Executive Summary

In 2016 Lebanon’s 4 million citizens struggled to withstand the social, economic and political impact of the Syrian conflict. A stagnant economy, coupled with the threat of insecurity, meant the 1,320,000 Lebanese children living in poverty were under threat of sinking further into deprivation. More than 450,000 Syrian and Palestinian children also lived in poverty, according to the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2015 – 2016 (LCRP). While registration restrictions kept official refugee numbers stable at just over 1 million - of which 53 per cent were children - Syrians in Lebanon were more vulnerable than ever, with more than 48 per cent of Syrian refugees living below the poverty line (LCRP 2015-2016).

In 2016 a new Head of State was appointed after a 29-month political deadlock and presidential vacuum. Despite a magnitude of challenges, the Government, with UNICEF Lebanon’s financial and technical investments in strengthening public institutions and their delivery systems, contributed to more than 1 million vulnerable children being reached. UNICEF Lebanon continued to lead the design and support implementation of national plans and initiatives, including the National Plan to Safeguard Children and Women (NP), totalling US$200 million in cash and in-kind support.

UNICEF Lebanon and the World Health Organization Joint Monitoring Programme for water supply and sanitation conducted a national survey in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW), the first ever in Lebanon, to assess the quality of drinking water at national and regional levels. Publication of findings will follow in 2017. A nationwide baseline survey was carried out, which informed development of the Country Programme 2017-2020. UNICEF Lebanon and MoEW reached more than 720,000 people with improved access to safe water, with the WASH programme constituting more than 45 per cent of the total inter-agency response and 57 per cent in host communities.

Sustained efforts by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), UNICEF Lebanon and partners resulted in enrolling 113,328 refugee children during the 2015/2016 school year. More than 144,312 Lebanese children were also supported through improvements in quality of learning, including improved school infrastructure and better trained teachers. A total of 29,354 children, unable to enrol into formal schools, were supported through regulated Non-formal education programmes, largely due to UNICEF Lebanon’s technical support in drafting the Lebanese national Non-Formal Education Framework.

UNICEF Lebanon, with the Ministry of Social Affairs, reached more than 600,000 children and women at risk (plus caregivers and abuse survivors) with quality child protection and gender-based violence services in 251 priority localities. A total of 220,911 boys and girls and 187,657 adults were sensitized on child protection and 163,231 on gender-based violence; 132,148 boys and girls benefited from structured community-based psychosocial support; and 53,947 women and girls accessed mobile and static safe spaces. More than 1.5 million vaccine doses were delivered to children in partnership with MoPH. Two polio campaigns reached 383,075 children under 5 years and more than 53,000 women attended Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and breastfeeding awareness sessions.
More than 930,000 medical consultations in public facilities were delivered with UNICEF Lebanon support.

Provision of low-cost services proved insufficient in eliminating negative coping strategies used by the most deprived families, such as child labour and child marriage.

The Country Programme 2017-2020 focuses on strengthening national, regional and community systems to protect the most at-risk children and women from abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect. UNICEF Lebanon will be a key partner in the inter-agency humanitarian safety net initiative to reduce child poverty, multi-dimensional deprivation, such as low school enrolment and school dropout and negative child protection coping strategies. Increased focus in 2017 will be placed on ensuring that children in contact with the law, including victims and witnesses, have access to age-appropriate judicial process and protection compliant with international standards. Efforts to identify and respond to the needs of children with disabilities, both through provision of specialized care and mainstreaming of their inclusion in public services, will be given greater priority.

UNICEF Lebanon worked with eight line ministries, 25 donors, and 75 NGO partners in 2016. Major collaborative partnerships with MEHE and support from UNICEF Lebanon’s four largest donors (Germany, United States, European Union and UK) were significant to ensure access to education for Syrian refugee children. Together with other partners, this joint effort led to the near doubling of the student body in the Lebanese primary public school system in 2016, an unequivocal statement by Lebanon to uphold education as a fundamental right protecting children’s wellbeing and securing their futures.

Humanitarian Assistance

In 2016, Lebanon continued to shoulder the largest refugee burden of Syria’s neighbours in proportion to its size and population. Lebanon hosted more than 1.8 million refugees. UNICEF Lebanon contributed to a wide range of services and activities improving the lives of children and their families while strengthening institutions and systems with a focus on vulnerable communities and populations.

UNICEF Lebanon played a key role in the inter-agency humanitarian response supporting the Government as the coordination lead in education, energy and water, and child protection sectors. While Government leadership is recognised, administrative impediments were a challenge. UNICEF Lebanon led the development of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) 2017-2020 and contributed to successful mobilization of sector partners in campaigns, including Back-to-Learning.

A significant number of vulnerable Lebanese and refugee children required support to access accredited education opportunities. UNICEF Lebanon worked in all 1,283 schools to deliver programmes and services to children. In the 2015-2016 schoolyear a total of 113,328 non-Lebanese and 144,312 Lebanese children were supported to enrol in formal education. In 2016-2017, UNICEF Lebanon will support 117,298 Lebanese pre-primary and basic, 146,374 non-Lebanese pre-primary and basic school-aged children (03-14 years).

The winter programme response strategy shifted to the provision of unconditional cash grants for poor Lebanese and refugee children living in informal settlements (IS). During winter 2015-2016, 90,717 Syrian refugee girls and boys living in these settlements, 15,283 Palestinian refugee girls and boys and 71,796 most vulnerable Lebanese girls and boys ages 0-15 years benefited from US$40 one-off cash assistance. An addition 30,876 Syrian refugee girls and boys ages 0-15 years living in IS in hard-to-reach areas received an age-appropriate winter kit.
A total of 1,386 refugee households were evicted during 2016. UNICEF Lebanon and partners conducted advocacy with security officials to ensure early response. Advocacy was also conducted with authorities, particularly the Lebanese Army, to ensure that the rights of children were respected. Nearly US$300,000 worth of stock and services was distributed to the evicted population. Support included provision of vaccinations, nutrition screening, and supplementation for pregnant and lactating women and under-five children (U5). Bottled drinking water was distributed and emergency latrines were installed. Emergency psychosocial support, distribution of dignity kits, and organization of recreational activities was also provided.

Improved access to and utilization of primary healthcare centre (PHC) facilities and social development centres (SDCs) contributed to 922,514 consultations. UNICEF Lebanon supported 17 medical mobile units in more than 1,000 informal settlements and equipped 220 PHCs and 220 SDCs with vaccines, cold chain and acute medications. Healthcare workers were trained in effective vaccine management, microplanning and intra-campaign monitoring during two rounds of polio campaigns as well as malnutrition screening, identification and referral training. A total of 5,750 pregnant and lactating women and 96,186 children under five received multi-micronutrient supplementation.

Support for Palestinian refugee camps included provision of essential medicines, hygiene and clothing kits, education supplies and activities. In total, 15,283 children received cash assistance for winter clothing through the United Nations Reliefs and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in Near East (UNRWA), while 53,570 children and 17,538 caregivers received psychosocial support (PSS).

UNICEF Lebanon, the lead agency in emergency water and sanitation, covered more than 65 per cent of Syrian Refugees living in informal settlements. Approximately 150,000 Syrian refugees living in the settlements benefited from a temporary WASH package, including water trucking, de-sludging and infrastructure. As part of flood mitigation measures, UNICEF Lebanon and its implementing partners cleaned more than 22,000 metres of river and irrigation channels benefitting more than 50,000 people. UNICEF Lebanon also implemented 67 water projects and three wastewater projects. UNICEF Lebanon distributed solid waste management equipment and more than 66,560 bins, benefiting 700,000 Lebanese and 230,000 Syrian Refugees.

In line with the Ministry of Social Affairs National Plan, UNICEF Lebanon continued to expand child protection (CP) and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services through 57 SDCs and their surrounding communities in 251 vulnerable localities. As a result, UNICEF Lebanon sensitized 436,812 children and caregivers/community members on child protection and psychosocial support and 4,172 children were assisted through case management. Some 195,740 individuals were sensitized on gender-based violence, of which 58,703 women and girls accessed mobile and static safe spaces.

A total of 1,032 marginalized Lebanese and non-Lebanese youth enrolled in MEHE vocational and technical education; 851 enrolled in employability and agriculture training courses; 16,080 benefited from entrepreneurship, employability and competency-based training; and 37,350 adolescents enrolled in life-skills programmes in 2016. Basic, advanced and functional literacy and numeracy courses were accessible to more than 18,175 not-in-school and working youth ages 15 years and older.
**Emerging Areas of Importance**

**Urbanization and children.** Some 80 per cent of vulnerable children in Lebanon live in urban settings. As such, the country programme has made significant efforts to map these locations and focus on ensuring access to social public services in those zones as a priority. More than 872 schools in urban areas received school supplies for vulnerable children and families. An addition 42 social development centres and 173 primary healthcare centres were directly supported by UNICEF Lebanon’s programme to ensure access to all vulnerable children and families to essential services. Rehabilitation of public water and wastewater infrastructure also focused on urban locations, with more than 570,000 people receiving improved water as a result. Despite these efforts, needs are still not being adequately met. In the context of Habitat III, the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, and the new global urban agenda, there is renewed opportunity in 2017 to begin a new phase of collective action with local authorities, UN sister agencies and other partners to more holistically and predictably respond to gaps and risks specific to urban contexts.

**Refugee and migrant children.** There are more than 660,000 refugee children in Lebanon, in both Syrian and Palestine communities. They comprise just under half of the target population of children included in UNICEF Lebanon’s programme interventions in Lebanon. The most urgent needs of a majority of these children were met with services provided through public institutions, including schools, hospitals and social development centres. Many of those unable to be reached through these channels benefited from outreach and mobile services managed by civil society partners, always with a view to referring children to the best available public services, where possible.

**Greater focus on the second decade of life.** Youth and adolescents in Lebanon faced especially high risks. Abuse and exploitation, including the worst forms of child labour, child marriage, and increasing exposure to sometimes deadly violence were daily challenges faced by tens of thousands of young Lebanese, Syrians and Palestinians. Exclusion from meaningful economic participation was also a daily reality for more than 520,000 young people in Lebanon, sowing the seeds for generational marginalization that, if unaddressed, can condemn these youth — and the families they will themselves raise — to a life of struggle and deprivation. As such, the country programme, in its final year, took decisive action to expand opportunities for 95,602 Lebanese and non-Lebanese girls and boys ages 15-24 years in formal and non-formal learning and skills building opportunities to increase their knowledge, skills and professional readiness in locations across the country. The new country programme will build on this success and seek to strengthen linkages of this wealth of human capital to the private sector, as well as work with government and civil society partners to increase the degree of social and political participation for these most excluded young people.

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

- **ALP** Accelerated Learning Programme
- **BCP** Business Continuity Plan
- **BLN** Basic Literacy and Numeracy
- **BTS** Back to School
- **C4D** Communication for Development
- **CB-ECE** Community-Based Early Childhood Education
- **CBI** Competency-Based Interviewing
- **CBO** Community-Based Organization
- **CCC** Core Commitment to Children in Emergencies
- **CCTV** Closed-Circuit Television
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CERD</td>
<td>Centre for Educational Research Development</td>
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<td>CMR</td>
<td>Clinical Management of Rape</td>
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<td>CMT</td>
<td>Country Management Team</td>
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<td>CPD</td>
<td>Country Programme Document</td>
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<td>CPMP</td>
<td>Country Programme Management Plan</td>
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<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
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<td>DCT</td>
<td>Direct Cash Transfer</td>
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<td>DOP</td>
<td>Department of Orientation and Guidance</td>
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<td>EFA</td>
<td>Environmental Footprint Assessment</td>
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<td>EMT</td>
<td>Emergency Management Team</td>
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<td>EPI</td>
<td>Expanded Programme on Immunization</td>
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<td>E-PPP</td>
<td>E- Programme Planning Process</td>
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<td>GAM</td>
<td>Global Acute Malnutrition</td>
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<td>GAP</td>
<td>Gender Action Plan</td>
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<td>GBV</td>
<td>Gender-Based Violence</td>
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<td>GBviE</td>
<td>Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies</td>
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<td>GOL</td>
<td>Government of Lebanon</td>
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<td>GSSC</td>
<td>Global Shared Service Centre</td>
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<td>HACT</td>
<td>Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers</td>
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<td>HCC</td>
<td>Higher Council for Childhood</td>
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<td>HPM</td>
<td>Humanitarian Performance Monitoring</td>
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<td>HRBA</td>
<td>Human Rights-Based Approach</td>
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<td>INGO</td>
<td>International Non-Governmental Organization</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information Communication Technology</td>
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<td>IS</td>
<td>Informal Settlement</td>
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<td>IP</td>
<td>Internet Protocol</td>
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<td>IPC</td>
<td>Interpersonal Communication</td>
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<td>IYCF</td>
<td>Infant and Young Child Feeding</td>
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<td>JMP</td>
<td>Joint Monitoring Programme</td>
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<td>KAP</td>
<td>Knowledge, Attitude and Practices</td>
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<td>LCRP</td>
<td>Lebanon Crisis Response Plan</td>
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<td>LSA</td>
<td>Local Security Advisor</td>
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<td>LTA</td>
<td>Long Term Agreement</td>
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<td>LTC</td>
<td>Learning and Training Committee</td>
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<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
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<td>MEHE</td>
<td>Ministry of Education and Higher Education</td>
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<td>MEW</td>
<td>Ministry of Energy and Water</td>
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<td>MHPSS</td>
<td>Mental Health and Psychosocial Support</td>
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<td>MMU</td>
<td>Medical Mobile Unit</td>
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<td>MoJ</td>
<td>Ministry of Justice</td>
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<td>MoPH</td>
<td>Ministry of Public Health</td>
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<td>MoSA</td>
<td>Ministry of Social Affairs</td>
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<td>MOSS</td>
<td>Minimum Operating Security Standard</td>
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<td>MoYS</td>
<td>Ministry of Youth and Sport</td>
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<td>NFE</td>
<td>Non-formal Education</td>
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<td>NLG</td>
<td>No Lost Generation</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>PCV</td>
<td>Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine</td>
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Throughout 2016, UNICEF Lebanon engaged in strengthening the capacity of national institutions. Provision of financial, technical expertise and training at the national and community levels reflected the commitment to enhancing performance and long-term development.

UNICEF Lebanon provided micro-planning and effective vaccine management training for Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) staff in the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH).

Technical staff were embedded in several line Ministries, including the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW), MoPH, Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), and Ministry of Social Affairs. Given the large number of affected Lebanese and refugee children, UNICEF Lebanon’s partnership with the MEHE focused on overcoming the problem of providing access to quality education opportunities, as well as developing a national Non-Formal Education framework. This provided children, previously unable to access formal education, with accredited pathways into the system. National standard operating procedures for case management of children at-risk and/or victims of violence were adopted.
and approximately 255 government and civil society social workers and case managers were trained.

UNICEF Lebanon trained 20 staff from MoPH and MoEW and key partners on a water quality survey, public health promotion and community mobilization. Communication for Development (C4D) was streamlined within partner and stakeholder institutions through capacity development trainings. Seven focal points were identified within Ministries to further promote the integration of C4D.

Staff from 220 primary healthcare centres (PHCs) were trained on acute malnutrition management. Providing the availability of health and nutrition staff to replace those attending the trainings proved challenging. More than 640 staff from partner organizations involved in the Back to School initiative received Interpersonal Communication training and 239 frontline workers and service providers in social development centres, PHCs and call centres received communication training.

An Interagency National Contingency Plan was established and UNICEF Lebanon field offices updated contingency plans with existing partners.

**Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy**

UNICEF Lebanon engaged in evidence-generating activities throughout 2016. The data collection for the Joint Monitoring Programme water quality survey was finalized with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and World Health Organization (WHO). Publication of these findings will follow in 2017. The first draft of the Situation Analysis and the Baseline Survey in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) was also finalized in 2016. The Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon was conducted with World Food Programme and UN High Commissioner for Refugees. These results were used to inform the Country Programme 2017-2020. The knowledge, attitude and practices survey terms of reference was completed and a company was selected to commence data collection activities in 2017. Support to the UN Development Programme for the Rapid Poverty Assessment for the Lebanese population was provided. The overall achievement of these activities was the collaborative process itself on sensitive issues with various stakeholders.

