UNICEF Annual Report 2016

Libya

Executive Summary

In 2014, political power in Libya split into two governments, one in the West and the other in the East. In December 2015, the Presidential Council was created to act as head of state, leading up to the establishment of Government of National Accord (GNA), without being endorsed by the House of Representatives, according to the Libya Political Agreement (LPA). In 2016, different actors still scrambled for power and Libya was at a turning point, as the GNA faced two rival governments and several armed groups.

Libya was severely impacted by cash liquidity problems since the beginning of 2016. Libyan banks were not able to release adequate cash and started to refuse cheque deposits. As a result, more than 1.3 million people were in desperate need of humanitarian assistance (241,000 internally displaced persons, 356,000 returnees, 100,600 refugees, 195,000 migrants and 437,000 non-displaced people; data extracted from the 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview published in November 2016).

The UN Country Team agreed with Government authorities and civil society representatives on the 2017-2020 UN Strategic Framework (UNSF). The Programme Management Team, chaired by UNICEF Libya, led the coordination and development of the Strategic Framework and submitted the final draft to the UNCT and UNDG in December 2016. The UNSF will serve as a frame of reference for UN agencies’ country programmes. In the third quarter of 2016, UNICEF Libya handed over the Joint Technical Coordination Committee of International Assistance to Libya to the Ministry of Planning, following more than a year of UNICEF Libya chairing the Committee, with the USA, UK, Italy and UNDP as co-chairs.

To align with the new UNSF, a third extension of the Country Programme Document (CPD) was requested in 2016, to cover 2017. The Humanitarian Response Plan and the Humanitarian Action for Children served alongside the CPD as the key documents guiding UNICEF’s work in Libya in 2016.

All international UN staff, including UNICEF’s, were evacuated from Libya in July 2014. Since then UNICEF’s programmes have been supported by national staff and consultants with remote support from international staff based in Tunis. With the difficulties experienced through remote planning and management and given the fragile context, UNICEF developed multiple modus operandi to be able to deliver multi-sectoral emergency response programmes and to continue working towards lasting solutions addressing basic needs and protecting children’s rights.

UNICEF Libya continued to strengthen independent third party programme monitoring and to deliver humanitarian assistance in all parts of Libya, in partnership with governmental institutions, municipalities, and national and international NGOs. As a part of system building and enhancing national capacities, UNICEF Libya signed annual workplans with the Ministry of Planning and the National Centre for Disease Control, and a Memorandum of Understanding with the Medical Supply Organization of the Ministry of Health. In 2016 UNICEF Libya had more than 20 partnership agreements to spearhead its humanitarian programming across the country, mainly with national local NGOs to build local capacities and sustain the impact of the interventions.
Despite remote management, in 2016 UNICEF Libya succeeded in conducting effective risk assurance activities on most of its partners. Cash liquidity constraints affected, and in some cases delayed, the implementation of programmes by partners.

Since 2015, UNICEF Libya has established innovative partnerships to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of its programmes, and strengthen its advocacy. UNICEF Libya has now anchored its work with municipalities through a comprehensive Cooperation Framework with the GNA Ministry of Local Government, and through the ‘Together for Children’ national campaign, which expanded in 2016 to 27 municipalities across the country. The campaign serves as a vehicle to assess needs and support the delivery of UNICEF’s interventions. In 2016, those partnerships resulted in concrete outcomes such as the agreements with three municipalities on the release, rehabilitation and reintegration of children associated with armed groups. In the context of national legitimate governance vacuum, municipalities remain legitimate local governance duty bearers to support children’s rights in Libya.

As of the end of December 2016, more than 41,500 children in all parts of the country had benefitted from structured child protection programmes through interventions supported by UNICEF Libya. More than 8,900 children gained access to safe learning environments and attended remedial and catch-up classes. Approximately 156,000 people were given new or continued access to safe drinking water, and approximately 42,000 internally displaced people benefited from improved sanitation facilities. Nearly 1.36 million children received polio vaccination during the first immunization campaign in the last two years.

Innovative strategic approaches and impartial commitment kept UNICEF accepted by all parties in Libya.

**Humanitarian Assistance**

In 2016, after five years of protracted conflict, the humanitarian situation in Libya further deteriorated amidst increasing grave protection concerns and human rights violations. By the end of the year, an estimated 1.3 million people, including 438,900 children, were in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, for which the UN and its partners requested US$151 million.

UNICEF’s humanitarian response was scaled up in 2016 and the geographic scope of programmes covered the entire country, with focus on Benghazi, Sabha and Tripoli. The humanitarian strategy prioritized emergency response and immediate life-saving activities, while simultaneously supporting the mid- to long-term resilience building of affected communities and local institutions.

UNICEF Libya worked in coordination with the Humanitarian Country Team, and continued to lead the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and education sectors as well as the child protection sub-sector. UNICEF Libya delivered humanitarian assistance in partnership with the Ministry of Health and local authorities through an expanded network of 27 municipalities and an increasing number of NGOs. UNICEF’s humanitarian response remained coordinated remotely from Tunis, while UNICEF’s national staff and consultants supported the implementation and monitoring from Tripoli and Benghazi. Independent third party programme monitoring was performed by an international NGO.

In 2016, UNICEF and partners continued to provide quality psychosocial services to children, including victims of violence, mostly in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in Tripoli and Benghazi. More than 41,500 children participated in structured community-based child protection and psychosocial services in 15 child friendly spaces and 10 schools. More
than 3,000 children affected by violence, including gender-based violence, benefited from specialized child protection services. While some targets for the year were exceeded, the percentage of children in need reached in 2016 remained low due to security and access issues, and to a limited, albeit growing, number of implementing partners.

Grave child rights violations, including recruitment by armed groups and sexual and gender-based violence, have been widely perpetrated since the onset of the civil conflict. Advocacy to prevent and respond to violations was focused on system building, coordination and engagement with local municipalities. UNICEF actively engaged with Al Zintan and Sebratha municipalities to advocate for the release, rehabilitation and reintegration of children associated with armed groups and other vulnerable children affected by armed conflict. UNICEF also supported the establishment and further plans for development of Al-Zintan Centre for the Release and Reintegration of Youth and Children.

To reduce the risk of public health hazards, UNICEF Libya and its WASH partners worked in different cities to provide equitable and adequate access to safe water supply, sanitation services and hygiene items for women, children and affected populations. As a result, nearly 68,000 people (against a target of 250,000) were reached with essential hygiene items and key messages on hygiene practices. Approximately 156,000 people (against a target of 213,000) were given new or continued access to safe drinking water in line with international standards. Approximately 42,000 displaced people (against a target 120,000) also benefited from improved sanitation facilities in IDP camps, collective centres and schools, while 10,000 children pursued their schooling in appropriate learning environments through the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities in 20 schools in Sabha and Obari.

In April 2016, UNICEF Libya procured and delivered 1.5 million doses of polio vaccines for the national polio vaccination campaign which reached more than 1.35 million children below the age of six, under the direct supervision of the National Centre for Disease Control. UNICEF procured and delivered 1.8 million doses of polio vaccines for the December round, which reached more than 1.2 million children. UNICEF also procured more than 550 cold chain refrigerators, financially supported the procurement of 1,462 cold boxes for vaccines, and continuously engaged with its partner municipalities to raise awareness on routine immunization and vaccination campaigns.

