

Maldives

Executive Summary

UNICEF Maldives accelerated implementation of programme interventions, ensuring achievement of results for children in 2015. The programme interventions continued to focus on addressing inequities in Health/Nutrition, Child Protection and Education, using a mixed approach of upstream work with selected downstream initiatives to support policy implementation.

The key achievements of the Country Office in 2015 include the development of a five-year Child Health Strategy in collaboration with Ministry of Health, which provides strategic direction to address child health issues such as malnutrition in children under 5 and neonatal mortality. This was developed with an equity-based approach, and incorporates aspects of the Every Newborn Action Plan, which is especially relevant to the Maldives given the high neonatal mortality ratio within the infant mortality rate. The strategy is now being implemented and will continue into 2016.

In addition, a Child Participation Strategy was developed and launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and a local non-governmental organization (NGO), Advocating the Rights of Children (ARC), with the aim to create a shared vision for child participation, develop a culture of participation, create a supportive environment and establish platforms for participation in the country. Following the strategy, adolescents were trained on child rights, child participation, child protection, media literacy and radio production. The trainees have designed and produced four episodes of the adolescent radio show in the country called 'Kudhinge Adu', which will be aired on national radio early in 2016.

Furthermore, Community Social Groups comprising multi-sectoral teams were established on eight islands in Shaviyani Atoll in the northern region. These islands are far removed and report high incidences of child abuse. The aim is to increase prevention and the response capacity of service providers on the islands. The teams have developed island-specific intervention plans together with a monitoring plan that will be implemented in 2016. Additionally, the results of Population and Housing Census 2015 were integrated into the MaldivInfo Database, enabling cross-sectoral analyses of population data.

Despite the key results achieved, significant shortfalls were experienced during the year, which impacted the full achievement of planned results for 2015. One of the major challenges was the delay in the passage of key legislation pertaining to child rights such as the Education, Child Rights, Childcare and Protection and Juvenile Justice Bills. The lack of these policies hinders full implementation of programmes, and negatively affects children. In addition, continuous changes in the Government's structures and institutional restructuring affect implementation of results, particularly the capacity of stakeholders in rolling out programmes.

Key partnerships during the year established included collaborations with other United Nations agencies and local partnerships to achieve a common result. In this regard, UNESCO provided technical support to MoE to establish a robust Open Emergency Management Information

System (OpenEMIS), while the Country Office provided financial support. Development of EMIS will enhance the equity focus of the education monitoring system, which will include monitoring of children at risk of dropping out and out-of-school children. This is part of UNICEF's support to system strengthening and can be a good example of a monitoring system that includes out-of-school children. The OpenEMIS will be functional by the end of 2016.

Strategic partnerships were also established with local NGOs such as ARC, yielding results in increasing awareness and knowledge on maternal and child nutrition, child participation, child rights and child abuse prevention at the community levels. ARC's work on the ground enabled maximized reach to the most vulnerable populations on selected islands.

Humanitarian Assistance

Maldives, at only 1.5 metres above sea level, is highly impacted by the effects of climate change, and also highly susceptible to flooding throughout the year, especially during the northwest monsoon. Flooding has a huge impact on everyday life, as it disrupts basic services and damages life-line infrastructures (such as health facilities and schools) at the island level. It also causes a number of secondary issues, such as vulnerabilities to public health, mainly due to contamination of water by microbes because of damage to local sanitation systems. Given this background, the Country Office heightened efforts to embed preparedness and response into its annual work planning activities during 2015.

The Country Office actively supported emergency preparedness and response actions across sectors in the country. In collaboration with the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC), the Country Office supported the development of a National Post-Disaster Assessment Framework, the first policy document following the enactment of the Disaster Management Act. This will contribute significantly to disaster preparedness and management in the country.

Through this framework, capacity was strengthened and post-disaster needs assessment methodology and tools were developed. These enabled NDMC staff and stakeholders to provide immediate relief; collect, verify and record data; and update progress reports post-emergency. In addition, a comprehensive training package for post-disaster assessments was developed for future trainings. Master trainers were trained from Malé (17 participants, including 7 females and 10 males) and in one pilot atoll – Laamu Atoll – with nine islands participating (18 community members, including 7 females and 11 males), for roll-out to other atolls and islands in the country.

Training was conducted through the cluster approach, resulting in enhanced coordination with all stakeholders and promotion of coherent and harmonized joint assessments and response, especially within the first 72 hours of an emergency

In addition, through partnership with a local NGO, Water Care, capacity of community members in 11 islands of Laamu Atoll was increased to provide water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in emergencies. These included key island leaders, among them Women Development Committee members, Youth Leaders and representatives from the Atoll and Island Councils. The initiative enhanced their skills in management of water and sanitation resources and strengthened their decision-making abilities to influence response actions during an emergency. Capacity was further strengthened through community dialogue sessions with key community members on rainwater harvesting, school sanitation and hygiene, and use of water quality kits to test both drinking water and groundwater.

Emergency plans for Education, Health and Child Protection have been completed and are in use, and WASH plans have yet to be developed. Work in this area to reach consensus with all stakeholders was constrained during the year. Advocacy with Ministry of Environment and Energy will continue in 2016, with a focus of reaching consensus and developing plans in collaboration with the NDMC.

Mid-Term Review of the Strategic Plan

UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2014–2017 was issued at a calculated juncture, coinciding with the development of the new Country Programme of Cooperation 2016–2020 between the Government of Maldives and UNICEF. This enabled the Country Office to align its programme results with the Strategic Plan's outcome areas. The Strategic Plan provided directions on more focused programming, and enabled the integration of the Monitoring of Results for Equity Systems (MoRES) into the programme design.

The supplementary programme note on the Theory of Change for the Strategic Plan provided clear directions and a common understanding of the organizational directions. Further, applying the guidance on Theory of Change enabled more focused programming, and the Country Office was able to analyse the programming context and explicitly outline the risks and assumptions.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

AMP	Annual Management Plan
ARC	Advocating the Rights of Children
BCC	behavioural change communication
BPNI	Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India
CMT	Country Management Team
CPD	Country Programme Document
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DRR	disaster risk reduction
ECD	early childhood development
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer
ICT	information and communication technology
IMCI	Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
IPV	inactivated polio vaccine
IYCF	infant and young child feeding
LSE	life skills education
MMC	Maldives Media Council
MCPD	Maldives Child Protection Database
MoA	Memorandum of Agreement
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoLG	Ministry of Law and Gender
MoRES	Monitoring of Result for Equity System
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NDMC	National Disaster Management Centre
NGO	non-governmental organization
NIE	National Institute for Education
POG	Programme and Operation Group

ROSA	Regional Office for South Asia
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIQAAF	School Improvement, Quality Assurance and Accountability Framework
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNESCO	United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

Capacity Development

The Country Office, within its upstream strategies, continued to strengthen institutional capacities in the different sectors for improved results for the most vulnerable children. Capacity gaps identified through the completed Training Needs Assessments of Social Workers were addressed through creation of linkages between the Ministry of Law and Gender (MoLW) and Maldives National University to develop and provide training for social workers. The social workers were selected from eight islands, targeting those with high incidences of child abuse, and focused on enhancing their capacities in managing reported child protection cases. Additionally, 108 Police Investigation Officers were trained on handling cases of violence against children, while further training on improving response to domestic violence was provided to police, magistrate and social workers. This is geared towards strengthening case management and increased uptake of service.

A review of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in School in 2014 showed that hygiene education was lacking in schools. In response, a hygiene education package was developed. Teachers, school management and parents from three schools were trained on hygiene management and monitoring of WASH in School. These school communities now have increased capacity to pilot the hygiene education programme in 2016, with plans for roll-out in all schools in 2016.

As a follow-up to the National Curriculum Study, institutional capacity to roll out the new revised National Curriculum was strengthened. A total of 150 pre-primary teachers were trained on teaching the competency-based curriculum and have developed prototype learning materials for schools.

Further, the national capacity of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) was strengthened to analyse social-sector data for better targeting of the social protection programme and use of DevInfo technology and census data for evidence-based policymaking. Furthermore, community capacity in Laamu Atoll was enhanced in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and emergency response, including master trainers on post-disaster needs assessment.

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

Evidence generation and its use to support policy advocacy and influence programmes was at the core of programme support in 2015. Available data were used to analyse and update the Situation Analysis for Children and Women, which informed the development of the new Country Programme Document (CPD) 2016–2020. A participatory and inclusive process combined with high-level engagement with the Government and civil society led to the development of a CPD with increased ownership among stakeholders. The Country Office also contributed to the development of a well-consulted United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), and led the outcome on children and youth.

Situating the issues of children within the country's development agenda, with high visibility for influencing programmes, the Country Office supported the Government to release the Population and Housing Census 2014. An initiative was developed, with strong partnerships with the NBS, to include a chapter on children in the analytical report of the 2014 Census, thereby giving prominence to issues of related to children. Further, through the framework of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA), the capacity of NBS was strengthened in the generation of equity-focused profiles and dashboards on key issues affecting children to inform policies.

Other research was conducted to inform targeted programmes. For instance, an assessment of the situation of adolescents who migrate to Malé for educational purposes highlighted the vulnerabilities and deprivation they experience, with key recommendations to address these issues. The study enabled evidence-based policy dialogue with the Ministry of Education (MoE), leading to the development a framework for addressing these deprivations within the Child Protection Policy in Educational Settings. These interventions also addressed the risk of children dropping out of school, establishing support services in schools and strengthening the legislative framework for protective learning environments.

Partnerships

The Country Office continued its efforts to strengthen partnership with key stakeholders, especially national/local governments and civil society. A Country Office Partnership Strategy was developed, with focus on partnerships with the private sector and local NGOs, and geared towards leveraging resources for attainment of critical results for children, while promoting child rights business principles. Initiatives to be developed with contribution from the private sector include online safety for children, rapid SMS for child protection, e-learning for children – especially those in far remote islands – and skills-training partnerships with the hotel industry for out-of-school adolescents.

Partnerships with the NGO Care Society and the MoE strengthened school-based early identification and intervention mechanisms for children with special education needs. An assessment tool for early identification of disabilities was developed, along with procedures for use in schools. Further, partnerships with the local NGO Journey increased awareness among adolescents and young people on the prevention of drug abuse and harm reduction. To accelerate child rights efforts, child protection and nutrition programmes established collaborative relationships with the NGO Advocating the Rights of Children (ARC) to promote child abuse prevention, child nutrition and child participation, especially at the island community levels.