As a core member of the inter-agency Information Management Working Group, UNICEF Lebanon continued to support design and maintenance of the response planning and monitoring platform, ActivityInfo. This enabled advocacy for the inclusion of child-sensitive indicators across all relevant sectors; facilitated the tracking of progress on coverage and presence of UNICEF Lebanon; and supported generation of data in a specific areas of service delivery.

UNICEF Lebanon and partners made positive progress in gathering reliable data and establishing baselines to better inform programme activities with evidence. Two evaluations (Winter Cash and WASH) were initiated in 2016. Remaining evaluations (child protection, education, and health and nutrition) were delayed due to a prolonged validation process and will be initiated in 2017.

**Partnerships**

UNICEF Lebanon’s programme results were made possible through partnerships with numerous national and international institutions and actors. In 2016, UNICEF Lebanon engaged with eight line ministries, 44 national NGOs, 31 international NGOs, five UN agencies, and three universities, delivering results for children.
The volume of financial resources transferred to Government counterparts exceeded US$62,307,402. Private sector partnerships were valued at US$27,014,290, and active civil society collaboration (including national and international actors) was valued at US$152,417,460.

Partnerships with Government counterparts extended beyond financial transactions, and included provision of senior technical assistance to four Ministries. This resulted in reaching poor Lebanese and Syrian refugee communities through the same institutions, a simultaneous investment in system strengthening and responding to acute and chronic needs of the most vulnerable through the public sector.

Partnership information was documented and maintained through the online EquiTrack platform developed by UNICEF Lebanon. Now re-branded as eTools, this platform was rolled out globally in 2016.

UNICEF Lebanon participated in and/or led various coordination mechanisms with Government and the UN family in Lebanon. UNICEF Lebanon remained the principal UN agency working with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education as leader of the education response; led the Water response with Ministry of Energy and Water; and fulfilled the role of lead agency in Child Protection supporting the Ministry of Social Affairs. UNICEF Lebanon also participated in several UN-Government coordination bodies.

A key challenge for 2017 will be to engage with the private sector, both as in-kind and financial contributors. This applies equally in-country, including options to link unemployed youth to decent work, and abroad, ideally beginning with the large Lebanese diaspora in Europe and North America.

**External Communication and Public Advocacy**

UNICEF Lebanon provided support to the Back-to-Learning campaign, which aims to promote the right to education for all children in Lebanon. For the first time, social media was used as a two-way channel for beneficiaries to exchange knowledge on issues such as school registration. UNICEF Lebanon provided support to the Ministry of Public Health’s national breastfeeding campaign through messaging, identification of distribution channels and media engagement and continued to work with local Water Establishments to improve community perception of public services through the development of communication strategies.

Collaboration with local NGOs led to the development of various platforms for youth and adolescents to share their stories through photography, writing, art and community theatre. The Caravan Goes to School initiative provided training for Syrian refugee adolescents on street theatre skills for sharing stories and concerns. The Soura w Hkayeh project trained 90 Lebanese, Syrian, Iraqi and Palestinian adolescents and youth on photography and reporting skills, promoting tolerance and understanding.

UNICEF Lebanon provided technical and financial support for the collection of stories of Syrian Refugee children produced in an animated short film, Unfair Tales, which won the Cannes Grand Prix for Good award at Cannes Film Festival 2016.

UNICEF Lebanon’s media outreach expanded, with 318 mentions in traditional media, and the social media footprint increased by 33 per cent across all platforms.

Twenty-four UNICEF National Committees and six UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors visited Lebanon, boosting fundraising and advocacy activities. Fifty-four national and international
photograph and video production missions were organized in 2016, producing a variety of multimedia products.

Challenges included pressure and demand on staff to provide additional visibility for the growing number of donors and partners due to expanded international outreach activities. Additional capacity development is needed to improve staff and partners’ ability to address media and communication demands.

**Identification and Promotion of Innovation**

In 2016, UNICEF Lebanon continued to innovate and work towards creating new ways of bringing added value to advance progress towards results for children. To strengthen data collection and monitoring in the Ministry of Higher Education (MEHE) and the education programme, UNICEF Lebanon developed a platform to track the enrolment and attendance of children in second-shift schools.

The Compiler is an online platform created to replace Excel in major data collection activities. It was used to collect registration information for the 2016 Advanced Learning Programme (ALP) and second-shift school attendance. The platform was initiated in response to the growing need for rapid and accurate data collection in schools as part of the support that UNICEF Lebanon provided to MEHE. Previously, gathering such data was time consuming, leading to delays in receiving critical information required for effective monitoring.

To increase the reliability of pre- and post-test results in schools, UNICEF Lebanon’s Education and Innovation sections produced the ‘Nafsi’ self-perception interactive tool. Nafsi is a tablet based, child-friendly monitoring tool targeted at school children ages 5 to 17 years. The tool measures five skill sets: self-control, academic self-efficacy, persistence, mastery orientation and social competence.

This tablet-based innovation was built to replace the current paper-based assessment method, which proved unreliable in measuring self-perception due to bias and influence over children’s responses. Nafsi ensures greater accuracy of students’ answers through a secure and confidential tool and improves the efficiency of data collection and analysis by enabling UNICEF Lebanon to triangulate information with multiple sources collected through the Compiler and other digital tools. Nafsi is currently in the pilot phase and further upgrading and improvement will continue as it is tested in schools.

**Support to Integration and Cross-Sectoral Linkages**

UNICEF Lebanon’s programme sought to maximize integration across its entire range of interventions, including those investments related to the Level Three crisis response. While the early years of the crisis laid the groundwork for convergence of activities, in 2016 efforts advanced towards greater levels of integrated programming.

Two key elements shaped the integration approach of UNICEF Lebanon: policy-level dialogue provided a platform for such programming across line ministries, and the package of services provided to vulnerable children through the various gateways at the community level.

Two major multi-stakeholder policy initiatives spearheaded by UNICEF Lebanon were expanded in 2016. The Ministry of Social Affairs National Plan, which convened resources and partners in direct support to the social development centres network, provided a range of social public services to the poorest children and families. The RACE plan aimed to provide access to learning for 600,000 children as part of a package that included access to
WASH, health and child protection services. Plans were underway with two ministries and several UN agencies to replicate the successes of RACE and the National Plan in child survival programming, comprising investments in health and water, and inclusive of a costed collaborative plan reaching more than 400,000 children under five (and their mothers) from 2017-2020.

To strengthen service delivery and integration, a partnership with the American University of Beirut and 645 staff from partner organizations working on the Back-to-Learning initiative as well as 239 frontline workers and service providers were trained on Interpersonal Communication to ensure improved communication with rights holders.

UNICEF Lebanon’s programme was organized around supporting service provision in institutional ‘gateways’, including public schools, health facilities, Palestinian camps, community centres and informal refugee settlements. UNICEF Lebanon supported service provision in more than 5,200 individual gateways, which were monitored by an online system that included mobile data collection.

**Service Delivery**

Throughout 2016, UNICEF Lebanon supported multiple Government and non-government structures to ensure provision of services for the most disadvantaged children in Lebanon. An estimated 400,000 children and their families were reached through gateways including public schools, public health centres, social development centres, communities, informal settlements, Palestinian refugee camps and safe spaces. The capacity of the Government and its institutions was enhanced through professional staff support on planning, implementation, and monitoring of public services.

UNICEF Lebanon supported 113,328 non-Lebanese school children ages 3-14 years to access formal education. Although scale-up in education led to more children in school, maintaining a quality of service remained a challenge. Strengthening the Communication for Development (C4D) component in the Back-to-Learning campaign encouraged community demand for services and 105,841 out-of-school children were referred to education opportunities. Child protection frontline workers were trained in service referral and child protection information, psychosocial support and case-management services reaching some 450,000 children.

More than 1.5 million vaccine doses were delivered to children in partnership with the Ministry of Public Health through accelerated immunization campaigns, two rounds of polio campaigns in high risk areas and vaccines given at UNHCR registration centres and border areas. UNICEF Lebanon improved sustainable access to water services and wastewater services, respectively, for 570,000 people and 153,000 people living in vulnerable communities. Temporary access to water and wastewater services were also provided to more than 149,000 Syrian Refugees living in informal settlements. UNICEF Lebanon supported the improvement of solid waste services for 934,000 vulnerable people living in Lebanon.

UNICEF Lebanon monitored its performance and measured progress at the micro-level through field visits, partner reporting and third party monitoring. Direct feedback from affected populations through focus group discussions helped address bottlenecks in access to public services. At the macro-level, outcomes were monitored through regular surveys and evaluations.
Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

In Lebanon, several factors impede the exercise and implementation of child rights. No other country in the world hosts as many refugees per capita. Lebanon is a high middle-income country with tremendous disparities that affect all children. Its socio-political and economic situation has been marked by instability, fragility and the impact of the Syrian conflict, all of which threaten children’s rights, development and dignity.

In October 2016, UNICEF Lebanon presented its confidential report at the pre-session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC,) outlining the situation of child rights in the country. Issues were identified and through continued support from UNICEF Lebanon, the Higher Council for Childhood (HCC) has responded to them.

On the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography ratified by the Government of Lebanon, UNICEF Lebanon worked with the HCC through the provision of methodologies, training and quality assurance. UNICEF Lebanon continued to advocate for the ratification of the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on children and armed conflict and supported the implementation of the Government-led ‘Workplan to prevent and respond to the association of children with armed violence in Lebanon.’ In 2016, the HCC convened technical meetings with representatives from the Ministry of Justice and the Internal Security Forces towards the development of procedures regulating the treatment of children associated with armed groups.

The national standard operating procedures for the case management of children at risk and victims of violence were launched in April 2016, a first step towards unification of methods and tools used in child protection case management.

UNICEF Lebanon reached an agreement to finance child-rights advisor and data specialist positions in each Governorate, at the request of the Governors. The positions will support a child-focused human rights-based approach in local situation analysis, planning processes, strategies, and budgets.

Gender Equality

During 2016, UNICEF Lebanon developed its sectoral work plans for the implementation of the Country Programme Document 2017-2021, which was endorsed in September 2016. To ensure a gender equality focus in line with the global gender action plan (GAP), a gender programme review exercise was conducted in October 2016. The review identified priority gender-targeted focus areas at the country level and entry points for gender mainstreaming at the sectoral level. Accordingly, the annual work plans for 2017 have integrated gender-sensitive indicators and results.

UNICEF Lebanon continued to provide technical and financial support to the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) to ensure the sustainability of gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE) interventions within both humanitarian and stabilization programmes. In 2016, this included scaling up the provision of a comprehensive package of age-appropriate gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services in approximately 36 social development centres (SDCs) and other community centres, by providing mobile and static safe spaces through which 61,570 women and girls accessed services. Of those, 36 per cent where adolescent girls, a particularly at-risk group, including 1,936 who accessed socio-economic empowerment activities.

Nationally, UNICEF Lebanon equipped 786 service providers with the necessary skills and knowledge to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. UNICEF continued to invest in prevention and risk mitigation of such violence through capacity building. A total of 1456
Frontline actors were trained in 2016, including those working in the health, education, child protection and WASH sectors.

Through the Higher Council for Childhood (HCC), UNICEF Lebanon supported the Government in the development of a National Strategy to End Child Marriage in Lebanon. As an active member of the GBV taskforce, UNICEF Lebanon initiated the secondment of a coordinator to strengthen MoSA’s leadership and ensure alignment between national priorities and those of the sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) task force. Sectoral workplans were also reviewed to ensure that gender-specific indicators were clearly articulated at output level.

UNICEF Lebanon mainstreamed gender in WASH interventions. Stabilization projects account for gender-specific safety and privacy needs. The hygiene promotion component and tools were also gender-specific and all field staff were trained on GBV and referral systems.

**Environmental Sustainability**

UNICEF Lebanon is committed to generating evidence-based data on climate change and the environment to identify potential risks to children and women. Lebanon faced severe water challenges, both in terms of quantity and quality, which are expected to worsen over time. In 2016, UNICEF Lebanon signed an agreement with Saint Joseph University in Beirut to support its Geography Department in predicting periods of potential water scarcity. This will provide opportunities for planning and response to reduce impact on supply continuity.

Throughout 2016, efforts were made to advocate for climate change integration into Government strategies, with no remarkable advancements achieved. UNICEF Lebanon will continue advocating next year based on improved data collection and analysis.

To address the garbage crisis, UNICEF Lebanon distributed solid waste management equipment and more than 66,560 bins and 23 machines benefiting 700,000 Lebanese and 230,000 Syrian Refugees (outside of Informal Settlements). The programme worked towards an integrated approach, focusing on promotion of and support for sorting at the source in six municipalities. The scale of the solid waste management problem, caused by the closure of a major waste dump, was much greater than UNICEF Lebanon’s capacity, but these pilot projects can be used to promote improved management with government agencies. Historically UNICEF Lebanon has not been a lead agency in this sector, but plans exist to increase advocacy and technical support for all stakeholders.

UNICEF Lebanon has not conducted any environmental impact assessments. Moving forward, UNICEF Lebanon will work in partnership with Government authorities to improve long term development goals, such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 6.1 and 6.2. Establishing baselines for goals 6.1 and 6.2 will provide a framework to directly address the root causes of environmental impact.

Following recommendations from the Environmental Footprint Assessment (EFA) 2014, UNICEF Lebanon took measures to reduce its environmental footprint, including the formation of a committee to guide the office in assessing and applying environmentally friendly procedures, such as installation of sorting bins and the engagement of a local company for recycling office waste.
Effective Leadership

The country management team (CMT) met monthly throughout 2016. The meeting agenda focused on security management, high-level management indicators, including human resources and direct cash transfers (DCT) performance, as well as resource mobilisation. The CMT was chaired by the Representative.

A programme group meeting (PGM) was held every month, allowing for detailed review of key programme indicators, including results as well as progress on convergence and integrated programming. The latter was provided a platform at the PGM through monthly discussions on one lifecycle cohort, i.e. the 0-5, the 6-14 or the 15-24 age group.

A monthly emergency management team (EMT) meeting ensured appropriate focus on emerging humanitarian issues and performance and needs of zonal offices. The harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT) Committee monitored progress of implementation of the HACT assurance plan.

The joint consultative committee met five times in 2016.

Four high-level risks were reviewed and re-validated in the Office’s enterprise risk management exercise in 2016: budget and cash management, human resources and unethical behaviour, supply and logistics, and fraud and misuse of resources. Mitigation measures are in place; however, given the large sums being disbursed to institutions with limited Public Financial Management (PFM) capacity, greater oversight will be given to ensure sound financial management of partners and counterparts in 2017 through reinforced HACT assurance efforts and strengthening of PFM capacity of the institutions themselves.

Business continuity planning (BCP) maintained critical and essential staff lists and alternate work locations in Beirut and all zonal office areas of operation. BCP testing in late 2016 revealed some deficiencies in preparedness and understanding of roles by staff. Therefore, this exercise will be repeated in early 2017 as part of a broader emergency simulation exercise.

The three outstanding recommendations of the 2015 audit were fully closed in 2016.

Financial Resources Management

UNICEF Lebanon’s workforce grew by 28 per cent in 2016, increasing from 172 to 218 staff members. As a result, office premises expanded and a space committee was formed, consisting of the country management team and 14 additional staff members representing all programme areas. While a consultancy firm was contracted and produced a plan to efficiently and practically use the current office space, an additional 219m² space was rented to accommodate the newly established zonal office, Beirut Mount Lebanon.

To maintain adequate control over funds distributed to implementing partners, UNICEF Lebanon, guided by the Harmonized Approach for Cash Transfers (HACT) framework, increased its assurance measures. This was done using UNICEF Lebanon resources and through transfer of some activities to a third party service provider.

