Executive Summary

The first year of the 2012-2016 CP saw good progress in advancing social sector reforms to improve equity and social inclusion. This agenda was bolstered by strategic partnerships with the key Government organizations, the private sector and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

The UNICEF-supported Reaching Every District and Soum (REDS) strategy has shown extremely positive results thus far with the U5MR and IMR decreasing in the most disadvantaged areas, from 32.5 to 20.8 and 25.1 to 17.35 per 1,000 live births respectively between 2010 and 2012. Both indicators remained constant in non-REDS areas during this period. Stemming from the A Promise Renewed global strategy, the Government established a working group on MNCH and will continue to upscale the existing REDS strategy to reach the most disadvantaged populations.

Through sustained advocacy by UNICEF, UN agencies and development partners, and public investment in the water, the sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector has increased steadily since 2009. In 2011, the Government spent MNT$ 40,000 million (US$ 28.7m), MNT$ 50,000 million (US$ 36m) in 2012 and plan to invest MNT$ 60,000 million (US$ 43m) in 2013 (MCUD, 2012). Using disaggregated data, UNICEF and partners will continue to focus on, and generate evidence for, cost-effective and climate-appropriate ways to address the WASH situation in peri-urban and rural areas, where the vast majority of people still lack access to improved facilities.

UNICEF, in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and NGO partners, conducted a study on the child rights situation of children in temples and churches in Mongolia where over 60 per cent of monastic children had limited access to education opportunities. UNICEF ensured 120 monastic boys, in addition to the 600 out-of-school children that were already engaged in Non-Formal Education (NFE) this year, could participate in NFE programmes. The study identified significant gaps in knowledge and awareness of child rights in religious settings, particularly in appropriate discipline for children, approaches to child health and hygiene, and efforts to enable child participation. UNICEF contributed expertise and funding to the creation of a comprehensive report on these issues and participated actively in a consultative meeting to share experiences and international child rights norms and standards with religious leaders in the community.

Challenging transformations to UNICEF’s internal and external environment proved to be a significant shortfall. The CP exists in the midst of major political and structural changes, particularly in post-election ministerial, structural and staffing changes, which are likely to continue into 2013. The VISION/SAP programme management information system was introduced internally and a new five-year CP was launched, generating significant changes to the structure of programme teams. These factors were foreseen in the development of the 2012-2013 Work Plan (WP), but proved to be more significant than anticipated.

UNICEF led the formation of a Child Rights Group, comprised of the heads of organizations working with children. This group acts as a high-level observer of child rights in the country, while advocating for the effective implementation of policies and budget allocations designed to equitably benefit children.

Country Situation as Affecting Children & Women

Events this year have highlighted Mongolia’s continuing transformation at both political and socio-economic levels. Its internal and external environments have subsequently impacted the ability of the GoM and development partners to provide equitable development for the most vulnerable including children and rural-urban migrants. At 17.5 per cent, Mongolia was the fastest growing economy in the world in 2011. In 2012 this GDP growth dropped to 12.7 per cent (IMF, October 2012), primarily due to a fall in global mineral prices. The lower-than-projected growth may have an impact on GoM service delivery and social investment in the future. Inflation remained high during the year, at 14 per cent in comparison to 9.4 per cent in 2011. This disproportionately affects the most disadvantaged, especially those who have migrated to peri-urban areas.
Parliamentary elections in July led to substantial changes to the structure of the Government and its agenda. A coalition of the former opposition parties – Democratic Party (DP) and Justice Coalition – came to power, and the responsibilities and arrangement of Ministries and Departments were redistributed. The National Authority for Children (NAC) moved from the Deputy Prime Minister’s portfolio to that of the Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection (MPDSP), with increased human resources allocation. The effectiveness of its new position has yet to be evaluated.

Positive outcomes of this election included the number of female parliamentarians increasing from three to nine, with two more likely to be added. Subsequently, a Women’s Parliamentary Caucus was formed with a focus on women and children. In what was regarded as a positive political decision, the new Government also reinstated the Child Money scheme that was previously abolished in 2010. While UNICEF broadly supported this scheme, the CO continued to advocate for a consistent social protection scheme across Government policies and interventions. Issues of good governance and anti-corruption are upfront in public debate and judicial actions have been more responsive. Civil participation is more visible and appears to be strengthening.

The business environment in Mongolia this year endured significant periods of uncertainty, particularly in the extractive sector. This could potentially disrupt future investment and GDP growth. The new Government reopened negotiations on the OT project – estimated to contribute one third of Mongolia’s GDP per annum when in production – in favour of increased state royalties. The OT’s initial negotiations in 2009 had been regarded as the catalyst for Mongolia’s mining boom, with OT and part owner, Rio Tinto, contributing $6 billion in capital expenditure costs so far. The renegotiation has dampened investor and business confidence. Its effects have further compounded the previous Government’s law in which Parliament must approve foreign takeovers of assets in the sector. Introduced in May, the law was regarded as unclear.