At the national level, partnerships with the Ministry of Health (MoH) resulted in organization of a National Nutrition Conference that brought together key stakeholders to a common platform to address nutrition issues in children under 5. This conference led to the formulation of a cross-sectoral action plan focusing on interventions for the first 1,000 days of life. In addition, a successful tripartite collaboration between the Health Protection Agency, Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) and UNICEF had 24 health professionals trained on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) as master trainers, a crucial step to roll out the planned IYCF programme in the country.

External Communication and Public Advocacy

The Country Office, with support from UNICEF ROSA, applied various modes of communication in its public advocacy to improve results for children.

Towards this end, a coalition was established with a pool of media experts from established broadcast and print media in the country to promote children's rights and participation, especially at the island community level.

Communication for Development approaches such as group discussions, door-to-door sessions and workshops (with parents, community leaders, teachers, youth groups, children and adolescents) were used in five selected islands. These interactions led to fostering of positive attitudes towards engaging children and adolescents in development matters, particularly those affecting them.

Additionally, two public campaigns were launched during the year: the National Child Abuse Prevention campaign and the Maternal and Child Nutrition campaign, and they gained unprecedented media coverage, as well as enabled discussion and actions by the Government. Violence against children became a subject of national attention, with the First Lady in lead as child rights advocate.

The National Nutrition Conference on the subject of quality child nutrition during the initial 1,000days of life provided a successful advocacy platform to engage and promote discussions on issues affecting nutrition of children younger than 5 years old in Maldives. The forum identified key actions to address these issues, including, among others, a multi-sectoral approach with a focus on strategy and policy direction.

The Country Office also built strategic relationships with ARC to further promote child rights. A child participation strategy was developed and launched in collaboration with the MoE and a child participation platform, Adolescent Radio', is ready to be aired on national radio with young people leading the design and production of weekly episodes to engage communities on child rights issues.

In addition, the Country Office continued to raise the visibility of children's issues through its Facebook and Twitter pages. Growth in followers on both social media channels was steady throughout 2015.

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

The Country Office made strides in knowledge exchange, sharing good practices and lessons learned with other countries in the region. The capacity of NBS to generate equity-focused profiles and dashboards was strengthened through the framework of the MoA between UNESCAP and UNICEF ROSA. This was done within a framework of working together, building networks with other countries for sharing experiences and information.

In another initiative, a National Nutritional Conference was held with a contribution from the Sri Lanka nutrition programme, in which a team from Sri Lanka shared their good practices and lessons learned on nutrition-specific interventions. Rich experiences on addressing nutrition issues in a middle-income country context, and the interventions that have led to a decrease in Sri Lanka's malnutrition rates among children under 5 were shared. The sharing was well received by stakeholders participating in the conference, with partners' commitment to maintain cross-border learning.

Additionally, the Country Office facilitated collaboration between Health Protection Agency, BPNI and the International Babyfood Action Network of South Asia. The specialists from these agencies provided technical expertise to facilitate the comprehensive IYCF Training of Trainers (ToT) training, which led to capacity building of 24 health professionals. The country now has a resource pool of trainers to deliver the cascading IYCF in the country.

The Country Office facilitated Maldives National University to share experiences in delivering the Masters in Social Policy course, with the Royal University of Bhutan. A team from Bhutan National University visited Maldives and gained knowledge on adapting the course in Bhutan. The opportunity also provided Bhutan to share its experience in promoting social inclusion.

By leveraging the existing links with neighbouring countries, the Country Office has enhanced the breadth of knowledge gained in these platforms for future programming.

Identification and Promotion of Innovation

Innovation remained central to programming, with particular focus on improving results for vulnerable and marginalized children.

With the roll-out of the 'Ahan' child abuse prevention campaign nationwide, the MoLG saw a drastic increase in the reporting of cases of child abuse, mainly through an established Child Helpline 1412. This increase had led to the creation of a 'Call Centre', where all incoming reports are recorded. However, a challenge was reported on manual recording of the calls and uploading to the database for analysis and follow-up. Work is under way to link the Call Centre to the Maldives Child Protection Database (MCPD). The link between the Call Centre and MCPD will allow the information to be captured, analysed and communicated to facilitate a timely response by the Family and Children Service Centre (FCSC) established in the atoll.

Work is also under way to create a mobile SMS application for reporting of abuse cases. The Country Office is working closely with the MoLG for the establishment of Community Social Groups at the island level who will be mobilized for prevention, protection and responding to cases as part of the Social Services at the Community Doorstep initiative targeting children, women, the elderly and people with disabilities.

Recognizing the added value of building civil society capacity to compliment service delivery in areas such as child participation, child nutrition and violence against children, particularly at the local island level, the Country Office partnered with ARC to provide integrated nutrition, child protection and child participation interventions, in particular to reach the most deprived children in remote islands.

Support to Integration and Cross-Sectoral Linkages

Recognizing the critical importance of an integrated early childhood development (ECD) approach, UNICEF Maldives brought together officials from the MoH and MoE to a common platform to discuss a more integrated approach towards future programming. All agencies agreed to work together on ECD, recognizing the need for increased capacity.

The collaboration was further strengthened by support from UNICEF Maldives for participation of government officials from both ministries in the Asia-Pacific International Conference on ECD, where they gained knowledge on other models that have worked in the region. This resulted in greater buy-in of an integrated approach to ECD in the country, and through this, consensus

has been reached between the MoH and MoE to develop and implement an integrated ECD policy framework, commencing 2016.

Service Delivery

As a middle-income country Maldives requires that UNICEF focus on influencing policies, budgetary allocations and system strengthening, based on sound evidence and strategic technical assistance.

Emphasis was given to programme monitoring of results. Capacity was strengthened internally through participation in a regional results-based management workshop with sister United Nations agencies and partners around joint monitoring to track results.

Vaccine management continued to be area of focus, mainly in building capacity on stock management and vaccine handling, as well as effective management of vaccines. While the Government provided funding for the vaccines, the Country Office, through the UNICEF Copenhagen Procurement and Supply Division, facilitated the procurement of all of the routine vaccines for children (standard vaccines in the Expanded Programme on Immunization, or EPI), as well as non-EPI vaccines (such as travel vaccines and influenza vaccine), vitamin A and deworming tablets.

UNICEF Maldives will continue its assistance to the Government procurement request in 2016, to ensure adequate numbers of vaccines in the country, as well as the quality of vaccines. In this regard, special focus was given to prepare the country for the introduction of the inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) into routine immunization in March 2015.

Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

A Human Rights-Based Approach is fully integrated into Country Office programming. Focus is placed on strengthening the capacities of Government and key partners to understand their obligations and accountability towards the realization of the rights of children and women, while at the same time empowering and increasing the capacities of women and children to be aware of their rights.

Through equity analysis developed by the Country Office, emphasis in programmes was focused on the vulnerable, with the aim of addressing key bottlenecks. Key interventions included focus on out-of-school children, nutrition interventions for children affected by stunting, and strengthening child protection measures and justice for children. Additionally, other programmes undertaken included promotion of life skills and leadership skills, particularly among girls, programmes for the early identification of disabilities among children with special needs, and school health programmes in marginalized areas. A study carried out on vulnerabilities of children migrating to the capital city of Malé was undertaken, and measures were identified with the MoLG and MoE on how this will be addressed. Efforts are under way to establish child protection mechanisms in school settings.

The Country Office also contributed to the implementation and follow-up of Universal Periodic Review recommendations in 2015, placing focus on the key vulnerabilities affecting children; in particular, violence against children, nutrition and stunting in children under 5, and access to quality education.

Following the submission of the State Party Report to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) Committee in 2014, the Country Office in 2015 facilitated the development and

submission of the Alternate Report through ARC. The Country Office also contributed to the discussions and engaged in dialogue with the Working Group Session of the Committee on the Rights of Children on critical issues faced by children in the Maldives. As a result, the 'List of Issues' that was given to the Government captured gaps in realization of the rights of children in the country.

Gender Mainstreaming and Equality

The Country Programme takes a gender mainstreaming approach to programming, thus support focused on addressing critical gender issues in each of the programmatic areas. Within an upstream approach, the focus was on establishing sustainable systems that ensure gender issues are adequately identified and addressed for both boys and girls within programmes.

The child protection programme, through the partnership with ARC, delivered the Girls Empowerment Programme, targeting girls to complete secondary education and higher secondary education. This was geared at empowering adolescent and young girls in life skills, as well as exposing them to career opportunities, boosting their confidence and empowering them to make informed decisions on their career pathways in accessing these opportunities. Likewise, parents, both mothers and fathers, were also sensitized to their supportive roles and for creating an enabling environment. The programme was implemented in schools in Malé in 2015 and is ready to be rolled out.

Similarly, the Family Protection Authority was supported to implement the training module targeting magistrates, law enforcement agencies and social workers on gender-based violence and domestic violence. This training sensitized the sectors to issues of gender-based violence, thus making services more user-friendly and encouraging reporting. Discussion between the Family Protection Authority and the Faculty of Sharia and Law was initiated to incorporate this module into their training programme.

Under the health and nutrition programme, the Country Office supported the Maternal and Child Nutrition campaign, targeting mothers and caregivers on the use of gender-sensitive messages and giving emphasis to the importance of support from the extended family, especially husbands, for exclusive breastfeeding and positive practices on nutrition for children under 5.

Inclusivity of women at all levels of planning and implementation was ensured through the Country Office's support to disaster risk management and resilience building in 2015. The pilot atoll, Laamu, demonstrated women's empowerment and leadership to mainstream DRR and resilience into island-level planning. As a result, there were significant contributions from women in the formulation of community-based disaster resilient planning.

Environmental Sustainability

Promotion of environmental sustainability and climate change adaptation, including child-focused and child-centred DRR, was a key focus for the Country Office in 2015.

In partnership with the Government and Maldivian Red Crescent, key community members were trained as master trainers to be leading personnel at the island level in taking disaster resilience and climate change adaptation plans forward. These included key island leaders, among them Women's Development Committee members, Youth Leaders and representatives from the Atoll and Island Councils. The master trainers were equipped with information, knowledge and skills to further train Vulnerability Capacity Assessments practitioners and facilitate development of disaster risk management plans in the respective islands. As a result of

this initiative, two islands in the pilot atoll – Laamu – completed risk profiling and hazard mapping, and developed disaster management and climate resilience plans.