Expanded partnerships with national NGOs allowed UNICEF to scale-up interventions in conflict-affected areas to facilitate the access to school for out-of-school children or children at risk of dropping out. In 2016, more than 8,900 boys and girls in Benghazi, including 150 children with disabilities, and 654 children in five marginalized cities in the south attended catch up and remedial classes in safe learning spaces. In Benghazi, catch up classes included mine risk education. Advocacy sessions for parents, migrant and refugee families in conflict areas resulted in an increase in the number of girls regularly attending catch-up classes (53 per cent of the classes in 2016), as well as the creation of new opportunities for displaced children. A total of 169 teachers from conflict areas participated in UNICEF-supported trainings on Education in Emergencies.

**Emerging Areas of Importance**

**Refugee and migrant children.** Migration from Sub-Saharan Africa through North Africa is not a new phenomenon. According to the International Organization of Migration (IOM), between 1 January and 22 November 2016, 168,542 migrants reached Italy from North Africa, mostly from Libya. With Libya being the second largest mixed migration hub in the world, the challenges of migrants and asylum seekers are huge. Insufficient research has been conducted on the experiences of refugee and migrant women and children transiting through Libya, and little is known about how migration impacts them differently. Despite
estimates that between January and December 2016, more than 24,650 unaccompanied and separated children arrived in Italy by sea. (UNHCR Italy sea arrivals update no.9 situation update, published 2 January 2017), little is known about their experience within Libya.

UNICEF Libya, to inform its programmes and advocacy in response to the migration crisis, partnered with the Libyan NGO International Organization for Cooperation and Emergency Aid (IOCEA) and the Feinstein International Centre at Tufts University to conduct field research that formed the basis for the preparation of an informative report. The study, ‘Women and Children Migrants in Libya - An Insight of the Journey Experience’, was undergoing final review at the end of 2016. It addresses important information gaps and will contribute to stronger evidence-based advocacy and programming. Based on the findings of the report, UNICEF Libya started preparing a partnership agreement with a local NGO to start working in Gharyan Detention Centre.

UNICEF Libya also continued to advocate with national partners to ensure that asylum seekers and migrant children have access to basic social services, including education, health, child protection and psychosocial programmes. As a result, more than 215 asylum seekers and migrant boys and girls benefited from UNICEF catch-up classes programmes in Benghazi. In 13 detention centres managed by the Department of Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM), UNICEF, in partnership with International Medical Corps, conducted a scabies eradication campaign and contributed to building the capacity of DCIM staff with regard to hygiene standards.

Greater focus on the second decade of life. The armed conflict in Libya severely impacts the transition from childhood to adulthood, and has affected many young people, putting at stake the country’s future. In 2016 UNICEF Libya expanded the age of its target beneficiaries to include youth between 18 and 24 years old into a series of multi-sectoral interventions under a new partnership signed with the European Union (EU). Six months fully dedicated to the overall programmatic and budgetary planning led to the finalization of a three year workplan approved by the donor in late 2016.

During the initial phase of work, a local organization (Women and Youth Empowerment Forum) supported the generation of preliminary data and the mapping of existing capacities for the selection of target municipalities and local civil society organizations, and also identified youth leaders and adolescents for the upcoming focus groups. Comprehensive and gender-sensitive programmatic actions promoting youth social inclusion were also designed and customized to selected areas to later serve as models for further geographic expansion, and ultimately contribute to the design of youth national policies, programmes and services.

In line with a set list of criteria and following thorough discussions with all stakeholders, the EU-UNICEF Youth programme will target four municipalities and areas across Libya during its first phase: two in the Western region (Zuwara and Al-Zintan), one in the East (Al-Bayda) and one in the South (Sabha). The new youth programme will create opportunities for young Libyan people, particularly those engaged in and affected by the ongoing armed conflict, increasing their capacity to play an active and positive role in their communities. It is estimated that in 2017, the first year of implementation, civic and economic engagement activities will benefit approximately 2,500 young people and adolescents.

The institutional situation in Libya pushed UNICEF and the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) to sign in November 2016 a Cooperation Framework to facilitate local programme implementation and share responsibilities for implementing actions related to the well-being
and livelihoods of Libyan youth. This new cooperation framework was the result of a consultative process facilitated by UNICEF and is now paving the way for joint initiatives.

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

- ALECSO: Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization
- AWP: Annual Workplan
- BMZ: German Federal Ministry for Economic Development Cooperation
- CRC: Convention of the Rights of the Child
- CERF: Central Emergency Response Fund
- CFS: Child Friendly Space
- CoR: Committee of Regions (of the EU)
- CMT: Country Management Team
- CPD: Country Programme Document
- DCIM: Department of Combating Illegal Migration
- DCT: Direct Cash Transfer
- ECD: Early Childhood Development
- ECHO: European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department
- EFA: Environmental Footprint Assessment
- EMIS: Education Management Information System
- EPI: Expanded Programme of Immunization
- EU: European Union
- FCPU: Family and Child Protection Unit
- GBV: Gender Based Violence
- GNA: Government of National Accord
- GPEI: Global Polio Eradication Initiative
- GSSC: Global Shared Service Centre (of UNICEF)
- HAC: Humanitarian Action for Children
- HACT: Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
- HCT: Humanitarian Country Team
- HNO: Humanitarian Needs Overview
- HoA: Head of Agency
- HRP: Humanitarian Response Plan
- ICT: Information and Communication Technology
- IDP: Internally Displaced Person
- IMEP: Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
- IOCEA: International Organization for Cooperation and Emergency Aid
- JTCC: Joint Technical Coordination Committee
- LTA: Long Term Agreement
- MENARO: Middle East and North Africa Regional Office
- MoC: Memorandum of Cooperation
- MoE: Ministry of Education
- MoP: Ministry of Planning
- MRE: Mine Risk Education
- MRM: Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms
- NCDC: National Centre for Disease Control
- NGO: Non-Governmental Organization
In line with its strategy in Libya, UNICEF continued in 2016 to emphasize developing the capacity of local partners and line Ministries on evidence-based programming and service delivery, using communication for development (C4D) and cross-sectoral linkages strategies.

Following Al-Zintan municipality’s initiative to establish a Centre for the Release and Reintegration of Youth and Children associated with armed groups, UNICEF organized workshops to build the capacity of the personnel and support the finalization of collective workplans. In 2017, 500 vulnerable boys and girls are expected to benefit from the fully functional centre. Sebratha municipality also committed in 2016 to support the release, rehabilitation and reintegration of children associated with armed groups. UNICEF coordinated the training of 26 stakeholders on child protection in armed conflicts so they could participate in the development and implementation of action plans.

To overcome the scarcity of professionals with adequate capacity to deliver quality child protection services in Libya, UNICEF trained more than 180 social workers and 38 teachers in 2016. Children can now benefit from better quality services provided by trained professionals.

UNICEF Libya’s Education programme gathered key actors from the Ministries of Education and Higher Education in two workshops aimed at strengthening pre- and in-service teachers training. Additional master trainers are now available to train Libyan teachers across the country.