UNICEF Lebanon conducted 47 spot checks, 25 micro assessments by a third party, and 14 internal control audits. Spot checks are a common tool used by United Nations (UN) agencies to monitor and manage cash transfers. UNICEF teams comprised of programme and operations staff received an intensive training and conducted 12 spot checks. These spot checks resulted in 147 action points for follow up by implementing partners.
Due to the significant increase in programme funding to US$505 million in 2016 and to ensure more efficient and effective operational support, several long-term agreements (LTAs) were signed to shorten the procurement process, decrease the workload of supply and procurement staff and improve timely service delivery.

UNICEF Lebanon enhanced transportation efficiency by procuring six new vehicles to replace rented vehicles which were unreliable and costly.

**Fundraising and Donor Relations**

UNICEF Lebanon’s fundraising efforts continued to elicit strong donor response, spurred by the credibility established over past years in the policy, strategy and decision-making forums, as a strong technical partner with bi-lateral and government development actors, in advocating for child-centred emergency and development agendas and resource allocation and in demonstrating successful evidence-based programmes that can be taken to scale at the national level.

During 2016, UNICEF Lebanon hosted and accompanied 60 field visits with donor government representatives. UNICEF Lebanon received a total of US$324.1 million in 2016, representing 68 per cent of its US$479.3 million appeal in the Humanitarian Response and Resilience Plan. By the end of 2016, more than 50 per cent of those funds (excluding multi-year funds) was utilized. Initiatives such as No Lost Generation (launched in 2013 and aimed at bridging immediate response plans and longer-term development efforts in education, child protection and adolescent/youth engagement for children affected by the Syria and Iraq crises), the RACE initiative and the Ministry of Social Affairs National Plan significantly supported UNICEF Lebanon’s fundraising efforts. All were strongly backed by the Government and generated ample visibility and donor confidence, thus forming the basis of UNICEF Lebanon’s resource mobilization strategy. Despite 2016 representing UNICEF Lebanon’s best fundraising year to date, funds received from private donors represented less than one per cent of total funds received; thus, private donors are a priority for future resource mobilization efforts.

UNICEF Lebanon prepared 49 donor reports in 2016, with a 100 per cent on-time submission rate. The quality of reporting was maximized through use of the General Guidance and Checklist for Country and Regional Offices and a process by which the Deputy Representative and Social Policy, Planning and Monitoring and Evaluation (SPPME) Chief reviewed reporting documents prior to submission.

**Evaluation and Research**

UNICEF Lebanon’s ‘Plan for Research and Impact Monitoring and Evaluation’ (PRIME) was updated at the beginning of 2016 and reviewed mid-year through a consultative process between staff and relevant stakeholders to prioritize key research products.

During 2016, a focus was placed on conducting evaluations of five programmes: winter cash; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); child protection; education; and health and nutrition. The terms of reference (ToR) were finalized and two evaluations (Winter Cash and WASH) were initiated in 2016. The remaining evaluations were delayed due to a prolonged validation process and will be initiated in 2017.

UNICEF Lebanon conducted a preliminary impact evaluation on the cash-based programme pilot in second-shift public schools. Data collection exercises were conducted in both pilot and control areas during 2016 and analysis of this data will continue in 2017 with a follow-up and panel survey.
Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

UNICEF Lebanon continued to pursue efficient business practices that boosted cost savings. Internet Protocol (IP) telephony was implemented, enhancing the quality of communication between UNICEF Lebanon and its five zonal offices at no additional cost.

Fifty-three long-term agreements (LTAs) were concluded in 2016, two of which were partnerships with other UN agencies. LTAs resulted in shortened procurement processes, decreased workload for supply and procurement staff and improved timely service delivery. UNICEF Lebanon continued engaging in joint initiatives with UN entities in areas of security, medical services and business continuity arrangements.

Skype for Business was used extensively for communications in the main office, five zonal offices and with external partners. This tool became the standard means for conducting recruitment interviews, with approximately 80 per cent of recruitments conducted through this modality.

UNICEF Lebanon organized 54 online conferences and participated in 178. This was in addition to 1,431 instant messaging and 321 Peer to Peer audio and video sessions.

The implementation of the UN joint cash programme led to a substantial decrease in the procurement of goods. A total of US$7.1 million was transferred to beneficiaries over winter 2015-2016. Implementation of the cash programme resulted in saving 20 per cent (approximately US$1.4 million) in programme costs associated with transport, storage and distribution of supplies through implementing partners.

Introduction of the family trip programme and scheduled shuttles to zonal offices led to efficient use of transport, equipment and staff time. UNICEF Lebanon migrated a majority of its finance-related process to the Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC).

UNICEF Lebanon undertook a comprehensive review of civil society organization (CSO) engagement standard operating procedures (SOPs), in line with the evolving programme environment. Programme implementation through cash assistance to CSOs accounted for 33 per cent of the total office expenditure (US$ 270 million).

Supply Management

Procurement of goods and services in 2016 reached a total value of US$47.4 million, a five per cent decrease in the overall procurement from 2015. Procurement of goods decreased from US$29 million to US$17.5 million, attributed to the expansion of cash programming and establishment of a new joint system developed in partnership with World Food Programme (WFP), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the local cash consortium. The winter programme reported a considerable procurement reduction due to the decrease in spending on winter kits. Service procurement increased from US$18 million to US$29 million.

Due to the absence of any sudden emergency throughout the reporting period, no significant replenishment of contingency stock was required. The contingency stock, which is spread over four warehouse locations allowing for immediate availability of essential supplies across Lebanon, had a year-end value of US$2.75 million (compared to US$1.44 million of programme supplies). Aging of stock improved considerably with US$523,000 of programme supplies in stock for more than 12 months only. UNICEF Lebanon supported the rehabilitation of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) central warehouse. The total value of supplies stored in UNICEF-controlled warehouses amounted to US$21 million, with US$17 million worth of supplies distributed in 2016.
UNICEF Lebanon supported construction and rehabilitation projects, with a total value of nearly US$19.8 million, part of the total service procurement of US$29 million. Of this, US$18.5 million was utilized by the WASH programme and the remaining US$1.3 million was utilized by the Education and Health programmes. MoPH cold chain was supported through the provision of 607 refrigerators, of which 22 were solar refrigerators, and the procurement of 25 walk-in cold rooms. MoPH signed two agreements for procurement of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) for a total value of US$6.6 million through UNICEF Procurement Services. UN Population Fund procured medicines and medical equipment through Procurement Services for a total value of US$ 300,000. The Procurement Services value is not included in the total procurement of US$47.4 million.

Major challenges in 2016 related the late availability of information on required supplies (both in quantities and specifications), which resulted in higher than necessary transportation cost and inventory levels.

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<th>UNICEF Lebanon 2016 supplies and services received</th>
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<tr>
<td>Programme Supplies</td>
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<td>Operations Supplies</td>
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<th>UNICEF Lebanon 2016 rehabilitation and construction projects</th>
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Security for Staff and Premises

UNICEF Lebanon further expanded its office space in Beirut, which included leasing new offices on the second, third and fourth floors of the existing building, in addition to the already established offices on the third, fourth, fifth and sixth floors. All offices were Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS) compliant, with a card-swipe-entry system, Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV), and a permanent security guard presence during office hours.

Offices countrywide were monitored 24 hours a day through the CCTV system, with a central control room operating from the second floor of the main office. All offices, excluding the Tyre office, had an armoured vehicle, mandatory for missions to the Red Zones. It was not deemed necessary for the Tyre Office to have its own armoured vehicle, due to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) security plan that covers this need.

UNICEF Lebanon had a policy to ensure that all staff members were assigned a very high frequency (VHF) radio. Fire alarm drills and Business Continuity Plan (BCP) exercises were tested in the main and zonal offices and warden training was conducted on three occasions. All new staff were given a security briefing upon arrival and added to the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) daily report mailing list for regular security situation updates. The UNICEF Field Security Advisor had two Local Security Assistants.
(LSAs), one in North Lebanon (covering Tripoli and Qobayat), and the other in Zahle (covering the Bekaa). The LSAs ensured up-to-date reports on the security situation and road closures, and had direct contact with the local security agencies. A Security Officer was recruited to cover Tyre and Beirut Mount Lebanon and to support the Security Advisor, strengthening the ability to update staff on any immediate adverse security situations.

### Human Resources

UNICEF Lebanon continued to scale-up its programme and operations in 2016. Thirty-one per cent of the workforce was international and 68 per cent were professional staff. The gender balance improved to 51 per cent female and 49 per cent male. A vacancy rate of 40 per cent was observed, with 67 per cent of the staff structure filled by staff on temporary appointments. Ten surge support positions were requested through standby partners and 21 consultants were hired.

A country programme management plan (CPMP) and programme and budget review (PBR) were conducted in the second and fourth quarters of 2016. A total of 134 new fixed-term positions for the Country Programme Document (CPD) 2017-2020 were established. The recruitment process commenced for 168 planned positions, including fixed term positions and 32 restocking and temporary appointments. Recruitment bottlenecks were identified and addressed.

The learning and training committee (LTC) held 19 meetings and reviewed 105 learning requests. LTC guidelines focused on providing basic, mandatory and technical trainings, including the roll out of the E-Programme Planning Process (E-PPP), competency-based interviewing (CBI), talent management system (TMS), results-based management (RBM) and soft skills training. The utilization rate of the learning and development budget was 49 per cent. Two national and two international staff members were selected as peer support volunteers (PSVs), in addition to the two existing volunteers.

Orientation and induction sessions for new staff were systematically conducted with a completion rate of 99 per cent for the Ethics Training Certificate. Two ethics dialogue sessions took place with the global ethics advisor and staff well-being was addressed through ongoing engagement with the UNICEF regional staff well-being advisor.

The global staff survey led to the implementation of action plans to improve work-life balance, office efficiency, staff association composition and career development.

### Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

During 2016, UNICEF Lebanon continued to operate in a Level 3 emergency setting and reinforced the use of cloud-based applications as a prerequisite for working efficiently in this context. Seventy per cent of the workforce was trained on OneDrive, on-line backup and Office 365 features. The collaborative tools in Outlook calendar were systematically used for scheduling, posting and organization purposes.

Skype for Business was used extensively for communications in the main office, four zonal offices, and with external partners. This tool became the standard means for conducting interviews with non-UNICEF candidates. Staff used SharePoint online, which is accessible remotely, to store office documents. UNICEF Lebanon launched a new team site developed as a knowledge management and collaboration centre where information resources such as new vacancy announcements and partner contact information, as well as applications such as the zonal office calendar repository, became easily accessible.

UNICEF Lebanon began developing several applications in collaboration with the education
sector, in areas related to student enrolment and cash assistance, using open source platforms for hand held tablets. The positive impact of the immersion of information, communication and technology within UNICEF Lebanon programmes and operations was demonstrated through the implementation of innovative projects, such as in the recruitment information system, office document digitization and child protection information system.

UNICEF Lebanon sustained efforts to boost its digital social reach and maintain its position as the UN agency with the widest social reach in Lebanon on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram, as well as considerable access to its country-specific Web page.

The ICT section faced a challenge in providing adequate infrastructure and equipment to the growing number of staff in 2016. This was successfully overcome by activating the internal plan for addressing expansion needs.

**Programme Components from RAM**

**ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS**

**OUTCOME 1** Children and adolescents in disadvantaged areas and in areas affected by the emergency benefit from a quality and relevant education and have improved knowledge on life skills.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Activities were undertaken in 2016 to consolidate and advance UNICEF’s social policy work. Efforts were made to build on the 2015 discussions between MOSA and the Ministry of Finance around establishing a partnership on child-friendly budget analysis in line with Child Responsive Budgeting defined in the EU-UNICEF Child Rights Toolkit. Through this activity, a review of the existing budget will be undertaken to benchmark current expenditures to assess their adequacy line in with programme delivery. The expected outcome is a baseline (which will be comparable across other countries) and a set of recommendations with the aim to improve financial space for children, integrate child protection and social protection services, and increase the government contribution to the child protection sector where needed. This support has facilitated the ongoing dialogue with the Ministry of Finance around instituting a capacity building strategy to increase common knowledge and information about child-focused budgeting with other Ministries and related government structures, particularly those at the local level.

**OUTPUT 1** Appropriate technical expertise and administrative support are provided to the programme of cooperation, to ensure UNICEF’s value added in terms of programme implementation.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The Project Support/Operational Cost under Social Policy supported the effective implementation of the social policy outcome. In 2016, this included supporting the cost of a Social Policy Officer (JPO) and a Social Policy Specialist.

**OUTPUT 2** Knowledge on poverty & disparities

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
To reveal the situation of children in health, nutrition, child protection, education, water and sanitation, and reveal the disparities and equity gaps, UNICEF Lebanon conducted a large-
scale household survey covering Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian cohorts. The survey revealed that across a wide range of indicators, Syrian children were the most vulnerable, followed by Palestinian children. For instance, Syrian children had the lowest school attendance rate, highest rate of marriage among women ages 15-19 and highest rate of child labour, and lowest usage of improved water sources. On the other hand, they had the highest rate of age-appropriate breastfeeding, while the Lebanese had the lowest. Palestinian children under five reported the highest episodes of diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections (ARI). Palestinian children were also more likely to be subjected to violent discipline. Large geographical disparities were observed across governorates. A deeper analysis will be conducted in 2017 focusing on each governorate to identify the highest vulnerabilities per governorate.

Mother’s education, which can also be viewed as a proxy measure for socio-economic status and poverty, played a determining role in a range of indicators. Higher level of education was positively correlated with preschool, primary and secondary school attendance, and birth registration and negatively correlated with age-appropriate breastfeeding. In addition to the baseline survey, UNICEF Lebanon documented the safety nets around children with disabilities in Lebanon to identify the main service gaps, both in terms of geographic coverage and the type of disability that the existing programmes target.

**OUTPUT 3** Children vulnerable to seasonal shocks and multi-dimensional poverty benefit from humanitarian cash transfers

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
While the 2014/2015 response from January to April, 2015 was mostly based on the distribution of winter clothing kits and clothing vouchers for refugee and Lebanese poor children, the 2015/2016 winter response shifted to the distribution of a one-time winter child grant of US$40 per child to provide vulnerable households with the means to cover a portion of winter expenses of their choice to help protect their children from the harsh winter.

The winter cash-based response included winter cash assistance for Syrian refugee children between the ages of 0 and 15 years living in Informal Settlements and Collective Shelters and winter cash assistance to the most vulnerable Lebanese children identified by the National Poverty Targeting Programme.

In 2016, UNICEF Lebanon finalized its 2015/2016 winter cash-based response and also planned and implemented 43 per cent of its 2016/2017 winter cash based response by 31 December 2016.

During both winter periods 2015/2016 and 2016/2017, all refugee children residing in informal tented settlements were targeted for the UNICEF Lebanon winter support through a one-time winter cash grant. A total of 31,005 Syrian households received winter child cash grants for 103,862 Syrian refugee children (of which 7,817 children for 2015/2016 winter) and 24,601 Lebanese households for 71,796 Lebanese children by 31 December 2016.

**OUTCOME 2** Vulnerable Children and women (Syrian refugees & Lebanese) are protected from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect with strengthened child protection services, systems and policies.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF Lebanon’s Child Protection (CP) and Gender-based Violence (GBV) programme contributed to increased access among vulnerable children, women and caregivers to
community-based quality prevention and response services in Lebanon. This was achieved within the framework of the MoSA National Plan to Safeguard Children and Women in Lebanon. National Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for case management of children at-risk and/or victims of violence were launched in 2016, a first step towards the unification of methods and tools used in child protection case management. Relevant Government Ministries including MEHE and MoPH were engaged in and facilitated the adoption process. Both Ministries, as well as MoSA, are developing a child protection policy and internal referral mechanisms to improve detection, referral and response to CP and GBV violations affecting women and children.