In addition, in collaboration with the National Institute of Education (NIE) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the MoE established DRR and climate change training in the education system. Training was provided to teachers in Addu and Fuah Mulaku islands on managing environment education in schools. As a result, Environment Action Plans are now developed and available in these schools that promote disaster and environmental conservation and resilience.

Under the stewardship of trained teachers, eco-clubs of Addu schools developed and implemented projects, in which a total of 170 students participated and gained knowledge on sustainable environmental practices. As a result, the eco-clubs have become the driving force behind all environmental and sustainable activities at the school level, and children have enhanced knowledge and recognition of eco-clubs and their activities.

The Country Office also strengthened DRR and climate resilience through WASH capacity and dialogue at island level. Skills in management of water and sanitation resources were enhanced and strengthened communities' decision-making abilities to influence resilience actions.

The Country Office also focused on assessing and reducing its environmental footprint during the last quarter of 2015. As such, measures such as use of recycled paper, use of high-efficiency LED lighting (bulbs) and reduction of printing and centralizing the location of printers were put in place.

Effective Leadership

The Country Office applied the governance mechanisms for effective leadership; this included the Programme and Operation Group (POG), the CMT and other statutory internal committees, to ensure smooth functioning of the office and to track efficiency and effectiveness. Similarly, key internal workflow processes were reviewed and revised to facilitate routine office transactions.

In addressing the programme management performance, the CMT put in place a performance monitoring tool to track the rate of implementation, results, audit recommendations and evaluation recommendations. Results were discussed in POG and CMT meetings for strategic directions and actions. Key Performance Indicators were regularly tracked by the CMT using the Performance Management Dashboard, and corrective actions were taken on a timely basis. The CMT provided guidance and directives to accelerate implementation, and tracked closure of all 2013 audit recommendations. In addition, recommendations from the 2011–2015 CPD strategies evaluation were incorporated into the rolling Annual Management Plan (AMP) and closely monitored by the CMT, and lessons fed into the new CPD 2016–2020.

The CMT reviewed the Enterprise Risk Management and mitigation measures were identified and incorporated into work plans for follow-up, and AMP implementation was monitored closely. The Business Continuity Plan was updated regularly and implemented when required. For instance, during the recent events of political demonstrations and the resulting declared state of emergency in the country, the Plan was reviewed, tested and all staff re-oriented in readiness for any eventuality. The CMT continuously monitored the security situation of the country, and kept staff abreast of the developments and on continuing business during instances of high insecurity.

In preparation for a smooth transition to a Global Shared Services Centre, the CMT ensured timely implementation of global and regional deadlines, while also monitoring implementation of the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) Assurance Plan. The CMT ensured that macro-assessment for the new Programme Cycle was conducted together with other United Nations agencies.

Financial Resources Management

The CMT has put in place clear management mechanisms to track office Key Performance Indicators, with set benchmarks outlined in the AMP and regularly monitored through the POG and CMT. Any area lagging against the set office benchmarks are discussed, and bottlenecks are identified, with clear actions by management to alleviate them.

By the end of 2015, all Key Performance Indicators had been met, with only two direct cash transfers pending, whose follow-up is being made. This was achieved by improved planning, timely implementation, continuous monitoring and close follow-up with implementing partners. Special measures were put in place to ensure full utilization of Other Resources funds with shorter lifespans, and grants expiring in 2015. At year-end, the implementation rate stood at 98 per cent.

Moreover, cash and treasury management was undertaken with the objective of maintaining an optimum level of cash, as per financial procedures. Purchase of local currency through the portal saved time in terms of not having to make subsequent entries in Vision once a replenishment is received into the bank. The bank charges for transactions have been completely removed, thereby resulting in savings on bank charges.

Furthermore, utility costs were regularly monitored and actions to reduce costs were identified. Subsequently, electricity, telephone and water expenses decreased by 5 per cent. Necessary internal financial controls, regular and effective cash forecasts and bank reconciliations were maintained.

Programme implementation rates improved through improved planning, timely implementation, continuous monitoring and follow-up and continuous dialogue with partners. Additionally, increased compliance with HACT (scheduled spot-checks and systematic programme visits) added to the efficiency in programme implementation and utilization of funds through a Quality Assurance Plan, with joint programme visits and programmatic reviews closely monitored. Overall, 95 per cent of all HACT quality assurance activities planned for 2015 were completed.

Fund-Raising and Donor Relations

UNICEF Maldives, whose total budget is 48 per cent of Other Resources (OR), continued its resource mobilization efforts in 2015. A resource mobilization and partnership strategy was developed to guide fund-raising and donor relations. The Country Office realized and utilized 98 per cent of the total allotment of US\$569,256 in 2015.

Through the strategies developed, and with support from the Regional Office and UNICEF headquarters, the Country Office has so far realized 76 per cent of Other Resources during the CPD 2011–2015. Additionally, through the partnership strategy, efforts are under way to mobilize support through the private sector in the country to support results for children. With Maldives being a middle-income country and considering the challenges in obtaining external donor funding, a mapping exercise for engagement and mobilization of private-sector fund-

raising and partnerships was carried out in 2015. Fund-raising packages were developed for health and nutrition, child protection, quality education, social inclusion, and DRR and resilience. UNICEF Maldives also developed fund-raising and resource mobilization and communication and advocacy strategies that will be an integral part of the AMP 2016.

Other Resources funds supported interventions in adolescents, nutrition, environmental education and WASH. The Country Office also set aside funds for adolescents, and thematic funds for education and WASH. These funds were allocated in compliance with donor requirements and grant specifications. To ensure optimal use of funds planned in the annual work plans, fund-monitoring mechanisms were put in place, including monthly programme and operations coordination meetings, CMT meetings and in-house tracking tools, ensuring that all funds were utilized by grant expiry date.

One donor report due in 2015 was submitted on time, adhering to organization and donor quality standards, which were reinforced through a rigorous internal clearance.

Evaluation

The Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan was prepared and endorsed by the CMT. Throughout the year, it was also closely monitored by the CMT. This year being the end of CPD 2011–2015, the evaluation of the Government and UNICEF Maldives Country Programme 2011–2015 strategies was completed in 2014. Management responses were developed for each of the recommendations and were approved and regularly monitored by the CMT. To date, all of the recommendations have been implemented and will be sustained.

The evaluation of life skills education (LSE) programme was initiated in 2015 and is ongoing, with a report due in the first quarter of 2016. The findings will be used by the Country Office and MoE to improve the programme, and to strengthen institutional mechanisms needed for effective delivery of life skills to students.

These evaluations were commissioned and are conducted by an independent consultant to ensure objectivity and impartiality. All data collection and group discussion were carried out independently and without any influence or participation by UNICEF staff.

By the end of 2015, all recommended actions of the evaluation on CPD strategies were completed. The evaluation findings also informed the development of the new Country Programme 2016–2020. ROSA support was planned in 2015 to build national capacity on evaluation of the Government; however, this support was cancelled and will be planned again in 2016.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

A systematic approach was used to achieve efficiency gains and cost savings. The cost-saving culture was strengthened in the Country Office, where staff are more conscious about saving energy, reducing the carbon footprint and reducing costs. Positive practices inculcated include turning off lights and air conditioners when not in use, responsible use of water and telephone, and the re-use of paper for internal purposes. This enabled a savings of 15 per cent in the Country Office's operational resources. The efficiency of office work increased when the UNICEF Sri Lanka Country Office handled the procurement.

Compared with the previous year, electricity, telephone and water expenses decreased into 2015. Savings on bank charges increased due to the removal of transaction charges.

The Country Office replaced all its lighting to energy-efficient LED bulbs. Furthermore, sharing of printers and printing in black and white and double-sided are compulsory.

The outsourcing of the financial transactions by Sri Lanka using the Push & Track document management system which has ensured better effectiveness and efficiency in terms of human resources management, as well as streamlining and strengthening programme operations support. The sharing of the Sri Lanka platform has prepared UNICEF Maldives for a smooth transfer of the processing of selected transactions to the Global Shared Services Centre.

Supply Management

In light of Maldives' transition to a middle-income country, the Country Programme (2011–2015) was designed to support high-level advocacy, evidence generation and capacity development. As such, supply and procurement services were limited to technical expertise and vaccines.

With the support of the UNICEF Procurement and Supply Division based in Copenhagen, UNICEF Maldives facilitated the procurement of vaccines for the Government, ensuring required documentation, communication between the two parties, and funds directly transferred to the Procurement and Supply Division by the Government. The Country Office will continue this support in 2016.

The Country Office developed the Supply/Human Resources consultancy plan at the beginning of the year, with the main purpose of addressing the critical capacity gap faced by the Government. Based on discussions with the Government, expertise was sought from 12 consultants in 2015 to support five programmatic areas.

In response to impending monsoon rains and heavy flooding during the months of December and January, the Country Office supported the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) to facilitate procurement of 18 water pumps and 100 water-testing kits to the nine most-affected islands in the country. The supplies will enable affected populations to mitigate the outbreak of vector-borne diseases. Field monitoring and visits to assess the end-use of the supplies will be conducted in early 2016.

Security for Staff and Premises

The security situation in Maldives continued to fluctuate, with restive political environment being considerably dynamic.

The Country Office regularly participated in all Security Management Team meetings and deliberated on threats to the security of staff, the premises, and the risks to the programming environment based on the evolving political context of the country. The Security Management Team and agency focal points closely monitored the situation, especially the political demonstrations. To ensure security of staff in and outside the office, staff were updated whenever announcements were made by political parties on rallies and demonstrations, and any other emerging security situation or eminent threats. Precautionary measures were advised when necessary and security updates and guidance were promptly provided to staff during the State Emergency that was declared in October–November 2015. Further, with changes in the security situation, the Country Office increased the security of the premises.

In order to enhance security of the new Country Office, and to comply with Minimum Operating Security Standards, a security gate was installed to reinforce the entrance. Furthermore, a 24-hour closed-circuit television camera system was installed at key locations in the building. The

United Nations Department of Safety and Security Focal Point for Maldives, based in Sri Lanka, provided continued support to ensure compliance of the Office.

The Country Office received continuous support from ROSA and UNICEF headquarters security adviser, in addition to accessing funds to strengthen security measures. Access control measures were strengthened in addition to procuring lifejackets with tracking devices for staff safety while on sea travel for implementation and monitoring programmes.

