appraisal System) discussions.

The following formal governance mechanisms were 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, Bid Opening Committee, Assurance Plan Activities Development (APAD) group and the Gender Focal Team.

The APAD group established and endorsed by CMT in 2012 provided an independent and unbiased review of the results of activities in 2013. The review by the APAD group includes the planning of micro-assessments, spot checks, on-site reviews, special audits, scheduled audits, programme monitoring and its adherence to UNICEF policies and procedures. According to the HACT framework, the Assurance Activities Implementation Plan is a practical tool for programme and finance managers to monitor and ensure that the funds transferred to IPs are used for the appropriate purpose and in accordance with RWPs.

Strategic Risk Management

As part of the existing structured approach for identifying risk and opportunities, APAD group recommendations on programmatic assurance activities were followed. The APAD group checked and monitored the implementation of the Assurance Plan 2013. As per the UNICEF Kyrgyzstan CO Assurance Plan for 2013, the CO planned to conduct spot checks and audits of Implementing Partners (IPs) with a total value of US $2,781,533. As of December 2013, the CO completed 10 audits of IPs with a total value of US $1,739,640. The results of the audits were reviewed by APAD group and presented to the CMT.

Assessing risks and opportunities is an integral part of developing new programme interventions. As part of the equity programme and the development of proposals to the PRF, UNICEF assessed risks to peacebuilding and development. Particular attention was paid to involving adolescents in this exercise and resulted in a youth-led conflict assessment conducted in the first half of 2013. Interventions are continuously being assessed to determine risks to implementation as well as the achievement of sustainable outcomes and rated
according field monitoring results. The risk level assigned to interventions determines the scope of assurance activities, e.g. frequency of field visits to intervention sites.

**Evaluation**

In 2013, evaluations were conducted on the Effective Perinatal Care programme and the Prevention of Abandonment and Institutionalization of children project, with special attention given to compliance with UNEG norms and standards. Also, jointly with the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) and MoH, UNICEF conducted a nationwide nutrition survey and submitted the preliminary results. All three assessment and evaluation reports are being finalized to be presented to the CO management and to the RO in January-February 2014. The IMEP for 2013 has been fully implemented.

Periodic and regular assessments and review of programme implementation were done against the Rolling Work Plans for 2011-2013 and Country Office Annual Management Plan. These reviews were conducted during programme and CMT meetings and mid-year reviews with counterparts. In addition, UNICEF regularly monitored supported programs through spot checks, monitoring visits and revision of submitted deliverables to support the assessments. The Field Trip Monitoring System became fully operational and allowed the CO staff to easily document field trip observations, conclusions, recommendations and required action points in tracking progress. The Office established an early warning monitoring mechanism for DCTs and Donor Reporting. The reports were regularly reviewed at CMT and programme meetings.

The CO continued its support to developing in-country capacity for quality evaluation. Technical support was provided to the MoH to help establish an M&E department. This included Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) training in Tashkent which was attended by three MoH specialists.

The CO 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. With UNICEF support, three government officials (from the PM’s office) responsible for M&E policy in governmental structures strengthened their skills and knowledge during the IPEN conference in Chisinau, Moldova. With IPEN support, a national M&E training course for governmental institutions was developed and carried out in 2013.

M&E training was conducted in September 2013 to raise M&E capacity among UNICEF staff. Newly advanced statistical and research techniques on hard-to-reach children and the marginal or excluded population were presented to programme staff. The CO also carried out sessions on MTR processes, MICS5 preparation, Regional Knowledge and Leadership Agenda (RKLA) issues and equity-focused evaluations.

The CO was fully updated on the design methodology and implementation of equity-focused evaluations, with technical guidance provided by a regional facility which assures the quality of evaluation terms of reference.

In 2012-2013, the CO participated in designing and developing the terms of reference (TOR) for several multi-country evaluations, which are being finalized. The TOR for an evaluation of Children’s Right to Education has been completed.