EPR is again at the forefront of CO activities. The Meteorological Institute of Mongolia has formally notified the Prime Minister and Government Ministries that the 2012-2013 winter is likely to be extreme, with similar climatic conditions to those of 2009-2010, when the country experienced a devastating dzud (extreme and prolonged winter conditions). At time of writing, the impacts are expected to be less than the previous dzud, due to better overall preparedness of herds and pastures compared to this time in 2009. However, learning from the past, the CO is working closely with other UN agencies, NEMA, and the Red Cross to ensure that EPR activities are being incorporated into all programme areas.

While Mongolia is set to achieve 66 per cent of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets by 2015 and overall, the situation of children remains stable, significant disparities still exist between urban and rural areas; previous GDP gains have not resulted in equitable development in the country. For instance, IMR is stagnant nationally, at a rate of 17 deaths per 1,000 live births, but IMR ranges from 4 to 29 deaths per 1,000 live births respectively in different areas of the country. Provinces targeted for their high child mortality rates by UNICEF and partners using the REDS strategy, however, have demonstrated significant improvements in the reduction of IMR and U5MR. Since 2010, the U5MR has declined by an average of 10 per cent in REDS areas (UNICEF, 2012). Stunting continues to be high nationally, with an increase in disparity across regions and demographics. One third of children from the lowest wealth quintile suffer from malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies such as rickets.

Education enrolment remains high, at 96 per cent, and a key strategy of the UNICEF CO is to enroll the remaining four percent (NSO, 2012). In this regard, monastic boys and children of ethnic minorities – such as Kazakh children in Bayan-Olgii aimag and Tsagaan children in Khovsgol aimag – were identified as target groups. UNICEF has identified that limited opportunities for quality education are a rising concern, particularly for rural and peri-urban children. Therefore, the institutionalisation of learning achievements and standards is one of UNICEF’s primary strategies in its education programme.

Significant disparities remain in access to water and sanitation, with urban and rural areas averaging 65 and 54 per cent respectively. Since the majority of rural children reside in dormitories for most of the year, the WASH in Schools programme is a key focus area in the current CP.
In recent years no cases of the vertical transmission of HIV were recorded. The strong PMCT and Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) programmes in Mongolia and high rates of HIV testing at ANC visits (now 90 per cent, compared to no routine tests whatsoever six years ago), have been consistently supported by UNICEF and are vital to these commendable statistics. Mongolia will soon graduate from the GFATM, and an increased GoM budget allocation towards essential services for HIV prevention will be vital to avoid a reversal of these achievements.

Child protection concerns are still recurrent particularly relating to child labour, gender-based violence, child abuse and neglect, the lack of family support approaches, an organised child-protection system and a continuum of care for victims. The new Government intends to address these critical issues and in 2013 will submit the fifth periodic report on implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its two Optional Protocols to the CRC Committee. This will be an opportunity to measure the progress made and craft a plan for the future.

**Country Programme Analytical Overview**

In 2012 the CP has had, and will continue to have in coming years, an overall focus on supporting Mongolia’s efforts to prioritise equity and social inclusion in public policy and decision-making. Emphasis is placed on system strengthening strategies including the generation and use of knowledge, data and evidence for policy-making and implementation, and capacity development for the operationalisation of laws and policies favourable for children. The Programme also incorporates strategic partnerships that focus on enhancing accountability and civic demand for rights and entitlements. Underpinning all of these approaches is effective advocacy based on evidence at national and subnational levels. In many instances high-level officials have renewed the Government’s commitments to accelerate MDG equity achievements using global initiatives such as Scaling Up Nutrition and A Promise Renewed, life-saving commodities, and preventing HIV/AIDS transmission from mother to child.

During the first year of the CP priority has been given to an initial assessment, including a ‘mini-MICS’ (Multiple-Indicator Cluster Survey) in the most disadvantaged communities, of Khovsgol aimag and Nalaikh district. This assessment defined baselines and aided in re-adjusting CP strategies to align with its identified priorities; particularly in BCC and C4D, where statistics had indicated these were lacking in overall effectiveness. In addition, a second-stage disability screening assessment was conducted for the first time in Mongolia using a multi-disciplinary approach. This was undertaken to collect data on persons with disabilities and the extent of their disabilities, as well as to best envisage the most inclusive way to provide for their specific needs. The CO has begun preparations for the combined MICS/RHS survey, to be conducted in 2013 by the NSO, in conjunction with the UNFPA and other partners.

Alongside its support this year for the education of children from ethnic minorities, the CP has successfully commenced incorporating children who study religion in temples and churches into NFE and other alternatives to mainstream schooling. The REDS strategy continues to be the main approach for identifying barriers and bottlenecks to access to health and other basic social services for the most disadvantaged children in Mongolia.

From 2013 onwards, 13 integrated interventions will be implemented in the 12 most disadvantaged rural areas of Khovsgol aimag and Nalaikh district, the seventh-poorest peri-urban area of Mongolia. Unregistered children of migrants are a particular focus of the latter. While the interventions are designed to reduce inequity, they also intend to generate models and knowledge to drive Government scale up and review policy in an equity-focused way.