UNICEF Lebanon provided technical support to MoSA, the core CP/GBV mandated Ministry. The MoSA NP was used as a catalyst to strengthen engagement with other Ministries such as Justice, Education, Labour and Health, paving the way to ensuring timely, multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral and efficient response in safeguarding children in need of special protection. MoSA increased staffing, resources and technical support to fulfil its mandate of delivering and regulating CP and GBV services. MoSA internal and external referral mechanisms were established and strengthened. Other relevant Ministries were strengthened and engaged. These actions focus on strengthening the institutional capacity of government Ministries with standardized tools and policies, while continuing partnerships with civil society organizations in a sustainable manner is still needed.

The resilience of boys, girls, women and families to care for and protect children and women was strengthened through quality and accessible delivery of child protection and GBV services. These included 57 targeted social development services, satellite Social Development Centres (SDCs) and mobile services in surrounding communities within the targeted 251 vulnerable localities. The capacity of Government and international and national non-governmental organizations at the central and local level were systematically enhanced through various trainings. Civil society organizations and 255 staff from MoSA were trained on the national SOPs for case management; 281 frontline workers were trained on early identification and safe referrals; and 35 school counsellors increased their knowledge and skills to better respond to child protection cases in schools through orientation on the child protection policy.

The continued acceleration of the MoSA National Plan allowed UNICEF Lebanon to exceed its targets. A total of 231,035 boys and girls and 205,777 adults were sensitised on CP/Psychosocial support (PSS), including mine risk education; of which, 37,210 children were sensitised on negative impacts of child labour and 42,410 caregivers and community members were reached with awareness on child rights and prevention of child labour. A total of 163,231 individuals were sensitised on GBV. Some 130,434 boys and girls benefited from structured community-based PSS, early childhood programmes and child protection. A total of 58,703 individuals, mainly women and girls at risk or survivors of GBV, accessed mobile and static safe spaces and PSS (1,362 of whom benefited from Informal Skills Training). Some 16,665 boys and girls at high risk and survivors of CP violations accessed CP and PSS programmes, of which 4,172 boys and girls were referred and accessed child protection case management services.

To ensure a holistic approach to addressing child marriage, UNICEF Lebanon partnered with the Higher Council for Childhood (HCC), National Commission for Lebanese Women, ABAAD Organization, and Arab Institute for Human Rights Lebanon to organize a National Consultation on Child Marriage in Lebanon. The meeting was the first step in developing a National Strategy to End Child Marriage.

UNICEF Lebanon joined forces with UNHCR and International Rescue Committee (IRC) in a landmark agreement with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and MoSA to strengthen institutional
capacity of the Union for the Protection of Children in Lebanon (UPEL), a non-governmental organization (NGO) contracted by MoJ to provide judicial protection for children in conflict with the law. Through this agreement, at least 18 UPEL social workers were provided with capacity building support and mentoring to ensure timely judicial protection to children in contact with the law.

In 2016, 68 per cent of children who were assessed using the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire tool demonstrated increased psychosocial wellbeing. The rollout and systematic use of this tool, a brief behavioural screening questionnaire for children ages 6-17 years, assisted UNICEF Lebanon and partners in building a data resource on the impact of programmatic interventions.

Advocacy continued for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the CRC on Children and Armed Conflict through the Secretary General’s Report on Children and Armed Conflict. UNICEF Lebanon continued to support the implementation of the Government-led ‘Workplan to prevent and respond to the association of children with armed violence in Lebanon,’ as the framework for advocacy and programmes around children and armed violence issues. In 2016, the HCC convened technical meetings with representatives from the Ministry of Justice and Internal Security Forces for the development of procedures that regulate the treatment of children associated with armed groups in contact with the security and justice system.

UNICEF Lebanon, in cooperation with other civil society representatives, engaged in the pre-session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and presented its confidential report. Issues were identified by the Committee, which the Government is addressing. The Government of Lebanon will also address these during the State review meeting in 2017.

OUTPUT 1 Appropriate technical expertise and administrative support are provided to the programme of cooperation, to ensure UNICEF’s value added in terms of programme implementation.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2016, the Child Protection programme continued to expand in order to meet the CP and GBV needs in Lebanon as a result of the Syrian crisis. By the end of 2016, there were 22 staff members in the CP programme, including seven fixed term positions, 15 temporary appointments and two child protection specialists, with eight officers located in the five zonal offices. Additionally, six consultants were hired in the Beirut office, tasked specifically to supplement the work of the CP programme. Significant capacity building and professional development of CP staff members took place through various trainings. To improve coordination and information sharing among all CP staff (both in the field and the Country Office) extended monthly section meetings took place.

The staffing levels and structure of the CP programme were reviewed in preparation for the new Country Programme 2017–2020. Following the finalization of the Strategy Note and Results Framework of the CP programme, the organogram of the section was revised, including the field CP staffing structure in line with the new plan.

UNICEF Lebanon provided technical support to key Government Ministries, including MoSA, MoPH and MEHE. Seventy-two technical staff including an Advisor to the Minister, Project Coordinator of the MoSA National Plan, and Gender-Based Violence in Emergency (GBViE) Coordinator were embedded in MoSA for the implementation of the National Plan to Safeguard Women and Children in Lebanon as well as 57 field workers. UNICEF Lebanon also supported incentives for extended working hours for 73 existing staff under the MoSA
NP (including SDC directors) to ensure that timely and effective CP and GBV prevention and response services continued inside the SDCs.

UNICEF Lebanon invested in the National Mental Health Programme in MoPH to ensure PSS was mainstreamed in the national mental health strategy by supporting the two highest positions within the National Mental health programme unit of MoPH. UNICEF Lebanon also supported seven technical staff of the National Mental Health Programme. To maximize the impact of the national mental health strategy, UNICEF will work closely with MoPH to draft an action plan that will detail action points at the local and community level to support the link between the National Mental Health Programme and women and children. To strengthen MEHE’s institutional capacity for prevention and response to violence, abuse and exploitation in schools, two CP experts were deployed.

OUTPUT 2 National child protection systems, including justice for children, benefit from a strengthened regulatory framework aligned with international standards.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The implementation of the MoSA NP and the launch of national SOPs facilitated MoSA, UNICEF Lebanon and partners to enhance integrated programming, which covered protection, health and nutrition, justice and education, in collaboration with other key Ministries.
At the national level, UNICEF Lebanon helped strengthen MoSA’s institutional capacity to better respond to CP and GBV cases through the official appointment of 57 social workers; internal referral mechanisms for CP case management, including detailed referral pathways within MOSA; and ToRs and official communications issued for the establishment of Child Protection Case Management Committees.
Collaboration with MEHE was also strengthened in the area of child protection and GBV. In 2016, two child protection experts were deployed to strengthen the Department of Orientation and Guidance (DOPs) capacity in preventing and responding to CP and GBV cases, and promoting a safe and healthy school environment for teachers and students. A training of trainers started in November 2016, eventually reaching 38 school counsellors. A total of 550 school counsellors and principals from DOPS received training on CP/GBV/Safe identification and referral.

Justice for Children in Lebanon continued to gain momentum in 2016. UNICEF Lebanon recruited dedicated staff, allowing for regular engagement with the Ministry of Justice and other stakeholders in the judicial, social welfare and security sectors on children in conflict with the law, child victims and witnesses, and other children in need of protection who came in contact with the justice system. This included efforts to develop a workplan with the MoJ in line with the new Country Programme, focusing on reducing the number of children in detention and increasing access to alternatives through diversion and non-custodial measures.

UNICEF Lebanon, MoPH and WHO co-led the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Task Force, developed a unified set of indicators across agencies to better capture MHPSS activities, worked on a MHPSS services mapping exercise and developed referral pathways to ensure access to mental health and psychosocial support services by CP and GBV actors. The National Mental Health Programme integrated mental health into primary health care, leading to a more coordinated and comprehensive MHPSS system. Engaging child protection actors in the work of the MHPSS TaskForce was a challenge. Ensuring the contributions of a number of key CP partners to the task force as well as the
participation of health actors in child protection coordination mechanisms was a positive first step in bringing these two groups together.

UNICEF Lebanon, as part of the Steering Committee for the National Action Plan to Eliminate Worst Forms of Child Labour in Lebanon (NAP), led the process of revising and updating the current NAP to ensure that the NAP applies to all children residing in Lebanon. Key outcomes suggested the extension of the current NAP to be in line with the LCRP; raising the minimum age of employment from 14 to 15 years; and developing an annex for the current NAP which was originally created to address the specific concerns related to the Syrian refugees.

OUTPUT 3 Vulnerabilities of children, women and care givers are reduced and their resilience strengthened.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In its third year, the MoSA NP provided a partnership framework to scale up child protection/GBV services, including the PSS programme. UNICEF Lebanon and partners provided packages of community-based and specialized child protection/GBV services, including PSS to children and women at risk or survivors of violence, abuse and exploitation and their caregivers. A total of 231,035 boys and girls and 205,777 adults were sensitized on CP/PSS; 37,210 children were sensitized on negative impacts of child labour; and 42,410 caregivers and community members were reached with awareness on child rights and prevention of child labour.

A total of 130,434 boys and girls benefited from structured community-based PSS, early childhood programmes and child protection; while 48,837 caregivers benefited from caregiver programmes and parenting support groups. A total of 195,740 individuals were sensitized on GBV, of which 58,703 – mainly women and girls at risk or survivors of GBV – accessed mobile and static safe spaces including PSS, including 1,362 who benefited from Informal Skills Training. A total of 16,665 boys and girls at high risk and survivors accessed focused psychosocial support programmes, of which 4,172 boys and girls were referred to and accessed child protection case management services.

Increasing economic vulnerability, with limited available assistance, especially for refugee women and children at risk, further exacerbated the use of negative coping mechanisms. To strengthen and improve child protection prevention and response services, referral systems and linkages between different service providers needs to be strengthened. Tensions between host and displaced communities reached unprecedented levels, leading to adverse consequences such as evictions and violence against highly vulnerable refugee women, girls and boys, affecting their safe mobility. In response, mobile safe spaces and mobile child friendly spaces promptly and effectively provided necessary PSS support and sensitization activities. The combination of mobile and static safe spaces had a great impact on reaching those ‘invisible’ populations.

An M&E tool was developed by the SGBV Task Force in 2016 to assess UNICEF Lebanon’s safe space activities and the increased feeling of safety among women and girls, their expanded knowledge on GBV, strengthened social networks, and service seeking behaviour. The tool was piloted in the second half of 2016 and UNICEF Lebanon will support its review, finalization and roll out in 2017, which will allow for more systematic and regular collection and analysis of information.

OUTPUT 4 Child Protection and GBV is mainstreamed into other sectors and their capacity on CP & GBV is strengthened.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Lebanon and partners, through the MoSA NP and the LCRP framework, strengthened capacity of child protection and GBV service providers. Capacity building included training on the national SOPs on case management for professional case managers and social workers and on safe identification and referral for front line service providers, including community outreach volunteers. This effort exceeded planned targets and allowed for the transfer of capacity to Government structures, mainly Social Development Centres (SDCs), schools, public healthcare facilities and community-based organizations. Ensuring that staff and institutions were equipped with the appropriate technical skills, knowledge and infrastructure allowed for the continuous provision of services, with child protection and GBV cases safely detected and/or referred in a timely manner.

UNICEF Lebanon continued its support to MoSA through implementation of the Law 293 by raising the awareness of 75 MoSA and SDC social workers on domestic violence against women and children; training 30 social workers to manage judicial processes of GBV cases; and reaching an initial agreement with MoSA to draft constitutional bylaws to allow for the establishment of a special fund to support survivors of domestic violence.

UNICEF Lebanon provided multi-sectoral services for GBV survivors by supporting a midway house. Services provided included PSS and legal counselling to women; and access to economic empowerment activities, including vocational training, financial literacy and tool kit provision. More than 1,362 women and adolescent girls of appropriate age benefitted from these activities.

UNICEF Lebanon scaled up interventions that target adolescent girls through a series of life skills-based tools. Developed by UNICEF Lebanon and partners to address the specific needs of adolescent girls and equip them with knowledge and skills, the tools help girls to reduce, prevent and respond to GBV, as well as increased their confidence and build their resilience.

Collaboration with the MoPH continued in 2016 with support to 16 health facilities for strengthening their capacity in Clinical Management of Rape (CMR). The facilities were provided with a four session coaching programme and ensured that the lifesaving treatment respected survivor-centred principles, such as confidentiality, privacy, and non-discrimination of survivors. To ensure safe collection of forensic evidence, UNICEF Lebanon supported the training of nine forensic doctors and the Director of the Forensic Department in the Ministry of Justice on CMR.

To promote synergy between the national and local levels, UNICEF Lebanon supported sensitization training for 15 nurses and midwives from SDCs and 20 key staff from the Internal Security Forces (ISF) on referral channels and increased their skills and knowledge to better prevent, detect, and respond to GBV cases. The training provided practical knowledge and skills for ISF staff to ensure that participants were well informed about CMR service delivery.

UNICEF Lebanon provided guidance to six sector leads and co-leads on collection of national and subnational data for sector reporting, including WASH, education and child protection, which included training on systematic use of disaggregated data to enhance equity-focused implementation of programmes, in particular as they pertained to children and women.
OUTPUT 5 Child Protection & GBV violations are mitigated and addressed.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Lebanon’s technical support for the implementation of the MoSA NP strengthened the coordination and delivery of child protection and GBV services, ensuring greater coverage, effectiveness and efficiency in the response. This was coupled by timely and quality capacity strengthening of child protection and GBV actors, especially on the national SOPs and case management tools and for non-child protection actors to safely identify and refer child protection and GBV cases.

The MoSA NP became an integrated programme covering protection, health and nutrition, justice and education. It became a catalyst for establishing MoSA as the core child protection case management. At the same time, MoSA NP also proved a useful entry point for engagement with other relevant Ministries such as Justice, Education, Labour and Health, paving the way to ensuring timely, multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral and efficient response in safeguarding children in need of special protection.

As a result, the number of children provided with case management and children individually assisted by specialized services exceeded its target. In 2016, 4,172 children (1,821 boys and 2,318 girls) were assisted through case management and 2,378 children (1,084 boys and 1,288 girls) were provided with specialized services. Although UNICEF Lebanon exceeded its targets, there was still a lack of specialized services for some child protection cases in rural areas, such as lack of mental health services and alternative care options for children.

OUTCOME 3 Ensure that the right to quality education for all children (girls and boys) is fulfilled in a protective learning environment.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In its final year of implementation, the Reaching All Children with Education (RACE I) Strategy resulted in significant successes, increasing the access to quality formal and non-formal education (NFE) opportunities for vulnerable Lebanese and non-Lebanese children. In line with the No Lost Generation initiative, RACE I interventions were achieved through the improved abilities of national systems and institutions to provide education services.

With regard to improving access to the formal education system, UNICEF Lebanon supported 113,328 non-Lebanese children and 144,312 Lebanese children with enrolment into formal education for the 2015-16 scholastic year. The term non-Lebanese refers to all refugee children in Lebanon, except for Palestinian refugees already residing in Lebanon (PRL), whose education was supported through UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). For the scholastic year 2015-16, a total of 357,735 Lebanese and non-Lebanese children received school supplies comprised of stationery and learning materials.

UNICEF Lebanon’s technical support in drafting the national Lebanese NFE framework was key to improving access to education opportunities for children who had missed several years of schooling or for those who had never attended school before. Regulated NFE programmes under this framework provided certified reintegration pathways to those children who could not previously qualify for entry into formal education. The NFE Framework also clarified the different types of admissible programmes and implementation modalities, and outlined the role of Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) in governance and quality control of these programmes. The content of several NFE programmes under this framework, including Community-Based Early Childhood Education (CB-ECE), Preparation-Early Childhood Education, the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP), and retention support, were revised and regulated and later formalized as regulated
and certified MEHE NFE programmes. The regulated ALP continued in its second year of implementation with 17,605 children enrolled. An evaluation of this programme was in its final stages of endorsement from the MEHE and will be instrumental in designing a better roll out for the upcoming year.