UNICEF Libya put considerable efforts into capacity development initiatives as a contribution to the Global Commitment on Polio Eradication 2016 SWITCH campaign. In addition to providing technical assistance, UNICEF targeted all implementers and independent monitors with SWITCH trainings. Training workshops were also organized for 75 vaccine supervisors,
thereby strengthening the capacity of Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) personnel. To ensure the exchange of knowledge, UNICEF facilitated the participation of a Ministry of Health senior official in UNICEF Vaccine Procurement Practitioners Forum in Copenhagen.

### Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

In cooperation with line Ministries, other UN agencies, NGOs and academia, UNICEF Libya spearheaded research initiatives in 2016, and signed workplans with national institutions and funding agreements with international academic institutions. UNICEF led collective evidence generation efforts during the preparation of the 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview that informed the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan. The assessments addressed the evolving humanitarian needs and generated in-depth sector specific information essential for planning, prioritization and resource allocation. Throughout the process, UNICEF Libya successfully ensured that child sensitive indicators were included in interagency multi-sectoral assessments.

To better identify and understand evolving needs and humanitarian access issues, a multi-sectorial household needs assessment was conducted in partnership with UNFPA, WFP and UNHCR and is due to be published in the first quarter of 2017.

UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry of Planning, will conduct a child poverty study in Libya using Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis methodology and the ‘Out-of-School Children (OOSC) study’ which will enhance evidence-based advocacy and enable effective education resource mapping and planning.

UNICEF also signed a workplan with the National Centre of Disease Control to undertake a study on violence against children (VAC) in schools and at home as well as an assessment of water quality in 130 schools in Libya.

Migrant children and women remained extremely vulnerable, especially since the breakdown of security inside Libya. In 2016, UNICEF partnered with the Libyan International Organization for Cooperation and Emergency Aid (IOCEA) and the Feinstein International Centre at Tufts University to undertake a study on migrant women and children in Libya that would inform policy advocacy and protection response. The study will be issued in early 2017. UNICEF Libya is committed to continued investment in generating evidence on migration issues that particularly affect unaccompanied and separated children.

### Partnerships

UNICEF, United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the protection working group began cooperating in 2016 on the establishment of Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms (MRM) on the six grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict. In December 2016, UNICEF recruited a consultant who started establishing a network to monitor and report on the six violations in Libya. The consultant works under the guidance of UNSMIL Human Rights Division and receives support and technical assistance from UNICEF. A first workshop, hosted by UNICEF, took place with 24 civil society actors and human rights experts, representing all the largest communities and ethnic groups in Libya, to train them and formally establish the network of human rights monitors.

Beginning in 2015, UNICEF partnered with the International Organization for Cooperation and Emergency Aid (IOCEA) and the Feinstein International Centre at Tufts University, which has extensive experience in conducting field research in humanitarian settings, to conduct a study on migrant women and children in Libya. The goal of the study was to fill
information gaps related to violence, smuggling, and other protection issues in order to inform programming and advocacy efforts. The result of the collaboration between UNICEF, IOCEA and Tufts University was validated during a workshop, and a coalition was formed to continue advocating for the rights of migrant and asylum seeking children in Libya. The coalition includes UN agencies, national NGOs, government institutions and academia. A first review session of their achievements is scheduled for early 2017.

Within the framework of the EU-funded Youth programme, UNICEF Libya started working with the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) to engage Mediterranean and European municipalities in sharing their know-how with Libyan local authorities to build their capacities in the field of adolescent and youth development.

**External Communication and Public Advocacy**

UNICEF Libya’s communication and public advocacy strategy was regularly updated in 2016 to adjust to a rapidly evolving and volatile environment. Communication activities remained focused on awareness-raising, external communication and public advocacy.

Raising awareness and positive engagement of local communities and beneficiaries became integrated activities to all UNICEF Libya’s cooperation agreements with partners in 2016, and remained an essential component of all programmes, particularly in conflict-affected areas.

Continued awareness-raising contributed to improving hygiene and water conservation practices among more than 67,000 displaced persons, supported the access to safe learning spaces for an estimated 10,000 students, and enhanced the participation of local communities and parents in psychosocial support initiatives. As part of its cooperation with the National Centre of Disease Control, UNICEF supported community mobilization efforts to ensure the success of the 2016 polio campaigns. In coordination with WHO, UNICEF developed all the audio-visual materials for the December round, including posters, banners, radio and TV messaging and social media posts (which had more than 205,000 views).

Public advocacy in times of political instability and heightened violence and displacement remained a priority and a crucial tool to keep protecting the rights of children. UNICEF Libya’s Special Representative’s televised statement in October and consequent news briefing from Tripoli calling both governments in the East and West to uphold their responsibilities towards children’s education brought an end to the delays encountered with the start of the 2016/17 school year (due to a delay in the distribution of school books).

UNICEF Libya’s Facebook and Twitter accounts, set up at the end of 2015, now count more than 9,000 followers. Both platforms were used to disseminate regular updates on UNICEF’s interventions and to provide due recognition and credit to donors. They also served as a voice for vulnerable children in Libya.

**South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation**

UNICEF Libya started to work with the Tunis-based Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) to facilitate exchange of knowledge and practices between Libyan counterparts and their peers in other Arab countries, and learn from ALECSO’s experience in promoting civic and citizenship education in its member states. A workshop will be held in Tunis during the first quarter of 2017, in partnership with Erasmus Plus, during which Libyan Government officials will be exposed to similar initiatives from other Arab countries. The cooperation with ALECSO stemmed from the recognized need to embed citizenship and human rights education in the Libyan national curriculum to sustain peace and social cohesion, while at the same time taking into consideration cultural
sensitivity when addressing civic issues shaping national identity within a politically divided and diverse society.

The establishment of cooperation between Libya and Tunisia was an important step towards UNICEF’s efforts to enhance early childhood development (ECD) in Libya. The coordination included technical support from Lebanese experts from the American University of Beirut, after an initial workshop organized at the end of 2015 by UNICEF Libya. The workshop, attended by 16 ECD teachers and trainers and five Tunisian experts from the Ministry of Education, served as a useful platform for exchange of knowledge and networking. Following this first successful initiative, the head of the Kindergarten Department in the Libyan Ministry of Education conducted several field visits to Tunis in 2016 with a view to replicating the Tunisian experience and to further strengthening cooperation.

Identification Promotion of Innovation

Libya has reached a critical juncture in its efforts to re-knit the fabric of the country after the fall of the former regime. Three governments controlled different parts of the country in 2016. The number of militias has increased dramatically, as has recruitment of children associated with armed groups. These militias increasingly controlled different parts of the country, including key natural resources, and the self-defined Islamic State has taken root in specific areas, made possible due partly to the deteriorating rule of law, limited border control, existence of large weapons caches as well as to Libya’s strategic position as a transit country for migration.

In this complex and fragile context, UNICEF delivered multi-sectoral emergency response programmes to fulfil its mandate. Within this context, municipality councils remained the only viable local governance bodies in Libya that can facilitate the delivery of basic services. UNICEF succeeded in using the partnerships under the ‘Together for Children’ campaign, a cooperation which includes 27 municipalities, to serve as a proxy mechanism to reach non-state entities to advocate for the release, rehabilitation and reintegration of children associated with armed groups.