Human Resources

Analysis of the Electronic Performance Appraisal System was conducted in early 2015, and gaps were identified. The Learning Plan was developed and implemented based on staff capacity development gaps. The Human Resources Development Team considered each request in light of need, available resources and added benefits to staff career development. Additionally, through the Regional Human Resources Development Team envelope, staff training was conducted in the Country Office to address office-wide gaps in key competencies, mainly influencing skills, planning, prioritizing and time management. Additionally, gaps identified during the Mid-Term Review were addressed through recruitment of a HACT Officer, which has enhanced HACT implementation, and a Social Policy and Planning specialist, to strengthen evidence generation and policy planning and advocacy.

The present staff mix comprises 46 per cent males and 54 per cent females, for a total of 13 staff members. Staff performance was monitored through regular interactions with the supervisor and the supervisee, and Performance Appraisal System/Electronic Performance Appraisal System platforms were used for planning and review of progress.

Based on the outcomes of the most recent Global Staff Survey, an Action Plan was prepared in consultation with staff, and approved by the CMT, which addressed key issues around work-life balance, work pressure and career development. The one-day meeting on Annual Review and Programming facilitated discussions on staff basic competencies, managing work-life balance and work flow processes. Further, staff training and the retreat programme addressed skills building such as stress management. These forums enabled alignment of Country Programme requirements with staff capacities and empowered staff to plan in advance for the next Country Programme.

In order to enhance staff capacity, with a focus on identified staff gaps, staff benefited throughout the year from specialized programmes within and outside the region, including network meetings. In addition, staff continuously used AGORA (the UNICEF portal for learning and development) to access learning opportunities in various areas of need.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

The Country Office leveraged resources to standardize (CAT6 network with CISCO switch) and strengthen information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure (installing IP PABX), which is now fully functional since moving out from UN Common House in 2014.

Office 365 significantly improved the mobility of accessing ICT resources. To further enhance communication and efficiency, all staff mobile devices can access office emails, allowing timely receipt and response. Throughout the year, there was increased use of Skype and Skype for Business (Lync) by staff to host online meetings and conduct interviews. This improved efficiency and cut down on the cost of telephone charges, both local and overseas. Moreover, the use of video conference facilities have been made available to further increase efficiency

and effectiveness.

The Country Office used OneDrive to synchronize staff documents on their laptops, which allows them to work wherever Internet is available.

In addition, to reduce its ICT footprint, common printers were installed in two locations within the Country Office and staff were advised to use the most cost-efficient printer settings. This has resulted in remarkable reduction consumables.

Programme Components from Results Assessment Module

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1: By the end of 2015, new or revised child-focused legislations, policies, guidelines and regulations are enacted to protect the most vulnerable boys, girls and women in Maldives.

Analytical statement of progress:

In 2015, the Country Office supported the Government to strengthen important pieces of legislation related to children and youth and focused on high-level advocacy for quick passage of the Juvenile Justice Bill; Child Rights, Childcare and Protection Bill; and a Bill on Youth, which were at the Attorney General's Office. The large number of pending priority bills in the legislative agenda of the Government had hindered the submission of these three key bills related to children and youth.

Opportunities such as the meetings between the Country Office Representative and Attorney General, ministers and other policy-level persons were used to advocate for the bills. In addition, the visit of the Deputy Regional Director for UNICEF ROSA was used to raise the criticality of these bills, and the challenges faced by stakeholders to create an enabling environment for children due to gaps in current legislations. UNICEF Maldives in 2016 will continue its support to strengthen the legislative framework.

The Country Office supported ARC in its submission of the Alternate Report to the CRC Committee, and participated in the Working Group Session of the Committee on the Rights of Children to engage in a dialogue on critical issues faced by children in Maldives.

The Country Office also continued its support to the NDMC for emergency preparedness and response actions across sectors in the country.

In this regard, in collaboration with the NDMC, the office supported the development of the National Post-Disaster Assessment Framework, the first policy document following the enactment of the Disaster Management Act. This will contribute significantly to disaster preparedness and management in the country. Through this framework, capacity was strengthened and post-disaster needs assessment methodology and tools were developed. These enabled NDMC staff and stakeholders to provide immediate relief; collect, verify and record data; and update progress reports post-emergency. In addition, a comprehensive training package for post-disaster assessments was developed for future trainings. Master trainers were trained from Malé and in one pilot atoll – Laamu – for roll-out to other atolls and islands in the country. This initiative will strengthen coordination, harmonize efforts and create opportunities for joint assessments, leading to effective response, recovery as well as inclusivity in post-emergency activities.

Furthermore, through partnership with a local NGO, Water Care, the capacity of community members in 11 islands of Laamu Atoll was increased to respond to WASH in emergencies. These included key island leaders, among them the Women's Development Committee members, Youth Leaders and representatives from the Atoll and Island Councils. The initiative enhanced their skills in management of water and sanitation resources, and strengthened their decision-making abilities to influence WASH response and actions during an emergency. With regard to the key sectoral preparedness and response initiatives, emergency plans for Education, Health and Child Protection have been completed. Work in this area for the WASH sector plans was constrained during the year, as there were challenges in reaching consensus with all stakeholders. Advocacy will continue with the Ministry of Environment and Energy in 2016, with a focus of reaching consensus and developing the plans in collaboration with NDMC.

It is envisaged that the enactment of the Disaster Management Act in 2015 by the Government will create an enabling environment for stronger partnerships with NDMC to scale up emergency and DRR interventions and sustain the gains made. Moreover, the existing partnerships between local and international NGOs, the Government and UNICEF Maldives have continued to strengthen disaster resilience and preparedness actions at national and island levels.

OUTPUT 1: By the end of 2015, legislation, regulations, guidelines and policies for enhancement of children's rights are strengthened.

Analytical statement of progress:

The Country Office continued its high-level advocacy to the Government to expedite the pending Juvenile Justice Bill, the Child Rights, Childcare and Protection Bill and the Bill on Youth. In this regard, a meeting between the Deputy Regional Director for UNICEF ROSA and the Attorney General and other ministers during his visit to Maldives was used to highlight the urgent need to expedite the submission of the pending bills to the Parliament to ensure that the gap in the legislative framework for advancing the rights of children is remedied. The delay in the passage of these bills also hinders the creation of an effective child protection system.

In consultations with key stakeholders, including youth groups, the draft Bill on Youth was finalized in the first quarter of 2015. The final draft was presented to the Attorney General's Office for a final review and for submission to the Parliament.

The current volatile political situation highly influences the Government's priorities for the legislative agenda. The main challenge for hindering the quick passage of the three bills is the competing priorities within the legislative agenda of the Government.

The Country Office in 2015 also supported the development of a Child Health Strategy through consultation with the stakeholder, and is currently awaiting endorsement from the Government. Similarly, a child participation strategy was developed and launched in collaboration with the MoE. In addition, a strategy on special education needs was developed and finalized with the National Institute of Education. UNICEF Maldives will support the Government to roll out these strategies in 2016.

To promote the realization of child rights in Maldives, the Country Office supported ARC in its submission of the Alternate Report to the CRC Committee. With support from the Country Office, high-level participation of children, youth groups and civil society partners was ensured in drafting the Alternate Report. The Country Office, together with ARC, participated in the Working Group Session of the Committee on the Rights of Children to contribute to the

discussion and to engage in a dialogue on critical issues faced by children in Maldives and to clarify various concerns raised by the Committee. Based on information received through the State Report, Alternate Report and the discussion, the Committee released the 'List of Issues', to which the Government has responded.

OUTPUT 2: Child- and gender-sensitive emergency and response plans are reviewed and updated by the end of 2015.

Analytical statement of progress:

Country Office support under the One UN Joint Programme, 'Low Emission Climate Resilient Development', continued throughout the year in Laamu Atoll, where advocacy engagements with communities resulted in increased knowledge and awareness on the importance of climate and disaster resilience, as well as the importance of being prepared for vulnerabilities at individual and community levels. Community members were also trained as master trainers to be key leading personnel at the island level to develop DRR and resilience plans, resulting in completion of risk profiling, hazard mapping and development of disaster management plans in two selected islands.

In collaboration with the NDMC, the office supported the development of National Post-Disaster Assessment Framework, through which capacity was strengthened and post-disaster assessment methodology and tools were developed. These enabled NDMC staff and stakeholders to provide immediate relief; collect, verify and record data; and update progress reports post-emergency. In addition, a comprehensive training package for post-disaster assessments was developed for future trainings. Master trainers were trained from Malé (17 participants – 7 females and 10 males) and Laamu Atoll, with nine islands participating (18 community members – 7 females and 11 males), for roll-out to other atolls and islands in the country to increase enhanced coordination with all stakeholders and promote coherent and harmonized joint assessments and response, especially within the first 72 hours of an emergency.

In addition, through partnership with a local NGO, Water Care, the capacity of community members in 11 islands of Laamu Atoll was increased to respond to WASH in emergencies. These included key island leaders, among them the Women Development Committee members, Youth Leaders and representatives from the Atoll and Island Councils. The initiative enhanced their skills in management of water and sanitation resources and strengthened their decision-making abilities to influence response actions during an emergency.

Advocacy on emergency preparedness and response continued during the year, with a focus on coordination with NDMC. While the emergency plans for Education, Health and Child Protection have been completed and are in use, the WASH plans are yet to be developed. Work in this area was constrained during the year in reaching consensus with all stakeholders. Advocacy will continue with the Ministry of Environment and Energy in 2016, with a focus of reaching consensus and developing the plans in collaboration with NDMC.

The Country Office continued regular updates on its preparedness status on the Early Warning/Early Action platform on the UNICEF Intranet.

OUTCOME 2: By the end of 2015, disaggregated data and information that inform policies and programmes for the realization of children's rights are available, accessible, analysed and used.

Analytical statement of progress:

The Country Office focus under this outcome was characterized by important developments, including completion of the national Population and Housing Census 2014. National capacity was strengthened in conducting census data analysis and dissemination. The analysis highlighted disparities among the most vulnerable and deprived children and families in Maldives. This analysis provides evidence for planned and ongoing initiatives on strengthening interventions for out-of-school children and youth and children with disabilities, and on strengthening targeting of social protection schemes.

The census results are now accessible to the public. With UNICEF's advocacy, the Maldivinfo database was updated with the integration of the census results, making it more comprehensive. Further, the World Statistics Day platform was used to advocate on the use of Maldivinfo for evidence-based policymaking and planning.