There is no revision of the Programme Component Results (PCRs) and IRs that were initially approved in the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP); however, one IR will be created on Nutrition in order to clarify the result on stunting that was envisaged in the CP. This action will contribute to the achievement of MDG 1 on poverty and hunger, which is proving to be a national challenge with significant disparities at social, economic
and geographic levels.

Programme strategies to achieve results for deprived children are detailed in the subsequent tabs of this section.

**Humanitarian Assistance**

The emergencies faced by Mongolia this year were not beyond the GoM’s capacity to respond; however, significant floods occurred in July, adversely affecting three aimags: Orkhon, Zavkhan and Sukhbaatar. This flooding caused 8 deaths and serious damage to homes, infrastructure, pastures and farming operations. The CO monitored the situation closely.

In May, the CO undertook an internal emergency preparedness self-assessment to identify deficiencies including in staff knowledge and skills. Action is presently being taken on the areas of weakness identified by this assessment. Furthermore, the Early Warning Early Action Plan has been updated twice to include the risk profile for earthquakes, *dzuds* (severe and prolonged winter conditions) and potential civil unrest due to national elections.

The CO also assessed the needs that may arise from potential *dzud* conditions in the 2012-13 winter. This involved an analysis of previous *dzud* events and a comparison with the present winter forecast, in order to determine outstanding disaster relief stockpiling and pre-positioning requirements. The CO is working to meet a determined relief supply stockpiling level across relevant program areas to cover some 20,000 affected persons. This includes logistical considerations for immediate initial distribution of these supplies to the most vulnerable if required.

**Effective Advocacy**

*Fully met benchmarks*

A CO Advocacy Plan for 2012-2013 was prepared and approved by the Country Management Team (CMT). This Plan focuses on three key issues: social budgeting, flour fortification and access of children with disabilities to education. To ensure evidence-based advocacy, relevant studies and assessments were initiated and remain ongoing. For example, a Social Sector Budget Review has been initiated to determine baselines and to analyse budget processes, with a particular focus on equity. It is expected that the outcomes of the Review will help the Ministry of Finance, along with key child related Ministries, to allocate more resources and ensure better use of these allocations to address social disparities across the country on children’s issues.

In order to provide the foundation for effective advocacy, the CO has put into place a mechanism to generate evidence based on experiences in the priority areas, pilot projects and other interventions implemented to reduce inequity during this first year of implementation of the new CP. In this pursuit, the newly-recruited Senior Knowledge Management Assistant participated in a study tour to the Laos CO and is working within his team on his contribution towards strengthening the documentation of the project and good practices in the Mongolian CO.

In the context of the Parliamentary (June) and local (November) elections, the CO has developed the Ten Recommendations to Advance Children’s Situation in Mongolia, with the aim of influencing the policy platform of the newly-elected Government. The Recommendations were based on evidence from national surveys and findings of cost analyses undertaken by UNICEF. As part of this, targeted advocacy messages aimed at policy and decision makers were prepared, and supporting budget estimations were calculated. The Ten Recommendations were officially disbursed to the relevant Ministries and were formally submitted during bilateral meetings with the Minister of Health, the Minister for Population Development and Social Protection, the Vice Minister of Education and Sciences and the Director of the NAC. A further advocacy opportunity was the National Children’s Forum. Held in December this year, it brought together Government agencies, CSOs, NGOs and UN agencies alike. A meeting between UN agencies and the newly-formed parliamentary Women’s Caucus allowed for further advocacy work. Since women parliamentarians identified the wellbeing of children
as the first priority of their work, UNICEF submitted the Ten Recommendations to them and expressed its willingness to collaborate with the Caucus. Further efforts are required to ensure that these Recommendations are included in annual work plans and sectoral strategies of relevant Ministries and agencies.

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the quality and impact of advocacy, a multilateral Child Rights Group was established between international organisations. The Group’s objectives are to support the GoM on matters affecting children, to better integrate approaches between all actors to avoid duplication and to ensure a comprehensive spread of activities. This Group is composed of UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision, Voluntary Service Overseas, Mercy Corps, Caritas, the Mongolian Red Cross Society, NLM, ADRA Mongolia and the Asia Foundation.

**Capacity Development**

*Fully met benchmarks*

CD continues to be a key dimension of the CP and is the primary programme strategy for the period 2012-2016. Compared to the first year (2007-2008) of the previous CP, the share of budget devoted to CD activities increased from 21 to 39 per cent in the present CP. The rationale behind this shift is related to Mongolia’s newly acquired status as a lower-middle income country. In designing the current CP, UNICEF recognised that significant efforts must be made to ensure that further development is sustainable. Therefore, CD activities must reach further than basic training to include components of mentoring, horizontal learning and reflection on sustainable results, as well as institutional and organisational strengthening.

In 2012, UNICEF facilitated dialogue between the Ministries of Finance and the Planning and Budgeting Departments of the Ministries of Health, Education, Population Development and Social Welfare. This dialogue focused on addressing child poverty and disparities through social budgeting. This included the active participation of these Ministries and Departments in the East Asia and Pacific Conference on Public Finance, Social Policies and Children, which led to the formation of a national Working Group on social budgeting. Ongoing discussions also focus on the constitution of a permanent Inter-Ministerial Group on social budgeting. These activities were a major contribution towards ensuring that the Government budget, at national and local levels, has the highest possible positive impact on children. In 2013, the CO will build on these achievements through a follow-up project with the Ministry of Finance.

