As 2016 was the concluding year of the cooperation cycle, UNICEF Mongolia focused on accelerating efforts to scale up and sustain results for children while preparing for the upcoming new Country Programme that was approved at the September session of the Executive Board. The year 2016 was particularly challenging for Mongolia, as the country plummeted into a severe economic and financial downturn, with erosion of the social budget and risk of reversal of human development gains. Living conditions for the most vulnerable were also hardened by the effects of two consecutive harsh winters that turned into natural disasters. Adverse economic and environmental conditions were coupled with political volatility. While general political elections in June 2016 provided fresh new national leadership, they also resulted in substantial turnaround of government positions and a slowdown in the continuity of cooperation programmes, thus contributing to a complex operating environment for UNICEF work.

UNICEF Mongolia continued to scale-up service delivery models that have been positively tested since 2014, anchoring them in national policies and budgets, while in parallel successfully supporting policy and legal reforms. The production of compelling equity-focused analyses and new data was used to influence newly elected officials and support pro-child policy development. In addition, UNICEF strived to dynamically adapt to a rapidly changing external environment by starting new programmatic work in areas such as corporate social responsibility and climate change, with a specific focus on air pollution. One of the year’s flagship results was the creation of a public and political discussion around the impact of air pollution on children in the capital Ulaanbaatar that contributed to awareness and better responses. This was achieved through the preparation of a groundbreaking report that revealed the most serious health impacts on child health and the organisation of an international expert consultation that helped define effective policy solutions.

Implementation at larger geographical scale of UNICEF’s service delivery models in the three geographic focus areas not only brought additional evidence for larger-scale replicability but also resulted in concrete gains for children, accompanied by continued capacity building of partners. In Khuvsgul province, this was evidenced by a successful 4.5 per cent increase in access to early childhood education services, as well as fewer children being reported as stunted according to official health statistics, with a decrease from 4.4 per cent to 1.4 per cent. In addition, the provision of health and nutrition services reached planned target levels in the geographic focus areas. This was especially important considering a nationwide increase in mortality rates recorded in 2016. Successful replication of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) service delivery models was enhanced through a partnership with the Asian Development Bank that set the groundwork for increased coverage in 2017. UNICEF’s work on local governance and planning helped confirm the past positive trend in allocation and use of local budgets for children, with a year-to-year increase of 5 per cent in one of its geographic focus areas.

Two ground-breaking results were achieved in pro-child legal reform. UNICEF’s contribution was instrumental in the approval of the new Law on Child Protection, a building block of Mongolia’s child protection system. This was supported by a comprehensive costing
exercise needed to facilitate adequate planning and budgeting. In addition, UNICEF Mongolia’s technical assistance and advocacy were successful in influencing the amendment of the Preschool Education Law with a new provision on free-of-charge education for vulnerable children. The UNICEF-supported adoption of the Law on Hygiene and the draft Law on Food for Infants and Young Children represented additional normative developments.

Some partnership highlights in 2016 were also related to UNICEF Mongolia’s role as knowledge broker and facilitator of international technical dialogues. A partnership with the University of Waterloo was signed to work on innovation applied to mental health solutions for Mongolian adolescents, with the participation of Canadian experts, Mongolian youth and the establishment of a mentoring network. A second successful partnership with Mongolia’s leading telecommunication company helped explore the use of mobile technology for remote service delivery and behavioural change. In addition, close partnerships with the extractive industry in Mongolia led to an innovative study on the impact of mining on internal migration and children.

The year 2016 saw a prolonged dzud, a long-lasting natural disaster with heavy snowfall and harsh temperatures. As part of a United Nations (UN) response, UNICEF Mongolia led and implemented life-saving comprehensive food and nutrition assistance that benefited 5,299 herder households (19,076 people) in six most-affected provinces. The adverse winter and economic conditions were also aggravated by a new measles outbreak that prompted UNICEF’s immediate support for supplementary immunization campaigns, communication activities and micro-planning.

### Humanitarian Assistance

Mongolia’s winter in 2015-16 was particularly harsh, causing what is locally known as dzud – a long-lasting natural disaster that occurs when a summer drought is followed by a winter of heavy snowfall and unusually low temperatures that prolongs into April. These conditions resulted in significant livestock losses and compounded existing strains on thousands of herders across the country. The dzud affected about 225,800 people in 211 soums (districts) – 41 per cent of the total population of herders in Mongolia – and resulted in profound impacts on the herders who depend on livestock for food and income. The number of animals lost increased significantly from 40,000 in January to 858,100 in April, affecting a primary source of livelihood for rural Mongolians.

The UN supported the Government through the UN Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) to ensure that the needs of vulnerable rural herder households throughout the country were met as they faced dzud conditions. Funding for response activities amounted to US$2.4 million, and CERF initiatives included life-saving and comprehensive food, nutrition, protection, agriculture and early recovery programmes, complementing the broader response carried out by the UN, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the Mongolian Red Cross Society.

UNICEF Mongolia played a leading role in this humanitarian response, and was in charge of a comprehensive food and nutrition assistance programme that benefited 5,299 most-vulnerable herder households (19,076 people) in 67 soums across six provinces (Uvs, Zavkhan, Arkhangai, Bayankhongor, Dundgobi and Sukhbaatar). UNICEF response efforts focused on nutrition services coordinated through primary health services and reaching 1,870 children under five years of age (901 girls and 969 boys) and 943 pregnant and lactating women in targeted herder households. Multiple micronutrient supplements reached 96 per cent of children 6-59 months and 92 per cent of pregnant and lactating women in CERF target households. A total of 7,703 children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women in target herder households in 67 soums were screened for acute
malnutrition, and a total of 57 children were identified with moderate acute malnutrition.

UNICEF Mongolia worked with 67 targeted soum health centres to provide quality nutrition services, including nutrition counselling, to parents of children under two years of age and to pregnant and lactating women, along with nutrition assessments and micronutrient supplementation. Health workers monitored every child in the CERF target households during bi-weekly home visits to check on the use of multiple micronutrient supplements and their overall health and nutrition. To encourage awareness raising, UNICEF Mongolia and local health centres distributed 3,000 leaflets to the target population. These contained key messages on appropriate infant and young child feeding practices and the appropriate use of multiple micronutrient supplements. Other non-CERF response efforts around life-saving nutrition services reached an additional 4,694 nutritionally vulnerable children aged 6-23 months in herder households in the 45 targeted soums.

In addition to the dzud, a new measles outbreak that started in late 2015 and continued in 2016 increased the risk of mortality for vulnerable children. By the end of April 2016 there had been 54,000 registered cases of measles since 2015. There were 105 deaths, 90 per cent of them among children under eight months of age. UNICEF Mongolia reacted promptly with support to the government decision to conduct supplementary immunization activities among adults aged 18-30 years old. In addition, UNICEF Mongolia facilitated the training of trainers on micro-planning and communication actions for 76 provincial and district managers and 1,200 grassroots health workers in the Expanded Programme on Immunization. The roll-out of a national communication campaign to engage adults aged 18-30, covering 1.5 million people was also supported. A total of 729 volunteers were mobilised in peri-urban areas of Ulaanbaatar to incorporate hard-to-reach populations. Rapid coverage assessments were carried out in 11 provinces and districts and UNICEF facilitated the procurement of 647,000 doses of measles and rubella vaccines for the supplementary immunization activities, which reached an 84 per cent coverage rate by June 2016 according to Ministry of Health data.

Finally, UNICEF Mongolia’s technical support to the education cluster provided knowledge and motivation to help integrate education in emergencies (EiE) issues into education policy and programming and an updated education cluster preparedness and response plan to a newly established education in emergencies working group at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports. Critical information on humanitarian scenarios and key commitments related to emergency preparedness, including business continuity plan elements, were updated and integrated in the annual management plan as well as in the Early Warning/Early Action system for performance monitoring of preparedness for humanitarian response.

**Emerging Areas of Importance**

**Climate change and children.** Although air pollution has been an increasing area of concern for Mongolia for many years, it has now reached unsustainable levels. During the almost six-month long winter, the population of the poorest peri-urban areas of Ulaanbaatar live in informal settlements without access to heating and electricity services and use raw coal for heating and cooking. As a result, the city is now one of the most polluted in the world, covered in dense coal smog and with average particulate matter levels of 2.5, seven times higher than the World Health Organization (WHO) standard with peaks up to 25 times the standard. High smoking rates (64 per cent of Mongolians aged 19-49 regularly smoke) further aggravate indoor air pollution.

Due to increased indoor and outdoor air pollution, children in Ulaanbaatar are directly affected with both short- and long-term effects on their health. Scientific evidence on this impact is, however, fragmented and not properly communicated and channelled for
advocacy and policy influence. For this reason, UNICEF Mongolia began building a compelling base of scientific evidence by distilling existing medical and clinical findings and generating an expert-led debate to put children at the centre of the policy discussion around air pollution. This engagement entailed a phased approach with three sequential stages: first, evidence generation and child-centred public debate on the health impacts of air pollution; second, advocacy and technical assistance for policy development on mitigation measures, especially for pneumonia prevention; and, third, investment in innovation for improved monitoring of air pollution through the participation of adolescents.

UNICEF Mongolia produced a meta-analysis of existing scientific literature on the impacts of air pollution on children in Ulaanbaatar, revealing the most serious health impacts on children, including reduced foetal growth, pre-term birth, pneumonia and reduced lung function leading to acute respiratory disease. The study, published in 2016, confirmed that current levels of exposure to air pollution had not been experienced by previous generations, and that children especially in Ulaanbaatar were expected to suffer from unprecedented levels of chronic respiratory disease later in life. In addition, the economic costs will increase over the next decade unless major new measures are urgently taken.

In January 2016 and in close collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Environment, UNICEF Mongolia organized a consultation with top international and national experts to discuss scientific evidence and foster a policy discussion on accelerated mitigation measures to protect children. The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the University of California, Los Angeles Children’s Hospital and the University of Waterloo were among the scientific institutions represented. The expert consultation generated a detailed set of recommendations that were later presented to Mongolia’s Prime Minister and relevant Ministers and adopted by Parliament. The recommendations focused on measures to stop and replace coal combustion in residential areas within the next four years, but also included specific child health-related actions. This is the first time that specific child-related policy commitments on air pollution were adopted officially at the highest political level.

Following the expert consultation, UNICEF Mongolia directed its programme efforts to pneumonia-related actions as well as to increasing the evidence base to support policy measures. Research was initiated to undertake a public expenditure analysis of the treatment of air pollution-related respiratory disease in children, including pneumonia, and the costs of inaction or ineffective air pollution mitigation measures. This assessment will be finalised in mid-2017, and the newly elected Government will be presented with a reliable fiscal analysis of the cost of inaction and costed mitigation measures.

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C4D</td>
<td>Communication for Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>CERF</td>
<td>Central Emergency Relief Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>CFC</td>
<td>Child-friendly Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-IMCI</td>
<td>Community-based Integrated Management of Childhood Illness</td>
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<td>CMT</td>
<td>Country Management Team</td>
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<td>CPD</td>
<td>Country Programme Document</td>
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<td>CRBP</td>
<td>Child Rights and Business Principles</td>
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<td>DCT</td>
<td>Direct Cash Transfers</td>
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<td>ECD</td>
<td>Early Childhood Development</td>
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<td>ECE</td>
<td>Early Childhood Education</td>
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<td>GSSC</td>
<td>Global Shared Services Centre</td>
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<td>HACT</td>
<td>Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immunodeficiency Virus</td>
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Capacity Development

In line with Mongolia’s middle-income classification, capacity-development efforts increasingly shifted from targeting specific groups of beneficiaries to strengthening institutional systems, and focused on developing local and national capacities to improve evidence-based policy design.

A partnership with the in-service teacher training institute provided new training modules for early childhood education (ECE) professionals and kindergarten teachers that reached 120 teachers as an initial group for further larger scale roll-out. Modules included child protection components, and focused on enhancing teachers’ abilities to work with children with disabilities. On the same subject, UNICEF Mongolia worked with the Mongolian Education Alliance to develop capacity, raise awareness and share experiences in promoting mainstream education for children with disabilities. By reaching local teachers, students, community members and parents, the issue received increased attention, leading to the establishment of community groups that worked to improve inclusion.

UNICEF Mongolia partnered with local authorities, the Mongolian Red Cross Society and local NGOs to support the implementation of the recent WASH policy. Training sessions and awareness-raising campaigns to promote compliance reached 5,500 girls and 4,500 boys in targeted schools in Khuvsgul and Nalaikh.

To respond to an increasing concern among Mongolian adolescents, training modules on sexually transmitted infection (STI) and human immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) prevention were adapted and introduced, enabling peer educators to reach more than 4,000 students with key messages. The outreach experience was presented at a regional forum and selected for replication in six provinces with local government support.