Success in improving access in formal and non-formal education opportunities was aided by UNICEF Lebanon’s support to core technical positions at the MEHE and its key institutions – the Directorate General, the Project Management Unit (emergency response unit), the Department of Orientation and Guidance (DOPS), and the Centre for Educational Research Development (CERD). This resulted in several changes at the systemic level. The national framework for NFE was drafted and finalized. A five-year education response strategy (RACE II) was drafted and endorsed. Discussions on the revision of the teaching curriculum were initiated. A national symposium on education for children with special needs was organized/ National protocols for child protection in schools were in the final stages of endorsement.

Notwithstanding the expansion of the public education absorption capacity, significant demand-side bottlenecks remained. UNICEF Lebanon addressed them through the Back-to-Learning initiative that ran throughout the year, engaging parents, households, and communities on social attitudes to education, informing caregivers of various education pathways available, and also ensuring cases of institutional barriers to enrolment were forwarded to the MEHE.

Adolescents and youth were particularly vulnerable to neglect, exploitation and depression, and lack of services made them the demographic most in need of support in Lebanon. A total of 95,602 Lebanese and non-Lebanese girls and boys ages 15-24 years benefited from formal and non-formal learning and skills-building opportunities to build their knowledge, skills and professional readiness in 2016. In response to their vulnerability, UNICEF Lebanon provided learning services with the intention of increased marketability and transfer of skills to shorten the transition period from school to the job market. The objective of the programme intervention was to reverse the current trend of youth apathy and disengagement in society, and transition into an improved environment for increased decision-making and positive engagement in education, focusing on preparedness for transition from school to work.

OUTPUT 1 Appropriate technical expertise and administrative support are provided to the programme of cooperation, to ensure UNICEF’s value added in terms of programme implementation.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

During 2016, a key component of institutional development was the strengthening of MEHE’s institutional units and the reinforcement of a RACE Project Management Unit (PMU). UNICEF Lebanon financially supported the deployment of 19 experts at the PMU (Legal advisor; formal education and non-formal education; vocational education specialist; field monitors; financial officer; engineers; IT experts; NGO coordinator). UNICEF Lebanon also supported deployment of nine experts at CERD (platform technicians; curriculum design experts; finance officers; project coordinators); six experts at DOPS (child protection, public health, special needs, and education officers) and four experts at the Director General office (legal advisor, architect, IT officer). UNICEF Lebanon also worked with MEHE to build the capacity of five MEHE engineers and architects and 13 field coordinators, in order to conduct school building assessments. Three consultancy firms were selected through a legal bidding process (with MEHE involved in the technical evaluation) to conduct the
rehabilitation of 181 schools throughout Lebanon. Rehabilitation will commence in January 2017.

OUTPUT 2 National education systems, policies and monitoring strengthened.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2016, UNICEF Lebanon and its partners supported MEHE to implement the Reaching All Children with Education in Lebanon (RACE) I Strategy. It was essential to reinforce robust national education policies and systems, as well as to strengthen MEHE’s oversight and monitoring capacities to deliver quality education services to all children in Lebanon. In this context, UNICEF Lebanon supported MEHE to strengthen its technical arm for quality monitoring (DOPS – Department d’Orientation Pedagogique et Scolaire), which is the specific body mandated by MEHE to undertake in-class monitoring and guide improvement in teaching methods. UNICEF Lebanon also provided funds to ensure increased monitoring visits to 238 second-shift schools by academic counsellors, psychosocial support supervisors and health supervisors.

UNICEF Lebanon took additional steps to support monitoring of programme implementation in Lebanese public schools. In February and April 2016, InfoPro (a national information provider) conducted two waves of field monitoring visits to second-shift schools. (Only selected schools with more than 50 non-Lebanese children were visited). The enrolment and attendance of children in these schools was verified by different parameters (by cycle, nationality and gender).

UNICEF Lebanon also led the development of a database platform, known as Compiler. This platform was designed to record enrolment and attendance of children in second-shift. Data was entered on this platform by different partners and stakeholders thus limiting errors and allowing for the detection of duplication.

Following the rollout of the pilot Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) in 2015, for which UNICEF Lebanon provided technical guidance on curriculum development, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were formalized with UNICEF Lebanon’s support. CERD was also provided with a consultant to supervise four experts deployed to CERD to assess, review, and provide the ALP teacher training package. Planning processes were supported both through deployments and through direct staff support (including budgeting). An evaluation of the ALP Pilot was also conducted; at year end the document was in the final stages of endorsement by the Government.

UNICEF Lebanon’s support was key to drafting the national Lebanese NFE framework. The NFE Framework clarifies the different types of admissible programmes and implementation modalities and outlines the role of MEHE in governance and quality control of these programmes. The content of several NFE programmes under this framework, including Community-Based Early Childhood Education (CB-ECE), Preparation-Early Childhood Education, the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP), and retention support, were revised and regulated and later formalized as regulated and certified MEHE NFE programmes.

OUTPUT 3 Equitable access to educational opportunities.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
For the 2015-2016 scholastic year, a total of 144,312 Lebanese and 113,328 non-Lebanese children were supported by UNICEF Lebanon to enrol into formal (pre-primary and basic) education.

UNICEF Lebanon’s commitment to increasing enrolment was strengthened by scaling up the
Back-to-Learning campaign during the months prior to the start of the scholastic year. Interventions aimed to educate and raise awareness among parents and caregivers on various services provided by the MEHE to support enrolment into formal education, as well as encourage them to adopt positive attitudes towards and prioritize education services in the public sector. The campaign involved four key components: a mass media campaign at national level; outreach and mobilization at the community level; case management at the family level; and increased engagement and readiness of public school administrators. Unlike previous years, in 2016 the initiative involved case management at the family level and increased engagement and readiness on the part of public school administrators, to ensure greater effectiveness of the campaign.

Notwithstanding the expansion of the public sector absorption capacity, there were still children unable to access formal schooling because they were ineligible to do so (having already lost two or more years of education). To ensure that their right to education was fulfilled, UNICEF Lebanon, through NGO partners, provided access for 29,354 children into non-formal education programmes as a pathway to formal education (17,605 in ALP, 7,087 in CB-ECE, 4,662 in Basic Literacy and Numeracy).

More than 30,000 children were provided with transportation during the 2015-16 scholastic year.

**OUTPUT 4** Quality of teaching and learning enhanced.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
With UNICEF Lebanon’s support, several international non-governmental organization (INGO) partnerships were initiated, which resulted in 32,479 school children receiving remedial education classes and/or homework support. Vetted by MEHE, these INGO partners worked with school directors to identify students struggling with learning and organized catch-up classes and homework support for these pupils.

Part of ensuring quality education was the continued procurement and distribution of teaching and learning materials and school supplies. For the scholastic year 2015-16, a total of 357,735 Lebanese and non-Lebanese children received school supplies comprised of stationery and learning materials, which alleviated some of the costs of schooling for vulnerable families, thus facilitating access to education for many children. For the 2016-17 scholastic year, school supplies were distributed to 1,132 schools in five districts. School supplies included stationery, more than 270,000 school bags and approximately 1,700 Early Childhood Development kits. These supplies potentially covered up to 400,000 children.

**OUTPUT 5** Adolescents and Youth have equitable access to learning opportunities, economic empowerment, skills building and meaningful participation

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In 2016, UNICEF Lebanon engaged in several systems strengthening activities. An agreement was reached with the Ministry of Youth and Sport (MoYS), under the leadership of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Youth, for the development of a three-year Action Plan for the existing National Youth Policy. The Action Plan will translate a range of guiding principles, Ministerial decisions, decrees and strategies into a set of prioritized activities. This will facilitate tangible results for the improvement of the situation of youth in Lebanon. A corresponding monitoring and evaluation platform will enhance the ability of the Government to monitor implementation of the Action Plan and allow for an assessment of progress at both the central and local levels. An annual report will be generated highlighting...
any budget allocation adjustments. This process will be also informed by mapping youth NGOs in the humanitarian sector and compiling youth life skills materials used by partners and NGOs and produced with support from UNICEF Lebanon.

The review of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) vocational education curriculum was initiated in 2016 through a review of the landscape curriculum; elaboration of the ‘Animal production’ and ‘Vegetable production’ curriculum and review of corresponding reference books; development of three short courses (100 hours) on olive and soap, wheat and dairy products and jams and herbs; and development of five medium courses (300 hours) and their corresponding handbooks on beekeeping, poultry, irrigation, grafting and pruning, and urban agriculture. Thirty-five MOA school teachers also received training on this topic.

A total of 1,032 marginalised Lebanese and non-Lebanese youth were enrolled in employability and agriculture training courses with MOA. Some 16,080 youth benefited from entrepreneurship, employability and competency-based trainings, with many being referred and placed in jobs within the local market. Basic, advanced and functional literacy and numeracy courses were provided for more than 18,175 youth not in school and working youth ages 15 years and older.

UNICEF Lebanon, together with partners, reached 37,350 youth through life-skills and conflict resolution training. Issues discussed included civic engagement, tolerance and acceptance, self-development, health; hygiene and education. An additional 21,964 adolescents benefited from sport for development programmes, which used sport as a tool to empower marginalized youth by building their confidence; and developing leadership, initiative, civic engagement, a sense of responsibility, teamwork and other life-skills that they will use in their personal and professional lives.

One thousand adolescents and youth were equipped with skills and training in design thinking, development, rapid prototyping, digital skills and lean start-up methods to create projects and solutions for social issues affecting their lives and communities. Through a series of workshops, youth learned how to identify problems, conduct market research, brainstorm solutions, and build and test prototypes. The participants acquired transferable professional skills and learned to apply those skills to design solutions for the various social challenges they face within their communities.

OUTCOME 4 Refugee and other affected children and adolescents benefit from essential health, nutrition, WASH and other support, as per the CCGs.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Health, nutrition and WASH interventions were provided to children regardless of nationality throughout Lebanon in 2016. The needs of the most vulnerable children were determined based on the Vulnerability Assessment. UNICEF Lebanon continued to respond to those immediate and medium-term needs, including those of Syrian refugees, vulnerable Lebanese poor, Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS), and Lebanese returnees.

In health and nutrition, UNICEF Lebanon’s support for improved access to and utilization of Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC) facilities and Social Development Centres (SDCs) contributed to 1,247,508 PHC consultations, of which 307,673 were for children U5 and 28,672 were for pregnant and lactating women.

UNICEF Lebanon supported 17 mobile medical units covering more than 3,746 Informal Settlements (IS) and equipped 220 PHCs and 220 SDCs with vaccines, cold chain and acute medications enabling lifesaving interventions for children and women. Health care
workers were trained on malnutrition screening, identification and referral at 220 PHCs, equipping them with the skills needed to monitor malnutrition within communities. A total of 11,874 pregnant and lactating women and 147,424 children under five (U5) received multi-micronutrient supplementation.

Under the Maternal and child health programme, 25 midwives were trained as trainers on emergency OBS-GYN and neonatal care and 225 were trained on reproductive health. They delivered IYCF and breastfeeding awareness sessions to 33,500 women, as well sensitized and ensured 1,800 beneficiaries to attend awareness sessions covering various reproductive health topics. Nutrition, vaccination promotion and encouragement to seek appropriate health care at PHC level.

In response to the needs of vulnerable populations in water and sanitation, UNICEF Lebanon’s first priority was to ensure the continuity of WASH services in Informal Settlements (IS), considered the most at-risk areas due to the absence of public services and the density of population.

In 2016, UNICEF Lebanon provided comprehensive temporary WASH packages to more than 125,000 Syrian Refugees (out of 227,000) living in IS, making UNICEF Lebanon the lead agency in WASH in emergency. UNICEF Lebanon engaged and provided technical support to six partners: Solidarites International, Concern Worldwide, Action Contre La Faim (ACF), World Vision, LOST, and Comitato Internazionale Per Lo Sviluppo Del Popoli (CISP). This collaboration and implementation of services led to no water-related disease outbreaks being reported in 2016. A major challenge remained in transferring service provision to local stakeholders such as WASH committees, municipalities or Water Establishments (WE). Nonetheless, the Ministry of Energy and Water, with support from UNICEF Lebanon, conducted an external technical assessment of IS aimed at identifying alternative, cost effective and sustainable solutions to ongoing de-sludging activities.

Within the integrated UNICEF Lebanon programme between Health-Nutrition and Child protection, the Mental Health program for the MOPH was supported, focusing on capacity building, staffing and psychotropic drugs procurement in order to allow the institutionalization of mental health services under the umbrella of MoPH.

During 2016, 74 PHC centres, members of the MoPH Network were selected to be involved in the implementation of the mental health programme at the MoPH. Those centres benefited from training of their staff (222 health staff were given basic training, and 29 received advanced training). The number of mental health consultations performed reached 3,800, of which 2,860 were diagnosed with mental health disorders.

OUTPUT 1 Vulnerable girls, boys, and women, including Syrian, Lebanese, and PRS access expanded program for immunization and to quality PHC services.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and UNICEF Lebanon conducted two sub-national polio immunization campaigns in the most vulnerable and at risk localities, with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and a non-governmental organization partner, BEYOND. In total, 383,075 under-5 children were reached (128 per cent of the children targeted for each round). A total of 38,603 children under one-year were reached with first dose of pentavalent vaccine through PHCs and dispensaries (74 per cent of the annual target of 89,869 children under-one).

A total of 3,558 Syrian children under one-year were reached with the first dose of Pentavalent vaccine through mobile vaccination teams and mobile medical units as a result of UNICEF Lebanon’s efforts to provide all required vaccines, cold chain systems, refrigerated vans, and installation of cold rooms to the MoPH and partner organization to
reach Lebanese and non-Lebanese children with routine immunization in Lebanon. This included the purchase and ongoing installation of 289 solar and 585 Sibir fridges. All 220 PHCs and 220 of MoSA SDCs were supported with acute medications, vaccines, cold-chain equipment, medical supplies and equipment, and anthropometric equipment for screening and treatment of malnutrition.

Seventeen mobile medical units were established and supported by UNICEF Lebanon, covering more than 1,000 Informal Settlements (IS) through provision of free immunization, examination, acute medications, and referral to secondary health care services. UNICEF Lebanon celebrated World Immunization Week in coordination with the MoPH and WHO. UNICEF Lebanon contributed to the provision of PHC services (930,834 consultations). In response to the influx of Syrian refugees, UNICEF Lebanon and partners increased capacity and ensured availability of services for those most in need of healthcare.

Twenty-four Government hospitals were provided with interagency emergency health kits, obstetric kits, and midwifery kits to enable lifesaving interventions for women and children, as well as safe deliveries for the newborns and the provision of other emergency obstetric procedures including clinical management of rape. UNICEF Lebanon ensured that all PHC facilities, district physician offices and SDCs were equipped with appropriate cold chain systems to appropriately store adequate quantities of vaccines and maintain vaccine vial management. A total of 985 Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) staff were trained on effective vaccine management. The training enhanced their skills and capacities and provided materials and tools needed to monitor and assess vaccine supply chains and vaccine management and reduce adverse events following immunization.

The Syrian conflict posed challenges to access, coverage and provision of quality immunization services, which resulted in outbreaks of measles and ongoing outbreaks of mumps across the country. Lack of community trust in vaccines and services in the public sector and polio outbreaks in two neighbouring countries, Syria and Iraq, put Lebanon at risk of reintroduction of the wild polio virus owing to increased population movement to and from these countries. In nutrition, lack of adequate staff in the primary health units slowed down the institutionalization of the nutrition programme in the countries. Infant and young child feeding (IYCF) services have not been integrated into PHC services.