Wherever possible, UNICEF Mongolia uses Direct Cash Transfer (DCT) as its preferred modality of assistance to support the work of IPs. This allows for IPs’ own procedures to be used for procurement and financial accounting whenever warranted, which, in turn, reduces the administrative burden on their organisational capacity. As a rule, IPs are assessed on their financial management capacity prior to engaging in financial transactions with UNICEF. The level of risk is identified and appropriate capacity-building measures are specified as part of UNICEF’s assurance mechanisms.

Several workshops were held in 2012 to engage various sectors of the community in order to develop the criteria and content of the Child-Friendly School (CFS) and Child-Friendly Community (CFC) models. These workshops covered the universal principles of inclusiveness, effectiveness, participation, gender sensitivity and the meaning of ‘child-centered,’ and applied these to the country context. A number of training sessions were also held for professionals, counterparts and community members at national and subnational levels. These covered a range of topics, including health, child protection, adolescent participation, education, Early Childhood Development (ECD) and family empowerment.

To enhance the quality of service delivery in the health sector, UNICEF also conducted training programmes for health care providers and health workers. This training focused particularly on ways to address various access barriers, including to the health system and immunisation system as well as systemic social protection barriers at policy and service delivery levels, faced by poor families.
Communication for Development

Mostly met benchmarks

In the current CP, C4D spans across all the programme components. Compared to the previous CP where the C4D focal point was part of the Policy and Advocacy group, an important development in 2012 has been the creation of a dedicated C4D Officer position under the Programme Coordination Team. This relocation of C4D into the Programme section was concurrent with later shifts in C4D at the UNICEF HQ level, such as the movement of C4D from DPS to PD in April 2012.

Given the limited in-country C4D capacity and newly created position in C4D, the CO focused primarily on building internal capacity this year. In this pursuit, the C4D Officer participated in the Ohio University/UNICEF C4D course and attended a workshop with the CO Health Specialist on ‘C4D for the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea in Bangkok. Together with a national counterpart, the CD Specialist attended a regional 10-day C4D course. This was the first time that a non-C4D staff member had attended C4D training. Following this range of trainings, the CO decided to establish a C4D Group in the Office, with the purpose of coordinating C4D activities in the CP.

UNICEF Mongolia participated in a regional review of a strategic analysis of C4D programming in relation to DRR, communicable disease control and community resilience. As a follow-up to this, the CO became part of the Regional Initiative on pneumonia and diarrhoea prevention.

Due to two major elections this year and the introduction of the VISION/SAP, some programmatic activities were delayed and others were re-adjusted. For instance, the major C4D activity for 2012 – the development of C4D Strategy for YCSD – was integrated into the new EAPRO-supported regional C4D initiative on Newborn Health and the Prevention and Control of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea, since the latter will begin implementation in early 2013. Despite these changes, the CO will continue to push ahead to ensure that the C4D Strategy will be an integrated one, involving Health, Nutrition and WASH programmes.

C4D concepts and tools were used across many programme activities in the UNICEF CO. A standout example was the celebration of Global Handwashing Day in which the CO successfully organized activities to involve multiple partners including the Ministry of Health (MoH), MoEC, Municipal authorities, Public Health Institute, IFRC, ACF and other NGOs, schools, kindergartens and young people, and local communities.

During the mid-year review exercise, the comprehensive analysis of determinants conducted for each IR showed the increasing need of C4D interventions in reducing access bottlenecks for the most vulnerable to basic social services. This calls for strengthened and better coordinated C4D interventions in the future. Efforts to further strengthen the C4D capacity of CO staff and, importantly, national counterparts, will remain an area of further attention. The need for this has been particularly highlighted in the context of recent structural changes and subsequent staffing changes within the central and local Governments as a result of recent elections.

Service Delivery

Mostly met benchmarks

As in 2011, Mongolia’s economy has continued to grow rapidly. In favour of increased capacity development, basic service delivery in the CP has moved to an increasingly lower priority in the context of this growth. Compared to the same period in the previous CP, the volume of budget devoted to service delivery decreased from 37 per cent in 2007-2008 to 20 per cent in 2012-2013. This shift was justified by the new status of lower middle income of Mongolia.
Strategic Partnerships

Mostly met benchmarks

The year 2012 was one of strengthening the partnerships established during the previous CP, but was also one of initiating and engaging in new partnerships at both local and national levels. Collaboration with existing development partners was strengthened. These partners included the WB, ADB, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Korean Overseas International Aid Agency, the European Union and the World Bank.

The United States Agency for International Development particularly supported UNICEF with funding for emergency response, as well as for preparedness activities in the area of data management in emergency and logistics capacity assessment. Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) provided a multi-year contribution to support the WASH in Schools programme and UNICEF looks forward to its continued support in this area.