Perseverant advocacy with municipalities from the West, East and South of Libya resulted in commitments to release children from Non State Entities and in preventing more recruitment. Two municipalities, Al-Zintan and Sebratha, initiated action for release, reintegration and rehabilitation of children and served as pilot locations. A third municipality committed in late 2016 to do the same. This approach aims to have a ‘snowball effect’ through municipalities to cover all areas of Libya, thus multiplying the effectiveness of UNICEF Libya’s advocacy to promote Paris Principles.

Support to Integration and cross-sectoral linkages

In 2016, UNICEF Libya leveraged positive cross-sectoral synergies, convergence and linkages in its programming for vulnerable boys and girls and their families. The Cooperation Framework signed in November with the Ministry of Local Government formalized the collaborative and participatory approach that is essential to adequately implement multi-sectorial activities and achieve the expected results of the recently launched EU-UNICEF Youth programme. In addition to the Ministry of Local Government, UNICEF and the EU, the Steering Committee of the project gathered representatives of the Ministries of Education, Labour, Social Affairs, Culture, and the Committee of Youth and Sports to facilitate local coordination between partnering municipalities and the central Government’s regional offices. It is expected that this new institutional set up will leverage and enhance cross sectoral synergies and evidence generation.
In 2016, UNICEF Libya supported an integrated pilot project in Janzour implementing psychosocial activities for primary and secondary school students and addressing inter-sectoral issues. This programmatic intervention made schools more attractive for children and their parents. Recreational activities in formal and non-formal education settings and the piloting of psychosocial support in schools were also the results of linkages made between the Child Protection and Education programmes converging in the Janzour municipality.

WASH and child protection considerations were integrated into the Annual Workplan signed with the National Centre for Disease Control under the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Planning, to reinforce inter-sectoral coordination and strengthen existing health structures through capacity building, referral systems, infrastructure rehabilitation, and improved data collection and information sharing mechanisms.

**Service Delivery**

UNICEF Libya is dedicated to protecting children’s rights by helping them meet their basic needs through accessing basic social services. Making essential supplies available, accessible and affordable is core to this commitment. In June 2016 UNICEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Medical Supply Organization in Libya, under the Ministry of Health, for the provision of procurement services through UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen. The services offered by UNICEF will include the procurement of supplies and services, while funding will be covered by the Ministry of Health.

A three-day planning meeting for Libya’s expanded program on immunization (EPI) was concluded with a tri-lateral Memorandum of Cooperation between WHO, UNICEF and the National Centre for Disease Control to further their cooperation in supporting the realization of the rights of all children in Libya, and specifically the right to survival and development. Future collaborations on strategic focus areas were identified, including cold chain and vaccines management, information sharing systems, middle-level managers training on immunization, procurement policies and procedures, newborn mortality and morbidity reduction, reduction of under-5 morbidity and mortality, and strategic communication for the expanded program on immunization. Within the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation, in 2016 UNICEF procured more than 3.3 million doses of Polio vaccines to support two National Immunization Days.

As part of its emergency response, UNICEF continued to scale-up the provision of programmes to address the psychosocial wellbeing of children and to provide access to the essential water, sanitation and hygiene services for the most vulnerable displaced families and for their host communities.

**Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation**

The ongoing humanitarian crisis in Libya has had profound consequences on the rights of children, including their survival and physical and cognitive development. At same time, it has adversely affected and weakened the national institutions and social structures dedicated to protecting them.

In 2016 UNICEF Libya continued to analyse the inequalities that are at the heart of the current conflict and that impede developmental progress in Libya. UNICEF supported the reconciliation process between two rival communities - Tawargha and Misrata – after the violence outbreak that resulted in the complete displacement of the Tawargha people from their homeland in 2011/2012. To allow a return that respects children’s rights of the displaced communities, UNICEF initiated a comprehensive assessment of all schools in Tawargha to consider the plans and resources required to undertake the rehabilitation of schools.
UNICEF’s education programme targeted and reached approximately 650 marginalized migrant and asylum seeker children in Obari and Sabha, in the South of Libya, and some 150 conflict-affected disabled children in Benghazi. Attention was particularly focused to displaced children from Tawargha and to children with disabilities, whose special needs were systematically considered in the maintenance and rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities in schools.

In 2016, UNICEF, together with UNSMIL, established a Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on the six grave violations against children in situations of armed conflicts. The first capacity building and networking workshop took place with the participation of 24 civil society activists and human rights experts from Libya.

**Gender Equality**

Gender equality was incorporated into UNICEF Libya’s interventions in 2016, while ensuring that acceptable, culturally-appropriate gender-based standards were applied to service provision.

UNICEF and its WASH sector partners ensured that the rehabilitation of infrastructure and sanitation services in schools or in locations hosting displaced households systematically accounted for gender considerations. The involvement of both men and women in all cycles of the projects, from planning and assessment to implementation and evaluation, made this possible. Water and sanitation committees operating in IDP camps to monitor the quality of water and the maintenance of rehabilitated sanitation services equally promoted the participation of men and women. Hygiene awareness campaigns and the composition of hygiene kits were designed with the participation and feedback from community members, men and women. All programme data and information were disaggregated according to gender and age, although some of UNICEF’s partners were challenged to provide disaggregated data.

In 2016, UNICEF Libya stepped up its work in the education sector to sensitize communities on girls’ education to provide girls with equal opportunities and access to existing services. UNICEF Libya organized advocacy campaigns targeting parents in conflict-affected areas and catch-up classes close to where children and their families lived. Interventions took account of all identified bottlenecks preventing equal boys’ and girls’ participation in educational activities. Parents were reluctant to send their children to schools, particularly girls, because of insecurity and for fear of kidnappings. UNICEF’s partners in Benghazi identified safe areas to establish catch-up classes with gender friendly facilities as alternative opportunities. Disaggregated data collected in 2016 revealed that 53 per cent of students enrolled in catch up classes were girls.

UNICEF and its partners provided specialized psychosocial services to children survivors and victims of gender-based violence and conflict-related violence, including sexual violence. By the end of December 2016, a total of 4,971 children in Tripoli and Benghazi had received initial screening and been referred to appropriate social and health services; approximately 3,000 out of them benefited from one-to-one professional counselling and family support contributing to their overall wellbeing, psychological health and recovery.

**Environmental Sustainability**

UNICEF Libya incorporated environmental concerns into its programmes and response design, focusing primarily on sound environmental criteria for water facilities, wastewater disposal, appropriate on-site location of sanitation facilities, as well as solid waste and hygienic practices. In 2016, hygiene promotion campaigns constituted an effective means to
widely communicate on and sensitize the Libyan population to use better and simple practices. UNICEF Libya’s interventions were in line with international standards set to minimize potential risks posed to the environment.

UNICEF Libya’s water and sanitation programme continued to promote approaches designed to reduce adverse effects on the environment and contribute to climate change mitigation, such as the use of gravity, water flow and composting model, forestation and tree planting on projects sites, or the rationalization of material transportation by partners to reduce emissions to the atmosphere.