UNICEF partnered with UNESCAP to build NBS capacity, in developing Equity profiles and dashboards. As a follow-up to this capacity building, NBS, with the technical support of the Devinfo Support Group from India under UNICEF funding, drafted Equity profiles (stunting and child marriage) and dashboards. These profiles will strengthen policy advocacy and help inform atoll-level planning and programming. Technical support was provided to the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) in terms of planning, sampling and questionnaire design.

A scoping mission was carried out to plan an approach to strengthen the education information system using OpenEMIS technology, with a view to developing a robust and reliable Education Management Information System (EMIS) by the end of the OpenEMIS project in 2017.

Child Protection reporting and management of cases (482 cases in 2012 to 1,115 cases in 2015) has improved, with UNICEF technical support provided to the MoLG and Maldives police services. Police Investigating Officers from four divisions, in the atolls, were oriented on the use of the Maldives Child Protection Database following its link to the Police Information Management system. This link had made it possible to capture data in real time.

The limited capacity in the Government on evidence-based planning and policy hindered achievement of results. In addition, planning functions within key sectors are not adequately staffed and have limited capacity. Within this context, UNICEF, jointly with other United Nations agencies, advocated with the Government to strengthen the planning function. Furthermore, UNICEF initiated engagement with the Government on planning for integration of the SDGs as an entry point and a common priority.

In addition, the country is still facing data gaps in key social sectors such as nutrition, water and sanitation and child poverty, despite joint support provided by UNESCAP, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and UNICEF. Limited analytical capacity within the Government has had implications in designing and programming national priorities. Continuous capacity building on results-based management, data administration and analysis of the government staff has been initiated.

OUTPUT 1: By the end of 2015, government monitoring and evaluation capacity is established to track progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (FA 5, KRA 1, and OT1).

Analytical statement of progress:

The Country Office continued its advocacy with the Ministry of Finance and Treasury for evidence-based policy and budgetary planning, as well as continued its support to the

Government in maintaining and managing data systems. The MoE completed a scoping mission to plan an approach to strengthening the education information system using OpenEMIS technology. Upon completion of the scoping mission in 2015, financial support was provided to develop the core modules of the EMIS and migration of existing education data.

The National Social Protection Agency's capacity was strengthened to carry out the analysis of data to improve targeting of social protection programmes (single parent allowance, disability, poster parent allowance, etc.), and increased coverage to most vulnerable children. The Agency documented progress in terms of coverage of services in central region (Raa Atoll).

The Maldivinfo database was upgraded with new administrative data and, more specifically, with Population and Housing Census data carried out in 2014. With UNICEF support, the NBS created a CensusInfo that was fully integrated into the Maldivinfo database. Also with UNICEF support, NBS increased its capacity in data administration and analysis to develop a chapter on children, and equity profiles to inform policy discussions around children's disparities and vulnerabilities. UNICEF, in partnership with UNESCAP, supported the NBS to increase public awareness on the use of statistics on the occasion of the World Statistics Day.

Police Investigating Officers from four divisions, in the atolls, were oriented on the use of the Maldives Child Protection Database following its link to the Police Information Management system. This link made it possible to capture data in real time. UNICEF provided technical support to improve the Maldives Child Protection Database. As such, a Windows-based application was changed to a web-based application for ease of access and use of the database.

UNICEF continued its support to the Maldives National University to strengthen its capacity in its Masters in Social Policy Programme. With UNICEF support, the University revised two study guides/materials for the course, and four students completed the course.

OUTPUT 2: Policy planning and advocacy are informed by high-quality research and analysis generated from established information systems for children, adolescents and women by the end of 2015 (FA 5, KR A 2, OT 5).

Analytical statement of progress:

Strong advocacy resulted in a productive collaboration with the NBS. Important steps were made towards ensuring availability of national data on child poverty and child vulnerabilities by inclusion of the Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis module into major national DHS and Household Income and Expenditure Surveys.

High-level dialogue engaged with the MoF to strengthened child-friendly budgeting. The Country Office engaged in preliminary discussions with the Data, Research and Policy Division at headquarters to conduct an investment case as a basis of an equitable approach to resource allocation and more efficient funding to social inclusion.

The release of census data and the upcoming DHS and Household Income and Expenditure Survey results will create a rich platform of data that can be used for various analyses on child deprivations and vulnerabilities for the next five years. Furthermore, these surveys will generate baselines for monitoring SDGs at the national level. However, capacity to conduct data analysis remain a major challenge among national government institutions, which will be addressed in the new Country Programme.

OUTCOME 3: By the end of 2015, families enjoy quality health care, and practice improved nutrition, hygienic behaviours and are aware of the effects of drug abuse and HIV.

Analytical statement of progress:

Through Country Offices' support, positive work has been carried out to raise the child nutrition agenda in 2015, one of which is the National Nutrition Conference. The platform was instrumental to share experience and evidence base knowledge, and to prioritize child nutrition. It was a first step to enhance political commitment to work on interventions focused on the first 1,000 days of life. Local NGOs, academia and the World Health Organization (WHO) provided technical expertise that further enhanced the advocacy message. Through policy dialogue and advocacy, UNICEF Maldives is supporting the Government to develop nutrition policies and plans; the IYCF Standards have been revised, and the IYCF programme is being developed. The Maternal and Child Nutrition behavioural change communication (BCC) campaign was launched, and the resources and informative messages are helping mothers to improve feeding practices for children younger than 5 years old. Key messages delivered through media channels and the Maternal and Child Nutrition Guide address the determinants and common misconceptions, and are reinforced through the health-care provider during contact at service point. Combined, these efforts will contribute to regional headline results of reducing stunting prevalence at the country level.

Through a three-party collaboration between the Health Protection Agency, BPNI and UNICEF, 24 health professionals underwent the IYCF Master Training. BPNI provided technical expertise to facilitate the training – a valuable south-south initiative. The Master Trainers will conduct further trainings all over Maldives, and support the roll-out the IYCF programme in the country. The capacity developed is contributing to alleviate the bottleneck of knowledge and skills gap in service providers. Further, UNICEF Maldives and WHO continue to support the legislative change to help Maldives achieve full implementation of the Breast-milk Substitute Code, in order to comply with the International Code of Breast-milk Substitutes. Code endorsement is a critical step towards an enabling environment to promote exclusive breastfeeding. Nonetheless, being in the early stage of implementation, several challenges continue to hinder the code's full enforcement, including limited awareness and capacity to monitor distribution points.

The country introduced injectable inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) into the routine immunization schedule in March 2015 – a regional headline result and a UNICEF Strategic Plan priority. It is a key step to accelerate the global eradication of polio. The process was closely supported by WHO and UNICEF. WHO provided technical backstopping to the national programme, while UNICEF's support consisted of technical assistance to the communication plan, health-care providers' training and timely procurement of vaccines? UNICEF will continue to support capacity development to ensure the switch from trivalent OPV (tOPV) to bivalent OPV in April 2016, in line with the global switch.

Other capacity development support includes trainings on Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) in three atolls. The 13 modules localized by UNICEF's support provides the basis for trainings, and is facilitated by master trainings conducted with UNICEF's support. This has resulted in the increased capacity of health service providers to better respond and treat routine child health problems, as well as promote preventive measures to maximize child survival.

The Child Health Strategy and Action plan have been developed, which outlines key interventions for the country. The strategy incorporates aspects of the global pledge, Every Newborn Action Plan, which is especially relevant to Maldives given the neonatal deaths within the infant mortality. The strategy will be instrumental to help Maldives meet the South Asia

regional headline result of saving more newborns. Once endorsed, the strategy will provide a road map and policy directions to improve the health status of the children of Maldives, especially the most vulnerable children. The next steps will be the costing of the Action Plan, advocacy, orientation and roll-out.

UNICEF supported an emerging need related to childhood illness which caused five deaths in 2015: the dengue crisis. The collaborative effort between WHO, UNICEF and the Maldivian Red Cross, led by the MoH, was able to bring the situation under control within one month. The Health Emergency Preparedness Plan was finalized, providing the essential framework for the health sector to follow during emergencies and disasters, and to respond in an effective, timely and coordinated manner.

In promoting hygiene groundwork on WASH in Schools, UNICEF continues to provide support to design and pilot the hygiene education programme in selected schools.

Partnership with an NGO working on drug and HIV/AIDS prevention continued in 2015. The interventions provided targeted young people with appropriate skills to make informed decisions, helping them protect themselves from risky behaviours. However, efforts to collaborate with the National Drug Agency were unsuccessful due to their capacity limitations, and the activity has since been conducted through the NGO partnership.

The challenge of technical expertise and human resource gaps continues at national and sub-national levels, and affects timely implementation and achievement of results. UNICEF will continue to address this systematically. Local partnerships include collaboration with ARC to demonstrate a nutrition intervention in two islands of high malnutrition prevalence, and with Journey to implement HIV/AIDS and drug prevention among young people. UNICEF Maldives continues to partner with WHO to achieve better results on child health, specifically on immunization.

The new CPD 2016–2020 identifies malnutrition and neonatal health as key issues, building on the groundwork, sharpening the focus on equity and carrying the child nutrition agenda forward. In line with the new Strategic Plan and SDGs, the new CPD takes a life cycle-based approach.

OUTPUT 1: Pregnant women, parents and caregivers of children under 5 are knowledgeable on improved nutrition by the end of 2015 (FA 1, KRA 1, OT 1).

Analytical statement of progress:

The results achieved under this output directly contribute to the regional headline result of stopping stunting, and also contribute to improved knowledge and nutrition behaviour among caregivers of children under 5.

Several activities were initiated to promote an enabling environment during the reporting period. Further, advocacy efforts on nutrition include the finalization of the Breast-milk Substitution Code, which was also supported by WHO. The National Nutrition Conference brought together influencers within the health sector, health managers and key stakeholders to exchange knowledge and discuss a common narrative around the first 1,000 days of life, the policy gaps and the programmatic interventions, as well as how these can be translated into actions.

Under a partnership with a national NGO working on nutrition, UNICEF supported the demonstration of BCC intervention on two selected islands with high malnutrition, and 30 parents have increased knowledge and skill on breastfeeding and complementary feeding.

The maternal and child nutrition interventions focused on developing institutional capacity on IYCF, with the aim of supporting mothers and caregivers to provide appropriate food to children under 5. The health-care workers trained on maternal and child nutrition in 2014 are using the knowledge gained to provide nutrition information to pregnant women, mothers and caregivers. The Maternal and Child Nutrition Guide was disseminated to all health centres/posts of 188 islands, nationwide. The key messages and recipes are used by caregivers to provide healthy food to children. The information, education and communication materials were disseminated through mass media.