While UNICEF has traditionally relied on development partners for funding in ‘vertical’ relationships, its partnerships in Mongolia have been increasingly oriented towards collaboration on policy advocacy, knowledge-sharing and leveraging resources for children. An ongoing exchange and advocacy platform on the topic of social protection has been possible with both the ADB and World Bank and this will continue to be a major component of the partnership in the months and years ahead.

Close national partnerships continue to be maintained with key Ministries and aimag administrations. With the change in Government structure after the elections, the handover of the Ten Recommendations to Advance the Situation of Children in Mongolia presented an opportunity to actively engage with the new authorities. A mapping exercise has been conducted in Khuvsgul and found out that there are over 100 CSOs working on the ground who will be investigated as potential partners in the CP implementation. These CSOs will be significant partners in working to leverage resources for children and the local community in general.

In 2012, UNICEF formed and led the Child Rights Group, comprised of Heads of Agencies of International Non-Government Organisation (INGOs) that work with children in Mongolia. Several meetings were held this year to share information and identify key strategic messages that all agencies have promoted in support of children’s rights. This Group may be expanded in the future to include other strong local actors.

The CO has been instrumental in forming the Child and Maternal Health Working Group with the UNFPA and the World Health Organization (WHO). This Working Group aims to identify collaborative actions to reduce neonatal and maternal mortality. The CO also leads the UN Group on Social Protection and the UN Youth Working Group. In 2012 the latter began successfully expanding its focus from UN YAP-focused activities to working more creatively with a wide range of youth groups.

As a result of the major influence of mining and extractive interests in Mongolia, the CO has begun to explore partnerships with companies in this sector, in order to influence and promote corporate social responsibility and community development activities. These companies have included Oyu Tolgoi (Rio Tinto), Aspire Mining and Terra Energy, and discussions will continue to engage the RO and UNICEF Geneva.

Knowledge Management

Mostly met benchmarks

UNICEF continued its efforts to identify the most vulnerable children and their needs in order to influence policy-making and implementation.

The CO developed an Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) in 2012 to increase knowledge on the situation of children and strengthen monitoring capacity within the CO and in line Ministries. Four major surveys and studies were completed this year, with the Initial Assessment and local MICS results being widely disseminated among partners. The increased availability and use of disaggregated data allowed for
programming with a greater focus in the most vulnerable areas.

The outcomes of the study entitled ‘Evidence-Based Planning and Costing: for the Equitable Scale-up of Maternal and Newborn Child Health Interventions in Mongolia’ was instrumental in the production of a policy brief to advocate for increased efficiency in health budgeting, as were the Baseline Emergency Obstetric Care (EMOC)/Essential Newborn Care (ENC) Assessments in Khuvsgul and Nalaikh. The School Survey was disseminated on various occasions such as at the International Forum on Education, programme reviews and the Forum on Children.

All of these IMEP activities contributed significantly to the definition of baselines for the new CP. However, collecting data on the situation of children remains a challenge, particularly in relation to the identification of the most vulnerable. Furthermore, information on certain key indicators such as diarrhoea and pneumonia, was not made available at the end of year making it difficult to assess the impact of some of these interventions in a timely manner.

To address current inefficiencies in education and health financing, the CO facilitated a dialogue between key Ministries and the MoF. This also included the participation of an inter-Ministry team in a workshop in Vietnam on public financing for child rights.

The CO sponsored and participated in four International study tours. The focus of these tours were knowledge management and integrated MICS/RHS (Laos), NFE for ethnic minority children (Vietnam), child poverty and development (China) and C4D (Thailand). Many of the study tours and symposia combined participants from UNICEF and Government Ministries. Government partners were invited to share the knowledge gained from these trips during the Annual Reviews and UNICEF participants consistently shared their materials and lessons learnt during Programme Meetings.

**Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation**

*Mostly met benchmarks*

UNICEF incorporates the HRBA into its planning, implementation and monitoring processes across all areas, and prioritizes the equal and full realisation of the rights of all children, with a focus on addressing inequity and disparity. Overall, UNICEF’s cooperation with the Government aims to ensure that its policies and programmes are consistent with key international human rights instruments, particularly the CRC and the CEDAW. To achieve this, UNICEF promotes evidence-based policies and programmes targeted at the most disadvantaged children, to ensure that every child in Mongolia is provided with opportunities to exercise their rights to survival, development, participation and protection.

Issues related to disparities and inequalities are serious human rights concerns. Therefore, UNICEF has been working to reveal the large disparities in the situation of children across the country and draw the attention to them using the MICS and other official data and statistics. The launch of the *State of the World’s Children 2012* report, with the theme of ‘Urban Children’, was widely observed through collaboration with the Municipal Government. The Mongolian launch focused on the wide disparities in the situation of urban children in the country despite, according to the data, their comparatively better overall situation than rural children. A key focus was on the situation of peri-urban children, children from the poorest quintile and children with disabilities. These groups are, in fact, worse off on many indicators than rural children. The launch culminated in a call to ensure rights of all children equally, regardless their socio-economic status.