A UNICEF-led survey revealed that parents were hesitant to have their children vaccinated. A communication for development (C4D) strategy and implementation handbook on immunization was prepared with local and national partners. The World Health Organization (WHO)/UNICEF handbook on community-based integrated management of childhood illnesses (C-IMCI) was also adapted to translate national policies and standards into concrete guidance.
Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

In 2016, a major Government change resulted in wide changes in ministry structures and personnel and UNICEF partners. To influence the newly elected decision-makers, evidence generation on equity and children was a priority. As a result, the National Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (N-MODA) set a baseline for monitoring Government efforts to target child inequalities. UNICEF provided critical advocacy and technical support instrumental to the adoption of the Child Protection Law and the revised Law on Protection of the Rights of Children. A costing study of essential child protection services was provided to the Government to ensure that the approved laws are adequately financed.

A major highlight was UNICEF Mongolia’s key role in influencing the revision of the Preschool Education Law, co-facilitating the technical advisory process of drafting of amendments and providing critical technical assistance. This led to the inclusion of provisions for free services for low-income families that benefited around 300,000 children, two to five years of age.

UNICEF Mongolia tackled parents’ reluctance to vaccinate children, which slows the introduction of life-saving vaccines, and an immunization communication strategy was designed to address the underlying factors. Long-term advocacy helped the Ministry of Health secure US$ 600,000 to procure essential medicines, demonstrating a firm commitment to increasing access to essential medicines to treat pneumonia and diarrhoea.

The national policy framework on WASH was improved with the approval of the Law on Hygiene resulting from UNICEF Mongolia’s continued advocacy. Also, the menstrual hygiene management (MHM) in schools research report was finalized in collaboration with Emory University. UNICEF Mongolia and national partners developed basic MHM packages in schools including videos and leaflets for girls, teachers, headmasters and school dormitory caretakers. A dedicated website on MHM was developed to promote behavioural change in menstrual hygiene management, and information materials and a national working group were created to ensure inter-sectoral coordination.

Partnerships

In 2016, UNICEF Mongolia expanded its engagement in child rights and business principles (CRBP) networks with local business platforms and industries (telecommunications, cashmere and mining). Basic and intermediate training for the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Business Council of Mongolia were introduced to strengthen institutional leadership on CRBP. An innovation-based partnership with the country’s largest mobile/IT service provider was also introduced with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) covering several areas of cooperation, including online child protection, and the dissemination of SMS messages provided by UNICEF Mongolia for wider outreach.

Tangible results were achieved from technical assistance provided to the cashmere sector, engaging two top Mongolian cashmere companies now supporting breastfeeding and childcare policies. Stakeholder consultations and field research were conducted with four mining companies and two UNICEF Mongolia units – private partnerships and fundraising, and child rights and business principles – on the impact of project-induced in-migration. Specific recommendations resulted in the development of a roadmap for actions the companies will take in the medium-term.

UNICEF Mongolia partnered with the University of Waterloo through a memorandum of understanding on the promotion of innovation in addressing mental health issues of Mongolian adolescents, leading to the future creation of a mentoring network and technical
assistance from Canadian experts.

UNICEF Mongolia joined forces with the Asian Development Bank through an MoU to support the Bank’s large-scale infrastructure investment in WASH activities in schools and dormitories with UNICEF-led child-related technical solutions, capacity building and hygiene-promotion approaches.

Critical stakeholders from several different sectors – Government, media and the private sector – developed an MoU to increase parents’ awareness of the prevention of pneumonia and injuries, and the importance of newborn care through videos produced jointly by UNICEF Mongolia and the National Maternal and Child Health Centre and broadcast free of charge. The videos reached about 350,000 households.

**External Communication and Public Advocacy**

Evidence-based communication activities around national events and advocacy campaigns (especially around the issues of equity, air pollution and WASH) raised UNICEF Mongolia’s visibility and promoted its role as a reliable source for data and expertise on children, evidenced by an increased number of requests for interviews, appearances and information. In particular, the role of UNICEF Mongolia in communicating on the impact of air pollution on children’s health was particularly effective, as it succeeded in creating a public debate and social mobilization around environmental impacts and contributed to the Government’s decisions in this area.

During the Parliamentary election, UNICEF Mongolia used social media to highlight the importance of investing in children and equity as a foundation for sustainable development. Several UNICEF-produced ‘Invest in Children’ videos and messages were distributed. This was particularly important as Mongolia was hit by severe economic crisis, and UNICEF Mongolia boosted its public presence through the #FightUnfair campaign, a social media campaign calling attention to child disparities and safeguarding social spending for the most vulnerable.

In response to legislative developments, UNICEF Mongolia worked closely with the National Authority for Family, Children and Youth, World Vision International, the Government of Mongolia and local governments to increase awareness of the newly approved Child Protection Law through audio-visual content, posters, guidelines and workshops. Recognizing the role of media, UNICEF Mongolia worked with journalists to increase awareness of the new law with a focus on protecting children’s privacy in both traditional and online media. Media handbooks and posters focused on ethical guidelines for reporting on children.

UNICEF Mongolia took part in global advocacy campaigns, including the 3rd Asia Pacific High-Level Meeting on Child Rights (HLM3) Innovation Challenge, the U-report Billion Brains Poll and Team UNICEF.

**South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation**

UNICEF Mongolia, UNICEF Viet Nam and the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia joined forces to broker a child rights-based partnership between parliamentarians from Viet Nam and Mongolia. A key factor in this partnership was a learning exchange visit from Viet Nam to Mongolia centred on the areas of legal frameworks, monitoring and coordination mechanisms and child rights protection and promotion. Mongolia’s experience in these areas was instrumental in helping the delegates finalize the draft of the Child Law, which the National Assembly of Viet Nam was expected to approve.
A high-level Mongolian government delegation participated in the HLM3 international forum and shared Mongolia’s experience on implementing the Universal Child Money Programme. The meeting also provided an important opportunity for the delegation to learn from other countries and exchange good practices on universal social protection, violence against children and universal health care. The HLM3 discussion and participation provided concrete emphasis on the Government’s commitment to accelerate the development and approval of the National Plan of Action on Child Development and Protection, linking it to social protection, including the first 1,000 days of life. In addition, the delegation committed to work with the Ministry of Finance to reflect in the state budget the required cost for children’s micronutrient and other essential supplements for mothers and children. This will be accompanied by a commitment to explicitly link the ongoing food stamp programme targeted at the poorest households to mothers and young children, which is not currently the case.

Another successful achievement related to a partnership with the University of Waterloo, a leading Canadian academic institution in the promotion of innovation, to organise an innovation challenge and a mentoring ecosystem for Mongolian youth innovators to develop new solutions to address adolescents’ mental health issues.

**Identification and Promotion of Innovation**

Introducing innovation to address child-related issues was a priority in 2016. A MoU was signed with Canada’s University of Waterloo to partner on developing innovative solutions to address increasing mental health issues among Mongolian adolescents. With the direct involvement of youth and Mongolian innovators, the recently initiated partnership focuses on mental health, children and adolescent health. A series of initiatives will lead to an innovation challenge in early 2017 focusing on two key themes – mental health and reproductive health – with experts from University of Waterloo providing technical support and mentorship and helping develop an incubation environment for the best innovative solutions.

As one of the key events of the HLM3, UNICEF Mongolia sponsored two young leaders to attend an innovation boot camp in Malaysia, where they developed creative solutions to address bullying in schools by supporting children who experienced bullying and raising awareness that they can stand strong by themselves. These solutions will be implemented in 17 public schools in Ulaanbaatar, targeting around 30,000 students.

UNICEF Mongolia continued to explore the issue of innovation for remote service delivery. E-learning pilot centres were started in six schools in 2015 and were replicated in 2016 in several schools in Ulaanbaatar, including two schools supported by a World Bank education project. In Nalaikh and Khuvsgul, 7,000 students and 200 teachers benefited from joint e-classes and exchange of ideas. In partnership with the Centre for Development of Distance Education in Mongolia and the Education Departments of Khuvsgul province and Nalaikh district, UNICEF created a portal to share e-learning content with other schools nationwide for further replication.

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

Local authorities from Khuvsgul province and Nalaikh district – the first geographic areas adopting the child-friendly communities strategy – demonstrated increased ownership to sustain commitments through a larger number of official acts and decisions that fostered cross-sector participatory planning and budgeting processes, and multi-sector coordination. This was evidenced by an increased allocation of local budget for children up to five per cent in Nalaikh and one per cent in Khuvsgul, on a year-to-year basis, despite the difficult financial crisis.

UNICEF Mongolia’s flagship Reach Every District and Soum Strategy (REDS) reached more than 2,600 of the most disadvantaged children with integrated services to remove barriers to
health care and to provide access to social protection with a strong C4D component. Basic health services provided included antenatal care, integrated management of child illness (IMCI), vitamin micronutrient supplementation, maternal and child health (MCH) books and free essential medicines for children.

UNICEF Mongolia continued to build successful evidence of service delivery models for replication, and co-designed targeted and integrated interventions in early childhood education, good parenting and WASH in kindergartens for the most disadvantaged children, increasing the number of children in ECE by 4.5 per cent in Khuvsgul province. Given the positive impact of equity-focused approaches, local authorities applied child-friendly kindergarten guidelines in 75 per cent of kindergartens in Khuvsgul and 80 per cent of those in Nalaikh. The Nalaikh district local government also spent US$5 million on building new kindergartens in the district to increase access to quality ECE services.

At the national level, UNICEF Mongolia’s policy and technical inputs on improvements in supply chain management contributed to the drafting of the maternal child health law, which provides solutions to supply and demand bottlenecks affecting child survival. The community-based integrated management of child health handbook was also adapted to the country context and UNICEF’s technical support also strongly influenced Khuvsgul province’s Midterm Development Strategy (2016-2030).

**Service Delivery**

Service delivery interventions focused on replicating at larger scale successful service delivery models for children. The WASH sanitation unit, successfully in use since 2014, was replicated by NGO and private sector partners, thereby increasing access to quality WASH services for about 9,000 boys and girls significantly surpassing the 2016 target level in the geographic focus areas.

New early childhood development (ECD) modules focused on increased parental participation, and emphasised health care, hygiene and nutrition. This led to the enrolment of 2,150 additional students and the involvement of 1,400 parents in target areas. UNICEF Mongolia and the Ulaanbaatar City Education Department introduced a distance learning kit for home-based ECD containing workbooks, guidebooks and video lessons broadcast on television and social media, accompanied by support visits from university students.

UNICEF Mongolia helped partners deliver nutrition services – including infant and young child feeding, counselling, micronutrient supplementation and acute malnutrition management – reaching 17,200 children under two months of age and 15,100 pregnant and lactating women in three focus areas. As a result, these interventions contributed to fewer children being reported as stunted according to official health statistics, with a decrease from 4.4 per cent to 1.4 per cent in Khuvsgul. Consumption of micronutrient powder among target children from 6-23 months old increased from 81.2 per cent to 86 per cent in Nalaikh and from 90.2 per cent to 95 per cent in Khuvsgul, compared to 2015.

C4D interventions reached about 200,000 parents and caregivers with messages on the importance of early and essential newborn care, and prevention of pneumonia and diarrhoea. UNICEF Mongolia’s flagship REDS reached more than 2,600 children with integrated services to remove barriers to health care and provide access to social protection. With UNICEF support, the working group on revision of the protocol on management of acute malnutrition was established by a Health Minister’s decree.
Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

UNICEF Mongolia submitted a confidential report on children in Mongolia to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, and presented priority child rights issues, including progress and unfinished business, as well as emerging issues in the pre-session working group meeting. The process included recommendations for the Committee’s consideration for its deliberations to the State Party. This was an invaluable opportunity for UNICEF Mongolia to contribute to the Committee’s concluding observations and recommendations.

UNICEF Mongolia took over as chair of the Inter-agency Child Rights Group, an advocacy group made up of international and national NGOs. The group successfully advocated for the approval of the Child Protection Law and the Law on Child Rights. The group jointly ran campaigns to introduce the Child Protection Law to diverse audiences – including professionals, parents and children – through posters and video clips disseminated online and offline. Both laws took effect in September and the group is providing implementation support to the Government.

UNICEF Mongolia collaborated with national NGOs and developed two booklets, My Special Friend and Summer Camp Friends, for the promotion of inclusive society values, which played an important role in changing attitudes toward children with disabilities. In addition, UNICEF Mongolia supported the publication of a sign language guidebook and charts distributed to all schools that supported inclusion of hearing impaired children in mainstream schools.

To promote mother-tongue learning for the Tuvan linguistic minority in Mongolia, UNICEF Mongolia partnered with the Ethnic Minority Children’s Unit of the Education Institute and local teachers from Bayan-Ulgii province to develop the Tuvan language-2 textbook and teacher’s manual. Four primary education textbooks were translated from Mongolian into Tuvan and are now used by about 180 Tuvan students.

Gender Equality

UNICEF conducted a situation analysis of adolescents in Mongolia to improve the understanding of decision makers, partners and all stakeholders on the current situation of adolescents and provide in-depth understanding of gender norms and expectations for adolescent girls and boys (total expenditure was US$ 31,000). This research contributed to the national development planning process and improved the enabling environment for adolescent development. Further analysis on gender is planned for 2017 with the aim of expanding opportunities for gender mainstreaming.