Following the recommendations of the 2014 Environmental Footprint Assessment, UNICEF Libya continued its efforts to increase its staff awareness on energy saving and put in place new measures to rationalize staff travels. Some of the partners were asked to look into ways of decreasing the possible effects of their interventions in the field, especially when it came to transportation and travels.

In parallel, UNICEF Libya continued to advocate with governmental institutions for the update and enforcement of water and wastewater standards, to ensure that all supplied water in Libya is safe for domestic use, and that wastewater effluents are not harmful to the environment and do not represent public health hazards. To that end, UNICEF Libya committed and contributed to strengthening governmental partners’ technical capacity in effective management of water resources, particularly in urban settings.

Effective Leadership

Throughout 2016, the country management team (CMT) met monthly to monitor management indicators, provide advisory recommendations to the Special Representative and take collective decisions. Timely interventions by programmes allowed UNICEF Libya to tackle challenges while special attention was given to fundraising and financial management. The country management team also kept the well-being, safety and security of staff in Tripoli, Benghazi and Tunis as a constant priority.

The CMT provided full support to the closure of pending recommendations from the 2014 internal audit.

One major operational improvement enforced by the team in 2016 was the set of revised financial procedures now allowing the direct transfer of funds to partners’ bank accounts in Libya, which considerably reduced transaction costs for all parties.

In 2016, UNICEF Libya continued to provide leadership and support to the United Nations Country Team, the Security Management Team, the Humanitarian Country Team and the Programme Management Team, as well as to UNSMIL, to ensure that vulnerable children in Libya were given special visibility and appropriate support in humanitarian programming, preparedness and response cycles.

UNICEF Libya reached a high level of emergency preparedness and response. With more than 23 multi-sectoral partnership agreements and Memorandum of Cooperation with 27 municipalities, UNICEF scaled up its humanitarian programmes in response to the emerging needs of women and children. UNICEF concluded agreements with two national partners to store essential supplies in the East and West to respond to evolving needs. UNICEF signed annual workplans with two of the line ministries – with the Ministry of Planning and with the National Centre of Disease Control of the Ministry of Health. UNICEF Libya’s successful resource mobilization in 2016 – 57 per cent of Libya Humanitarian Action for Children – allowed the amendment of partnerships for rapid and timely response.
Financial Resources Management

With 15 individual funding sources managed in 2016, UNICEF Libya continued to focus on improving its financial management and budget control systems, keeping in mind its accountability for effective and efficient use of resources. As a result, most of the financial key indicators improved during the year.

By the end of 2016, allocated regular resources (RR) were fully utilized, while other regular resources (ORR) and other resources emergency (ORE) utilization rates stood at 99 per cent each. The timely liquidation of direct cash transfers (DCT) was also rigorously tracked throughout the year. At the end of December, only 0.3 per cent of the total DCT (US$5,512) were outstanding for more than 6 months and none were above 9 months.

UNICEF Libya’s contribution portfolio included new donors such as the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with multi-year flexible funding. Programme staff regularly held grant opening meetings to review contractual information and clarify accountabilities and progress.

UNICEF Libya rolled out harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT) implementation in 2016. Orientation sessions were conducted in Tunis for 11 national and international partners. Service providers completed 5 out of 10 planned micro-assessments and 7 out of 11 planned spot-checks. The international organization in charge of third-party monitoring performed approximately 30 monthly programme monitoring visits.

Cash liquidity in Libya was one of the major challenges to the effective and efficient programme implementation in Libya. In 2016, the payments for national staff salaries changed to US$ and were processed through banks in Tunisia, while DFAM approved UNICEF Libya’s request to also pay suppliers and partners in US$ due to the severe lack of cash in Libya. While the cash forecast gradually improved in 2016, UNICEF Libya did not meet DFAM’s benchmarks.

The number of financial transactions processed by UNICEF Libya more than doubled, from 35 in 2015 to more than 82 in 2016.

Fundraising and Donor Relations

UNICEF Libya appealed for US$19.3 million under the 2016 Humanitarian Action for Children. At the end of 2016, the funding gap was 44 per cent (with US$9.19 million received and US$1.64 million carried forward from 2015). UNICEF Libya also received more than US$3.5 million in other resources.

In addition to internal thematic funds, UNICEF Libya’s operations were made possible by contributions from the Swedish Government, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the European Union (EU), the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO), the German Foreign Office and Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Substantial progress was achieved in the establishment of a partnership with the Government of Japan, which is expected to bring multi-sectoral support to the humanitarian response. UNICEF Libya also strengthened its partnership with BMZ, its main donor, by negotiating multi-year multi-sectoral funds.

Under the leadership of the Special Representative and in collaboration with UNICEF Headquarters, UNICEF Libya continued in 2016 to track funding trends to capitalize on donor opportunities and to coordinate its advocacy with public partners. Efforts were also made to advocate for flexible and un-earmarked funding. UNICEF Libya received multi-year grants from BMZ and ECHO. In June 2016, the EU and UNICEF signed a contribution
agreement of US$ 3.06 million to enhance resilience and social inclusion of adolescents and young people in Libya.

To keep the donor community engaged, and given the impossibility of undertaking joint monitoring visits, UNICEF Libya shared monthly situation reports and quarterly humanitarian updates, and strove to provide public donor recognition through social media and special events. Traditional visibility in Libya is implemented by partners. One hundred per cent of the donor reports due in 2016 were submitted on time and by the end of December, 99 per cent of all received OR had been utilized.

Evaluation and Research

UNICEF Libya’s integrated monitoring and evaluation plan for 2016 was developed in collaboration with the regional monitoring and evaluation advisor, and through a consultative process among programme staff to prioritize key research products for the year (two studies and one evaluation). The implementation of the integrated monitoring and evaluation plan was monitored by the country management team.

In 2016, the UNICEF team established a data collection system for its first Humanitarian Performance Monitoring system that will be further strengthened in 2017. In June 2016, implementing partners received training on data collection tools and on reporting essentials. No evaluation was completed in 2016. However, country programme evaluations will be high on UNICEF Libya’s agenda in 2017 and will be commissioned as swiftly as possible. The planned evaluations will generate knowledge and lessons learned on remote programming modalities in protracted conflicts for the UN Country Team in Libya, national governments, and funding partners, as well as evidence on UNICEF Libya’s performance and programme implementation.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

UNICEF Libya achieved cost savings of 15 per cent by sharing with UNFPA the rental costs of its premises and security services in Tripoli. In 2016, security services in the Tunis office were fully covered by UNDP and by the landlord. UNICEF Libya initiated wide range bidding procedures for hotel services in Tunis, which contributed to a decrease in costs for workshops and meetings, and substantially simplified logistics arrangements for UNICEF Libya’s team.