Furthermore, the TOR for an evaluation of the DFID-funded Equity Programme was drafted. The evaluation will provide an independent assessment of the Office’s multi-dimensional programme to narrow the equity gap in Kyrgyzstan by building the resilience of the most vulnerable communities targeting 55 municipalities in southern Kyrgyzstan.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

ICT was used to support programme objectives in 2013. For example UNICEF initiated a new community-based monitoring system using SMS technology to track changes in health awareness of the population. The Village Health Committees that conducted the monitoring using mobile phones considered it empowering as advanced mobile technology increased their credibility among the population and enabled the provision of more real-time data. Furthermore, comprehensive mapping of interventions using GPS technology has proven a strong
platform for knowledge sharing with donors and fundraising. Lastly an information system was developed on school and pre-school safety. The system includes safety assessments of 3028 educational institutions (2222 schools and 806 preschools) and was used for advocacy in the area of disaster risk-reduction.

In 2013 a number of improvements were also made to the office’s ICT infrastructure. More specifically:

1. A Gynamical Host Configuration Protocol service was installed at Bishkek CO and Osh Zone Office. Any staff member traveling from Bishkek to Osh and from Osh to Bishkek can now connect an office laptop to the Local Area Network in the Office and get access to UNICEF IT resources;
2. Symantec Endpoint Protection was migrated into Centrally Managed Server improving antivirus protection;
3. VEEAM 6.5 backup software was updated with Patch 3. The data backup system of the Bishkek CO and Osh Zone Office was improved;
4. The Server Room power source system was improved (in terms of safety and reliability);
5. ViSA/Approva applications were proactively used for provisioning, de-provisioning, modifying of user accounts and roles and for delegating OIC functions in SAP.

The staff training annual plan included an ICT workshop in Sept. 2013.

**Fund-raising and Donor Relations**

The CO continued to raise funds to support the programme objectives. In total, over US $24 million was raised in the first two years of the Country Programme (2012-2013). This makes up 4/5 of the planned 5-year target. At year-end, PC1 was 95 per cent funded, PC2 127 per cent funded and PC3 29 per cent funded. An additional US $7 million was committed by donors to arrive in 2014. The bulk of the committed funds will be allocated to PCR 3, for youth and peacebuilding projects.

The donors in 2013 included USAID/OFDA, Government of Japan, Government of Russian Federation, UKAID/DFID, the French National committee, the Office of Transition Initiatives (under USAID), Swiss Cooperation, the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the Peacebuilding Fund.

New relations were developed with the EU, the Russian Federation, the Japan Government (JIKA), ADB, USAID, and the Norway National Committee. The CO also took steps to raise funds from the private sector and foundations and to develop toolkits for National Committees. The CO hosted visits from the representatives of the Norway and Finnish National Committees, their media colleagues as well as a photojournalist from Germany (sent by the German National Committee) and facilitated the collection of video and photo materials on children to raise funds for UNICEF's regular resources globally. The video material was left with the CO for further use.

The most significant fundraising success in support of child protection objectives was marked by a grant from the British Foreign Common Office/DFID of about 1 Million USD in support of a 2-year project on the mitigation of the effects of and the potential for conflict in Kyrgyzstan through the protection of the most marginalized children/youth. Contributions in support of the CO’s efforts on alternative care reform received from the French NatCom, Global Thematic Funds (CP), USAID and the Swiss Cooperation amounted to a total of US $273,000.

In 2013, a grant proposal for a new project called Unity in Diversity aimed at promoting multilingualism in the Kyrgyz Republic and strengthening the state’s role in fostering the integration of minorities and promoting their rights was submitted to the UN Peacebuilding Fund. The grant was approved and US $2.3 million will be allocated to the CO for the implementation of project activities in 2014-2016.