UNICEF continued mainstreaming gender into WASH programming through support for the MHM component. A MHM research report was finalized in collaboration with Emory University. UNICEF Mongolia, in partnership with NGOs and the Public Health Institute, developed basic packages of MHM including video and leaflets for girls, teachers, headmasters and caretakers of school dormitories. A dedicated website on MHM was developed to promote MHM behavioural change for girls.

Behaviour change communication activities were integrated with a peer education programme on reproductive health and reached 4,000 girls in 40 schools of UNICEF’s focus geographic areas. A national working group, led by UNICEF Mongolia and involving the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, academic institutions and NGO partners, was established to improve cross-sectoral coordination and to ensure implementation of the MHM research recommendations. The expenditure for 2016 was US$ 65,000.
Another relevant initiative was inclusive education for monk boys. In Mongolia, education of girls outpaces the education of boys, and boys continue to make up more than 60 per cent of all school dropouts, including monk boys studying in religious monasteries and temples. UNICEF advocated for improved and continuous collaboration between religious temples and local education institutions, which resulted in the decision to apply the equivalency curriculum for monastic boys at all temples. In addition, regular monitoring by the local education departments will ensure the officially registered transition of monastic boys from temples to formal or non-formal schools in the case of leaving from temples. This contributed to the establishment of official mechanisms to monitor the education rights of over 1,300 monk boys.

Environmental Sustainability

Environmental sustainability remained a top programming priority. Given the alarming levels of air pollution during Mongolia’s long winters, UNICEF Mongolia stepped up its advocacy and evidence-generation efforts on the health impact of air pollution on children. These efforts succeeded in generating a public debate around this topic, critically raising public awareness of the impact on child health, and contributing to short- and long-term mitigation measures.

One critical aspect of the effort was the preparation of research that distilled compelling scientific evidence on the most severe consequences of continued exposure to unsustainably high levels of air pollution in Ulaanbaatar. Evidence from top national and international scientific researchers, health practitioners and academics was brought together at a UNICEF Mongolia-led international expert consultation on Air Pollution and Children’s Health in January 2016. Participants supported policy solutions and provided recommendations that were presented to both the Mongolian Parliament and the Government.

To galvanize accountability on climate change through youth engagement, UNICEF Mongolia, in partnership with the Mongolian Scout Association, conducted capacity-building initiatives and awareness campaigns for school children on climate change and WASH-related topics in Ulaanbaatar and seven selected provinces. Approximately 300 peer educators and 3,000 children reported increased knowledge and skills in the areas of climate change and resilience and mitigation measures, facilitating further replication and application of training and advocacy materials developed around these issues. In addition, a handbook on disaster and emergency preparedness guidance for Mongolian schools including early warning systems was developed together with World Vision International.

UNICEF Mongolia’s technical support to all 24 soums in Khuvsgul province resulted in community water safety plans to manage risks and ensure the safety of drinking water supplies. Good practices from this approach were documented for further replication. UNICEF Mongolia implemented a new initiative on greening the office and improving indoor-air quality due to increased air pollution threats in Ulaanbaatar, especially during the winter months.

Effective Leadership

UNICEF Mongolia defined ten priorities in its annual management plan, including: developing the new Country Programme Document (CPD); strengthening results-based management; implementing new human resources systems; transitioning to the Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC); providing quality assurance for the harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT); improving monitoring team performance; scaling up and documenting effective models; strengthening South-South dialogue; designing a child protection system; and improving advocacy and knowledge products. These were monitored
twice in country management team (CMT) meetings. At year end, seven priorities were completed, two were in progress and one was delayed due to external factors.

UNICEF Mongolia’s risk profile was updated during the annual management review and at mid-year and thoroughly reviewed during an Enterprise Risk Management training and internal review. Of 12 risk areas, seven were relevant (five low risk and two medium risk). The funding and resource mobilisation risk area was lowered from a high risk in 2015 to medium in 2016. Action plans addressing residual risks were established for each risk.

Fifteen programme coordination meetings (PCMs) and 12 country management team meetings were convened in 2016 to discuss the status of programme and management indicators, including dashboard analysis. The joint consultative committee met six times to deliberate office-wide issues, including the Global Staff Survey action plan, and submissions related to the new CPD.

UNICEF Mongolia’s CPD 2017-2021 was approved by the Executive Board in September. The strategy note was finalized with the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, and the country programme management plan was developed.

UNICEF Mongolia led five clusters in the Humanitarian Country Team (nutrition, health, child protection, WASH and logistics/emergency telecoms). UNICEF Mongolia led CERF-funded food and nutrition emergency interventions and commissioned a rapid logistics assessment. An MoU with the Mongolian Red Cross was signed as an alternate office location for business continuity in the event of an emergency.

**Financial Resources Management**

UNICEF Mongolia strengthened financial and budget management and HACT implementation, which were reviewed as standing items at country management team meetings. UNICEF Mongolia led the inter-agency HACT Working Group, focusing on quality assurance and capacity building. UNICEF conducted 16 simplified financial management capacity assessments, 22 spot checks, 2 micro-assessments, 47 programme monitoring visits and 3 internal control audits.

UNICEF Mongolia successfully transitioned to the GSSC. Bank reconciliations were completed in a timely manner. Monthly cash forecasts and use, value-added tax refunds and exchange rate gains/losses were carefully monitored. The use of bank balances averaged 86 and 63 per cent for the Mongolian tugrik and US dollar bank accounts, respectively. The balance in the US dollar account increased due to the centralization of payments with the GSSC, which decreased the use of that account. UNICEF Mongolia received US$33,657 from value-added tax refunds, a 92 per cent reimbursement rate.

UNICEF headquarters facilitated local currency trading with the transition to global bank optimization. However, the local negotiated exchange rate was more favourable on three occasions. In these instances, currency trading was facilitated locally, saving US$2,056. UNICEF Mongolia utilised 99 per cent of total funds allocated, a 100 per cent expenditure rate. A quarterly cash forecast plan was implemented in October to better define current and future cash needs.

The number of direct cash transfers (DCTs) outstanding for more than six months was minimal and none were outstanding for more than nine months. To strengthen DCT monitoring, a tracking sheet was distributed to all staff twice a month showing the aging of outstanding DCTs and highlighting those that were reaching four to six months for immediate action.
UNICEF Mongolia benefited from allocations in global and regional thematic funds to support specific programmes, including social policy, WASH, education, child protection, and health and nutrition.

**Fundraising and Donor Relations**

UNICEF Mongolia continued to strengthen its fundraising portfolio, raising US$4.6 million – more than 100 per cent of the annual country programme other resources ceiling. The over-funded figures correspond to ongoing efforts to fundraise for the upcoming country programme. UNICEF Mongolia succeeded in attracting new donors with approved proposals for the new programme cycle, including the Swiss Development Cooperation, with support for WASH and social policy programmes. An existing partnership with the Principality of Monaco around early childhood education will be extended for an additional two years until 2019.

UNICEF Mongolia invested efforts to expand the existing relationship with the Korean Committee for UNICEF by securing support for nutrition and early childhood education on a larger geographic scale. As part of positive outreach towards new potential donors, the Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF and its youth envoys programme participants visited the UNICEF Mongolia programme. In addition, a new partnership with UNICEF Canada was instrumental in kick starting UNICEF Mongolia’s work on water safety planning and climate change adaptation.

The country programme is fully funded against the other resource ceiling, including all workplans. The use of available funds was carefully monitored with a 100 per cent utilisation rate and no outstanding balance against expiring other resource grants. Planned activities were monitored through regular country management team meetings and programme coordination meetings, midyear and annual progress reporting and bilateral consultations. With efficient internal monitoring through programme coordination and a quality assurance system, all 18 donor reports were submitted on time and included human interest stories.

**Evaluation and Research**

In consultation with the programme team, the integrated monitoring and evaluation plan (IMEP) was developed to fill knowledge gaps and generate evidence. Programme coordination and country management team meetings closely monitored the plan's implementation as a standing agenda item.

UNICEF Mongolia planned five studies and no evaluations for 2016. Two of these studies were completed (Child Rights Guidance for the Mining Sector: Mongolia Case Study on Project-induced In-migration and the Vaccine Hesitancy Survey). Three were in progress at the end of the year and will be completed in the first quarter of 2017 (Research on implementation of education rights for Uriankhai, Tuva and other minorities residing within major ethnic minorities, the Provincial Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey [MICS] in Khuvsgul and the Local MICS in Nalaikh).

Seven studies were completed in 2016: Addressing and Understanding the Impact of Air Pollution on Children, N-MODA, Further Analyses of the Social Indicator Sample Survey on Early Learning Experiences of Marginalized Children, Quality of Anthropometric Measures, Urban Profile of Children in Mongolia, Costing of the Child Protection Law, and Bottleneck Analysis for Equity in the Education Sector.

With Government and other relevant partners, UNICEF Mongolia focused on the follow up to the management response for the WASH in schools and kindergartens project evaluation. Part of the response included the adjustment of relevant workplans in accordance with the
recommendations and closer monitoring to ensure the sustainability of the interventions and the entire project.

In close collaboration with and with technical support from the UNICEF Regional Office, UNICEF Mongolia introduced standard operating procedures (SOPs) for evaluation at the programme coordination meeting. The standard operating procedures, now endorsed by the country management team, are based on the experience of managing evaluations and provide clarity on the steps and processes when planning, implementing, managing and reporting on evaluations. In addition, evaluation was included as a standing item on the country management team meeting for monthly review.

**Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings**

In 2016 UNICEF Mongolia generated efficiencies by encouraging staff to travel economy rather than business class on all official trips, saving approximately US$68,317. In addition, staff were encouraged to use more efficient means of communication, including Skype for meetings and recruitment interviews. By using Office 365 and other measures, UNICEF Mongolia did not have any international landline call expenses in 2016.

UNICEF Mongolia participated in the carpooling project jointly initiated by the Headquarters of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF. Mongolia was one of five countries selected for this pilot, which facilitated a common system for vehicle bookings and allowed for easier sharing of vehicles between agencies. UNICEF Mongolia saved US$210 by sharing inter-agency vehicles instead of renting vehicles.

Effectiveness and efficiencies were also sought through active participation in inter-agency mechanisms. UNICEF chaired the inter-agency Operations Management Team (OMT), and the first greening plan for UN House was included in the OMT annual workplan. As immediate steps, all lights in the common areas were replaced with energy-efficient LED lighting, and the process of selecting an institution to conduct a comprehensive energy audit of UN House was initiated. The annual Environmental Footprint Assessment was also completed.

In December 2012, the Government provided the UN House for all UN agencies on a rent-free basis, with agencies contributing to ongoing operating costs. In 2016, UNICEF Mongolia contributed US$126,970, compared to US$114,714 in 2015, an increase of 11 per cent, because of unexpected maintenance and repair costs. As a resident in shared common premises, UNICEF Mongolia achieved efficiency gains and saved approximately US$33,566 in comparison with the open market rental cost of an equivalent office space. In 2016, UNICEF established long-term agreements (LTAs) for two services and participated in three inter-agency LTAs and common services to achieve time efficiencies and economies of scale.

**Supply Management**

In its advocacy work and engagement with partners, UNICEF Mongolia continued its shift from traditional goods delivery to technical support. Supply interventions focused on pilot-to-policy initiatives for replication by Government partners. The supply plan focused on technical and research expertise related to closing the current CPD and preparing for the new cycle.

The value of all supply inputs was US$544,186. While programme supplies totalled US$369,000, one-third of this figure represented supplies procured to support the Government during the dzud emergency and another third was for programme supplies for ECD and children with disabilities that were specifically required by donor conditions.
regular locally managed programme supply component accounted for 39 per cent of total programme supplies, mainly to support replication of service delivery models by Government partners. Operational supplies were primarily improvements in information and communication technology (ICT) equipment as part of the GSSC transition and supporting flexible, mobile work arrangements.

UNICEF Mongolia did not maintain warehouse facilities. To develop local capacity, procurement of certain supplies was shifted to implementing partners with a proven procurement process as evidenced by end-user monitoring visits. The supply and services plans were monitored during the programme coordination meetings and amended less frequently than in previous years. Challenges nonetheless remained with the postponement of programme activities due to changes in the Government following the Parliamentary elections.

UNICEF Mongolia continued to assist the Ministry of Health with procurement services totalling US$1.7 million, which included vaccines to address the influenza outbreak. As the lead agency for the emergency logistics cluster, UNICEF Mongolia commissioned a rapid logistics assessment to define the cluster’s existing capacities and conducted logistics training for cluster members in June.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mongolia 2016</th>
<th>Value of all supply input (goods and services)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme supplies</td>
<td>US$369,000.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational supplies</td>
<td>US$46,601.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>US$128,585.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction (where applicable)</td>
<td>US$0</td>
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**Security for Staff and Premises**

The current security level in Mongolia remained at level 1 (minimal) in 2016. Security for UN House premises was supported by the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), overseen by the Security Management Team and implemented by the OMT.