In addition, under the CPD strategy of capacity development, a pool of IYCF Training of Trainers (21 female, 3 male health professionals) were trained through technical support from BPNI. These trained staff now have the capacity to train other health workers in the islands to deliver a culturally appropriate IYCF programme that includes multiple methods of nutrition education. The importance of utilizing all contact points between health providers and parents to provide information on child feeding practices and breastfeeding was emphasized. The cascading trainings will be rolled out, and will be combined with other nutrition-specific interventions to maximize impact.

There were challenges that delayed rolling out of the BCC campaign on maternal and child nutrition nationally. The dengue emergency response activities took precedence and pushed back several planned activities to the latter half of 2015. The greater barrier here remains the limited staff and expertise that affects timely implementation.

OUTPUT 2: National and sub-national capacity is enhanced for improved quality of health-care services for newborns and children under 5 by the end of 2015 (FA 1, KRA 2, OT 7).

Analytical statement of progress:

Building on the work done in 2013/14 on strengthening IMCI across the country, in 2015, support was provided to build the capacity of health professionals (in four atolls, 27 islands), fully meeting the output indicator (health workers trained on IMCI in selected islands). The trained health professionals are able to treat the whole child from a holistic angle, and focus not only on the curative elements, but also promote the preventive elements. Health professionals on different islands use the same standards in treating children with common illnesses, leading to reduced death and illness, and optimal growth and development. The implementation of the IMCI training was met with challenges of limited resources and time, hence, an efficient alternative of rolling out the trainings in a geographically dispersed country such as Maldives was necessitated. As such, the Country Office advocated for an e-learning platform to be established, however, it was not materialized in 2015 due to limited capacity. This will be pursued in 2016. The focus on the dengue crisis and response also stretched the Government staff and hindered implementation of activities.

Information, education and communication materials were developed and disseminated with UNICEF Maldives' support during the dengue crisis responses led by the MoH along with other partners (WHO, Maldivian Red Cross). As a result, the outbreak has now been stabilized. The dengue and viral fever modules in the IMCI package were instrumental resources to the health-care providers, enabling a more standardized treatment to illness across the country.

In March 2015, Maldives introduced the injectable IPV into its routine immunization schedule, as part of the global eradication of polio. The planning process, including the communication strategy and the training, were jointly supported by UNICEF ROSA and the Maldives Country

Office, while WHO provided overall technical support to the national programme. UNICEF continues to provide support to Maldives to follow the 'Global tOPV – bOPV switch' scheduled for April 2016 – a key headline result and global priority. Continued assistance was provided to procure vaccines through the UNICEF Procurement Division in a timely manner.

A Child Health Strategy and Action Plan were developed in 2015 and are pending endorsement. The Strategy and Action Plan address the essential newborn indicators included in the Every Newborn Action Plan, which is especially relevant to Maldives. The comprehensive Child Health Strategy, once endorsed, will provide a road map to improve the health status of children of Maldives, especially the most vulnerable. To ensure better implementation of the strategy, a costing will be supported in 2016.

OUTPUT 3: By the end of 2015, national capacity is enhanced to manage water and sanitation systems, including in emergencies, complemented by increased capacities of schools to promote hygiene behaviour.

Analytical statement of progress:

A hygiene education package was developed with support from the Country Office, after a comprehensive review of the hygiene education and promotion initiatives already in schools. The review found that the initiatives were limited, but the need for hygiene education was immense. This was especially expressed as a need by adolescent boys and girls who wished to have correct information on puberty and menstrual hygiene. Hygiene education in the new National Curriculum Framework was reviewed to assess the teaching strategies, syllabus contents and learning experiences of students. The review informed the design and content of the hygiene education programme that will be delivered outside the curriculum and the cross-cutting support needed to implement the programme. The review of the curriculum informed the areas of improvement in the curriculum materials and teaching of the content.

With this information, gender-sensitive information, education and communication materials on puberty and menstrual hygiene management were developed in consultation with schools health assistants, teachers and adolescent girls and boys. These materials will be made accessible to students in all schools across the country in 2016. Information in these materials will enable adoption of good hygiene practices by students. Further, schools will conduct hygiene education sessions using these materials with students, and the same information will also be incorporated in to the life skills education programme. The Country Office, jointly with the MoE, will monitor the implementation of these activities in 2016.

Training on WASH and hygiene education was provided for curriculum developers of the National Institute of Education to enable them to incorporate the recommendations of the review in the development of teaching learning materials for the next stages of the curriculum. A WASH orientation package for teachers was developed with inputs from teachers and tested in selected schools. This package is now finalized for use by schools in professional development sessions. Parents and ancillary staff who had childcare responsibilities in schools were sensitized on hygiene management, and the sensitization programmes, which were the first of their kind, received positive feedback. Key staff from the MoE and selected health assistants from a number of schools now have the capacity to conduct these programmes in the future.

The keen interest of school communities greatly enabled the development of the hygiene education programme, although some challenges were encountered at the MoE level due to the limited number of staff to coordinate and manage the programme. This constraint delayed the finalization of the hygiene education package.

OUTPUT 4: By the end of 2015, most at-risk adolescents are aware of safe behaviour against the effects of HIV (FA 3, KRA 3, OT 6).

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF Maldives supported advocacy on HIV/AIDS with policymakers, led by the MoH. The 2014–2019 National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS, jointly supported by United Nations agencies, was launched in 2015. This forum was a joint effort between the Health Protection Agency, WHO, International Planned Parenthood Federation and a local NGO, Society for Health Education.

The Country Office supported the local NGO Journey in conducting a comprehensive drug and HIV/AIDS prevention package targeting young people on selected islands. The package included awareness on prevention, drug education and preventive skills trainings, harm reduction, community alliance and parent awareness. Awareness and outreach support were delivered to 231 young people in five islands. In addition, 78 young people, including adolescent girls and boys, were trained on drug prevention education. These adolescents and young people are now better informed, and have appropriate skills to make informed decisions that will protect themselves from risky behaviour.

Further, in response to a situation of high-risk behaviour among adolescents and young people on two islands, a targeted secondary prevention training was conducted to equip them with comprehensive skills to overcome risky behaviours. The programme supports the island-level NGOs to facilitate referral of at-risk adolescent to service providers. Follow-up actions and documentation will take place in 2016. Combined, these have contributed to the output result of adolescents practicing preventive behaviour against the effects of drug abuse and HIV. New data will be available following the 2015/2016 DHS. These efforts also support the global efforts to prevent new HIV infections, and most importantly, HIV prevention among pregnant women, children and adolescents.

The partnerships with NGOs such as Journey have been particularly strategic in attaining results for this outcome. The NGO is complementing the National Drug Agency's preventive work, which is currently constrained due to the Agency's restructuring.

The National HIV/AIDS programme built the capacity of 50 peers educators, adolescents and young people on two islands who were identified as being at high risks for HIV (in past qualitative research). The peer educators are reaching out to other young people and conveying key messages that will reduce harmful behaviour and protect them from HIV/ AIDS. The estimated reach to target group through the peer educators' network is approximately 900 in three months.

The country took part in a partner meeting on HIV and adolescents, convened by the Regional Office. Maldives was represented by a senior government official, NGO, and an adolescent. The opportunity built capacity and facilitated networking among regional colleagues. Further, in light of the limited technical capacity, UNICEF Maldives facilitated technical expertise to include the Young Key Affected Population in the Integrated Biological Behavioural Survey of HIV/AIDS. This is the first time that young people will be included in such a survey, and UNICEF ensured that their rights were not violated and that an ethical process was followed in the survey process.

The challenge of human resources and capacity gaps within the government agencies

responsible for drug and HIV prevention still persist, and this hindered efficient programme implementation as well as monitoring of results.

OUTCOME 4: By the end of 2015, children enjoy learning in an inclusive child-friendly environment and are aware of sustainable environmental practices.

Analytical statement of progress:

To address issues of quality of education, at the beginning of the Country Programme, UNICEF Maldives and the Government supported the development of the child-friendly school quality standards framework and indicators. Initial targets of training 100 schools on monitoring for compliance with such standards were surpassed in 2014. However, these standards have now been revised with support from the World Bank and the development of the School Improvement, Quality Assurance and Accountability Framework (SIQAAF). The commitment to increase learning outcomes of every student is at the core of this framework. It also complements the competency-based method of students' performance assessments required by the new national curriculum rolled out in 2015.

The MoE has mandated schools to conduct Assessments for Learning, and measures were introduced to ensure that information on students' learning outcomes are regularly collected and tracked. The Country Office's contribution to the implementation of the SIQAAF was the support provided for development of preschool quality standards, and the development of a hygiene education programme for schools to create a child-friendly learning environment.

The baseline study on implementation of the curriculum (2013/14) provided the basis for UNICEF Maldives support to the curriculum implementation in 2015. Support focused on developing standards for the national curriculum, implementation of the foundation stage and the lower primary stages of the curriculum. The challenges and issues in learning and acquiring concepts in Math, Science and English were addressed when developing the curriculum materials. Curriculum materials developed for the lower primary stage were reviewed, and specific recommendations were made on how to strengthen individual outcomes and indicators within each curriculum area. In addition, detailed feedback was provided to the national curriculum framework and the Pedagogy and Assessment Guides. The capacity of the curriculum developers was enhanced to develop the curriculum standards, which will be piloted in 2016. The main challenge to successful completion of all standards was the limited capacity of the NIE.

Support to operationalize the Inclusive Education Policy of the MoE was provided by the Country Office. As such, evidence on deprivations and vulnerabilities faced by children and adolescents who migrate for education was established, and an intervention framework was developed. This framework is ready for implementation in 2016. The Country Office also supported the implementation of the Child Protection Policy in Education Settings, and 10 per cent of schools have increased knowledge in conducting early grade risk assessments and provision of early interventions in schools for at-risk children. This has enabled children to learn in a more protective and responsive environment. The Government will roll out the project across the country in 2016. Support for education for children with disabilities led to increased stakeholder awareness and engagement for inclusive education, as well as the development of a three-year strategy on delivering special education needs interventions.

In addition to UNICEF, the World Bank and UNESCO are key partners supporting the Government to strengthen the education sector. The World Bank supported improving access to education, teacher training and developing institutional capacity for the implementation of the

SIQAAF. UNESCO and UNICEF are working together in building institutional capacities to deliver environmental education through the national curriculum. In 2015, UNESCO provided technical support to the MoE to establish a robust OpenEMIS, while the Country Office provided financial support.