Supply Management

UNICEF Libya’s total procurement value in 2016 was US$1,472,391.01. In 2016, UNICEF prepared and signed two long term agreements (LTAs) with hotels in Tunisia, for workshops and meetings. UNICEF Libya also used some of UNICEF Tunisia’s and other UN Agencies’ LTAs for translation, printing and design services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Value in US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme supplies</td>
<td>1,147,969.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional contracts</td>
<td>324,422.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction works</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total value of procurement and services</td>
<td>1,472,391.01</td>
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</tbody>
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Security for Staff and Premises

The security situation in Libya remained volatile and unpredictable throughout 2016. The absence of strong state institutions has created a partial security vacuum in Tripoli, with the proliferation of legitimate and illegitimate security actors. The UN continued to operate in uncertain and potentially hostile conditions. UNICEF Libya collaborated with United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS) in the drafting of the 2016 Security Risk Management and Libyan Security Plan, which sets the conditions for a return of the UN Country Team to Libya.

All international personnel still operate from Tunis, in a new security compliant building, and are only allowed to conduct one-day missions into Libya. National staff operated from UNICEF’s office in Tripoli. Security challenges in 2016 prevented international staff missions into Benghazi and the southern regions, where one national consultant worked from home.

A programme criticality exercise was conducted in August 2016. It determined levels of acceptable security risks for programmes and mandated activities implemented by the UN personnel in Libya. More than 132 outputs were rated.

UNICEF Libya’s Security Advisor visited Tripoli in October 2016 to assess the situation and conduct exploratory surveys of prospective new premises. UNDSS conducted a Security Risk Management for Tripoli with the participation of UNICEF. The Security Risk Management for the rest of the country will follow, to allow for implementation of the Programme Criticality Exercise.

In December, UNSMIL and the UNCT approved a three-phase plan for a gradual return of international staff to Tripoli. Palm City was approved for short stays and a lease contract for a compound was signed by UNSMIL. Engineers and security officers are expected to return to Tripoli in January 2017, followed by UNCT Heads of Agencies and UNSMIL-selected officials.

Human Resources

One of UNICEF Libya’s country managements team’s priorities in 2016 was to put in place a staffing structure that would allow the programme scale-up needed to respond to the increasing needs of women and children in the country.

In 2016, UNICEF Libya proceeded to two programme budget reviews (PBR) submissions. Through the first in August, the Tunis outpost unit was created and five Fixed Term positions were relocated from Tripoli to Tunis. All temporary appointments recruited by UNICEF Libya were tagged to Tunis outpost unit; only the Special Representative and Security Specialist remained on Tripoli duty station contracts. The second PBR submission included the approval of five temporary appointment positions and the creation of four fixed term positions within the EU-funded youth programme.

As programmes were scaled up and the recruitment processes were ongoing, UNICEF Libya heavily relied on surge capacity through 17 stretch assignments/missions and the deployment of seven standby partners.

Two all-staff retreats took place in 2016, where all staff, consultants and standby partners were in attendance. With the expansion of the team in two separate locations, it was essential to allocate time for team-building and stress management, and to discuss office improvement measures, including for the working environment. The second retreat provided an opportunity for the team to elect a third member to the Staff Association, which met on a quarterly basis with the management at the Joint Consultative Committee meetings. The
staff counsellor attended the second retreat and conducted a full day session on team-building and stress management.

Flexible work and ‘flexi UN holidays’ arrangements and requests to work from home were favourably considered, whenever possible, to improve staff well-being and morale, and to accommodate the special situation of two offices in two countries with two different UN holiday calendars.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

In 2016 UNICEF’s Regional office ICT Support Hub continued to remotely manage the ICT function for UNICEF Libya in Tunis and in Tripoli, with the support of a local service provider. The UNICEF Regional Office completed two on-site missions to Tunis during the year.

UNICEF Libya’s ICT systems leveraged the ‘Lightweight, Agile ICT Infrastructure’ (LIGHT) standard in the new support office in Tunis, consequently reducing the infrastructure footprint. Office data were hosted in Middle East and North Africa Regional Office (MENARO) Light Service Centre and cloud based Office 365 services. The use of LIGHT enhanced users’ mobility and access to corporate applications, increased cost savings on power and hardware, improved business continuity, and reduced local ICT support complexity.

Skype-for-Business made collaboration easier among UNICEF Libya staff members in both locations, as well as with external partners, offering free self-managed online meetings, conversations, and audio/video calls. UNICEF Libya also used free VOIP and One-Drive for file sharing tools, allowing staff members to securely upload, access and share files at no cost and from any location.

UNICEF Libya faced challenges related to physical access when shipping ICT equipment to Tripoli, and substantial delays were also encountered at Tunis level with the clearing of equipment (which is why some servers and laptops were still used after the expiry of their standard life cycle).

Since 2015, UNICEF Libya has managed Facebook and Twitter accounts, which had more than 9,000 followers in 2016. Both platforms were used to disseminate news briefings, press releases, and regular updates on UNICEF Libya’s interventions, to enhance the visibility of vulnerable children in Libya, but also to provide due recognition to public donors and create a two-way channel of communication with followers and stakeholders. Both accounts post in Arabic and English so as to reach a wider audience inside and outside Libya.

**Programme Components from RAM**

**ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS**

**OUTCOME 1** By the end of 2014, National capacities for data gathering and management of evidence-based, child-focused social policy, planning and budgeting enhanced with an equity focus.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Harmonized collective evidence and knowledge generation efforts were realized through UNICEF’s leadership of the WASH, education and child protection sectors and sub-sector, and led to the finalization of the 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview. The Humanitarian Needs Overview allowed systematic humanitarian response planning and preparedness for sector partners in Libya and formed the basis for the 2017 Humanitarian Response
Planning. The Humanitarian Needs Overview also acted as a baseline for facilitating systematic situation and response monitoring for appropriate actions to be taken to protect the rights of vulnerable children affected by the protracted conflict.

Evolving knowledge on emerging critical households’ needs due to the devolution of territorial control by conflict factions inside Libya was generated by geographical location and sector through an inter-agency household multi-sectoral needs assessment that included child sensitive indicators.

Understanding the status of children and their needs in Libya through generating specific knowledge on existing and emerging deprivations was pivotal in the development of policies and strategies that will significantly contribute to sustainable human development growth in Libya. The first ever child poverty study in Libya, using Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis methodology, was commissioned by UNICEF through the signature of a workplan with the Ministry of Planning. It will serve as a critical tool in the development of child-centred policies and future development programmes.

Evidence-based policy engagement on the protection of migrant children and women, a major human rights issue, remained high on UNICEF’s agenda. Efforts led to an increased dialogue with national partners and new partnerships with international academic institutions to generate knowledge on the plight of refugee and migrant children in Libya and enable effective facilitation for an enhanced protective environment.

Sub-national support and development of Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) in the West and East of the country constituted a robust working basis for education interventions from other actors working in the sector, and minimized the risks of duplication and overlaps.

**OUTPUT 1** By 2014, quality disaggregated data, research and equity analysis inform child sensitive policies, child friendly budgeting and equitable social protection systems.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview, for which UNICEF Libya, as sector and sub-sector lead, supported the collective evidence generation, now informs humanitarian response planning and preparedness within the framework of the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan. The final document included the assessment of the evolving emergency due to the protracted crisis, and presented in-depth sector-specific information that facilitated an informed response planning, prioritization and allocation of resources, and coordinated resource mobilization initiatives. The Humanitarian Response Plan also made available baseline information for subsequent use in situation and response monitoring.