The OMT continued to implement recommendations to strengthen safety measures based on the fire safety assessment conducted in 2015. UNICEF Mongolia led the procurement process for a comprehensive electrical assessment of UN House. Satellite phones and digital radios were installed in all vehicles, and they met the Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS). A satellite phone and mobile wifi unit were provided to staff travelling on field missions to improve communications. All domestic field travel was arranged by road and subject to a mandatory two-vehicle rule, in line with MOSS for Mongolia.

The business continuity plan and the emergency telephone tree system were updated. The telephone tree was tested twice in 2016 and regularly shared with all staff. In February, UNICEF Mongolia and the Mongolian Red Cross signed an MoU agreeing that, in the event of an emergency, the two signatories would serve as each other’s alternate office locations.

During the winter months, air pollution caused by uncontrolled coal burning and the very harsh climate continued to pose a health challenge for staff. In addition to the measures already in place for a healthy working environment, UNICEF Mongolia procured new high-quality air purifiers for every office and distributed masks for all staff.
Human Resources

As a concluding year of the programme cycle, a programme budget review for the new country programme cycle was finalized and approved with four posts abolished, three upgraded and one downgraded. Recruitment of six fixed-term appointments, three temporary ones and one volunteer were completed within the global key performance indicator of 60 days.

UNICEF Mongolia had four international and 28 national staff, 69 per cent of them female. Completion rate for performance evaluations was 100 per cent for the 2015 year-end phase, and 2016 planning phase using the new ACHIEVE system.

The human resources (HR) administration transactions were shifted to the GSSC via the MyCase system. Recruitment of staff, temporary appointments and individual consultants fully complied with the competitive selection process and were advertised in the new online recruitment system. There were 19 service contracts issued to individual consultants and institutions.

Since May, a shared sub-regional human resource manager at the P4 level based in the China Country Office supported the office as part of the UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific Working Differently initiative.

UNICEF Mongolia received US$5,000 from the regional training budget for office-wide learning activities, including results-based management and enterprise risk management. The office spent US$16,983 on office learning and individual staff development initiatives. All staff completed mandatory training and were encouraged to use Agora. The office continued its commitment to UN Cares, contributed to annual inter-agency joint activities and designated a UN Cares focal point.

With oversight of the joint consultative committee (six meetings in 2016), the staff association collaborated with human resources on the global staff survey action plan to respond to key areas of organisational efficiency, work-life balance and career development. Three sessions held on strengthening teambuilding and improving staff soft skills encouraged a culture of respect and understanding. UNICEF Mongolia encouraged staff to employ flexible working arrangements. Nine staff members used staggered working hours throughout the year.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

UNICEF Mongolia continued to implement global application introductions and system upgrades in a timely manner, with minimum service disruption, including VEAM 9.0 installation and domino server decommissioning. UNICEF Mongolia regularly used Skype and Office 365 tools (Skype for Business, SharePoint and OneDrive) to conduct meetings and share information with the Khuvsgul outpost office, the Regional Office and UNICEF Headquarters, as well as for recruitment interviews.

UNICEF Mongolia procured new ICT equipment based on the standard replacement policy, and continued its efforts to phase out desktop computers and replace them with laptops to support mobile working arrangements. Primary and secondary internet links were maintained for smoother connectivity, Broadband Global Area Network and Iridium satellite phones. To improve connectivity, two wifi networks were installed on the two floors that UNICEF Mongolia occupies.
Cost-efficient communications were maintained through the inter-agency unified common Private Automated Branch Exchange System. A mobile network service plan was negotiated that allowed complementary calls within the network.

Office vehicles were equipped with digital radios that meet current global standards and allow communication with staff members during field missions. As part of the carpooling project, all office vehicles were installed with General Packet Radio Service vehicle monitoring units that transmit data on drivers' behaviour, including speeding, harsh braking and harsh acceleration.

UNICEF Mongolia had 14,500 Facebook fans and 2,100 Twitter followers at the end of 2016. Nearly 500 posts were broadcast on social media last year. The social media fan base increased by more than 10,000, and UNICEF Mongolia engaged with 130,000 users and reached more than 1,500,000 users.

### Programme Components from RAM

#### ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

**OUTCOME 1** Evidence-based social policies and legislation, including pro-child budgeting principles, are in place and implemented for the equitable fulfilment of child rights

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016, a new Government was in place in Mongolia following general elections that resulted in an opposition victory and a wide change in Ministry structures, personnel and UNICEF partners. Despite evident challenges stemming from wide cabinet and staff turnover and the lower capacity of newly appointed officials, the new cabinet also offered opportunities for UNICEF. To influence the newly elected decision makers in 2016, the generation of compelling evidence was a top priority to ensure that the equity and child focus was properly understood and taken in account.

As a result, an N-MODA was produced and provided a new picture of child inequalities and deprivations in Mongolia. The analysis revealed disparities in key child well-being indicators and set a baseline for monitoring Government efforts to achieve the SDGs. The N-MODA analysis provided reliable evidence to inform government policies on the reduction of child poverty in its different overlapping deprivations and support the government in tracking SDG child poverty indicators.

In addition, and to support social protection reform, UNICEF Mongolia developed an analysis of the Child Money National Programme, one of the country's leading cash transfer programmes. The Government was provided with different targeting options and solutions to ensure that the programme can be maintained as quasi-universal and safeguarded in case of budget cuts.

Another constraint in 2016 was the dire financial crisis that affected Mongolia and led to severe budget cuts in the social sector. UNICEF Mongolia’s efforts to strengthen the government’s capacity to collect equity-focused child-related data for policies, programmes and monitoring of results continued through provision of technical support and availability of relevant tools and methodologies.

In this regard, UNICEF started a provincial MICS in its two geographic programme focus areas. When it is finalized in early 2017, it will support policy advocacy aimed at evidence-based social policies and legislation. UNICEF Mongolia's technical assistance to the Government on public finance management for children resulted in significant capacity improvement of key ministries in better allocation of child-related spending. Key results
included a detailed costing of the newly approved child protection law including budget analyses and guidelines for improved allocation of child protection measures, and revision of the existing programme budget structure of child protection and development sector focusing on tangible results for children.

An innovative analysis was produced to understand how equitable Mongolia’s water tariffs are. Moreover, an innovative public expenditure and institutional review of air pollution and its impact on child health was initiated to make a case for increased budget allocation for pneumonia prevention and air pollution mitigation. With a view to informing the upcoming Country Programme, UNICEF produced quality analyses of selected trends that affect children, and consequently the work of UNICEF in Mongolia, with technical support of the Economic Intelligence Unit. The work resulted in long and medium-term scenarios for the country and their potential impacts on children, which are extremely useful tools for UNICEF Mongolia’s work with partners.

**OUTPUT 1** By the end of 2016, national and sub-national capacity is strengthened to plan and budget for inclusive social policies and interventions to reduce child vulnerability

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In partnership with Economic Policy Research Institute, UNICEF Mongolia undertook the N-MODA analysis to raise awareness on multiple and overlapping child deprivations and inform national policies for child poverty reduction. The findings were presented publicly and shared with key ministries, with high appreciation of partners, as this represented the first baseline of multidimensional child deprivation analysis. The MODA analyses were also done at the sub-national level for Khuvsgul province and Nalaikh districts. The findings were uploaded in a newly designed web portal accessible for the public in a user-friendly form. The findings were extremely timely and set the baseline for measuring the Government’s progress on SDG Goal 1 on ending poverty in all its forms.

To support policy reform, and using the Household Socio-Economic Survey 2014, the effects of the Child Money National Programme, the government’s flagship social protection programme for children, on household poverty were simulated to provide the Government with possible targeting solutions that could still benefit the most vulnerable children. Given the current financial crisis and Government’s decision to reduce the number of programme beneficiaries, this simulation was particularly useful and the findings were packaged as infographics for wider dissemination.

Extensive incorporation of children’s statistics in the Cabinet Secretariat’s monitoring frameworks of Government policies and national programmes was achieved with the adoption of 15 child-related indicators. UNICEF Mongolia’s work in public financial management for children provided concrete contributions to various sectors. The relevant staff from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Ministry of Finance benefited from improved capacity on programme costing through UNICEF’s partnership with South Africa’s Cornerstone Economic Research.

The minimum required budget for child protection that was estimated through UNICEF’s technical support was reflected in the pre-election budget statement and the medium-term fiscal framework, but due to economic difficulties currently faced by the Government, the implementation of the law was put on hold until 2019.

Technical support to the social ministry on improved financing for child rights resulted in recommendations and guidelines for a more effective allocation of funds for child protection and development, which are expected to be applied in the formulation of the 2018 budget.
The programme budget structure for child rights was revised and submitted to the Ministry of Finance as a proposal to improve the efficiency of the budget allocated for children. The public expenditure and institutional review of air pollution and related child pneumonia was initiated with funding secured from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. To support quality outcomes of the project implemented with the Water Service Regulatory Commission on equitable water tariff setting methodology, Oxford Policy Management was engaged to build national capacity on equal and quality provision of water services through tariff setting and a guide for the Commission to improve the existing tariff setting practices to address inequities in water services.

OUTPUT 2 By the end of 2016, the capacity of national authorities is strengthened in collection, analyses and use of disaggregated data to support equity-focused priorities for children

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Mongolia’s technical support to the Family, Child and Youth Development Authority and the National Statistics Office contributed to the strengthening of national expertise in survey and data management as well as in translating data into monitoring and action for children. UNICEF Mongolia’s high-level advocacy resulted in the extensive incorporation of children’s statistics into the Cabinet Secretariat’s monitoring frameworks of Government policies and national programmes with 15 child-related indicators.

UNICEF Mongolia supported the planning and implementation of the 2016 provincial MICS in Khuvsgul province and Nalaikh district, the Country Programme’s two geographic focus areas. The data collection field work was completed and data processing is ongoing. Preliminary results of the survey were expected in the first quarter of 2017. The provincial MICS contributed to the strengthening of local technical capacity in managing the sample surveys, which in turn is expected to contribute to the gathering of quality evidence at the local level and support for local planning and programming.

Initial discussions were held with partners and the National Statistical Office on the incorporation and integration of SDG indicators into existing data and monitoring systems. New data on children collected based on newly introduced methodologies and tools were used in monitoring national programmes and strategies, such as the National Programme on Adolescent and Youth Development, the National Programme of Gender Equity, the National Programme of Elimination of All Forms of Hazardous Child Labour, the Child Protection Strategy and the Child Participation Strategy.

With the joint advocacy of UNICEF Mongolia and the Family, Child and Youth Development Authority, 129 child indicators were approved by the Statistical Methodology Council. Sectoral coordination on data collection was strengthened with newly established cooperation modalities and agreements with the Centre for Health Development, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the General Police Department, the Traffic Police, the Judicial General Council of Mongolia, the National Emergency Management Agency, the Association of Mongolian Advocates, the National Centre of Trauma and Injuries, and the General Agency of Social Welfare.

Earlier in 2016, the National Statistics Office, which used to report to Parliament, was converted into the newly established Registration and Statistics Agency under the Ministry of Justice. Although there were no implications on regular programme operations at the national level, some difficulties were encountered at the local level. The combination of scientific statistics and data collection functions with civil registration service provision made it difficult to manage statistical and survey protocols and staff time at the local level. Thus, the management and administration of the provincial MICS were centralized at the national
level with extensive participation of the local statistical departments. At a later stage, the
status of the National Statistics Office was reverted by the newly elected Parliament and
regained full independence from the executive governing body.

OUTCOME 2 Equity-focused awareness raising and partnerships strengthened between the
government, civil society organizations and the media for leveraging and coordinated
initiatives with wider participation from communities and children

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Evidence-based communication activities around national events and advocacy campaigns
raised UNICEF Mongolia’s visibility and its role as a reliable source for data and expertise on
children, evidenced by an increased number of requests for interviews, appearances and
information. UNICEF Mongolia played a leading role in communicating around the impact of
air pollution on children’s health and succeeded in creating public debate around this issue,
with growing media and celebrity involvement.

UNICEF Mongolia strengthened and widened its networks with the private sector through
strategic partnerships, capacity building, and technical assistance with champions in key
industries (IT, cashmere, finance and mining) for the implementation of CRBP. The
introduction of CRBP with key government partners in health, nutrition, ECD and WASH
resulted in a better understanding of state obligations regarding the impact of business on
children’s rights. In addition, innovative research on the impacts of project-induced in-
migration with four mining companies was conducted by UNICEF Mongolia and the UNICEF
Private Partnerships and Fund-raising, Child Rights and Business Units, producing
company-specific recommendations. Once it is released, it will form the basis for
programmatic interventions and tailored technical support to the participating companies.

During the Parliamentary election, UNICEF Mongolia used social media to highlight the
importance of investing in children and equity as a foundation for sustainable development,
distributing several UNICEF-produced Invest in Children videos and messages. This was
particularly important as Mongolia was hit by a severe economic crisis. UNICEF Mongolia
boosted its public presence through the #FightUnfair campaign, a social media campaign
calling attention to child disparities and promoting the safeguarding of social spending for the
most vulnerable.