**OUTPUT 2** National systems strengthened and most vulnerable population (especially girls, boys and women) have protected and reliable access to sufficient, safe drinking-water and sanitation and hygiene facilities.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
A major advancement in 2016 was the strengthening of relationships with several Government Ministries, particularly the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW). This facilitated the implementation of stabilization projects in a cost-effective and timely manner. UNICEF Lebanon implemented WASH infrastructure projects in accordance with the basic principles of the National Water Sector Strategy. During 2016 UNICEF Lebanon implemented 67 water infrastructure projects across the country to replace or extend pipelines (stretching 190 kilometres); equip 21 water points; and construct 14 reservoirs improving access to safe and sustainable water for approximately 560,000 people in the most vulnerable municipalities, and improve wastewater systems for 153,426 people. These achievements did not reach the target of 939,563 and 250,032 beneficiaries, respectively, due to higher cost per capita than expected. This sector was under-funded and delays in funding resulted in a significant number of projects being deferred to 2017.

Approximately 117,000 Syrian Refugees (out of 227,000 living in Informal Settlements) received complete temporary WASH services, making UNICEF Lebanon the main agency
UNICEF Lebanon significantly exceeded its target of 470,358 for improved solid waste services, reaching 839,000 people in 2016.

A key mechanism for ensuring timely delivery of multiple projects was a result of direct engagement with the private sector, which reduced transaction costs and limited absorption capacity associated with managing implementing NGO partners. A transparent and accountable bidding process following strict UN approved procedures ensured selection of the most appropriate companies, both in terms of technical competence and cost effectiveness. A team of consultants was engaged to supervise the design and implementation of several projects. Utilization of the strong technical skills available in the private sector in Lebanon allowed UNICEF staff to focus on the management of delivery. The major advantage of this direct implementation was to avoid burdening INGOs with additional tasks. However, a disadvantage was the reduced opportunity for the most disadvantaged groups to participate in the selection, design and implementation of the projects. Another challenge was the identification of priority projects, which target the most vulnerable, due to the lack of data collection and analysis in the sector.

UNICEF Lebanon maintained a key role in the WASH sector, preparing biddings for MoEW for use by UNICEF Lebanon and the entire sector, ensuring an equitable process and the prioritization of projects in vulnerable areas.

OUTPUT 3 Vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian populations provided with essential supplies and non-food items including winterization kits.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Lebanese winters are harsh, with snow in the mountains, especially for the children residing in informal settlements, unfinished buildings and in sub-standard conditions. These conditions were worsened by economic difficulties of both the poor Lebanese and refugee families due to the impact of the refugee crisis on the host communities and the decreasing livelihood opportunities for refugees in 2016.

In 2016, UNICEF finalized its 2015/2016 winter in-kind based response and also planned and implemented 100 per cent of its 2016/2017 winter response by 31 December, 2016, excluding the Fuel for School programme (86 per cent of the schools eligible to receive fuel received a first round of distribution). The response included Fuel for School and age-sized winter clothing kits for Syrian refugee children living in Informal Settlements in hard to reach areas.

In specific hard-to-reach areas where cash couldn’t be provided, winter clothing kits were distributed. While the cash grant was of US$40 per child, each kit included: a jacket, pants, waterproof boots, socks, gloves, scarf, wool hat and warm underclothes. In total, 39,241 winter clothing kits were distributed (of which 3,867 kits were for 2015/2016 winter).

To ensure that children had a safe and warm environment to learn in, and to help to decrease the risk of children dropping out of classes during the 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 winter months, UNICEF provided a fuel contribution to the schools. Across the country, 564 public schools in early 2016 benefited from fuel assistance, and 487 schools in late 2016 received fuel to provide heating and electricity for classrooms (including 145 second shift schools).
OUTPUT 4 Appropriate technical expertise and administrative support are provided to the programme of cooperation, to ensure UNICEF’s value added in terms of emergency programme coordination.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2016, UNICEF Lebanon took over the UN lead role in support of the government coordination in Education, Child Protection and Water sectors, and put in place dedicated coordinators at national and field levels, as well as dedicated Information Managers. UNICEF Lebanon contributed to the inter-agency humanitarian architecture, including development of an inter-sectoral contingency plan at the national level and coordination of Education, Child Protection and Water sectors (including one sub-sector) through implementation of Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) in 2016. The LCRP was in response to the Syrian Crisis, with 1.5 million Syrians displaced from Syria and 1.5 million vulnerable Lebanese. UNICEF Lebanon also led the sectors in the planning of the LCRP 2017-2020, which addresses immediate humanitarian needs as well as longer term stabilization efforts.

In education, UNICEF Lebanon played a key role in the Back-to-Learning and Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) led by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, in mobilizing partners and outreach. All partners engaged in training, workshops and continued follow-up, resulting in large scale mobilization and referrals to public schools.

Internally, E-Programme Planning Process (E-PPP) training was conducted for new staff to increase overall office capacity in emergencies. UNICEF Lebanon contingency plans were developed at the field level, with contingency stock in place.

OUTPUT 5 Vulnerable girls, boys, and women, including Syrian, Lebanese, and PRS access nutrition services.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Lebanon’s Nutrition Strategic Programme focused on the consolidation of acute malnutrition management into the Ministry of Public Health’s (MoPH) primary healthcare system to increase nutrition programme coverage countrywide and work towards a sustainable and Government-led health and nutrition programme. UNICEF Lebanon continued to support its counterparts to integrate nutrition services within the primary health care system and to ensure equitable access to nutrition services for all vulnerable Lebanese, Syrian and Palestine communities in Lebanon. UNICEF Lebanon supported the implementation of nutrition-specific interventions to prevent under-five mortality and morbidity resulting from malnutrition and also mitigated the effect of the prolonged conflict on the health and nutritional wellbeing of children and other vulnerable groups among refugees and host communities.

In collaboration with the partner BEYOND, UNICEF Lebanon supported the provision of nutrition-specific interventions for vulnerable communities through 17 medical mobile teams in Informal Settlements. This included nutrition screening, referrals, provision of micronutrient supplements for pregnant and lactating women and U5 children, and provision of transportation fees and consultations fees in 62 Nutrition Management Centres for severely and moderately malnourished children. UNICEF Lebanon continued its support to MoPH and MoSA in 216 PHCs and 60 SDCs with the provision of nutrition commodities, supplies, and capacity building to ensure continuous quality nutrition services for all vulnerable populations. During 2016, a total of 140,349 children were screened, out of which 479 were treated for acute malnutrition, and a total of 101,936 pregnant and lactating women and U5 children were provided with micro-nutrient supplements.
UNICEF Lebanon focused on community-based awareness and sensitization activities among refugees as well as host communities relating to nutrition services and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices (IYCF), which included early initiation of breast feeding, exclusive breast feeding, and complementary feeding. UNICEF Lebanon, in collaboration with various partners across the country, supported the provision of education and awareness sessions on nutrition services and IYCF practices. This was conducted through door to door visits, focus group discussions, breast feeding campaigns, distribution of leaflets and brochures and provision of nutrition counselling. Throughout 2016 a total of 23,783 women were sensitized on IYCF practices.

In order to gain a clear understanding of the evolution of the food and nutrition status of the Syrian refugees in Lebanon, UNICEF Lebanon, in collaboration with International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), World Food Programme (WFP) and UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), supported the realization of a nutrition assessment of U5 children among the Syrian displaced population during the Vulnerability Assessment of the Syrian refugees in (VASyR) in Lebanon. The nutrition assessment conducted in Lebanon identified a Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 2.3 per cent (categorized by WHO as an acceptable prevalence of malnutrition). Although the rate indicates a stable malnutrition state across the country, the underlying causes of malnutrition, such as high disease burden, declining household food insecurity and poor dietary diversity, were found to be sub-optimal, which necessitates continuation of the IYCF practices.

**OUTPUT 6** Appropriate technical expertise and administrative support are provided to the programme of cooperation, to ensure UNICEF’s value added in terms of health & nutrition programme implementation.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF Lebanon ensured the presence of technical staff in the health and nutrition programme, supporting staff at the Ministry level, including 15 food safety inspectors, two health information service officers, one IT staff, two support staff (logistics & driver), two operators, one pharmacist and one public health support officer within the MoPH, and three public health assistants within the MoSA. The food safety inspectors were selected from equivalent scientific fields and were subject to extensive technical training from national food safety experts at Ministry level to support the implementation of the nutrition programme. A large capacity building programme took place in the following areas: effective vaccine management; polio campaigns; outpatient and inpatient management of SAM; nutrition in emergency training; proper use and basic maintenance of installed cold chains system; and training on IPV introduction in the Palestinian programme.

**OUTPUT 7** Appropriate technical expertise and administrative support are provided to the programme of cooperation, to ensure UNICEF’s value added in terms of WASH programme implementation

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Building relevant and technically qualified human resource capacity within the WEs and Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) continued in 2016. This included embedding two Hydraulic Engineers and three Information Managers in WEs to ensure that water sector project design and data management was strategic and sustainable; and a Groundwater Specialist, Communication Officer and senior-level Advisor in MoEW to ensure that implementation of projects was consistent with national (water/wastewater) strategies and the development of integrated water resource master plans. In addition to supporting MoEW’s visibility, UNICEF Lebanon engaged a senior-level Communication Specialist to improve
visibility and financial independence of WEs through the development of a Communications Strategy with implementation of key interventions to raise the potential for WEs to raise sufficient water service rates.

UNICEF Lebanon trained 20 staff from the Ministry of Public Health and MoEW on water quality as well as key partners on water quality survey, public health promotion and community mobilization. Government and UNICEF Lebanon staff received Communication for Development (C4D) training to help build a common understanding and capacity of C4D for effective programme implementation, with seven focal points identified within Ministries to further promote the integration of C4D.

OUTPUT 8 Access to quality basic social services and protection is improved for Palestinian children and adolescents

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The vulnerability of Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) during the winter months was highlighted by UNRWA’s winterization post-distribution monitoring (PDM) survey for 2015-2016, which revealed that 77.3 per cent of the Palestinian refugees did not have sufficient access to fuel for heating. Many lived in unfinished shelters, which were not insulated, including garages, work-sites or warehouses. Nearly 90 per cent of their families lived under the poverty line in 2015 and approximately 95 per cent of families reported that UNRWA assistance was their only source of income. Cash assistance was and severely necessary.

UNICEF Lebanon’s support for winterization was instrumental to UNRWA’s 2015/2016 winterization assistance. Support was provided through two key activities: the provision of cash assistance through ATM cards; and in-kind donation of 80,000 litres of fuel to schools to ensure school attendance. This support benefitted a total of 15,283 children.

OUTCOME 5 Improved evidence-based advocacy and communication at national and community level on children in Lebanon

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Due to the protracted crisis in Syrian, UNICEF Lebanon continued its efforts to highlight the situation of all children in Lebanon, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable, regardless of nationality. Despite growing fatigue and decreased interest from the media and the public, UNICEF Lebanon succeeded in maintaining collaboration with UNICEF National Committees and international media on child-related issues, resulting in 321 mentions in local, regional and international media. UNICEF Lebanon’s ‘open door’ policy to UNICEF National Committees continued to be key for ensuring tailor-made fundraising and advocacy material, engaging journalists, and bolstering the voice of UNICEF Lebanon in local markets. Twenty-four UNICEF National Committee missions were supported in 2016, including visits from prominent UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors.

The requirement of donor visibility increased and resulted in a scale-up of communication staff members. In addition to producing 48 donor visibility reports in 2016, UNICEF Lebanon supported seven high-level donor visits, press conferences, media visits and other communication activities.

In its efforts to ensure that voices of children were given prominent platforms, UNICEF Lebanon implemented four projects encouraging participation and representation of children’s voices. #ImagineaSchool was a multimedia project on Syrian children’s struggle for education, consisting of an interactive documentary, website, and a photo exhibition, based on in-depth interviews with 19 Syrian children across Lebanon. They address different challenges on their path to accessing education. The material was used in part to advocate for the No Lost Generation initiative. ‘Picture & Story’ (‘Soura w Hkayeh’ in Arabic) gave 90
adolescents and youth from Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Palestine the opportunity to attend a training on photography and writing skills to develop photo-essays about their lives and communities, promoting understanding and cohesion. The outcome was a book and an exhibition to be launched in 2017. ‘Haneen’ was a project based on stories written by Syrian refugee children about their lives in Lebanon, brought to the public through illustrations by Syrian and Lebanese artists. Caravan Goes to School was built around audio recordings from Syrian refugees about their lives in Lebanon, turned into street theatre supported by UNICEF Lebanon, where Syrian adolescents re-enacted the stories through performances in Lebanese towns.

In 2016, UNICEF Lebanon continued to expand its reach and engagement on digital platforms, with an increase of 33 per cent in 12 months. The single biggest reach on Facebook was the Back-to-Learning campaign television spot, reaching nearly half a million users. In 2016 UNICEF Lebanon’s social media platforms were also used as two-way communication channels as part of the Back-to-Learning campaign, allowing parents and beneficiaries to directly ask questions and get responses on registration issues.

**OUTPUT 1** The situation of children and UNICEF-supported programmes are monitored and evaluated.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF Lebanon continued to scale-up its monitoring systems to supply accurate information on changing needs, progress of programmes and results for children.

Annual Work Plans (AWP) of all UNICEF Lebanon programmes were finalized in 2016. The AWP 2017 process was for the first time conducted in a decentralized manner with zonal offices first undertaking consultations to draft their own workplans, that later fed into national programme workplans.

UNICEF Lebanon supported the planning process of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) 2017-2020 between the Government and the inter-Agency humanitarian response.

UNICEF Lebanon continued supporting the online system, ActivityInfo, adopted by the LCRP steering committee to monitor and report progress for all sector response plans. UNICEF Lebanon trained more than 100 implementing partners to ensure reliable and accurate reporting. Monthly validation routines were introduced with the support of UNICEF Lebanon zonal and national level information managers. Results were fed directly into the monthly programme management meetings for frequent progress tracking and results-based decision making as well as into situation reports in the Humanitarian Performance Monitoring (HPM) indicators table, all of which are reported to the Regional Office.

UNICEF Lebanon aligned field monitoring practices with global UNICEF guidelines and reinforced field monitoring visits by third-party monitors to extend reach and coverage. To gain further insight on the relevance of UNICEF Lebanon-funded programmes, a third-party company was commissioned to conduct focus group discussions with affected populations on the appropriateness and usefulness of the services provided. The results of these discussions helped programmes to identify bottlenecks and adjust their implementation appropriately.

To strengthen the planning process of the AWPs, 196 UNICEF Lebanon staff were trained on Results-Based Management (RBM). As a core member of the inter-agency planning group, and to further strengthen RBM practices, UNICEF Lebanon provided basic training on RBM concepts to all sectors participating in the LCRP planning process. This helped to
ensure a common understanding of terms across the nine different sectors and strengthen the focus on achievement of results. RBM training was also made available for line Ministries.

UNICEF Lebanon supported the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) in the transition from their original ad hoc form of data collection to a web platform, called Compiler, which consolidates data concerning students in second-shift schools and in Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) schools at the central level. The Compiler application allows student attendance to be tracked and stored.

UNICEF Lebanon finalized the baseline survey conducted with Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA). The results were used as a baseline for the Country Programme 2017-2020. UNICEF Lebanon conducted and finalized the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) water quality survey and analyzed the results in collaboration of MoPH and WHO. In partnership with World Food Programme (WFP) and UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF Lebanon carried out the Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees (VASyR) and finalized the Situation Analysis for children and youth in Lebanon.

OUTPUT 2 Increased attention and awareness on the situation of the most marginalized children

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Media outreach efforts resulted in more than 318 mentions of UNICEF Lebanon in traditional media outlets. Forty-five UNICEF National Committees and high-level missions and six UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors visited Lebanon in 2016, boosting fundraising and advocacy activities. Fifty-four national and international photograph and video production missions were organized in 2016, producing a variety of multimedia products.

The requirement of donor visibility increased and resulted in a scale-up of Communication staff members. In addition to producing 48 donor visibility reports in 2016, UNICEF Lebanon supported seven high-level donor visits, press conferences, media visits and other communication activities. In its efforts to ensure that voices of children were given prominent platforms, UNICEF Lebanon implemented four projects encouraging participation and representation of children’s voices.