UNICEF also recognises access to quality social services as an indivisible part of human rights and on these grounds the CO promotes an integrated approach to social protection to address the multiple deprivations faced by children. The importance of such an approach in equitably achieving the MDGs was stressed at the Government’s National Forum on Social Welfare. At this Forum, UNICEF and partners made the recommendation that the Government increase its social protection coverage and invest far more to ensure that all sections of the population are entitled to social protection as a human rights entitlement. This year,
the CO has also supported the Government to mainstream CYP to enable voices of young people to be heard. A National Campaign entitled *Let’s Listen to Our Children* was organized in November and received thousands of voices of children expressing their concerns about their rights and well-being. The outcomes of the Campaign fed the discussion on the protection of the rights of children during the National Forum on Children held in December.

As part of its commitment to the HRBA, the CO is chairing the Child Rights Group, composed of key international organizations that work to ensure the rights of children and women in Mongolia. The Group advocates for Mongolia’s ratification of the Third Optional Protocol to the CRC on a Communications Procedure, which will become a significant step towards the full protection of the rights of children in the country.

**Gender Equality**

*Mostly met benchmarks*

To strengthen the focus on gender as an important crosscutting issue, the CO employed a UNV intern to focus on gender issues in the CP. This intern arrived in February 2012 on a one-year assignment and was able to conduct two trainings for all UNICEF staff that year. Training sessions focused on mainstreaming gender in programming and gender in emergency settings. Objectives were twofold: raising awareness of gender issues and ensuring that the staff was able to use this in every stage of programming and in cases of emergency. The tools and knowledge gained through the trainings were used to create a consolidated one-year Gender Plan for UNICEF office.

The CO has been focusing on producing gender-disaggregated data in all research pieces and studies conducted. For example, data collection activities on WASH conditions in schools was completed as part of the MICS/RHS, and this was designed to provide good-quality information that included gender specific-data. This data is now being used to design WASH facilities in 55 schools and kindergartens, and ensure that these are suitable for both girls and boys and their respective needs.

Within the HIV prevention area, particular attention has also been paid to addressing young MSM (men who have sex with men) since an analysis of disaggregated data suggested that this demographic is at the highest risk of HIV transmission in the country.

The CFS team paid particular attention to children who practice religion at Buddhist temples and Christian churches, as part of its focus on out-of-school children. Most of these children in religious settings are boys. This year, UNICEF was able to ensure that 120 monastic boys could participate in NFE training sessions, which already provide alternative education to other out-of-school children.

The CFC programme put a special focus on including gender perspectives in CFC indicators, and consulted with boys and girls, mothers and fathers equally as a result. Over many years, the programme has consistently emphasised the importance of equal participation of mothers and fathers in child development. This approach was strongly demonstrated during World Breastfeeding Week, which was celebrated nationwide in the first week of August this year. In cooperation with MoH, a three-hour session was conducted on ‘Reproductive Health, Antenatal Care and the Benefit of Exclusive Breastfeeding’ for fathers in Songinokhairkhan district. Approximately 58 fathers participated in this event and the feedback was very positive. In the future, the CFC team will continue its effort to involve fathers in issues related to child nutrition in order to incorporate both males and females in these important developmental activities.

**Environmental Sustainability**

*Mostly met benchmarks*
Low-income, rural families are the most affected by environmental hazards and the consequences of worsening climate conditions in Mongolia. The key challenges faced by these vulnerable families are poor housing conditions, inadequate health care services, insufficient safe water supplies and sanitation facilities, and very limited access to emergency services for sudden acute illnesses or ailments. Through the current CP, UNICEF is supporting and advocating for the creation of safe, healthy and stimulating living environments for children and vulnerable families.

Under the leadership of the HCT, 12 clusters have been formed, with Terms of Reference (TORs) developed. UNICEF co-leads the WASH, Education, Nutrition, Logistics and Telecommunications Clusters and the Child Protection Sub-Cluster. The 2012-2013 RWP includes the key aspects of Core Commitments to Children (CCCs). The Clusters and Sub-Clusters have also developed their Plans for 2012 and 2013, which include CD on EPR and repositioning of essential supplies, among other objectives.

In 2012, WASH in Schools Project activities have targeted schools and kindergartens in rural areas and focused on improving indoor WASH facilities, with extensive consideration given to environmental and climatic conditions. More generally, UNICEF programmes focus on sustainably addressing issues related to malnutrition, newborn care services, parental knowledge of childcare, and disparities between urban and rural medical services. The Child Protection Group has been active in coordinating CP interventions, seeking consensus on child protection issues, and creating partnerships and linkages with civil society and Government departments. These linkages will be vital to better prioritising the available resources and ensuring a commitment to minimum standards of response, particularly in emergencies.

The CO continues to fulfill its responsibilities as a key member of the HCT and a co-leader of five Clusters, covering WASH, Nutrition, Education, Logistics and Telecommunications, as well as the Child Protection Sub-Cluster. UNICEF is a member of DRR Working Group and has incorporated DRR interventions into the RWP. These initiatives include increased preparedness of families and schools to protect children, dissemination of knowledge on emergency preparedness to rural families, design of school WASH facilities that are protected from hazards and contribute to resilience, publication of a CFS module on emergency preparedness in schools and the publication of a handbook on protecting children in emergencies.