In response to legislative developments, UNICEF Mongolia worked closely with the National
Authority for Family, Children and Youth, World Vision International, and the national and
local governments in increasing awareness of the newly approved Child Protection Law
through audio-visual content, posters, guidelines and workshops. Recognizing the role of
media, UNICEF Mongolia worked with journalists to increase awareness of the new law with
a focus on protecting children’s privacy in both traditional and online media. Media
handbooks and posters focused on ethical guidelines for reporting on children.

UNICEF Mongolia took part in global advocacy campaigns, including the HLM3 Innovation
Challenge, the U-report Billion Brains Poll and Team UNICEF.

Relevant and diverse international and national content and increased digital outreach
allowed UNICEF Mongolia to exceed its social media outreach targets by reaching 1.5
million people.

OUTPUT 1 By the end of the 2016, national capacity is strengthened in policy dialogue and
advocacy for corporate social responsibility and business practices that respect and support
children’s rights
Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Mongolia formalized a child-online protection/innovation-based partnership with the country’s largest mobile/IT service provider, which also widened UNICEF Mongolia’s outreach as the provider now disseminates SMS messages with key child rights information provided by UNICEF Mongolia. The company played a key role in the lead up to a UNICEF-led youth innovation challenge on two key themes affecting adolescents in Mongolia: mental health and sexual and reproductive health. Within the same initiative, a second partnership was formalized with Canada’s University of Waterloo. The challenge incorporates a mentoring ecosystem for Mongolian youth innovators supported by the University, which is a leading academic institution in the promotion of innovation. The newly signed MoU with the University provides the overall framework for the introduction of innovations to social challenges with the active participation of Mongolian youth, and the establishment of a mentoring network between two active systems. The innovation challenge will take place in February 2017.

UNICEF Mongolia rolled out introductory and intermediate training modules for the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Canadian INGO Uniterra, to strengthen institutional leadership and commitment to CRBP among the country’s largest business platforms. UNICEF Mongolia strengthened and widened its networks with the private sector through strategic partnerships, capacity building, and technical assistance with champions in key industries (IT, cashmere, telecommunications, finance and mining) for the implementation of CRBP. The introduction of CRBP to key government sectoral partners in health, nutrition, ECD and WASH resulted in better understanding of state obligations regarding the impact of business on children’s rights.

In addition, research on the impacts of project-induced in-migration with four mining companies, conducted by UNICEF Mongolia and UNICEF’s Private Partnerships and Fund-raising and Child Rights and Business Units, along with company-specific recommendations will form the basis for programmatic interventions and tailored technical support to participating companies. Sector-specific technical assistance provided to the cashmere sector early in 2016 produced tangible results in the form of breastfeeding spaces established for working mothers.

The delivery of similarly tailored support to a wider range of companies in both the fibre and ‘green construction’ sectors will be affected through a collaboration with Uniterra. Other tangible results were seen from an ongoing collaboration with two financial institutions, which led to the replication of UNICEF Mongolia’s WASH container model at a kindergarten in one of UNICEF Mongolia’s geographic focus areas, the peri-urban district of Nalaikh.

UNICEF Mongolia in partnership with UNICEF’s Private Partnerships and Fund-raising, Child Rights and Business Units and UNICEF Canada provided technical inputs to the Ministry of Mining-led process for the development of a model community development agreement (CDA). This is related to the agreements mining companies enter into with local authorities and regulate the companies’ actions to address environmental and social impacts. UNICEF’s collective inputs focused on ensuring inclusive stakeholder consultations allowing disadvantaged groups’ voices to be heard as part of the development of the CDAs at the local level.

OUTPUT 2 Increased coverage of children’s issues from a child-rights perspective in the media (newspapers/radio/TV)
Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF’s work on air pollution and its effect on children’s health was a communication and advocacy highlight result. The organization of an international expert conference and the report launched on the subject was widely covered in the media, engaging and uniting different stakeholders around a common cause through offline and online networks. Involving well-known musician and singer Mr. Bold in advocacy for air pollution helped raise the profile of the issue as well as increase UNICEF’s visibility. UNICEF will continue advocating for cutting air pollution to protect children’s health.

UNICEF efforts and activities were promoted via traditional and digital media during the organization’s key calendar events, including World Breastfeeding Week, World Prematurity Day and other programme-relevant events and initiatives. At a time of economic crisis in Mongolia, telling compelling stories, speaking to media and running advocacy campaigns was of crucial importance. UNICEF Mongolia’s voice was relentless in convincing the public, decision makers and the private sector that investing in children now is an important step for sustainable economic development.

In the run up to the Parliamentary elections, UNICEF used its social media platform to highlight the importance of investing in children in order to mobilize the public to reach the candidates. A series of Invest in Children short videos was produced and broadcast through social media to engage and encourage the public to spread the word through their social networks.

To secure the new Government’s commitment to children during a period of economic hardship, UNICEF used the global #FightUnfair campaign concept to launch a local social media campaign to highlight national child-related disparities and equity. Engaging local cultural and sport celebrities for the campaign helped raise awareness about persisting inequalities and the need for a call for action. UNICEF Mongolia, in partnership with the Authority for Family, Child and Youth Development, World Vision International, and the national and local governments, conducted nationwide awareness-raising campaigns on the newly approved Child Protection Law via audio-visual content, posters, guidelines and workshops. Journalists were also informed about the new law, highlighting the media’s role in protecting children's privacy on both offline and online media platforms. The proactive use of social media, audio-visual products and web content for general audiences increased UNICEF Mongolia's social media fan base by over 15,000, while engaging 130,000 people and reaching over 1.5 million people both within and outside Mongolia.

In addition, UNICEF Mongolia and a high-level government delegation took part in global advocacy campaigns, including HLM3 Innovation Challenge, the U-report Billion Brains Poll and Team UNICEF.

OUTCOME 3 Increased use of services and strengthened good practices for the fulfilment of young child's rights to health, nutrition, protection and school readiness, particularly for marginalised children

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The implementation of the UNICEF-initiated Child-friendly Community (CFC) Strategy in the two geographic focus areas (Khuvsogul province and Nalaikh district) continued in 2016 with evidence of increased child-focused planning, delivery of services and budget allocation for the most vulnerable children. Moreover, the roll-out of service delivery models for further nationwide replicability ensured increased population coverage. Because of UNICEF Mongolia’s advocacy and technical assistance in the implementation of the CFC strategy, an increased number of official decisions by local authorities in the two geographic areas helped improve child-focused planning and budgeting processes for the most vulnerable, as
well as multi-sector coordination. This was accompanied by evidence of increased allocation of local budgets for children up to five per cent in Nalaikh and one per cent in Khuvsgul, on a year-to-year basis, despite the financial crisis.

In addition, and as part of CFC commitments, US$1.5 million was spent in Khuvsgul by the provincial government to set up community kindergartens and alternative forms of ECE to increase access for herders’ children to quality ECE in the remote soums. In addition, the Nalaikh district local government spent US$ 5 million on building new kindergartens in the district to increase access to quality ECE services. These are unprecedented investments by the two provincial governments in the ECE sector. While working to strengthen child-focused planning and budgeting, results were achieved in the increased roll-out of service delivery models, tested at the local level for further nationwide replication. In this regard, UNICEF Mongolia supported the integrated ECE, good parenting and implementation of the WASH national norms and minimum requirements to safe water and adequate sanitation facilities.

In 2016, the installation of four WASH container facilities in the newly established community kindergartens was completed. The launch of targeted home-based distance learning and mobile kindergartens (ger) benefited more than 26,000 boys and girls, two to five years of age. These interventions led to an increase in the number of children, especially the most disadvantaged, accessing ECE by 4.5 per cent in Khuvsgul province (84.1 per cent in 2015 to 88.6 per cent in 2016).

Given the positive impact of equity-focused approaches, local authorities applied guidelines for child-friendly kindergartens in 88 per cent and 80 per cent of the kindergartens in Khuvsgul and Nalaikh respectively. Positive results on ECE at the local level were accompanied by concrete contributions to policy reform. UNICEF Mongolia’s technical support was instrumental to the approval of the amended Law on Preschool Education in May 2016 that will benefit at least 300,000 children aged two to five years, especially the most disadvantaged children, upon implementation of the amended Law in January 2017. In particular, UNICEF Mongolia’s high-level advocacy and technical assistance were instrumental in ensuring that marginalized children (children from poor households, children with disabilities, and orphan and boarding children) can be enrolled in public kindergartens free of charge and receive free meals.

In the health sector, UNICEF Mongolia continued rolling out successful service delivery models initiated earlier for national replication and sustainability. The implementation of the UNICEF-supported REDS in the two geographic focus areas benefited more than 2,600 of the most disadvantaged children with integrated services to remove barriers to health care and to provide access to social protection with a strong C4D component. In 2016, REDS reached 1,639 mothers and children (90 per cent of the target population) in Khuvsgul and 670 children (95 per cent of the target population) in Nalaikh with basic health services including antenatal care C-IMCI, vitamin micronutrient supplementation, maternal and child health books, and free essential medicines for children.

With UNICEF Mongolia’s technical support, the Maternal and Child Health Law, which highlights solutions to supply and demand bottlenecks to child survival rights, was fully drafted, and the C-IMCI handbook was adapted to the country context. UNICEF Mongolia’s technical support also strongly influenced Khuvsgul province’s Midterm Development Programme (2016–2030). A vaccine hesitancy survey technically supported by UNICEF Mongolia revealed the perceptions and factors influencing vaccine hesitancy of decision makers, parents, health workers, teachers, media and the Kazakh minority. The findings of the survey informed the development and approval of the communication strategy for immunization in Nalaikh and Bayanzurkh districts and Khuvsgul province, as well as the drafting of the national communication strategy.
OUTPUT 1 By the end of 2016, national and sub-national capacity to provide access to quality ECD services, especially for the most vulnerable children, is increased

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Mongolia played an active role in the drafting process of the Government Strategy on Education and amendments to the Law on Preschool Education through technical assistance and continued policy advocacy. As a result, the law was successfully amended, and two fundamental provisions for quality preschool education were incorporated: (i) “all children from two years of age to enter preschool education”, and (ii) “every child in Mongolia shall be involved in the preschool education services such a mainstream, part-time, seasonal, shift classes, mobile teachers, or mobile kindergarten”. From the start of its implementation in January 2017, marginalized children (children from poor households, children with disabilities, and orphan and boarding children) will be enrolled in the public kindergartens free of charge and will receive free meals.

UNICEF Mongolia in partnership with In-Service Teacher Training Institute supported the implementation of a national core curriculum for preschool education at national and sub-national levels through conducting in-service training for teachers and on-site visits. Improved curricula will benefit over 250,000 children two to five years of age and 2,119 targeted ECE practitioners, local managers and parents.

With UNICEF Mongolia’s technical assistance to the Mongolian State University of Education, the training module on child protection and ECD was developed and tested for nationwide implementation. The module aimed to improve kindergarten teachers’ understanding of children’s rights, special developmental and learning needs and violence-free communications in the classroom. With UNICEF Mongolia’s support, more than 15,000 children, aged two to five, accessed ECE services through the newly established 80 kindergartens with integrated components of ECE, good parenting and access to safe water, adequate sanitation facilities and hygiene behaviour change.

UNICEF Mongolia and the Ulaanbaatar City Education Department designed and introduced an innovative home-based ECD distance learning kit containing workbooks, guidebooks and video lessons broadcast for improved parent-child interactions, accompanied by support visits from university students. These were used by 2,150 most-disadvantaged children three to five years of age, with the active involvement of 1,400 parents, in the outskirt districts of Ulaanbaatar city and Khuvsgul province. Three hundred children living in the most remote rural areas accessed ECE services by using ten mobile kindergartens designed and introduced by UNICEF Mongolia. These interventions led to an increase in the number of children, especially the most disadvantaged, accessing ECE by 4.5 per cent in Khuvsgul province (84.1 per cent in 2015 to 88.6 per cent in 2016). Nalaikh district maintained the 2015 preschool enrolment rate of 70.7 per cent, but with an additional 211 new entrants in 2016. Given the positive impact of equity-focused approaches, local authorities applied guidelines for child-friendly kindergartens in 88 per cent and 80 per cent of the kindergartens in Khuvsgul and Nalaikh respectively. Meanwhile, reduced government budgets at the sub-national level were a challenge in terms of sustaining and replicating ECE models in remote provincial and district locations. UNICEF continued its evidence-based advocacy efforts to ensure the sustainability of the ECE models in Khuvsgul province and Nalaikh district.

OUTPUT 2 By the end of 2016, national capacity to legislate, budget and provide quality maternal and child nutrition services is strengthened
Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Draft Law on Food for Infants and Young Children was finalized with UNICEF Mongolia’s technical assistance and submitted to the Government in December 2016. Once approved, the law will protect and promote breastfeeding of infants through regulatory control of aggressive advertisement of breast milk substitutes and complementary foods. Technical and financial support to the Ministry of Health and Public Health Institute was also provided to complete the Survey on Importation, Trade and Consumption of Breast Milk Substitutes. The survey results provided solid evidence on the factors affecting increased use of breast milk substitutes, marketing, and hospital practices to support breastfeeding, and informed the revisions to the Law on Food for Infants and Young Children.