OUTPUT 1: By the end of 2015, national and sub-national capacity is enhanced to improve the quality of education in line with child-friendly school standards (FA 2, KRA 3, OT 7).

Analytical statement of progress:

The Country Office continued to support the Minister of Education and the NIE to roll out the national curriculum, which contributed to the greater objective of improving quality of learning. The curriculum reflects contemporary thinking skills and competencies needed for students to succeed in life. In 2015, the foundation stage and pre-primary stages of the national curriculum were implemented. The Country Office supported a review of the curriculum materials and found the overall quality of the national curriculum to be good, but required clear standards in the curriculum at the end of key stages and for the various subjects identified in the curriculum. These standards help evaluation of competencies, communicate the progression of skills acquired, provide a clear framework for the evaluation of skills and replace subjective grading within schools. Support provided in 2015, strengthened the institutional capacity at the NIE to develop these standards. Standards for five out of eight subjects were developed and finalized in 2015. Quality standards for preschools were also developed in 2015 and will be piloted in 2016.

Despite the steady progress made in implementing the curriculum, challenges related to the training of teachers and school managements on the shift in pedagogy and assessment brought by the new curriculum, and enabling parents and students to understand this shift. Furthermore, coinciding the restructuring of the NIE with the curriculum roll-out poses risks to sustain the institutional capacity to implement the curriculum. The Country Office will support the NIE in 2016 to develop a clear strategy on implementation of the curriculum.

Support provided for creation of protective learning environments led to better identification of vulnerabilities that existed among children and adolescents in schools, especially those who have migrated to Malé (the capital) for better-quality education. These children migrate with or without parental supervision and often face difficulties in integration in their new schools and coping with studies. This study informed the development of an intervention framework to address the vulnerabilities faced by these children and adolescents. Further, in collaboration with the Child Protection Programme, capacity of school management was increased to conduct early grade risk assessment of children and to implement the policy on child protection in education settings in schools. However, capacity constraints at the central and sub-national levels and resource limitations at the MoE posed challenges to scaling up the interventions to all schools. The strong political commitment from the MoE and the long-standing partnership with the Country Office enabled identification of solutions to these issues. In 2016, an e-learning platform will be developed to enable schools' access to online trainings on addressing vulnerabilities among students.

OUTPUT 2: By the end of 2015, institutional capacity for teacher development in special education needs and early years of education (foundation stage) is strengthened, and special education needs services are available in selected schools (FA 2, KRA 1, OT 1).

Analytical statement of progress:

The Country Office supported implementation of the foundation stage of the curriculum through development of the curriculum resources and building capacity of preschool teachers at the sub-national level. With support from the Country Office, a total of 150 preschool teachers from across the country received trainings that increased their capacity to teach the curriculum. Following the training, the teachers produced prototype teaching-learning materials that foster age-appropriate, child-friendly learning experiences, thus enabling effective curriculum implementation. Teachers who completed the trainings are already using these materials in the classrooms.

Monitoring of the implementation of the foundation stage of the curriculum in selected islands by the Country Office and the NIE found that the curriculum content and teaching methodologies are enhancing children's active engagement in learning and improving children's social skills and promoting inclusivity. This finding is also backed by feedback from parents. However, it was identified that a seamless transition from pre-primary to primary needs to be established. Misunderstandings also exist among parents about mother-tongue education and its benefits for ECD and their perceived need to give children homework and more written work. Based on these findings, areas of future support by UNICEF were identified. They include institutional capacity development of NIE to support curriculum implementation, strengthening the monitoring of the implementation of the curriculum with parents, and development of grade literacy and reading programmes.

The Country Office, in partnership with a local NGO, Care Society', supported the NIE to develop an early identification, intervention and referral mechanism for children with learning disabilities. Teachers and school managements of six selected schools were trained on using the identification, and intervention tools were developed. They now have the capacity to test this mechanism in their schools in 2016. Care Society's strong technical capacity and its ability to mobilize other NGOs working in disability enabled this mechanism to be developed, despite challenges in accessing the schools.

Support was provided to enable participation by special education teachers in the International Teachers Conference on technology-enabled learning held in Malé. Special education needs practices in five islands were showcased at this conference by the teachers. This enabled the promotion of inclusive education for children with disabilities. The network meeting on special needs education that followed the conference facilitated exchange of ideas and special needs education practices across the country and enabled teachers to contribute to the drafting of the three-year strategy on providing inclusive education in schools. This strategy will assist the NIE to develop comprehensive programmes for special education needs teachers who can improve the capacities of mainstream teachers. This strategy and the entailing three-year action plan is now finalized and will be implemented from 2016 to 2018.

OUTPUT 3: By the end of 2015, schoolchildren participate in life-skills based education programmes and have appropriate knowledge and skills on sustainable environmental practices (FA 2, KRA 3, OT 8).

Analytical statement of progress:

Up to 2014, the Country Office supported implementation of the LSE programme at sub-national level through capacity building of teachers on LSE, resulting in introduction of LSE in 36 schools and benefiting 3,760 adolescent students. In 2015, the Country Office conducted an evaluation of the LSE programme to identify progress made in implementing LSE, the challenges faced and how they can be addressed. Findings from this evaluation were well-received by the MoE, and it was agreed to revise the LSE programme for secondary schools and its implementation

mechanisms. These findings have also informed the need to support teachers and schools to bring about the pedagogical shift to deliver life skills through the national curriculum. This need will be addressed in 2016 in the Country Office's support to strengthen the curriculum's implementation. Furthermore, the evaluation provided insights into the design and implementation of life skills-based alternative learning programmes for out-of-school children and adolescents, which the Country Office will support in 2016.

Environment clubs established in schools provided an avenue outside the curriculum to create awareness on environmental issues and climate change among students. The Country Office supported the clubs in selected schools during the Country Programme, but the result was constrained for the past two years due to lack of capacity of teachers to guide these clubs and lack of support by school managements towards these clubs. In 2015, UNICEF Maldives, in collaboration with the NIE and UNESCO, demonstrated how more partnerships and willingness of school managements can support these clubs to achieve results. UNICEF provided financial support, while UNESCO provided technical support to train teachers from the schools of Addu city and Fuah Mulaku on managing environment education in schools, which gave them skills to develop environmental action plans with students.

With financial support from UNICEF Maldives and stewardship of the trained teachers and managements of these schools, 10 eco-clubs of Addu schools developed and implemented projects, in which a total of 170 students participated and gained knowledge of sustainable environmental practices. These projects were of high quality and were displayed for the school community, which enabled exchange of ideas and knowledge, and recognition for the eco-clubs. The eco-clubs now have the capacity to develop projects and implement them in the future with support from school management, and NIE has the technical capacity to support other eco-clubs and teachers to deliver environmental education through the curriculum.

OUTCOME 5: By the end of 2015, women and children benefit from a responsive protection system and juvenile justice mechanisms.

Analytical statement of progress:

With a systems strengthening approach, the Country Office in 2015 contributed to capacity building at the community and institutional level, strengthening Maldives' Child Protection Database for evidence generation and case management, as well as community- and national-level mechanisms for prevention, protection and responding to violence against children and children in conflict with law.

To achieve the planned results, the Country Office continued its partnerships with the MoLG, the Family and Child Protection Department of the Maldives Police Service, the Juvenile Justice Unit of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Juvenile Court, Family Protection Authority and MoE, and with the local NGO ARC.

The Training Needs Assessment of Social Workers initiated in 2014 was completed at the beginning of 2015. Critical barriers identified by the assessment include: (i) lack of adequate budget; (ii) limited number of social workers; (iii) limited qualifications and capacities of the social workers, making it extremely difficult to provide protection services; and (iv) areas for immediate, short-term and long-term capacity building. Capacity-building interventions for the social workers was informed by these findings. In addition, the Country Office supported the training of Investigating Officers on case management. Furthermore, capacity of Investigating Officers at Maldives Police Service was enhanced through an orientation programme to use the improved MCPD. This has resulted in cases reported to the MPS being captured in the MCPD,

and an evaluation is scheduled for 2016.

To address the negative attitudes and social norms that do not reprimand violence against children, the National Child Abuse Prevention Campaign 'Ahan' was launched in 2015. The campaign entails dissemination of key messages through mass media, social media and community mobilization, for prevention of violence against children. The campaign will run for one year and will be reviewed in 2016. Establishment of a 'Call Centre' was initiated to increase capacity and efficiency to respond to calls coming in through the Child Helpline. With this development, all calls will be recorded and fed into the MCPD, making it possible to generate real-time data and timely response to cases, a major bottleneck in responding to cases of violence against children.

The Country Office continued its support to the Juvenile Justice Unit to establish a diversion programme for juvenile offenders in 2015. Capacity-building interventions and advocacy efforts of the Juvenile Court have led to a shift in how juvenile crimes are handled. In 2015, four out of six eligible cases received alternate sentences and rehabilitation opportunities, compared with 4 out of 13 cases in 2014, out of which 75 per cent successfully completed the programme, compared with 50 per cent in 2014. The Country Office also partnered with the Maldives Police Service and Juvenile Justice Unit in developing a model for a community-based juvenile crime prevention programme. The findings and the results from the pilot will provide the basis for a comprehensive package for a Community-Based Juvenile Crime Prevention Programme, which will be finalized by end of the year.

To establish a community model and increase the prevention and response capacity of service providers on the islands, multi-sectoral teams were established on 8 islands (out of the 14 islands) in the Shaviyani Atoll in the north region. Each team was trained on how to develop interventions to address violence against children. An intervention plan, together with a monitoring plan, were also developed, and will be implemented in 2016.

The combined results from all of these interventions will contribute towards the achievement of the outcome results. The strong partnerships between the Country Office, the Government and civil society organizations have contributed to progress towards achievement of the results. However, the limited capacity at the community and institutional levels, combined with the continuous change at institutional levels, hindered the full achievement of planned results.

The strong partnerships with the Government, NGOs and the UNICEF Country Office contributed to progress towards achievement of the results.