In addition, UNICEF is supporting Government partners to ensure that all policies and programmes on the protection of the rights of children have DRR components. UNICEF is also advocating for the Government to allocate at least one per cent of central and provincial budgets towards DRR activities.

**South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

In 2012, the CO supported and participated in four regional study tours. These tours were on: knowledge management; integrated MICS/RHS in Laos; NFE for ethnic minority children in Vietnam; and C4D in Thailand. All these study tours combined participants from UNICEF and Government Ministries. Participants were invited to share the knowledge and experiences gained from these trips during the Annual Reviews and UNICEF participants consistently shared their materials and lessons learned during Programme Meetings. UNICEF is following up on the recommendations, especially the plans of action that integrate the study tours’ outcomes in national priorities and sectoral strategies.

Additionally, on 20-22 November 2012, UNICEF supported the MoH to attend a South-South Cooperation Symposium on Child Poverty in Beijing where the Government shared Mongolia’s experience in delivering basic health and social services to rural herders and its successful reduction of the U5MR. The presentation of Mongolia’s experience was beneficial for various participating countries that are facing rural and minority child poverty. It was regarded as a strategy for equity-based programming that might be applied elsewhere in order to reduce child mortality, particularly in middle-income countries where disparity is usually high.

Given the high outcomes gain from these experiences, the CO has envisaged further support such tours including food fortification in Malaysia or Indonesia and child rights observatory mechanisms in one of the CIS/CEE countries.
## Narrative Analysis by Programme Component Results and Intermediate Results
### Mongolia - 2880

#### PC 1 - Social policy, investment and advocacy for children's rights

**On-track**

**PCR 2880/A0/04/100** Evidence-based social policies and legislation, including pro-child budgeting principles, are in place and implemented for the equitable fulfillment of child rights.

**Progress:** Progress has been made in making data available for evidence-based policies. Baseline data has been collected through the initial assessments conducted in focused disadvantaged areas. These assessments also help in redesigning programme strategies and materials for advocacy activities. They include a provincial-level MICS and a second stage disability screening exercise, the first ever conducted in Mongolia (Khovsgol province and Nalaikh district). These activities produced quality disaggregated data for disparity analysis at provincial and district levels, in comparison to the children situation in urban areas. In addition, support to the database management team at NAC has been institutionalised, enabling opportunities for the Government to take the lead in collecting and analysing child-related data for decision making, policy formulation and monitoring.

In the context of the Parliamentary (June) and local (November) elections, the CO has developed “Ten Recommendations to Advance Children’s Situation in Mongolia,” with the aim of influencing the policy platform of the newly elected Government. The Recommendations were based on evidence from national surveys and findings of cost analyses undertaken by UNICEF. They were officially shared with relevant Ministries during bilateral meetings with the Minister of Health, the Minister for Population Development and Social Protection, the Vice Minister of Education, Culture and Sciences, and the Director of the NAC. Most of the recommendations were considered in the new Government priorities for the upcoming four years.

UNICEF co-organized the High Level National Forum on Children where the Government, the private sector, NGOs and international organizations reiterated their commitment to ensure children’s rights by signing a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding.

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the quality and impact of advocacy, a multilateral Child Rights Group led by UNICEF was established between international organizations. The Group’s objectives are to support the Government on matters affecting children and better integrate approaches between all actors to avoid duplication and ensure a comprehensive spread of activities. This Group is composed of UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision, Voluntary Service Overseas, Mercy Corps, Caritas, the Mongolian Red Cross Society, NLM, ADRA Mongolia, and the Asia Foundation.

In general, insufficient awareness and understanding of key personnel in the Government are areas requiring further attention in order to emphasise the need to prioritise children in the development agenda and invest in meeting their needs.

**On-track**

**IR 2880/A0/04/100/101** Policies, laws and strategies in line with CRC principles are developed and made consistent. The implementation is monitored for children’s safety and wellbeing.

**Progress:** In 2012, UNICEF supported the identification and integration of children’s priorities into the newly elected Government’s plan of actions. During several public occasions decision makers, parliamentarians and the Women’s Caucus reiterated their commitment to prioritise child rights, especially those of the most vulnerable. This is partially due to the implementation of the strong advocacy plan developed early in January for 2012-2013.

Follow-up on the implementation of the priorities for children is needed in the coming months to ensure that the recommendations are considered in the Government Plan of Actions, the Ministerial annual plans and other strategic discussions. Coordination with sector colleagues on the implementation of the Office Advocacy Plan has been regular and ongoing.
Initial efforts were made to ensure that the UN approaches the GoM on social protection issues as One UN through a social Protection Working Group co-led by UNICEF with an operational TOR and Plan of Action. This Working Group has met regularly throughout the year, working collaboratively with UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, etc. The UN in Mongolia demonstrated its significant presence in the area of social protection by actively participating and influencing the GoM’s National Forum on Social Welfare.

Under the leadership of UNICEF a Child Rights Group was initiated involving International Organizations that have an interest in children’s issues in Mongolia. These include STC, WV, the Mongolian Red Cross Society, Mercy Corps, The Asia Foundation, ADRA and NLM. The Group held meetings twice in 2012 and agreed to support and cooperate with the GoM in a more integrated and coordinated manner.