UNICEF Mongolia provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Health and Public Health Institute in the design, planning, training and implementation of the Fifth National Nutrition Survey. This survey expanded the collection of indicators and provided national and regional-level data on the nutritional situation of Mongolian children, women and men. Once it is finalized in 2017, the survey report will further inform the development of nutrition policies.

UNICEF Mongolia supported the delivery of nutrition services in focus areas, including infant and young child feeding counselling, micronutrient supplementation and acute malnutrition management, reaching 17,200 children under two years of age and 15,100 pregnant and lactating women in three focus areas. The consumption of micronutrient powders among children 6-23 months increased from 81.2 per cent to 86 per cent in Nalaikh, from 90.2 per cent to 95 per cent in Khuvsgul, and from 93 per cent to 94 per cent in Bayanzurkh district compared to 2015. These interventions contributed to fewer children being reported as stunted according to official health statistics, with a decrease from 4.4 per cent to 1.4 per cent in Khuvsgul.

UNICEF Mongolia played a leading role in the humanitarian response to a winter disaster that affected Mongolia in 2016 with high snowfall and low temperatures. UNICEF provided comprehensive food and nutrition assistance benefiting 5,299 most-vulnerable herder households (19,076 people) in 67 soums across six provinces (Uvs, Zavkhan, Arkhangai, Bayankhongor, Dundgobi, and Sukhbaatar). UNICEF’s response efforts focused on nutrition services being coordinated through primary health services and reaching 1,870 children under five years of age (901 girls and 969 boys) and 943 pregnant and lactating women in targeted herder households. Multiple micronutrient supplements reached 96 per cent of children 6-59 months and 92 per cent of pregnant and lactating women in CERF target households.

The distribution of 3,000 leaflets with key messages on appropriate infant and young child feeding practices and the appropriate use of multiple micronutrient supplements benefited the target population. Other non-CERF response efforts around life-saving nutrition services reached an additional 4,694 nutritionally vulnerable children aged 6-23 months in herder households in the 45 targeted soums. The completion of the guidelines on management of acute malnutrition was postponed to early 2017 due to the delay in the new government’s appointments, including nutrition and child health officers.

OUTPUT 3 By the end of 2016, the capacity of local government to consult children and communities in local development planning and decision-making processes is strengthened in rural and urban settings

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The implementation of the CFC strategy in Khuvsgul province and Nalaikh progressed with the adoption of sharper equity-focused child well-being indicators, the integration of child-
friendly sectoral plans within the overall new medium-term local development plans, and improved monitoring mechanisms for results and sustainability. The newly established Children’s Councils in Khuvsgul province and Nalaikh district demonstrated local governments’ efforts and commitment in enabling children to participate and contribute in decision-making processes.

UNICEF Mongolia played a leading role as principal technical advisor in the drafting of Khuvsgul province’s Midterm Development Programme (2016-2030), which included a strong child focus. UNICEF Mongolia’s advocacy was instrumental in keeping a steady flow of child-related budgetary investment, confirming the trend that started in 2014. Following the application of the commitments taken from the CFC Strategy, the provincial government in Khuvsgul province spent US$1.5 million from the Local Development Fund to set up community kindergartens and provide alternative forms of education. This helped in increasing access for herders’ children to quality early childhood and primary education services in the remote soums.

In Nalaikh district, US$ 5 million was spent on building new kindergartens in the district to increase access for children to quality ECE services. UNICEF Mongolia’s support to community awareness-raising activities on participatory and child-friendly planning to improve access and utilization of basic services for the most vulnerable communities and reached approximately 10,000 people in Nalaikh district and 15,000 people in Khuvsgul province. UNICEF Mongolia’s technical support to the General Office of Social Welfare and Services at the national level resulted in the targeting of 15,000 of the poorest families nationwide to benefit from the National Household Development Programme.

UNICEF Mongolia also helped design a cost-efficient online training course for 620 social workers who work with communities and the most vulnerable families. Seven modules were completed for the roll-out: (1) family health; (2) child development and positive parenting; (3) safe living environment; (4) family relations and violence-free family; (5) social protection; (6) employment; and (7) household development plan. Completion of the online course by at least 30 per cent of all social workers was made a mandatory requirement for 21 provincial and 9 district social welfare and services departments. The sustainability and replication of the CFC strategy is a key consideration of UNICEF Mongolia’s exit strategy in Khuvsgul province. In preparation, the Khuvsgul local government was consulted on putting in place a sustainability plan that will be implemented under UNICEF Mongolia’s close monitoring for six months in 2017. To ensure sustainability and facilitate replication of the CFC Strategy in other provinces, the CFC good practices and lessons learned were documented, and a variety of information tools, including policy briefs, video documentaries and human interest stories, were produced.

**OUTPUT 4** National capacity is strengthened in legislation, planning and budgeting for equitable access to essential high-impact maternal and child health interventions using REDS Strategy, by end 2016

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF Mongolia continued to support REDS, benefiting more than 2,600 of the most disadvantaged children with integrated services to remove barriers to health care and to provide access to social protection with a strong C4D component. REDS reached 1,639 mothers and children (90 per cent of the target population) in Khuvsgul and 670 children (95 per cent of the target population) in Nalaikh with basic health services. These included antenatal care, IMCI, vitamin micronutrient supplementation, MCH information and free essential medicines for children.
In addition, an integrated approach to health interventions enhanced the impact of nutrition support and C4D interventions. About 200,000 parents and caregivers were reached with messages on the importance of early and essential newborn care, and the prevention of pneumonia and diarrhoea. With UNICEF Mongolia’s technical support, the MCH Law, which highlights solutions to supply and demand bottlenecks to child survival rights, was successfully drafted.

The C-IMCI handbook was adapted to the Mongolian context and the vaccine hesitancy survey was completed. This provided a crucial baseline for the national C4D strategy and communication for immunization strategy that was successfully developed in Nalaikh and Bayanzurkh districts and Khuvsgul province.

UNICEF Mongolia helped bring together the National MCH Centre and the Mongolian National Broadcasting (MNB) TV and cable TV companies (Univision and Skytel) around a single partnership agreement. This focused on six videos for parents and caregivers on newborn care, child injury and pneumonia prevention free of charge for one year. These videos, developed by the National MCH Centre with UNICEF Mongolia’s support, were aired by two cable television networks serving 350,000 households and MNB TV and Univision, reaching the most remote households.

World Pneumonia Day was marked with information on the prevention, protection and treatment of pneumonia along with mitigation of air pollution. Relevant messages were disseminated through five TV channels, Facebook and press conferences reaching 1.5 million people. UNICEF Mongolia’s continued long-term high-level advocacy supported the MOHS to secure US$600,000 for the procurement of essential medicines through UNICEF procurement services. This demonstrated a firm commitment to increase access to essential medicines to treat pneumonia and diarrhoea, which account for 20 per cent of all under-five mortality cases. UNICEF Mongolia supported the Government in its response to a measles outbreak in 2016 by leading the micro-planning for a national supplementary immunization campaign and communication actions for 76 provincial and district managers and 1,200 grassroots health workers in the Expanded Programme on Immunization. Support included the supply of vaccines, devices and Vitamin A for about 647,000 doses. UNICEF Mongolia’s information and communication activities and dissemination of preventive messages among the public, targeted to parents of children under five years of age and school and kindergarten teachers, reached approximately 1.5 million people. The supplementary immunization campaign in 2016 reached 93.5 per cent coverage, protecting 347,685 children age 6 months to 5 years from measles. With UNICEF Mongolia’s technical leadership, the C4D guideline for immunization of health workers was developed.

OUTCOME 4 Equitable access to child-friendly schools that are inclusive, academically effective, gender-sensitive, healthy, safe protective, and involve families and communities

Analytical Statement of Progress:
National primary and secondary education net enrolment rates reached 96.3 per cent and 94.1 per cent respectively in the 2015/2016 academic year, which are 1.7 per cent and 4 per cent higher compared to the beginning of the current Country Programme in 2012, according to the statistics of the Education Ministry. However, these enrolment rates are 2.8 per cent and 2.0 per cent lower compared to the previous academic year, which might be largely due to recent measures to increase flexible school entrance ages for children from herder families, as well as data quality.

UNICEF supported targeted interventions for disadvantaged children in the two geographic focus areas contributing to a 0.8-1.2 per cent increase in primary education net enrolment rates in Khuvsgul (96.6 per cent) and Nalaikh (99.8 per cent) respectively, according to district and provincial statistics. In relation to this, UNICEF in collaboration with the
Education Ministry initiated policy advocacy around SDG 4 on “Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” to place equity and inclusion at the centre of national and local education policy formulation and implementation.

With UNICEF’s advocacy, the partnership approach, which involves technical consultations, joint training and exchange visits between the special schools for children with special needs in Ulaanbaatar and selected regular schools in Khuvsgul and Nalaikh, was replicated by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency in Khuvsgul and other districts. UNICEF in partnership with the Education Institute focused on generating evidence to improve the learning achievement of ethnic minority students. This was achieved by conducting a study on students’ learning achievement of mother tongues (Kazakh and Tuva) and Mongolian language in lower secondary grades covering 724 students and 558 teachers from 9 soums and provincial centre schools in Bayan-Ulgii province. The study identified generally poor professional knowledge, skills and teaching methodology of teachers especially in teaching the Mongolian language, and a shortage of textbooks and learning materials designed for ethnic minorities as the main factors that resulted in students’ poor learning achievement.

The recommendations of the study will inform the UNICEF Mongolia and Government’s capacity building plans and interventions for 2017 to ensure sound teaching practices, pre- and in-service training, and child-friendly learning environment.

UNICEF led the coordination of several organizations towards improving disaster risk reduction (DRR) in education in its capacity as the Education Cluster Co-lead. As a result of systematic and well-planned collaboration within the cluster, UNICEF contributed to a series of results. These included training on education in emergencies and DRR basics for 30 participants that aimed to strengthen their capacity to provide education response during emergencies and to integrate education in emergencies/DRR issues into education policies. In addition, a handbook on disaster and emergency preparedness guidance for Mongolian schools in collaboration with cluster members was also developed.

At the national level, the National Strategy Forum on Safe Schools and Kindergartens was organised in collaboration with the Education Ministry, the National Emergency Management Authority, World Vision and Save the Children, which generated recommendations on integrating DRR issues into education policies and programming. Concrete progress was also noted in WASH through the implementation of the national Norms and Requirements for WASH in Kindergartens, Schools and Dormitories. As a result, improved access of approximately 16,200 boys (47 per cent) and girls (53 per cent) to safe water and adequate sanitation facilities was achieved, together with 100 per cent access coverage in 19 schools, 30 dormitories and 4 kindergartens in two focus areas. In the focus areas, 19 target schools updated their policies and management plans to be gender-sensitive, which included WASH-related targets, such as water safety, clean sanitation facilities and MHM issues. The MHM research recommendations informed the development of a basic package of MHM education materials, including a website on MHM (www.namuu.mn), and a video and leaflets for girls, teachers, headmasters and caretakers of dormitories, as well as the general public.

UNICEF technically supported the development of the first draft of the national programme on child development and protection, for government approval in the first quarter of 2017. To strengthen the legal environment for adolescent development, additional technical and financial support was provided for the development of two new regulations related to adolescent development within the framework of the Child Rights Law, which were approved in 2016.

With UNICEF’s advocacy and technical support, the first policy document on the organization of student extracurricular activities (debate clubs, student publication clubs,
health peer education clubs) in schools was approved by the Education Ministry in May 2016. A guideline for school administration and teachers, which included detailed guidance on making extracurricular activities more effective and beneficial for children, was developed and distributed to all schools nationwide. This will contribute to the sustainability of the Child Development Centres already established in all schools and dormitories in Khuvsgul and Nalaikh.

UNICEF played a leading role in the development of the new Law on Child Protection that was approved by the Parliament in February 2016. UNICEF together with the child rights group of international and national coalitions of NGOs advocated for the inclusion of a stand-alone Article on Child Protection in Education. Accordingly, the law requires that the education sector implement a child protection policy and programmes, and that all its employees have a mandatory reporting responsibility if they suspect, become aware of, or identify children at risk of abuse or abused. It obliges the sector to take measures to prevent children from corporal punishment, mental abuse, bullying, neglect, crimes, offences and harmful habits, and to train employees to acquire positive disciplining methods.

OUTPUT 1 Increased national and sub-national capacity to legislate, plan and budget for and monitor equitable access to inclusive quality basic education

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Mongolia collaborated with government and NGOs to support inclusive education interventions at several schools and non-formal education centres in Khuvsgul province and Nalaikh district benefiting over 140 children with disabilities. Murun, Bayanzurkh, Ulaan-Uul and Rinchinlkhumbe soums of Khuvsgul province with a larger number of out-of-school children compared to other soums now have increased capacity and effective practices of inclusive education for vulnerable children including those with disabilities. Specific results included a series of capacity-building training and advocacy discussions on equity education, inclusive education approaches in the classroom and individual teaching for children with special needs, and community engagement for supporting inclusive education for over 400 local authorities, teachers, students, community members and parents.