OUTPUT 1: Government and community capacity is enhanced for reduction, prevention and response to child abuse and gender-based violence by the end of 2015 (FA 4, KRA2, OT5)

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF Maldives supported capacity development of social workers on case management, a critical area identified in the Training Needs Assessment of Social Workers. To strengthen the current social work programme, the Country Office initiated discussions between the MoLG and the Faculty of Health Sciences at the Maldives National University to define the training programme; agree on organizational contributions to the programme; and map out options to further development. In addition, to increase the police capacity in forensic interviewing, the Country Office worked with the Maldives Police Service to develop an Advanced Practices in Forensic Interviewing Course. Furthermore, the MoE was supported in its roll-out of the Child Protection Policy for Educational Settings, and capacity was built in all schools to lead the risk

assessment of early graders.

To increase community capacity to prevent violence against children, awareness activities were implemented through the Programme Cooperation Agreement with ARC. This partnership also created opportunities to raise awareness for girls' empowerment. The programme was implemented in 15 islands from 5 atolls across the country and Malé, drawing attention to the violence that children face, and how to identify potential case of violence and where to report them. As a result, 284 teachers, 822 parents and 1,189 children were helped.

UNICEF Maldives supported strengthening the Maldives Child Protection Database. Following the linking of the MCPD with Police Information Management Systems, all Investigating Officers were oriented on how to use it. An action plan was endorsed by the stakeholders to link MCPD to their sectoral databases and will be implemented in 2016. MCPD, a Windows-based application, was changed to a web-based application, making it easier to access and manage the system.

Multi-sectoral teams from 8 out of the 14 islands in Shaviyani Atoll were given skills on bottleneck analysis and formulating interventions to address violence against children. Island intervention plans, along with a monitoring plan, were developed by these teams and will be implemented in 2016.

The national-level Child Abuse Prevention Campaign 'Ahan', to address the negative attitudes and social norms that do not reprimand violence against children, continued throughout the year. The increased awareness about violence against children and the accessibility for reporting can be seen in the increased number of calls received by the Child Helpline – 1,115 cases by September 2015, compared with only 482 in 2012. Following this development, the establishment of a Call Centre was initiated, which will be linked to MCPD for management of cases, and will be operational in 2016.

OUTPUT 2: Community-based programmes are made available for juvenile crime prevention, diversion, rehabilitation and reintegration of juvenile offenders, by the end of 2015 (FA 4, KRA 1, OT 2).

Analytical statement of progress:

A model for a Community-Based Juvenile Crime Prevention Programme was initiated in two locations in north and south regions of the country, in partnership with the Maldives Police Service and the Juvenile Justice Unit. Activities under the programme included life skills and communication skills for children. For parents, it included communication skills, effective parenting skills, and skills for assisting children to develop confidence, while for professionals the programme covered skills to assist children to stay out of crime. Some of the lessons learned from the pilot programmes include the need for a holistic approach for crime prevention, targeting community needs and enabling the full participation of key stakeholders. As a result, a cohesive Community-Based Juvenile Crime Prevention Programme has been agreed upon with government partners, with future prospects of replication and scaling up.

Continuation of capacity building aims to reinforce the positive results on responses to children in conflict with law. The records from Juvenile Court in Malé show that 24 out of the 40 cases of children in conflict with the law in 2015 received alternate sentences, and were fully reintegrated back into the community. In addition, 21 per cent of cases handled by the Juvenile Justice Unit received diversion and were successfully rehabilitated into the community in 2015. The training policy for judges and magistrates was adjusted this year, such that all trainings had to be

conducted through the Judicial Administration. Discussions with this body resulted in a defined process for UNICEF to provide capacity building of Juvenile Court judges and on-the-job training for magistrates from the Island Magistrate Courts on alternative sentencing and child-friendly courtrooms.

The Country Office also supported the Government to establish a Diversion Programme for children in conflict with the law. In this regard, Diversion Guidelines and assessment tools with the capacity to implement these are now in place at the relevant agencies. A technical committee was established to oversee and provide guidance for the implementation of the Diversion Programme. Pilot testing of the Diversion Programme was initiated in one of the atolls. Lack of juvenile justice legislation is one of the main bottlenecks hindering the full implementation of the programme.

In 2016, UNICEF Maldives will support institutionalizing the proposed model for juvenile crime prevention, diversion and community-based rehabilitation and monitoring mechanisms.

OUTCOME 6: By the end of 2015, child rights awareness is enhanced through child participation and reporting by the media.

Analytical statement of progress:

In continuation of the Country Office's support to increase capacity of the local media, senior editors, editors-in-chief and senior journalists increased skills on ethical reporting on children at risk, online media and management and elements of the CRC, in partnership with the Maldives Media Council (MMC). In addition, staff from the MMC, the Maldives Broadcasting Commission and the Information Commission enhanced capacity on analysing media reports on quality and coverage on children, as well as reports on media capacity, progress and compliance with international standards and the CRC. As a result, the MMC has made major gains on monitoring media for the frequency, quality and coverage of children's reports. The MMC has started to generate reports regularly and has put together a media tool incorporating elements of positive reporting for children with human rights through seven guiding questions, with different ratings so that the monitoring team can give articles a concrete score to decide whether they are in line with positive reporting and the CRC.

The technical support from the Country Office, combined with the excellent partnerships with the MMC and media agencies on capacity initiatives, has enabled considerable advancements in terms of improved capacity of media on ethical reporting of children. Reviews of reported articles by the MMC show better compliance with the ethical standards.

Advocacy sessions also took place on the role of media and civil societies on child rights in the latter half of 2015. This resulted in increased awareness of more than 1,000 community members on the importance of child rights and participation. The advocacy initiatives were carried out by a pool of media experts who came together at the beginning of the year from established broadcast and print media in the country. The sessions covered the role of media and societies in promoting child rights and participation, and on the ways, opportunities and space that can be provided for children to actively participate. Parents, teachers, young people and adolescents, and island and atoll council members were reached through half-day workshops, focus group discussions and advocacy events. The increased knowledge motivated young people and adolescents to tell their stories and participate in issues that affect their lives. Parents and community members showed willingness to provide space for children's voices to be heard.

Through continuous advocacy and promotion, child rights and child participation have become a national priority, with the MoE partnering with UNICEF and ARC to facilitate development of the child participation strategy. The Strategy and Action Plan to enhance child participation activities at national level were put together as a result of consultations with children and adolescents of different age groups. Subsequently, a child participation platform, 'Adolescent Radio – Kudhinge Adu' – with 4 episodes on nutrition, child abuse prevention, access to quality education and communicating with parents, was developed and recorded by adolescents. The episodes will be aired in early 2016.

UNICEF Maldives utilized its convening power to build relationships and establish links between government agencies, independent institutions such as the Human Rights Commission of Maldives, the MMC and independent media agencies to reach a common understanding on addressing issues related to child rights and child participation.

OUTPUT 1: The media have the capacity to report on child rights issues, according to international standards, by the end of 2015 (FA 5, KRA 3, OT 7).

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF continued its work supporting the MMC to promote discussion and dialogue within the media about the coverage of childhood issues, and to monitor and evaluate media coverage of childhood issues in the country. In this regard, a total of 29 media personnel had increased skills on reporting on children at risk, analysing coverage, quality and ethics of reporting on children from 11 broadcast, print and online media agencies. The training was conducted through the elements of the CRC, enabling journalists to understand and apply the rights in the CRC so they can identify them in different reports, learn about the key children's rights abuses in the Maldives, how to improve reporting and, most importantly, to analyse how children and abuses on children's rights have been reported and how they can be improved. As a result, media agencies have started to better comply with ethical reporting and the CRC, and the MMC's review of reported articles has led to better compliance with ethical standards.

Several advocacy sessions were conducted during the last two quarters of the year by the MMC in five islands in four atolls. The advocacy sessions stimulated discussion and mobilization among media professionals at island/atoll levels and enabled them to recognize how vital media's role is in social mobilization around the rights of children. The advocacy sessions further incorporated elements of media literacy for children and how to ensure their active engagement with the mass media. The advocacy forums also enabled children and adolescents as well as youth to engage in debates about their representation in the media, the content and appropriateness of programmes and publications directed at them, and their concerns for the future. Approximately 1,015 community members, including children, youth and adolescents, had increased awareness on the importance of child rights and child participation from the sessions through focus group discussions and workshop-style initiatives.

UNICEF Maldives facilitated a partnership between the MMC, the ARC and the MoE to roll out this initiative further, through the child participation strategy and the five-year action plan that has been developed. It is envisaged that functional mechanisms for participation of children to influence development agendas in the local, sub-national or national plans will exist in the future as a result of this initiative.

OUTPUT 2: By the end of 2015, child participation is enhanced to promote and advocate for children's rights (FA 5, KRA 1, OT 4).

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF Maldives continued its support to Human Rights Commission of the Maldives to raise awareness on child rights and child participation. In this regard, more than 400 children and adolescents had increased understanding and knowledge on the meaning of human rights, the CRC and rights and responsibilities through activities that were carried out in the islands. The sessions increased children's ability to inculcate human rights values such as respect, cooperation, tolerance, solving human rights issues, conflict resolution, and good communication and negotiation. Subsequently, seven schools in five atolls had newly established child rights clubs by the end of 2015.

A total of 115 teachers obtained skills and information to orient/teach children and adolescents on the concepts of human rights, constitution, bill of rights, CRC and upholding human rights, and whole school approach to human rights education. Practical sessions were provided to the teachers that equipped them with necessary abilities and experience on managing child rights clubs, providing platforms for children to increase their participation and promote rights.

UNICEF Maldives supported two platforms for participation: (1) a total of 166 children and adolescents from 20 different schools participated in five study camps held in Malé, Gnaviyani and Seenu Atolls, where they had increased learning opportunities as well as opportunities to interact and engage with one another in meaningful discussions on human rights values, the CRC and rights and responsibilities, as well as share best practices; and (2) a total of 133 adolescents participated in the inter-school quiz competition on human rights in which 19 different schools – 5 of which are from the atolls – participated. This was an excellent platform for participation, where the participants acquired increased knowledge and understanding of topics related to rights, and were able to debate and answer questions on specific topics such as the CRC and local constitution, as well as learn links to the CRC and the United Nations system, including laws relevant to child rights.

A Child Participation Strategy was developed and launched in collaboration with the MoE and ARC, with the aim to create a shared vision for child participation, develop a culture of participation, create a supportive environment and establish platforms for participation in the country. Following the strategy, 17 adolescents were trained on child rights, child participation, child protection, media literacy and radio production. The trainees designed and produced four episodes of the adolescent radio show in the country, called 'Kudhinge Adu', which will be aired on national radio early in 2016.