Despite the low number of local donors, the CO has been in regular contact with local development partners to provide updates on on-going programming and identify opportunities for resource mobilisation. The CO produced communication and fundraising materials for donors and the media, including project proposals, press releases, human interest stories and briefing packages.

Donor reporting was improved through several donor visits to the sites which were widely covered by local
media. All donor reports were accompanied by human interest stories. Four stories were published on ICON.

To further develop a systematic approach to donor relations and communication, the status of fundraising efforts was updated on a quarterly basis and regularly discussed at CMTs. The priority areas for further fundraising are maternal and child health, cross border initiatives, ECD, juvenile justice, HIV, child care reform, disabilities, and youth.

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 used the monthly monitor report issued by the CEECIS Regional Office to report on core resources management, donor reporting, expiring grants, and 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.

The 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 analysed and reallocated between projects during the year. Over 99 per cent of RR had been used by 31 December 2013. More than US $1.046 million out of US $1.060 million (98.6 per cent) of OR, due to expire in 2013, was also fully used. There were no outstanding DCTs over 9 months by the end of 2013.

In line with UNICEF financial and administrative policies, all assets were registered in VISION Asset Accounting Module, the records were regularly maintained and updated, all low cost items (between US $50 and US $500) were recorded in the internal excel inventory database. All assets/low cost items were assigned a specific tag number (barcoded) for control/tracking purposes.

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

Security and authorized asset use was 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.

In 2013 there were two Local Property Survey Report/Board (LPSB) committee meetings held in order to dispose of obsolete equipment and furniture. The LPSB committee recommended and the Head of Office endorsed the donation of written-off equipment to UNICEF partners. The records were duly updated in VISION and the list of donated equipment and recipients is kept in a local file.

Supply Management

In 2013, the value of programme and operations supplies amounted to over US $1.7 million and of institutional services to over US $3 million, US $2.7 million of the latter represented programme construction contracts under blanket local procurement authorizations (BLPA) for latrine construction in educational institutions funded by a grant from the Government of Japan.

The Country Office maintains a Supply Plan which was drafted in January 2013. The Plan is revised on a regular basis, and reported on in terms of progress made at CMT meetings. The Supply Plan was reviewed with programme sections mid-year and before the year-end.

Although the supply component was well planned, the bulk of procurement occurred in the second half of the year. A significant increase in the procurement transaction workload happened in the months of November and
December 2013 due to Headquarters request to process the procurement of programme supplies irrespective of its value via Purchase Orders.

Six per cent of all procured supplies were operational supplies (assets and disposables) for both Bishkek CO and Osh ZO, and 94 per cent of all supplies were ordered to address the needs of the programme. Some 86 per cent of the value of services was spent on the construction of latrines and hygiene facilities within the WASH programme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Total Value 2013 Supplies</th>
<th>Total Value 2013 Instl Services</th>
<th>Total per project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>$10,455.00</td>
<td>$39,182.00</td>
<td>$49,637.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>$4,600.00</td>
<td>$108,839.00</td>
<td>$113,439.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Early Childhood</td>
<td>$905,400.00</td>
<td>$39,064.00</td>
<td>$944,464.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency</td>
<td>$65,044.00</td>
<td>$39,696.00</td>
<td>$104,740.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Nutrition</td>
<td>$477,656.00</td>
<td>$22,120.00</td>
<td>$499,776.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>$140,506.00</td>
<td>$2,706,076.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>$57,200.00</td>
<td>$34,202.00</td>
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<td>Social Policy</td>
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<td>$55,210.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research, Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</td>
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<td>$86,356.00</td>
<td>$97,656.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>$101,063.00</td>
<td>$23,551.00</td>
<td>$124,614.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Processed in 2013</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,775,724.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,154,296.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,930,020.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thirteen per cent of supply items were ordered offshore, and 87 per cent procured locally. The main categories of procured stock included: school textbooks in local languages, publications, branded products, school and preschool furniture, ECD kits, fire protection equipment, medical equipment, diagnostic equipment and kits, obstetric and diarrheal kits, metal washstands, hygiene kits, IT and office equipment, and one office vehicle.