Experience-sharing visits to three special schools in Ulaanbaatar, two mainstream schools and a non-formal education centre in Nalaikh that have effective inclusive education practices were facilitated, and benefited 25 Khuvsgul education counterparts. A learning and recreational centre including sports facilities for children with disabilities at each of the four schools was established and made operational. On-the-job methodological support by four special education experts from the Teacher Training Institute and special schools in Ulaanbaatar for classroom and individual development training for children with special needs was also undertaken. In addition, a sign language guidebook, sign language charts, and three booklets (My Special Friend, Summer Camp Adventure and Friends of my Dream) to promote positive attitudes towards inclusive education for children with disabilities were developed to further support emerging practices of some schools in the UNICEF focus areas and elsewhere in the country that mainstream children with hearing and other disabilities in regular schools.

In collaboration with the Ethnic Minority Children’s Unit of the Education Institute and local teachers from Bayan-Ulgii province, UNICEF developed the Tuvan language-2 student’s textbook and teacher’s guidebook and translated four first grade primary education textbooks (Mathematics I, Human Beings and the Environment I, Arts I, and Civic Education I) from Mongolian into Tuvan, which are now used by about 180 Tuvan students. In addition, children’s storybooks and teacher guides in the Tuvan language were procured for the newly established library at the Tuvan primary school in Bayan-Ulgii province. The entire work, which started back in 2013, effectively resulted in increased capacity of 15 Tuvan teachers in
promoting and teaching their mother tongue thanks to tremendous voluntary technical support from the Teacher’s University in the Republic of Tuva.

UNICEF continued to support an initiative to reach about 800 out-of-school children in the UNICEF focus areas, including 248 young monks in six Buddhist temples in Ulaanbaatar and five provinces through a non-formal education equivalency programme training using classroom training and mobile schools. A workshop on education rights of monastic children and roles of local governments, which was organized in April 2016, resulted in the application of the same equivalency curriculum being approved at the national level for all temples, and ensuring the officially registered transition from temples to formal or non-formal schools once a child wants to leave the temple.

OUTPUT 2 By the end of 2016, increased national and sub-national capacity to provide equitable access to sustainable drinking water and adequate sanitation in schools

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The implementation of officially adopted national standards Norms and Requirements for WASH in Kindergartens, Schools and Dormitories continued successfully in 2016, and improved access for approximately 16,200 boys and girls (53 per cent girls) to safe and adequate WASH facilities. This represents 100 per cent access coverage in 19 schools, 30 dormitories and 4 kindergartens in two focus areas.

Through effective partnership with the private sector, the innovative WASH container facilities and other good practices were replicated by ING and Arig banks, World Vision, and local governments. In addition, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation supported the replication of kindergartens models in peri-urban districts. A strategic partnership with the Asian Development Bank was signed, guaranteeing access to WASH facilities in 20 soum school dormitories in western Mongolia.

In Khuvsogul province, water safety plans were developed in 12 soums and access was increased to improved drinking water sources for about 10,000 people (51 per cent women and girls). Advocacy campaigns on safe water were launched to support the implementation, covering subjects such as household water treatment, safe storage and water safety issues. Learning events were held for governments and other local stakeholders, and lessons learned and best practices were documented.

In partnership with the Mongolian Scout Association, training and awareness campaigns for school children on climate change and WASH-related issues benefited 300 peer educators and more than 3,000 children with relevant information on climate change and impact-mitigation measures. A training manual and related advocacy materials were also developed to continue with advocacy and awareness campaigns.

In Khuvsogul and Nalaikh, 19 target schools updated their policies and management plans to be gender sensitive, which included WASH-related targets, such as water safety, clean sanitation facilities and MHM issues. In addition, a research report on MHM in schools was completed, which led to the development of a basic package of education materials, including a website on MHM, and a video and leaflets for girls, teachers and headmasters and caretakers of dormitories, as well as the general public.

UNICEF Mongolia, in close collaboration with Mongolian Government, convened a consultation with top international and national experts to discuss scientific evidence and foster policy discussions on air pollution and child health issues (25-26 January 2016). The conference also represented a successful model of horizontal dialogue and effective collaboration across different UNICEF levels, with the participation of other Country Offices.
and Headquarters. A report on understanding and addressing the impact of air pollution on children’s health in Mongolia generated government commitment to finding solutions to the issue.

Meanwhile, resulting from the recommendations from the study led by the Regional Office on equity in public financing of WASH, a revision of the methodology to establish water tariffs is underway. The focus is to decrease the gap in water charges per litre between peri-urban and urban residents.

The Parliamentary and local elections in 2016 and high government staff turnover delayed some planned national-level activities. UNICEF Mongolia partnered with civil society organizations to provide implementation support to government partners.

OUTPUT 3 By the end of 2016, national and sub-national capacity strengthened to plan and budget interventions that promote adolescent health, development and their engagement in decision-making processes

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Mongolia provided technical support to the development of the first draft the national programme on child development and protection, which is expected to receive government approval in the first quarter of 2017. Additional support to strengthen the legal environment for adolescent development was provided to MPDSP through the development of two new regulations related to implementation of the Child Rights Law that were approved in 2016.

With UNICEF advocacy and technical support, the first policy document on organization of students’ extracurricular activities in schools was approved by the Education Ministry in May 2016. A guideline for school administration and teachers, which included detailed guidance on making extracurricular activities more effective and beneficial for children, was developed and distributed to all schools nationwide. This will contribute to the sustainability of the Child Development Centres already established in all schools and dormitories in Khuvsgul province and Nalaikh district.

The Life skills programme My World was implemented in focus areas reaching 80 per cent of all older adolescents in GFAs and equipping them with life skills in communication, decision-making, conflict resolution and sexual health.

UNICEF continued capacity building of peer educators using the NewGen training module on the prevention of the spread of STIs and HIV. The module was adapted from the regional Youth Lead network, and 236 (65 per cent female) adolescent peer educators were trained in 2016. Peer educators reported that their skills on communication, facilitation, leadership, teamwork was significantly increased after the training, boosting their self-esteem and empathy. They were able to directly reach more than 4,000 students with STI and HIV-prevention messages by organizing discussions and events.

The peer education programme resulted in the continuous improvement of key indicators. For example, the percentage of adolescents among all new STI cases fell to 4.4 per cent in 2015, compared to 11.8 per cent in 2012. The adolescent birth rate also declined from 7.8 in 2012 to 3.9 in 2015. The experience of Khuvsgul peer educators was presented during a regional children’s forum organized by UNICEF and the Family, Child and Youth Development Agency. It was decided to replicate the initiative in six provinces of Khangai region with the support of local government.
UNICEF Mongolia helped put adolescent mental health on the policy agenda, supporting the first-ever national conference on this topic in May 2016, bringing together stakeholders from different sectors, NGOs, academia and other partners, as well as adolescents themselves. Conference recommendations were shared with all relevant government organizations at the national and sub-national levels, NGOs and partners. The Ministry of Health approved a follow-up plan to support implementation of key recommendations from the conference. A UNICEF-supported module on psychological counselling in school was embedded into the routine module of the In-service Teacher Training Institute in 2016 and benefited 61 first year social workers. This training module was also modified into an interactive training module and will be used for on-the-job training of school social workers, thereby contributing to improved capacity of social workers to provide primary level mental health services to adolescents.

A Situation Analysis of adolescents in Mongolia was conducted in the first half of 2016, which further contributed to policy advocacy efforts at the national and sub-national levels.

**OUTPUT 4** By 2016, the government demonstrates strengthened capacity to legislate, plan and budget for services and mechanisms to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF Mongolia played a significant role in the development and approval of the new Law on Child Protection and the revised Law on Child Rights by providing technical and financial support to the Government. These fundamental pieces of legislation on child protection and child rights set the foundations for the strengthened child protection system in Mongolia which is one of the key UNICEF Mongolia priorities for 2016.

UNICEF Mongolia led the technical process of developing child protection service standards and guidelines that should help translate the laws into practice. Moreover, technical assistance was provided in developing a design for child protection system in Mongolia. A way forward was suggested for the adoption of a systems approach to mainstreaming child protection in the relevant sectors that are mandated with responsibilities and ensuring the care and protection of all children according to their specific needs and vulnerabilities.

Following approval of the law, UNICEF Mongolia finalized a full costing study of essential child protection services, and support was provided to the Government to ensure that the required funding is allocated in the state budget of relevant institutions at both the national and sub-national levels. The results of the costing were introduced at the National Council for Children, which recommended that the relevant costs be in the state budget to ensure that the newly approved Law on Child Protection is adequately financed. The costing results were also communicated to the Child Rights Group and heads of all provincial and district authorities for children for joint advocacy and follow up.


UNICEF submitted a confidential report and critical analysis on the actual situation of children in Mongolia to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and participated in the pre-session working group meeting presenting on the national realities regarding the political, social and economic context and priority of children’s rights as well as emerging issues in the country. The presentation also provided recommendations for consideration of the Committee for its deliberations to the State Party on issues such as equity and disparity,
protection of resources/budget for children in time of economic downturn, weak institutional framework and the child protection system. This was an invaluable opportunity for UNICEF Mongolia to contribute to the Committee’s dialogue with the Government and possibly to the Concluding Observations and Recommendations.

OUTPUT 5 By end of 2016, children and families in Khuvsgul and Nalaikh are equipped with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves from violence, abuse and exploitation

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Mongolia as chair of the Inter-agency Child Rights Group, an advocacy group consisting of international and national coalitions of NGOs, led the group in successfully advocating for the approval of the Law on Child Protection and Law on Child Rights. After the laws were approved, the group jointly ran a campaign to introduce the Law on Child Protection to different audiences, including professionals, parents and children. The awareness campaigns included a series of 11 posters and video clips produced and distributed online and to relevant parties nationwide.

The group also provided implementation support to the Government in the enforcement of the laws after they became effective on September 1, 2016. UNICEF Mongolia technically supported capacity-building training for the Department of Child and Family Development which strengthened the capacity of the justice for children committees, a sub-national level child protection service mechanism, and the multi-disciplinary teams, community-based child protection mechanisms, in Ulaanbaatar city and in Khuvsgul province. These activities benefited justice for children in 180 khoroo (community) teams in Khuvsgul and over 300 professionals in Ulaanbaatar. These committees provided child protection services for at least 40 children in Khuvsgul and over 900 children in Ulaanbaatar referred by the National Child Helpline.

In addition, the Department of Child and Family Development began organizing monthly case conference meetings with the multi-disciplinary teams to assess the severity of abuse, evaluate the degree of risk and decide on necessary actions to safeguard children, which helped the professionals improve case management for children.

In Mongolia, the media landscape has shifted further towards increased interconnectivity, with most villages now connected to broadband internet and nationwide 3G mobile coverage. With this increased access in both urban and rural areas, children have gained new opportunities yet also face new risks, including exposure to cyber-bullying, grooming, sexual abuse and exploitation, and emotional abuse. Therefore, UNICEF Mongolia together with the Communications Regulatory Commission of Mongolia and Mobicom Company developed brochures designed to target parents and children of two age groups, 6-11 and 12-17, to raise their awareness on the risks presented by modern technology. In total, 45,000 copies of the brochures were disseminated to children, through schools in Ulaanbaatar and six provinces, and to parents through the mobile operator kiosks and the billing system. These activities helped raise awareness of 30,000 children and over 15,000 parents on potential online risks to children.

UNICEF Mongolia sponsored two young leaders to attend an innovation boot camp in Malaysia, where they developed creative solutions to address bullying in schools by supporting children who experienced bullying and raising awareness that they can stand strong by themselves. These solutions will be implemented in 17 public schools in Ulaanbaatar, targeting around 30,000 students.
OUTCOME 5 Special Purpose including Capital Investments, Private-Sector Fund-raising, Procurement Services and Others

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF is co-located with other UN agencies in one UN House, and contributes to common costs related to premises security, maintenance and improvements. Security funds were utilized for improvements, including guard house reinforcement and fire safety system upgrades, resulting in organizational compliance with building safety and fire standards.

OUTPUT 1 Headquarters Funds Allocation for UN House Premises and security

Analytical Statement of Progress:
As above, UNICEF is co-located with other UN agencies in one UN House, and contributes to common costs related to premises security, maintenance and improvements. Security funds were utilized for improvements, including guard house reinforcement and fire safety system upgrades, resulting in organizational compliance with building safety and fire standards.

OUTCOME 6 Effective and efficient management, programme and operations support systems put in place to directly contribute to the delivery of strategic results for children

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Mongolia continued to strengthen its programme and operations management to effectively support governance and oversight of office structures, human resources, financial management, information technology and procurement processes in a timely and cost-efficient manner, in addition to strengthening its emergency preparedness efforts.