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Challenges faced in 2016 included additional pressure and demand on staff to provide visibility for donors and partners due to expanded international outreach activities. Further development is needed to improve the capacity of staff and partners to adequately deal with
media and communication demands.

OUTPUT 3 Increased capacity of government workers on C4D knowledge and behaviour changes.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Communication for development (C4D) continued to support the objective of increasing demand and service utilization at Service Development Centres (SDCs), Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) and schools as well as increasing knowledge and attitude on solid waste management, which would lead to appropriate utilization of sorting services.

In support of the Back-to-Learning initiative, a total of 33 partners across programmes and agencies supported the outreach component. In order to reach marginalized populations and to avoid outreach duplications, micro-plans were developed based on agreed area coverage. Through community engagement and household visits, a total of 70,561 caregivers (35,250 households) were reached. Of those, 105,841 out-of-school children were referred to both formal and non-formal education. A total of 13 advocacy meetings were conducted in all governorates, reaching 277 governors, heads of Municipality Unions, Mayors, Kaeem Makam, and religious leaders, enabling them to advocate and mobilize for BTS their areas of jurisdiction.

To provide advice and field complaints relating to children’s access to public schools, a call centre was established at the start of the 2016-2017 school year. A total of 10,606 calls were received over a period of two months. Of those, 90 per cent were closed at the call centre and 10 per cent were referred to partner hotlines for further follow up with the MEHE.

Through using edutainment, street theatre ‘The Caravan Goes to School’ performed by Syrian refugees performed 10 shows in all governorates, reaching 2,000 Syrians and 1,000 Lebanese people.
Together with 12 child protection partners working in the catchment area of the 10 pilot SDCs, C4D supported micro-planning to enable the development of community mobilization and engagement workplans for the increased demand and utilization of SDC services by both Syrians and Lebanese. Standardized child protection messages were developed based on findings from rapid focus group discussions conducted around the 10 pilot SDCs. The messages will be developed in a kit to be used by frontline workers whose main role will be to support outreach activities and referral to services.

Based on a participatory needs assessment conducted by Regional Technical Officers (RTO) in three unions of the Bekaa Governorate, community-based action plans were developed to address the priority water, sanitation and hygiene needs identified by the community. As a result of the needs prioritization, hygiene campaigns were conducted in two villages (Machjhara and Jeb Jenine), reaching 5,000 people.

OUTPUT 4 Appropriate technical expertise and administrative support are provided to the programme of cooperation, to ensure UNICEF’s value added in terms of M&E programme implementation.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Lebanon’s support to the Programme of Cooperation under the planning, monitoring and evaluation section was multifaceted. Technical guidance was provided in the implementation and management of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan in 2016 for monitoring and evaluation, budgeting, innovations, information management, planning,
knowledge management and social protection. Five zonal office Information Management Officers further extended the provision of the required technical capacity in these functions.

**OUTPUT 5** Appropriate technical expertise and administrative support are provided to the programme of cooperation, to ensure UNICEF’s value added in terms of communications programme implementation

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF Lebanon provided support to global advocacy efforts by UNICEF Headquarters and National Committees through hosting media missions and provision of communication materials for those campaigns. UNICEF Lebanon provided technical and financial support to the national campaigns for polio, Back-to-Learning and a national breastfeeding campaign. For each of these campaigns, line Ministries were the key focal points, providing public announcement messaging on the role of relevant public institutions.

**OUTCOME 6** Special Purpose

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Four new offices were acquired on the second, third and fourth floors of the office complex occupied by UNICEF Lebanon. All were upgraded and made Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS) compliant. Updates on the progress of premises being made MOSS compliant was monitored and reported regularly at the Country Management Team (CMT) and Emergency Management Team (EMT) meetings. All UNICEF vehicles were equipped with MOSS compliant communication equipment and blast-resistant film on the windows.

Staffing increased during 2016, leading to an increase in the purchase of protective equipment for the office and additional body armour, as well as handheld very high frequency (VHF) communication equipment.

Four armoured B6-level vehicles and 24 MOSS compliant soft-skin vehicles made up the UNICEF fleet. All vehicles were equipped with flak jackets and helmets to ensure safety of UNICEF Lebanon staff while on mission in Lebanon. All staff were provided with radio equipment. The warden system was reviewed, updated and tested in a live scenario following a bomb attack in Beirut on 12 June 2016.

UNICEF Lebanon and all Zonal Offices reviewed and successfully tested its Business Continuity Plan, ensuring that new places of relocation were fully equipped and operational, with staff trained as required. UNICEF Lebanon vehicles were parked at alternate locations in case of a security situation in the area of the office. The Business Continuity Plan location, at the Mövenpick Hotel in Beirut, was cost-shared with UNICEF Syria.

**OUTPUT 1** Premises and Security

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
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**OUTCOME 7** Effective & efficient programme management & operations support.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In view of the increased funding levels and programme activities of UNICEF Lebanon, staff levels grew by 28 per cent in 2016, increasing from 172 to 218 staff members. As a result, office space was expanded and investments were made in enhancing communications between UNICEF Lebanon and the five zonal offices.

**OUTPUT 1** Effective and efficient governance and systems.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF Lebanon continued to scale up its programmes and operations in 2016. Thirty-one per cent of the workforce was international and 68 per cent were professional staff. The gender balance improved to 51 per cent female and 49 per cent male. A vacancy rate of 40 per cent was observed, with 67 per cent of the staff structure filled by staff on temporary appointments. Ten surge support positions were requested through standby partners and 21 consultants were hired across programmes and operations.

Systematic orientations and inductions were conducted by operations and programmes for all new staff. Standards of conduct were part of every orientation, with a completion rate of 99 per cent for the Ethics Training Certificate.

The Learning and Training Committee (LTC) held 19 meetings and reviewed 105 learning requests. LTC guidelines focused on providing basic, mandatory and technical trainings, including the roll out of the E-Programme Planning Process (E-PPP), Competency Based Interviewing (CBI), Talent Management System (TMS), Results Based Management (RBM) and soft skills training. The utilization rate of the Learning and Development budget was 49 per cent.

The Global Staff Survey led to the implementation of action plans to improve work life balance; office efficiency and effectiveness; staff association composition and career development, and CBI.

**OUTPUT 2** Effective and efficient management and stewardship of Financial Resources.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Lebanon’s workforce grew by 28 per cent in 2016, increasing from 172 to 218 staff members. As a result, office premises expanded and a space committee was formed, consisting of the Country Management Team (CMT) and 14 additional staff members representing all programmes. While a consultancy firm was contracted and produced a plan to efficiently and practically use the current office space, an additional 219m² space was rented to accommodate the newly established zonal office, Beirut / Mount Lebanon.

In an effort to maintain adequate control over funds disbursed to implementing partners, UNICEF Lebanon, guided by the Harmonized Approach for Cash Transfers (HACT) framework, increased its assurance measures. This was done using UNICEF Lebanon resources and through transfer of some activities to a third-party service provider.

UNICEF Lebanon conducted 47 spot checks, 25 micro-assessments by a third party, and 14 internal control audits. Spot checks are a common tool, used by United Nations (UN) agencies to monitor and manage cash transfers. UNICEF Lebanon teams, comprised of programme and operations staff, received intensive training and conducted 12 spot checks. Together, these spot checks resulted in 147 action points for follow up by implementing partners.

Due to the significant increase in programme funding to US$505 million in 2016 and to ensure more efficient and effective operational support, several long-term agreements (LTAs) were signed to shorten the procurement process, decrease the workload of supply and procurement staff and improve timely service delivery. UNICEF Lebanon enhanced transportation efficiency by procuring six new vehicles to replace rented vehicles, which were unreliable and costly.

OUTPUT 3 Effective and efficient governance and systems.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Lebanon continued to scale-up its programme and operations in 2016. Thirty-one per cent of the workforce was international and 68 per cent were professional staff. The gender balance improved to 51 per cent female and 49 per cent male. A vacancy rate of 40 per cent was observed, with 67 per cent of the staff structure filled by staff on temporary appointments. Ten surge support positions were requested through standby partners and 21 consultants were hired.

A Country Programme Management Plan (CPMP) and Programme and Budget Review (PBR) were conducted in the second and fourth quarters of 2016. A total of 134 new fixed-term positions for the Country Programme Document (CPD) 2017-2020 were established. The recruitment process commenced for 168 planned positions, including fixed term positions, 32 restocking and temporary appointments. Recruitment bottlenecks were also identified and addressed.

The Learning and Training Committee (LTC) held 19 meetings and reviewed 105 learning requests. LTC guidelines focused on providing basic, mandatory and technical trainings, including the roll out of the E-Programme Planning Process (E-PPP), Competency-Based Interviewing (CBI), Talent Management System (TMS), Results-Based Management (RBM) and soft skills training. The utilization rate of the Learning and Development budget was 49 per cent. Two national and two international staff members were selected as Peer Support Volunteers (PSVs), in addition to the existing two PSVs. Orientation and induction sessions for new staff were systematically conducted, with a completion rate of 99 per cent for the Ethics Training Certificate. Two ethics dialogue
sessions took place with the Global Ethics Advisor and staff well-being was addressed through ongoing engagement with the Regional Staff Well-Being Advisor. The Global Staff Survey led to the implementation of action plans to improve work life balance; office efficiency; staff association composition and career development.

**OUTCOME 8** Vulnerable children benefit from improved access to learning opportunities from pre-school to completion of basic education

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The provision of education services to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon remained heavily dependent on United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), with a large proportion of the total Palestinian student population attending UNRWA primary, complementary and secondary schools, as well as vocational education and training centres. The student population increased in recent years due to the influx and progressive inclusion of Palestine refugees from Syria. Attendance and completion rates, while remaining significantly high at primary school level, appear to have declined from 96.3 per cent at grade 6 in 2011 to 93.3 per cent in 2015 (UNICEF Lebanon Baseline Survey 2016). Enrolment in pre-primary education remained far from universal, with only 79.4 per cent of Palestine Refugees from Lebanon (PRL) and 52.1 per cent of Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) children enrolled in kindergarten in 2015 (UNICEF Lebanon Baseline Survey 2016).

In response to those challenges, UNICEF Lebanon strengthened its cooperation with UNRWA and 16 civil society organization (CSO) partners, including three CSOs UNICEF Lebanon had not partnered with before. The support provided was multi-fold and aimed to promote access, equity and improved quality of the educational services.

At pre-primary school level, 10 CSOs were supported by offering Early Childhood Development and Education to 1,900 children ages 3-6 years, including 285 Palestinian children from Syria. Interventions to improve the quality of the services provided were also carried out, with more than 50 staff trained and 20 CSO premises rehabilitated or upgraded.

At primary, complementary and secondary school level, UNICEF Lebanon continued to support UNRWA’s Education Reform process, with the aim to improve classroom practices and to ensure that a holistic manner of learning for all children was mainstreamed in all of UNRWA’s educational facilities. As a result, strong links were established between schools, parents and communities. As part of this process, a competency-based modular curriculum and instruction materials will be developed, with activities ongoing. The Reform positively impacted the quality of teaching and learning for 38,130 students and 1,634 teachers and school staff.

Access to education was further supported through the reconstruction, rehabilitation and upgrading of seven schools, three playgrounds, one kindergarten, and one Vocational Training Centre. In the refugee camp of Ein el Helweh (in Saida), reconstruction of seven school buildings, which were significantly damaged during the internal clashes which occurred in August 2015, allowed 6,150 students, including 1,360 PRS, to return to their schools and continue their education. In Ein el Helweh, Burj el Shemali and al Buss refugee camps (both in Tyre), works to expand four school playgrounds were initiated, with the aim to better accommodate the hundreds of children who use these spaces during teaching breaks. In Burj el Barajneh camp (Beirut), rehabilitation of one kindergarten in dilapidated conditions was started, ensuring the safety and comfort of 200 students and their teachers. Rehabilitation of Sibline’s Vocational Training Centre south campus enabled 250 boarding students from all over Lebanon to access training opportunities that would not have otherwise been available to them. The provision of textbooks and Back-to-Learning kits for
36,500 students further ensured equitable access by reducing financial burdens on children and families.

Continued political and security instability in Lebanon, and in several Palestinian refugee camps, increased the restrictions children and their families faced in accessing many of the activities and services provided with UNICEF Lebanon’s support. Despite the astounding resilience that characterized the Palestinian refugee community, the overall worsening of social, socioeconomic and security conditions in the country and in the camps led many children, young people and caregivers to a condition of extreme distress. While UNICEF Lebanon invested significant resources towards the provision of high quality psychosocial resource services, it became increasingly difficult to meet the growing needs, and also to mobilize the community towards education, health and protection goals for children and adolescents. In 2017, additional efforts will be made to ensure that UNICEF Lebanon’s programmatic vision reflects the mainstreaming of psychosocial needs across all areas of intervention, and among all partners and services supported by the programme.

In 2016, UNICEF Lebanon’s Palestinian Programme invested considerable time and effort into providing technical support, guidance and training to smaller and less established civil society organizations (CSOs). Additional efforts are needed to ensure that best practices are mainstreamed and quality standards are met across all components of the programme. For this reason, in 2017 a new approach to partnerships will be promoted and partners working in the same programmatic area will be encouraged to form consortia of CSOs as a way to promote knowledge transfer and exchange of best practices.

**OUTPUT 1** UNRWA schools and Palestinian NGOs partners have the capacity to deliver learning support services for Palestinian children.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Learning support services were provided in partnership with UNRWA and CSOs, as a means to enable teachers, school and CSO staff to identify and respond to diverse learning needs, ensuring school retention and future academic achievement for all children and building a strong foundation for this generation’s further learning.

With UNICEF Lebanon funding, UNRWA’s Inclusive Education and Early Intervention Support programme assisted 7,990 Grade 1 and Grade 2 children, approximately 20 per cent of whom were PRS. The programme’s 32 Learning Support Teachers and 252 Learning Support Advisors complemented the work of regular teachers and helped draft individual education plans, which provided additional assistance to students with specific needs. This was done in coordination with CSOs providing similar services in community-based settings. In the academic year 2015-16, the Inclusive Education initiative was instrumental in ensuring that 68.8 per cent of the students supported successfully passed their end-of-year exams.

The Summer Learning Programme assisted more than 7,600 very young students with transition into primary school, equipping them with the soft skills required to benefit from the academic teaching environment.

Learning support activities were also conducted in collaboration with eight CSO partners in community-based settings. These components of the programme were designed to support children attending Grade 3 and above. Activities were conducted in CSO community centres and the educational programme was complemented by recreational and psychosocial support activities. Children with more complex academic, psychosocial and learning needs had the opportunity to be referred to specialized services for further support. A total of 3,430
children were reached through community-based remedial education and homework support activities, which were conducted by trained staff using active learning methodologies.

**OUTPUT 2** Palestinian children (3-6 years) access quality ECD services.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
At pre-primary level, UNICEF Lebanon worked with CSO partners to ensure access to Early Childhood Education and Development (ECED) services, including pre-primary schooling to 1,990 children, including 285 PRS. This demonstrated significant expansion in comparison with 2015, when only 995 children had access to ECD services.

UNICEF Lebanon collaborated with CSO partners to ensure that the services provided reflected a community-based, holistic and child-centred approach to ECED. More than 60 hours of training was delivered to 50 ECED staff, and 20 CSO premises were rehabilitated and/or equipped. As a result, CSO partners increased their capacity to create appropriate and gender-neutral learning environments; to design and conduct educational interventions based on active learning principles and methodologies; to identify and overcome challenges to young children's learning; and to be alerted and appropriately respond to early signs of developmental difficulties, with the capacity to make appropriate referrals.

Preschool-based activities were complemented by community-based outreach activities where caregivers increased their awareness of the importance of early childhood development as a foundation for a child’s cognitive, emotional and social development. The positive impact of such interventions was reflected in the large demand for ECD services in the school-year 2016-17, which led to the expansion of this component of the programme in the second half of 2016.