The Supply Section took measures to improve the quality of products procured on the local market, especially school and kindergarten furniture. Additional contract provisions were introduced for local vendors with regards to mandatory state certification (where applicable), approval of sampling, post-delivery assembly and installation, acceptance procedures and warranty terms.

A market survey of construction companies was conducted in the spring of 2013 in the southern regions of the republic. As a result, the database of pre-qualified construction suppliers was updated and the list expanded from six to 14 construction companies. These contributed to the timely implementation of Japanese- and DFID-funded school renovation projects. Performance updates for the vendors included in the database were maintained.

In 2013, 46 contract cases were reviewed in 19 CRC meetings. Of these, 19 contracts exceeding the threshold of US $100,000 were cleared via the Regional Office CRC.

The Office continues to maintain two warehouses in the cities of Bishkek and Osh. The total value of supplies processed via the warehouses in 2013 was US $323,000. The year-end physical inventory was conducted in both warehouses in December 2013. Total value of the inventory at year-end was slightly over US$ 0.5 million, with the value of contingency stock approximately at US$ 314,000.

**Human Resources**

Recruitment for the following posts took place in 2013:

**Bishkek Country Office:**
1. Communication for Development Specialist, FT/NOC (in view of previous incumbent's resignation, the
position was re-advertised);
2. Communication Officer, FT/NOB (due to re-appointment of previous Communication Officer to FT post of C4D Specialist, the position was re-advertised);
3. Emergency Programme Assistant, FT/GS6 (in view of previous incumbent’s resignation, the position was re-advertised);
4. WASH Programme Assistant, TA/GS6 (direct selection from Bishkek CO talent group).

Osh Zone Office:
1. Driver, TA/GS2 (given expansion of UNICEF programme activities in the south of Kyrgyzstan the Office decided to hire additional driver at GS2 level on a TA contract was made);
2. Operations Assistant, TA/GS5 (in view of the Administrative/Supply Assistant’s maternity leave, the Office decided to advertise for an Operations Assistant);
3. Programme Assistant, TA/GS5 (in view of consecutive maternity leaves of two Programme Assistants in 2013, the Office decided to hire an additional Programme Assistant on a TA contract); 
4. Education/ ECD Officer, TA/NOA (due to the resignation of Education/Child Protection Officer at NOB level, the Office decided to hire two National Officers at NOA level, one for Education & ECD and another for the Child Protection section);
5. Child Protection Officer, TA/NOA (due to resignation of Education/Child Protection Officer at NOB level, the Office decided to hire two National Officers at NOA level, one for Education & ECD and another for the Child Protection section).

Two International UNVs joined UNICEF Ozh Zone Office in 2013 to support the Education & ECD and Youth & Adolescent Development sections.

Following the results of Global Staff Survey 2011, CO Management and representatives of the Local Staff Association followed-up on GSS issues and improvements have been made. These include:

a) Work and life balance - in order to address the issue of understaffing and an increase of the office portfolio, new TA positions were created and additional personnel has been hired. The Office decided continue with a happy hour (when SM can leave office one hour earlier on the last Friday of the month). More SMs used flexible work arrangements for learning and family related purposes.

b) Development assignments – in 2013 the Administrative and HR Assistant took on a development assignment at the Regional Office in Geneva.

PAS discussions with a clear connection between results and individual objectives were conducted in Bishkek CO and Osh ZO.

Relevant staff members completed ethics courses following the global launch of the Online Integrity Awareness Training Course which was sent to staff on 25 February and submitted their certificates to the RO. In addition, the Head of the Osh ZO conducted a workshop on office ethics/ code of conduct for Osh ZO staff members.

**Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings**

1. General Administration & Travel:

a) The use of economy class air travel (although travel in business class is allowed) has been standard practice with UNICEF in Kyrgyzstan since 2000;

b/ Use of the colour printer has been minimized with access given only to the deputy representative, operations manager and executive assistant;

c) High volume documents (for round tables, seminars, hand-outs for partners etc.) were printed by printing companies and not in the Office as this requires frequent replacement of cartridges, which is very expensive and results in depreciation and short life cycles of office equipment;
d) Records and Archive Management (RAM) was initiated in October 2013. Good management practices help to meet legal requirements and benefit staff members and UNICEF in many ways. They include:

· Improving access to information;
· Controlling the growth of materials taking up valuable office space;
· Reducing operating costs;
· Minimizing litigation risks;
· Safeguarding vital information;
· Supporting better management decision making; and,
· Preserving UNICEF history.

2. Partnerships

a) Participation in HACT allows savings to be made in transaction costs related to document processing and partner auditing;

b) CO formed the Assurance Plan Development Group (APAD) tasked with overseeing that results of assurance activities are promptly analyzed and findings from on-site programme monitoring/spot checks and special audits are duly addressed;

c) CO developed the on-site review/spot check form that is used by both programme and operations staff;

d) CO signed two LTAs on behalf of HACT TFG on providing audit services (Marka audit) as well as conducting of micro-assessment (Jacobs audit) of Implementing Partners;

e) OMT developed the inter-oblast DSA rates for project personnel, local consultants and national/implementing partners;

f) HACT TFG developed Common approach on payment of fee and DSA to IPs within HACT implementation by setting Government rates as minimum and UN rates as maximum threshold;

g) CO developed a training package on financial policies/procedures that was presented to and shared with IPs.

3. Common Services & Premises

a) Savings through common services arrangements - Common Services and Premises in Bishkek (UNICEF/UNDP/UNFPA/UNHCR) and Osh (UNICEF/OHCHR).

4. Telecommunications

a) CO has a dedicated Skype account with multi point connection possibility including online presentations via Skype;

b) Bishkek CO and Osh ZO are duly equipped with Polycom DVC system. Video Conference meetings are conducted regularly and successfully between Bishkek CO and Osh ZO as well as with other COs, RO and HQ;

c) CO made significant efforts to reduce mobile phone communication costs to a minimum. The reimbursement of personal calls by staff members is done on a quarterly basis.

Changes in AMP & CPMP

In 2013, the CO updated the 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 presented the management priorities for the Country Office to achieve the agreed-upon results. 2012-2013 was 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 also 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 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 2013 included group training conducted in the course of the year in the following areas:

1. Emergency Preparedness and Response (including emergency drill);
2. ICT Training (Polycom Digital Video Conferencing, Skype Web conferencing, Webex, conference room equipment use);
3. Basic Accounting (according to Kyrgyz legislation);
4. UNICEF Branding
5. Monitoring and Evaluation
6. VISION – review of lessons learnt
7. Kyrgyz language courses

Information about the VISION APPROVA Manager and the ViSA administrator has been added to the RMP 2012-13.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

APAD
Assurance Plan Activities Development
BCP
Business Continuity Plan
CBK
Community-Based Kindergarten
CCC
Core Commitments for Children in humanitarian action
CEDAW
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CEE/CIS
Central and Eastern Europe/Commonwealth of Independent States
CMT
Country Management Team
CO
Country Office
CP
Country Programme
CPAP
Country Programme Action Plan
CPD
Country Programme Document
CPMP
Country Programme Management Plan
CRC
Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO
Civil Society Organization
C4D
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sequence Number</th>
<th>Type of Report</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Rapid Assessment in FGPs and FAPs with Maternity Beds in Targeted Oblasts&quot;</td>
<td>2013/001</td>
<td>Survey</td>
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### Other Publications

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>1  Assessment of Safety in School and Preschool Education Institutions in the Kyrgyz Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2  Follow-Up Survey of Nutritional Status in Children 6-30 Months of Age</td>
</tr>
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