UNICEF Mongolia finalized its CPD 2017-2021, which was approved by the Executive Board in September 2016. UNICEF Mongolia conducted several consultations with key government partners and members of the Executive Board through their respective embassies in Mongolia and in China. The Country Programme Management Plan 2017-2021 and Integrated Budget in connection with the Country Programme 2017-2021, were completed following a comprehensive and participatory process and with support from the Regional Office.

A two-day annual management review was conducted in March to finalize the 2016 Annual Management Plan, which outlined ten office priorities, and management tools including the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM), Business Continuity Plan and Early Warning Early Action were updated. An ERM workshop and training activity was held mid-year to conduct a comprehensive update of the risk profile to reflect the current operating and programmatic environment.

UNICEF Mongolia continued to lead five clusters in the Humanitarian Country Team (Nutrition, Health, Child Protection, WASH and Logistics/Emergency Telecoms). In response to the dzud (extreme winter conditions) emergency situation, UNICEF Mongolia led the food and nutrition emergency interventions with funds received from the CERF, and commissioned a Rapid Logistics Assessment.

OUTPUT 1 Effective and appropriate governance structures established, supported by efficient information and communication systems, to adequately manage risks and achieve programme results
Analytical Statement of Progress:
Office management and oversight were supported through effective governance structures, including statutory committees. The terms of reference and membership of the committees were updated during the annual management review process. During the course of the year, the CMT met 11 times and the Joint Consultative Committee met five times. In addition, there were monthly Programme Coordination meetings to review the key programme performance indicators and monitor cash transfers.

The Business Continuity Plan and the emergency telephone tree system were updated. The telephone tree was tested twice in 2016 and regularly shared with all staff. In February, UNICEF Mongolia and the Mongolian Red Cross signed an MoU agreeing that, in the event of an emergency, the two signatories would serve as each other’s alternate office location.

UNICEF Mongolia regularly used Skype and Office 365 tools to conduct meetings with the Khuvsugul outpost office, the Regional Office, UNICEF Headquarters and for recruitment interviews. The office procured new ICT equipment based on the standard replacement policy, and continued its efforts to phase out desktop computers with laptops to support mobile working arrangements as part of business continuity. As a measure to improve connectivity, two wifi networks were installed on the two floors that UNICEF Mongolia occupied.

OUTPUT 2 Effective and efficient management of operational resources and processes, including financial resources and administrative assets, to timely and adequately support programme results

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Mongolia successfully transitioned in-scope finance transactions to GSSC in a timely and smooth manner, with transactions now processed via the MyCase system. Bank reconciliations were completed within the schedule set by UNICEF Headquarters.

To improve cash planning and utilization, UNICEF Mongolia implemented a cash forecast plan on a quarterly basis to better define current and forward-looking cash needs and strengthen monitoring and utilization of expiring grants.

UNICEF Mongolia continued to strengthen financial and budget management and HACT implementation, both reviewed as standing items at CMT meetings. DCTs were closely monitored; the number of those outstanding for more than six months was minimal and more than nine months was nil, in line with regional key performance indicators. To strengthen DCT monitoring, a tracking sheet was distributed to all staff twice a month that showed the aging of outstanding DCTs and highlighted those that are reaching four to six months for immediate action.

OUTPUT 3 Effective and systematic management of human resources and capacity, including staff recruitment, well-being, learning and development

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Mongolia successfully transitioned to the new HR systems, including Achieve, a talent management system, in-scope GSSC HR transactions and electronic repository of original staff files. HR administration transactions were shifted to the GSSC hub for processing via the MyCase system. Recruitment for staff, temporary appointments and individual consultants underwent a competitive selection process and were advertised in the new online recruitment system. There were no single or sole-sourced selections in 2016, and 17 service contracts were issued to individual consultants and institutions.
UNICEF Mongolia conducted office-wide learning activities, including results-based management and enterprise risk management, and encouraged staff to use Agora, UNICEF’s hub for learning and development. The Staff Association collaborated with HR to conduct three sessions on strengthening teambuilding and improving staff soft skills.

UNICEF Mongolia encouraged staff to employ flexible working arrangements, and nine staff used staggered working hours throughout the year.

**OUTCOME 7** Higher quality programmes through results-based management and improved accountability of results

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Effective programme coordination was provided in the development and finalization of all statutory Country Programme planning documents. UNICEF Mongolia’s CPD 2017-2021 was approved by the Executive Board in September. The Strategy Note was finalized with the Regional Office, and the Country Programme Management Plan was developed. Effective coordination and oversight contributed to the achievement of planned results, effective grants management including timely submission of 18 grant reports, toolkit management and programme fund-raising efforts, achieving HACT quality assurance indicators, and emergency preparedness and response updates through the Early Warning Early Action portal. There were 15 Programme Coordination Meetings convened in 2016 to discuss status of programme indicators and priority issues and management indicators, including Dashboard analysis.

UNICEF Mongolia’s work on air pollution and its effect on children’s health was a communication and advocacy highlight result. UNICEF efforts and activities were promoted via traditional and digital media during the organization’s key calendar events, including World Breastfeeding Week, World Prematurity Day and other programme-relevant events and initiatives.

The proactive use of social media, audio-visual products and web content for general audiences increased UNICEF Mongolia’s social media fan base by over 15,000 while engaging 130,000 people and reaching over 1.5 million people both within and outside Mongolia.

UNICEF Mongolia and a high-level government delegation took part in global advocacy campaigns, including the HLM3 Innovation Challenge, the U-report Billion Brains Poll and Team UNICEF.

**OUTPUT 1** Deputy Representative

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Effective programme coordination was provided in the development and finalization of all statutory country programme planning documents. UNICEF Mongolia’s CPD 2017-2021 was approved by the Executive Board in September. The Strategy Note was finalized with the Regional Office, and the Country Programme Management Plan was developed. Effective coordination and oversight contributed to the achievement of planned results, grants management including timely submission of 18 grant reports, toolkit management and programme fund-raising efforts, achieving HACT quality assurance indicators, and emergency preparedness and response updates through Early Warning Early Action portal. Fifteen PCMs were convened in 2016 to discuss the status of programme indicators and management indicators, including Dashboard analysis.
OUTPUT 2 Advocacy and Communication

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF’s work on air pollution and its effect on children’s health was a communication and advocacy highlight result. The organization of an international expert conference and the report launched on the subject was widely covered in the media, engaging and uniting different stakeholders around a common cause through offline and online networks. Involving well-known musician and singer Mr. Bold in advocacy for air pollution helped raise the profile of the issue as well as increase UNICEF’s visibility. UNICEF will continue advocating for cutting air pollution to protect children’s health.

UNICEF efforts and activities were promoted via traditional and digital media during the organization’s key calendar events, including World Breastfeeding Week, World Prematurity Day and other programme-relevant events and initiatives. At a time of economic crisis in Mongolia, telling compelling stories, speaking to media and running advocacy campaigns was of crucial importance. UNICEF Mongolia’s voice was relentless in convincing the general public, decision makers and the private sector that investing in children now is an important step for sustainable economic development.

In the run up to the Parliamentary elections, UNICEF used its social media platform to highlight the importance of investing in children in order to mobilize the public to reach the candidates. A series of Invest in Children short videos were produced and broadcast through social media to engage and encourage the public to spread the word through their social networks.

To secure the new Government’s commitment to children during a period of economic hardship, UNICEF used the global #FightUnfair campaign concept to launch a local social media campaign to highlight national child-related disparities and equity. Engaging local cultural and sport celebrities for the campaign helped raise awareness about the persisting inequalities and the need for a call for action. UNICEF Mongolia, in partnership with the Authority for Family, Child and Youth Development, World Vision International, and the national and local governments, conducted nationwide awareness-raising campaigns on the newly approved Child Protection Law via audio-visual content, posters, guidelines and workshops. Journalists were also informed about the new law, highlighting the media’s role in protecting children’s privacy on both offline and online media platforms. The proactive use of social media, audio-visual products and web content for general audiences increased UNICEF Mongolia’s social media fan base by over 15,000, while engaging 130,000 people and reaching over 1.5 million people both within and outside Mongolia.

In addition, UNICEF Mongolia and a high-level government delegation took part in global advocacy campaigns, including HLM3 Innovation Challenge, the U-report Billion Brains Poll and Team UNICEF.

OUTCOME 8 Effective management of the supply and logistics functions to support the achievement of programme results, and efficient operational oversight and processes in place to strengthen coordination with the Khuvsgul office

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Mongolia continued to strengthen financial and budget management and HACT implementation, all of which were reviewed as standing items at CMTs. UNICEF Mongolia led the inter-agency HACT Working Group, with a focus on quality assurance of assessment
and assurance activities and capacity building. HACT assurance activities were also coordinated effectively with implementing partners based in Khuvsgul. At year’s end, UNICEF Mongolia had completed its assurance plan, having conducted 16 simplified financial management capacity assessments, 17 spot checks, two micro-assessments, 47 programme monitoring visits and 3 internal control audits.

The efficient management of the Khuvsgul outpost office continued, with improved connectivity, communications and HACT monitoring. The office continued to bolster its supply and logistics function to better support programme results, with a focus on improving programme monitoring on contract output delivery and supply end-user monitoring.

OUTPUT 1 Effective and appropriate governance structures established, supported by efficient information technology and communication systems, to adequately support programme coordination including the Khuvsgul office

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Mongolia finalized its CPD 2017-2021, which was approved by the Executive Board in September 2016. The Country Programme Management Plan 2017-2021 and Integrated Budget with the Country Programme 2017-2021 were completed following a comprehensive and participatory process with support from the Regional Office.

Office governance structures and coordination mechanisms continued to function well with the Khuvsgul office participating in the monthly PCMs, all-staff meetings and relevant statutory committee meetings via Skype for Business. The Operations team closely supported the Khuvsgul office in invoice processing, procurement and connectivity. ICT equipment and systems were efficiently maintained to adequately support programme coordination including in the Khuvsgul office. All HACT assurance activities, including capacity building of counterparts, were coordinated effectively with implementing partners based in Khuvsgul through the outpost office.

OUTPUT 2 Effective and transparent procurement of goods and services, contract management and supply monitoring to adequately support programme results

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Mongolia continued to strengthen financial and budget management and HACT implementation, all of which was reviewed as standing items at CMT meetings. UNICEF Mongolia led the inter-agency HACT Working Group, with a focus on quality assurance of assessment and assurance activities and capacity building. All field visits, programme assistance and HACT assurance activities for partners based in Khuvsgul were coordinated through the outpost office. At year’s end, UNICEF Mongolia had completed its assurance plan, having conducted 16 simplified financial management capacity assessments, 21 spot checks, two micro-assessments, 49 programme monitoring visits and 3 internal control audits.

Supply interventions focused on evidence generation and pilot-to-policy initiatives that can be replicated by government and non-governmental partners. The supply and services plans were revised to increase the emphasis on good planning and contract management, and both of these plans were regularly monitored at the monthly PCMs.
**Evaluation and research**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sequence Number</th>
<th>Type of Report</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report of Vaccine hesitancy survey</td>
<td>2016/006</td>
<td>Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-MODA report</td>
<td>2016/007</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottleneck analysis for equity in the education sector of Mongolia</td>
<td>2016/005</td>
<td>Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget analysis and costing of the child protection services in Mongolia</td>
<td>2016/004</td>
<td>Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban child profile of Mongolia</td>
<td>2016/003</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The early learning experiences of children in Mongolia</td>
<td>2016/002</td>
<td>Study</td>
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<td>Data quality assessment of anthropometric measures and nutritional status of children aged under five years in Mongolia</td>
<td>2016/001</td>
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**Other publications**

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<tr>
<td>Brochures on child online protection for children aged 12-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brochures on child online protection for children aged 6-11</td>
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<td>Brochures on child online protection for parents</td>
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<td>TV spots on 12 provisions of Child protection law</td>
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<td>Posters on 12 provisions of Child protection law</td>
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<td>Guideline for Extracurricular Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poster on Handwashing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poster on menstrual hygiene for girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infographics on air pollution and health impact (Mongolian)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding and addressing the impact of air pollution on children’s health (English)</td>
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<td>Leaflets and posters for promoting improved sanitation facilities at household level and schools</td>
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<td>“Civic education I” – First grade textbook translated into the Tuvan language</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Drawing and arts” – First grade textbook translated into the Tuvan language</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Human beings and environment” – First grade textbook translated into the Tuvan language</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Mathematics I” – First grade textbook translated into the Tuvan language</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Tuva language -3” student’s book</td>
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<tr>
<td>‘Child friendly community - Khuvsgul’ video</td>
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<tr>
<td>Handbook for kindergarten managers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ger-Kindergarten video</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distance learning kit for home-based ECD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vaccine hesitancy report (English and Mongolian)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Leaflets and Posters for the public for the National Supplementary Immunization Activity (SIA)</td>
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<td>Understanding and addressing the impact of air pollution on children’s health (Mongolian version)</td>
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**Lessons learned**

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<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Lesson Learned</td>
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