A household multi-sectoral needs assessment was undertaken in most parts of Libya to understand the evolving needs in the protracted crisis. The overall exercise aimed at identifying households in critical need, in different geographical areas and sectors. The assessment highlighted humanitarian access issues and related underlying factors resulting from the devolution of territorial control by conflict factions inside the country. UNICEF successfully ensured that child sensitive indicators were included in the interagency assessment.

Libya remained a regular migration route for migrants en-route to Europe and other parts of the world. Children and women migrants remained the most vulnerable and were exposed to hardships exacerbated by the breakdown of security inside Libya. In 2016, UNICEF Libya partnered with IOCEA, a national NGO, and the Feinstein International Centre at Tufts
University to undertake a study on migrant women and children in Libya to inform policy advocacy and protection response for children and women migrants inside Libya. The study will be issued in early 2017.

To better understand the extent of violence against children in Libya, and the dramatic increase in child protection concerns, UNICEF Libya signed a workplan with the National Centre for Disease Control to undertake a study on violence against children in schools and at home, which will be finalized in 2017.

UNICEF Libya signed another workplan with the Ministry of Planning to undertake the Out-Of-School Children study (OOSC), which will enable evidence-based advocacy and resource planning. The study findings will facilitate emergency education programming and resource mapping, especially for school rehabilitations. The protracted crisis and the evolving territorial control have led to massive internal displacements within Libya and a subsequent breaking down of social infrastructures. UNICEF, through a workplan signed with the National Centre for Diseases Control, commissioned a water quality assessment in schools in order to map out the situation of water and sanitation facilities in learning environments.

Generating evidence for long-term development programming in Libya was also prioritized by UNICEF Libya, which brought its expertise and technical assistance to the Ministry of Planning through the preparation and signature of a workplan with the Ministry of Planning to undertake the first ever child poverty study in Libya, using Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis methodology. This tool will be critical in supporting the development of child-centred policies and future development programmes.

**OUTCOME 2** By the end of 2014, holistic standards and systems developed for reform and policy in early childhood development and inclusive quality basic education (Kindergarten and grades 1-9).

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Efforts to improve the quality of education in Libya continued despite the protracted conflict and institutional constraints that prevented the adoption of national policies related to quality education and systems strengthening. UNICEF Libya continued the upstream engagement to support education reform.

The 2014 Situation Analysis of the teaching system in Libya continued to inform UNICEF’s works toward education policy development. One of the study’s main findings was the oversupply of teachers, with more than 200,000 currently inactive teachers (approximately 42 per cent of the workforce). To maximize the utilization of teachers' capacity and reduce the waste of public funds, UNICEF supported the development of a national strategy on teacher deployment and new policies on teachers' training. The strategy was implemented through the operationalization of three teams of master trainers specialized in pre-service, in-service and kindergarten teacher’s training. UNICEF rolled out the training of 30 master trainers (27 men and 3 women) for pre- and in-service teacher training provision, and 17 others for kindergarten teaching provision. This was a critical step to work toward increasing the quality of teaching throughout the country. A total of 169 teachers from conflict affected areas were also trained during the year in Education in Emergencies, getting new knowledge and skills for teaching under specific and constrained conditions and on how to better deal with students affected by conflict conditions.

Since the successful testing of EMIS software in 10 schools thanks to cooperation with five municipalities in 2015, UNICEF continued to strengthen education systems and evidence-generation. The implementation of EMIS was scaled up to 13 Municipalities in the Tripoli
area, and already resulted in the generation of new, reliable data at local level. Getting children back to school and strengthening school retention remained flagship programs for UNICEF Libya, with a focus on conflict-affected and internally displaced children, children with disabilities, and marginalized or migrant children. UNICEF Libya strategically led the Education Sector in partnership with national civil society partners. With UNICEF support, 8,976 out-of-school children benefited from remedial and catch-up classes in the conflict affected Benghazi, Sabha and Ubare.

Advocacy sessions for parents and migrant and refugee families in conflict areas resulted in an increase in the number of girls regularly attending catch-up classes (53 per cent of the classes in 2016), as well as the creation of new opportunities for children that displacement had forced out of school.

As a sector lead, UNICEF Libya led the development of education-specific inter-agency needs assessments that contributed to the development of both the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan and the inclusion of specific education data and information.

OUTPUT 1 By 2014, Inclusive quality basic education system, targeting boys and girls equally, strengthened and effectively monitored.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Building on 2015 outcomes, the second phase of the plan to strengthen pre-service and in-service teacher training began. A total of 47 new master trainers from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (30 for pre- and in-service and 17 for kindergarten teaching) attended workshops organized by UNICEF, have completed their training and have gained sufficient skills and new knowledge to train other teachers all across Libya. Their training focused on areas such as child rights, inclusive education, life skills, creative thinking, integrated curriculum and child-centred teaching and learning, and integrating psychosocial support for children with aggressive tendencies, disciplinary problems and post-war trauma resulting from crisis and conflict. Another 169 teachers received ad-hoc training on Education in Emergencies.

Progress in the development of EMIS was marked by the testing of the software in 10 educational institutions in Greater Tripoli, in line with sub-national plans for its operationalization. The rolling-out of EMIS in 2016 entailed the collection and analysis of 2016-2017 EMIS data extracted from 13 Municipalities in Tripoli (approximately 670 schools and 170 kindergartens). UNICEF Libya supported 800 teachers in their capacity to collect data and implement EMIS, through a training in December 2016 and a second session planned for January 2017. Plans for 2017 also include the issuance of a first statistic book gathering EMIS data covering all Greater Tripoli schools.

Access to safe learning facilities for affected children continued to be ensured by partnerships with national and local organizations, especially in Benghazi. By December 2016, 8,976 conflict-affected and/or displaced children gained access to formal and non-formal education, and attended remedial and catch-up classes in safe learning spaces, which also provided opportunities to raise awareness on Mine Risk Education (MRE) and spread knowledge on risks and threats associated with unexploded mine objects.

UNICEF Libya also reached out to children with disabilities through new partnerships expected to expand in 2017, in a context where inclusive schooling is made difficult by the absence of a parallel curriculum and a lack of trained teachers. As a result, 150 disabled children attended the catch-up classes offered in Benghazi. Educational activities in 2016 reached 654 boys and girls from five disadvantaged and marginalized cities in the South of
Libya, thanks to a new partnership with Libyan Association for Youth and Development under the coordination of Sabha Municipality.

To improve access to safe and secure learning facilities and address overcrowding in schools, UNICEF initiated the procurement process for 30 prefabricated classrooms. The rehabilitation of schools in Benghazi and Sabha was also initiated and a bidding process for six schools in Benghazi was finalized in December 2016. In December UNICEF signed a partnership agreement with STACO to undertake schools’ assessment in conflict-affected Tawargha. WASH facilities were rehabilitated in 20 schools in Sabha and Obari, allowing more than 10,000 children to pursue their schooling in appropriate learning environments.