**OUTCOME 9** Girls and boys increasingly benefit from improved child protection systems for the prevention of and response to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Palestinian children in Lebanon and from Syria remained highly vulnerable to violence, maltreatment, and other violations. They were generally exposed to multiple sources of distress with potentially severe and long-term repercussions on their health, safety and developmental well-being. At community and household level, violent disciplinary practices remained highly prevalent, and affected 81.7 per cent of PRL and 77 per cent of PRS children (UNICEF Lebanon Baseline Survey 2016). Child labour and child marriage were increasingly used as coping mechanisms against deepening financial hardship. Application of the child protection system and associated mechanisms at national level remained limited within the context of the Palestinian refugee camps.

In 2016 UNICEF Lebanon worked with UNRWA and CSO partners towards the mobilization of local communities in support of child rights and child protection, and against gender-based violence and violence against children. UNICEF also worked towards the strengthening of a local system of response for child protection violations and all forms of psychosocial distress among children, in line with national frameworks, guidelines and mechanisms.

UNICEF Lebanon’s assistance to UNRWA was framed at regional level in a Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies that took effect in April 2016 In line with regional-level agreements, UNICEF Lebanon supported the continued strengthening of UNRWA’s Protection Unit, through the secondment of a Child Protection Officer as well as through continued funding of key positions including a Protection Coordinator, Sexual and Gender-
Based Violence (SGBV) Coordinator, Border Monitoring Officer, and a Legal Aid team. With further technical assistance from UNICEF Lebanon, UNRWA’s Protection Unit initiated the mainstreaming of key child protection concerns in all areas of the agency’s programming, as well as the roll out of UNRWA’s Child Protection Framework and related capacitation of UNRWA’s staff across all sectors.

Contextualised standard operating procedures (SOPs) were developed for the identification and referral of survivors of SGBV in UNRWA’s Primary Health Care services, enabling UNRWA’s staff to address the health and psychosocial needs of survivors through evidence-based interventions that facilitated disclosure, offered emotional support and provided the appropriate medical and non-medical referrals.

A comprehensive framework for mental and psychosocial health promotion, prevention and interventions was also finalized in 2016, laying the foundations for a system that will ensure quality, inclusive and equitable programme delivery in safe and protective environments by trained and supported professional staff. Following the recommendations formulated within the Ministry of Public Health’s National Mental Health Strategy, UNICEF Lebanon and UNRWA collaborated towards strengthening a governance framework for mental and psychosocial health interventions within the Palestinian context.

UNICEF Lebanon’s support to CSOs was equally oriented towards the strengthening of local capacities, with more than 34 CSO staff trained on the safe identification and referral of child protection concerns, and 16 staff trained on child protection case management according to the national SOPs. An additional 13 CSOs were provided with technical training and assistance aimed to enhance their programmatic response to children’s psychosocial needs. More than 210 staff were trained on structured methodologies for community-based psychosocial interventions; 39 attended parenting support training, and 120 staff were involved in structured staff care activities aimed at mitigating the risk of staff burnout. More than 1,200 hours of training were delivered to child protection and psychosocial support partners’ staff in 2016.

**OUTPUT 1** Child Protection violations are mitigated and addressed

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The system of response succeeded in addressing the needs of 6,759 children and 1,735 caregivers who were involved in structured community-based activities designed to respond to the psychosocial, developmental and protection concerns specific to each age group. Findings from several external evaluation exercises conducted in 2016 confirmed that UNICEF Lebanon-supported, CSO-led initiatives provided a significant contribution to the strengthening of children and adolescents’ social and emotional competence, enhancing their self-esteem, reinforcing a positive sense of identity and more generally mitigating the negative impact of conflict, displacement, marginalization and deprivation on children and adolescents’ well-being. Caregivers were supported in their parenting role and helped to buffer the impact of psychosocial stressors on their children’s development.

For 404 children and families in need of additional psychosocial help, focused support was provided by trained staff through CSO multifunctional centres and 270 children were referred for specialized support, including mental health and allied health services. Services were mostly provided within community-based settings and in harmony with an ecological approach to children’s psychosocial and developmental difficulties that builds on individual, family and community strengths, and aims at fostering resilience. More than 60 per cent of the children assisted through these higher-level services reported improved psychosocial functioning and greater subjective well-being at the end of the intervention.
A total of 253 children were referred to case management services in 2016. Children in situations of high protection risk were referred to agencies that operate outside the Palestinian context. As the applicability of national case management SOPs and mechanisms within the Palestinian refugee camps was not automatic, further work is planned in partnership with UNRWA and CSOs to facilitate improved integration of local case management practices in the national system for better outcomes for children and families.

More than 300 women and girls were referred to GBV case management services. These were provided by UNRWA and one specialized CSO with UNICEF Lebanon’s technical and financial support.

**OUTCOME 10** Adolescent girls and boys are enabled to contribute to community and national development and make a productive transition to adulthood.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Due to their marginalization, Palestinian adolescents and young people in Lebanon had limited opportunity to reach their full developmental potential and to be included in social participation processes, as well as to contribute to shaping the future trajectories of their communities. Their condition of social exclusion and long-term socio-economic deprivation creates fertile ground for individual trauma, psychosocial distress, communal tensions and potential conflict.

Addressing these challenges, UNICEF Lebanon supported four CSO partners and UNRWA with initiatives aimed at fostering young people’s active learning and creative expression, providing a forum for community dialogue and conflict resolution. A total of 692 adolescents and youth, including Palestinians from Lebanon and Syria, participated in community-based activities in which they experienced cooperation, team work, life-skills building and critical debate.

**OUTPUT 1** Adolescents have opportunities to enhance their economical well-being.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In 2016, 68 youth and women benefited from revolving micro-loans distributed and monitored by Palestinian NGO partners. Funding from UNICEF Lebanon for this revolving loan was disbursed more than ten years ago and remained active, with each loan ranging from US$ 500 to US$ 3,000. The 68 youth and women who participated all started small businesses in Lebanon with this loan.

A total of 752 youth attended life-skills activities aimed at fostering psychosocial development and increased employability. Forty-three youth attended structured programmes delivered by qualified staff and consultants on the basis of validated curricula. The programmes succeeded in facilitating job placement for 12 (27 per cent) of the youth involved.

**OUTCOME 11** Women and Children, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, increasingly use improved quality maternal, child health and nutrition services, and apply improved health practices

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF Lebanon continued to support UNRWA as the main provider of primary health services for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. UNRWA was the main source of financial support for patients in need of secondary and tertiary hospitalization. The health status of
refugees continued to reflect the conditions of socio-economic deprivation and environmental hardship that affect a majority. More than 80 percent of Palestinian households had at least one member suffering from a chronic illness (UNRWA-AUB, Survey of the socio-economic status of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon, 2015). The prevalence of psychosocial distress was very high, with 86 per cent of PRL and 88 per cent of PRS reporting moderate or high exposure to severe stressors, whether as one-off events or more commonly, as chronic conditions (GIZ, Mental Health and Well-being among Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon, 2014). Maternal and child mortality and morbidity indicators remained relatively high (UNRWA Health Department, Annual Report, 2015); exclusive breastfeeding was lower than 26 per cent and anaemia rates, in both pregnant women and children under-3 years, were disproportionally high (25.5 per cent and 33.4 per cent, respectively).

During 2016 UNICEF Lebanon’s support to UNRWA’s health programme contributed to three essential results. It ensured continuity of UNRWA’s preventative maternal and child health programme; contributed to strengthening the capacity of UNRWA’s health staff to deliver good quality preventative and curative services; and provided an opportunity to expand the provision of life-saving secondary and tertiary hospitalization and outpatient services to refugees affected by acute or chronic conditions requiring advanced care.

Preventative maternal and child health care services were provided through UNRWA’s network of 27 Primary Health Centres (PHC), serving all the official refugee camps and many of the largest informal Palestinian population gatherings. The service package included comprehensive antenatal and postnatal care, immunization programmes, growth monitoring, health and nutritional surveillance, and developmental screening. More than 40,000 children and 8,000 pregnant and lactating women accessed PHC services in 2016. UNICEF Lebanon’s support included procurement of vaccines and related cold chain requirements and Vitamin A supplementation for more than 17,000 PRS and PRL children aged under-5 (U5); provision of micronutrients (including iron preparations and multivitamins) for more than 17,000 children U5 and 18,000 school children from Grade 1 to Grade 6; preventative oral health programmes for children up to Grade 6; and funding for the provision of medications for 82,865 PRL and 11,250 PRS children under the age of 18 years.

Capacity building efforts focused on mainstreaming the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) approach into UNRWA’s child health provision. A plan was drawn up for 130 staff to attend a seven-day training course led by the Ministry of Public Health with the support of World Health Organization (WHO) along with academic institutions as implementing partners. The objective of the IMCI training, which was designed, but has not yet taken place, is to strengthen the preventative aspects of UNRWA’s health service provision, reduce the load on service providers and strengthen the partnership with local communities and households for the prevention and management of the most common childhood ailments.

Provision of secondary and tertiary health care for Palestinian refugees was subsidized by UNRWA, in full or in part, and provided by contracted Lebanese health facilities, as well as by the hospitals run by the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS). UNICEF Lebanon supported PRCS by expanding the range of services it provides to deprived Palestinian children and families. A specialized kidney dialysis unit was established in Beddawi camp. Surgical services were upgraded in Haifa hospital in Burj el Barajneh camp, serving the entire Central Lebanon Area. Intensive Care Units (ICT), including an Intensive Care Nursery, were strengthened in Hamshari hospital in Saida, serving the whole South region.

In parallel with the health component, water and sanitation initiatives were also conducted in partnership with UNRWA. UNICEF Lebanon’s assistance enabled significant improvements in the water supply systems in Nahr el Bared and Beddawi refugee camps (North Lebanon).
In Nahr el Bared, the reconstruction of two water towers was initiated and rehabilitation of nine water wells, and the digging of one new well in the Old Camp, started in 2016. It is estimated that these works will benefit at least 22,000 residents of the camp. The purchase of five new generators provided a back-up source of power for the water supply to the camp. In Beddawi camp, construction of a water tower serving an estimated 11,000 residents was initiated and stand-by pumps were provided to ensure continuity of water supply if the submersible pump fails. Vehicles were procured for solid and sewage waste management in the North area including a sewage tanker, two compactors, five dumper trucks, one bobcat and one pickup truck. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sensitization and mobilization activities were conducted in Nahr el Bared throughout 2016.

UNICEF Lebanon provided financial support to UNRWA for national staff positions for one year and capacity building activities as part of UNRWA’s newly established Environmental Health Unit. The Unit is responsible for conducting an environmental health inventory, needs assessment and response plan for the coming five years. Forty per cent of the qualitative data needed for these tasks was collected in 2016. It is expected that the Environmental Health Strategy will indicate sustainable solutions to core WASH concerns of the population who reside in the 12 official Palestinian refugee camps as well as in the adjacent areas.

OUTPUT 1 UNRWA primary health centres have the capacity to provide preventive and outreach immunization services.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Support provided by UNICEF Lebanon to UNRWA’s health programme ensured wide immunization coverage among Palestinian children from Lebanon and from Syria aged under-5 years, with 25,000 children included in the Expanded Programme Immunization (EPI) in 2016. More than 99 per cent of the child population of concern received booster doses of EPI vaccines and no vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks were reported during the year. The vaccines, procured by UNICEF Lebanon, were provided in-kind to UNRWA, and were distributed through a network of 27 primary health care centres and administered by UNRWA medical staff. UNICEF Lebanon provided cold chain requirements, including refrigerators and cold chain supplies.

OUTPUT 2 Pregnant and lactating Palestinian women have increased knowledge on anemia, breast feeding, child feeding and applying child care practices.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNRWA’s antenatal and postnatal care programmes achieved equally remarkable results, with more than 85 per cent of all pregnant women receiving a minimum of four antenatal care services, and more than 95 per cent of lactating mothers receiving a postpartum visit within six weeks after delivery. Through these visits, mothers received health counselling and health advice regarding breastfeeding, young child feeding, child care practices and maternal nutrition. UNICEF Lebanon contributed to such results through funding three health staff in Beddawi camp and through the provision of medical equipment for the health clinics.

One international and seven local CSOs were supported in running community-based maternal and child health promotion activities that reached approximately 1,000 women across six refugee camps. Non-traditional methods of community engagement, such as theatre, arts, films, and story-telling to deliver key child health messages and encourage discussion and debate were engaged during activities in order to address and challenge concerns and misconceptions. Integral to this community awareness-raising component was the development of a strengthened referral system. Participants were informed about various services available to them and their families, and the participating CSOs were sensitized to
the need to provide referrals to their own specialized services, as well as to other partner NGOs’ services.

Due to the lack of quantitative information, it is difficult to measure the impact of improved knowledge on Exclusive Breastfeeding (EBF) practices. Findings from the Household Survey highlighted the continuous need for EBF intervention, which remained low in both PRL and PRS populations. A KAP survey will be conducted in early 2017, consolidating data to assess the impact of UNICEF Lebanon’s activities. Further initiatives in 2017 will include extending the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) to Palestine Red Crescent Society Hospitals, which are the main providers of Obstetric and Neonatal Care to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

OUTCOME 12 PCR Support

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Lebanon has implemented a Palestinian Programme in Lebanon for more than three decades. The programme has steadily expanded in scope and scale in recent years, reflecting the heightened socio-economic and psychosocial vulnerability of Palestinian children and families. 2016 saw the largest investment to date in terms of financial and human resources dedicated to the programme; such resources were largely directed towards supporting UNRWA operations, as well as increasing the availability and quality of complementary Civil Society Organization (CSO) initiatives that intervened in programmatic areas not covered by UNRWA.

Through its support to vital components of UNRWA’s health and education programme, UNICEF Lebanon directly reached more than 94,000 children and 81,358 caregivers. Complementary activities among interventions were strengthened, with the most vulnerable children and families receiving multiple coordinated services in health, education, protection, and psychosocial support. The programme was managed by a team of three Palestinian staff, along with two additional field monitoring staff recruited in mid-2016 and one international staff member recruited at the end of 2016. The team continued to coordinate with the other UNICEF programmes to ensure the specific challenges and concerns faced by the Palestinian community were effectively reflected and mainstreamed across all areas of UNICEF Lebanon’s programme.

OUTPUT 1 Financial Resources and Stewardship

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Palestinian Programme team provided effective oversight of programme implementation and efficient management of allocated financial and material resources. Regular Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) assurance activities were complemented by technical support activities conducted by the team with the support of external consultants, the aim of which was to strengthen CSO partners’ financial management capacity and internal financial controls. Partners were provided with and trained on accounting packages; and were assisted with developing internal governance systems and procedures and finalizing the process of registration with Lebanese authorities.

OUTPUT 2 Financial Resources and Stewardship

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**OUTPUT 3 Human Capacity**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The increased vulnerability of Palestine refugees in 2016, as a result of the protracted Syrian crisis and of UNRWA’s financial constraints, required a review of the structure and staffing needs of UNICEF Lebanon’s Palestinian Programme. In addition to the existing four positions (Programme Specialist P4; Programme Coordinator GS7; Senior Programme Assistant GS7; and Programme Assistant GS4) two additional GS6 positions were created in Tripoli and Tyr Field Offices, to allow for closer field monitoring and to strengthen programme quality.

**Evaluation and Research**

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**Other Publication**

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<td>Video / Japan funds Water and Sanitation project in Lebanon</td>
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<td>Information leaflet on Min-Ilia (unconditional education cash-transfers)</td>
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Information leaflet on Winter Assistance
Water and Hygiene Promotion Community Outreach tool
Back to School posters, billboards, digital materials
End Violence Against Children message leaflet for Beirut Marathon
Lahza 2 photography book (printing 2 times this year, 3rd edition)
Humanitarian Response & Resilience Plan Leaflet (HRRP) 2016 – sectoral leaflets
Humanitarian Response & Resilience Plan Leaflet (HRRP) 2016

Lessons Learned

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Programme Documents

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