OUTCOME 3 Technical assistance

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Since 2014, UNICEF has scaled down its efforts in legislation reforms as the environment was not favourable. However, advocacy work in 2015 resulted in the inclusion of nine articles related to children’s rights into the draft Constitution by the Constitution Drafting Assembly. In 2016, there was no significant progress in that regard; UNICEF Libya kept monitoring the progress of the drafts throughout the year to ensure they would remain in the final adopted Constitution.

Gaps were also palpable in child protection services available in Libya and systems related to children in contact with the law/justice system and those in need of care and protection. In 2016, UNICEF’s technical support to the different Ministerial departments led to solid achievements in the strengthening of systems. The Family and Child Protection Unit (FCPU) established in Azzawiyah in 2015 provides child friendly services for children in contact with the law and now serves as a pilot for future replication of the model in other areas. The communication and awareness campaigns carried out in Azzawiyah in 2016, designed with UNICEF’s technical support and advice, reached 7,200 children in 36 schools. It was essential to inform the children themselves and subsequently their parents and communities about the existence and mandate of the FCPU, especially to encourage children and parents to report cases of abuse and violence now that the unit is operational.

Child protection concerns further increased in the last year and boys and girls were becoming more vulnerable to violence, gender-based violence, including sexual violence, and/or recruitment in armed forces. For years, the psychosocial wellbeing of Libyan children has been affected by the ongoing violence and massive displacements within the country. It is harder to tackle as there is a lack of supportive child protection and family welfare services within communities (including a lack of more focused services for the most vulnerable). As part of its humanitarian response, UNICEF Libya and its partners ensured access and participation of more than 41,500 children in structured community-based child protection and psychosocial services. More than 3,000 children were referred to and benefited from specialized services because they had been seriously affected by violence, including gender-based violence. Those results were achieved despite a challenging environment thanks to an expanding base of implementing partners, and to UNICEF’s continuous commitment to strengthen the capacity of social workers through trainings and orientation sessions on child protection topics, to improve the quality of the services delivered. In 2016 a functional network of human rights monitors was established in Libya, coordinated by a consultant based in Tripoli, who have been oriented and trained to report on the six grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict. In 2017, it will be possible to have informed reporting on possible grave violations in Libya, which was never the case before. This is the result of the work on Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms undertaken.
within the Protection sector. The establishment and implementation of the network was coordinated by UNICEF with support from UNSMIL. The Centre for the Release and Reintegration of Youth and Children associated with armed groups in Libya, established by Al-Zintan Municipality, and the first of its kind in Libya, is a pilot project that UNICEF continued to support, with the ultimate goal to see the model replicated to other Municipalities across the country.

OUTPUT 1 Technical assistance

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The current Libyan legislative framework, procedures and capacities of the justice system need further assistance in protecting children in contact with the law. This area was treated by UNICEF and counterparts with a high priority. UNICEF and counterparts advocated for legislation changes during the preparation of a new Constitution. The advocacy resulted in 2015 in the adoption and inclusion by the National Constitution Drafting Assembly of nine articles related to children’s rights in the Draft Constitution. Since then, and pending the finalization and adoption of the new Libyan Constitution and therefore of a new child protection legislative framework, UNICEF Libya has monitored the progress of the drafting work to ensure that those crucial articles remain integrally part of the document until it is adopted and ratified.

Since the resurgence of the civil conflict in July 2014, UNICEF has put other efforts related to legislation reform and policy development on hold.

OUTPUT 2 By 2014, National Child Protection system capacities for implementation of new/enhanced legislation and application of equity and gender lens strengthened.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Enormous gaps remained in Libya in terms of child protection services and systems dedicated to children in contact with the law and children in need of care and protection. Justice services were neither integrated nor fully specialized in children’s rights. There was a shortage of trained and qualified personnel in all agencies responsible for delivering justice services for children. And there was a lack of unified procedures to deal with vulnerable groups, including children in contact with the law.

The Family and Child Protection Unit (FCPU) established in Azzawiyah in 2015 is now fully operational and offers child friendly services for children in contact with the law; however, it was still underutilized in 2016. In 2016 UNICEF supported public awareness communication campaigns to inform communities, parents and children in the Azzawiyah area about services available at the FCPU. The campaign reached 7,200 children in 36 schools through leaflets, posters, lectures, theatre shows and promotional videos. The campaign also sought to tackle the issue of under-reporting and encouraged children and parents to report cases of abuse and violence to the FCPU, reminding them that all cases are treated with confidentiality.

Plans for 2017 include supporting the replication of the Azzawiyah FCPU model to two other cities (Misrata and Tripoli), and increasing public communication in order to duly inform communities about new services, thus enhancing demand.
OUTPUT 3  Children’s rights (girls and boys) are protected during and immediately after localized humanitarian emergencies in line with CCCs, with focus on child protection and education.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Despite the prolonged challenges in Libya, UNICEF continued to lead on child protection within the protection sector.

In collaboration with nine local and international NGOs, UNICEF scaled up the provision of quality child protection and specialized recovery services, leading to enhanced protection and psychosocial well-being of conflict-affected boys and girls, and particularly those victims of gender-based violence and other types of violence. In 2016, the number of beneficiaries of UNICEF-supported child protection interventions exceeded targets set. A total of 41,590 boys and girls participated in structured community-based child protection and psychosocial services offered in 15 CFS established in Tripoli, Benghazi, Sebha, Azzawiyah, Beni Walid and Ghat, as well as in 10 schools. The establishment of referral systems to mitigate the adverse effects of psychological stress on children resulted in 3,027 children victims of violence and abuse (including sexual violence) in Tripoli and Benghazi accessing specialized psychosocial services in the form of counselling, family support and referrals to other social and health services. The Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) target of 2,000 was exceeded, with a total of 4,971 children receiving an initial screening and referrals to other social and health services.

UNICEF Libya supported the piloting of integrated psychosocial support services in school facilities to institutionalize and scale up comprehensive psychosocial support. This entailed training of 38 teachers and social workers based in Tripoli (who have an outreach of 7,938 students in 10 schools in the Janzour municipality).

Al-Zintan and Sebratha municipalities initiated action for release, reintegration and rehabilitation of children and served as pilot municipalities. A third municipality, Bani Walid, committed to the effort late in 2016. UNICEF supported training of 28 stakeholders (community leaders, social workers, militia leaders, etc.) in Al Zintan and 26 from Sebratha on child protection topics. In 2016 Al-Zintan Municipality established a Centre for the Release and Reintegration of Youth and Children associated with armed groups, staffed by UNICEF-trained personnel. The Centre serves as a coordinating body gathering professionals from different institutions and local authorities.

A total of 2,200 parents in Tripoli and Benghazi benefited from 96 awareness session on child protection, which systematically included highly sensitive issues such as sexual violence as well as information on how families and communities can better protect children.

UNICEF, UNSMIL and the Protection Working Group began cooperating in 2016 on the establishment of the UN Security Council mandated Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms (MRM) on the six grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict. At the beginning of December, UNICEF recruited a consultant who started working on establishing a network of civil society activists and human rights experts under the guidance of UNSMIL and received technical support and assistance from UNICEF. A first workshop, hosted by UNICEF, took place in December, with 24 civil society activists and human rights experts representing all the largest communities and ethnic groups, who were trained to be part of the human rights monitors’ network.