**IR 2880/A0/04/100/102** Resource allocations by the public and private sectors are influenced to reduce child vulnerability through equity-based analysis and evidence from integrated and inclusive interventions.

**Progress:** A Mongolian Government delegation was supported to attend the Regional Conference on Public Finance for Children, allowing opportunity for better coordination between sector Ministries and the MoF on the inclusive social budgeting process. The MoF representative presented a paper on Fiscal Space for Social Policy in Mineral Rich Contexts to the Conference. Follow-up dialogue between the MoF and sector Ministries will be essential in 2013 in order to maintain this momentum and ensure that children are given due consideration in budget allocations and social policy.

A Social Sector Budget Review was planned to provide baseline data for social budgeting, with a focus on children and inequity. However, difficulties were encountered in finding a suitable consultant to undertake the study.

**IR 2880/A0/04/100/103** The government collects, analyses and uses disaggregated data to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of quality and equity development of children and women.

**Progress:** The Initial Assessment of the situation of children and families in Khovsgol aimag and Nalaikh district was completed in 2012. This provides a thorough assessment of the situation in each soum of Khovsgol aimag, the province overall and each khoroo of Nalaikh The assessment investigates supply-related factors and is complemented by household level outcomes statistics from the provincial-level MICS. This data has been processed and the CO is awaiting HQ review.

The second stage disability assessment preparatory work has also been completed with complementary capacity strengthening activities carried out in technical areas of the survey design including sampling and data processing. A routine data collection scheme is coordinated by NAC and a database for children is maintained as per the order of the Cabinet and Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) in 2011. NAC data management project staff are now institutionalised within the structure of the NAC and staff will serve as Government employees commencing January 2013. On-the-job training to strengthen the capacities of soum and aimag officials is ongoing, particularly in the areas of understanding statistics, analysis and interpretation of data. Informal consultative discussions and meetings are conducted with the NHRC, academia and research institutions to better facilitate the use of human rights data and evidence to support rights-based planning, programming and monitoring activities.

**PCR 2880/A0/04/200** Equity-focused, awareness-raising and partnerships strengthened between the government, CSOs and the media for leveraging and coordinating initiatives with wider participation from communities and children.

**Progress:** In 2012, UNICEF continued to promote partnerships with UN agencies, international organizations and the private sector to improve efficiency of the support to the Government. In the reporting period, UNICEF co-led the UN Social Protection Working Group with International Labor Organization (ILO) and
delivered a consistent message to the Government in relation to Social Protection. In addition, UNICEF initiated a Child Rights Group composed of international NGOs, which have a stake in protecting the rights of children and women in Mongolia, with the aim of increasing the collective efficiency and address gaps.

A series of discussions and meetings were organized with large mining companies to build a partnership and leverage resources for the well-being of children and women, as well as protect the rights of children and their families in mining-related activities.

The Country Office Fundraising Strategy identifying potential donors was drafted and approved by CMT. NATCOM visits were organized successfully for Japan, Korea, and US Natcoms.

Special events, including the Launch of the State World Children Report and CRC Day, were widely observed in collaboration with the Government with the ultimate goal of increasing public awareness in relation to protecting the rights of children with equity. Other events such as the launch of the Child-Friendly Community Initiatives in focus areas and the visit of donors were broadly broadcast.

The office has started the operationalization of the knowledge management function, building on the support of the Regional Office (RO) and lessons learnt from a study tour in the Laos CO. The office knowledge management plan is drafted and the website, pending an upgrade, has been updated regularly with new publications, news, and announcements.

UNICEF’s Country Programme Brochure and Kit were drafted to facilitate a user-friendly version of the Country Program Document (CPD) and CPAP, which can be used for donors, visitors, the public, and children.

**On-track**

**IR 2880/A0/04/200/204** The private sector, individuals, donors, and CSOs are engaged in sustainable, long-term, strategic partnerships for increased analysis and the leveraging of resources for children.

**Progress:** Partnerships with UN Agencies and International NGOs are initiated and operationalized. UN Agencies agreed jointly to have a Working Group on Social Protection in order to promote social protection as a means to reduce poverty with equity and ensure inclusive growth for all. The Working Group has met twice and agreed on its TOR and Action Plan, and jointly supported the Governments’ High Level Forum on Social Welfare. Additionally, UNICEF initiated a partnership with International NGOs to address the gaps and increase the effectiveness of the programmes implemented by different INGOs with the Government. The Child Rights Group agreed to promote jointly two to three issues a year by approaching the government with ‘One voice and one message.’

A series of discussions and meetings with mining companies were organized to cooperate with them on leveraging resources for children and women and protecting their rights in mining-related activities. The Fundraising Strategy identifying the potential donors and partners for the next 5 years was prepared and approved. Korean, Japanese, and US Natcoms have visited the country and were satisfied with UNICEF programmes implemented at both national and local levels.

Experiences of the Laos CO on knowledge management were introduced and an office knowledge management plan was drafted pending approval. According to the draft plan, a number of knowledge management activities will be introduced such as improvements to the access and management of current knowledge sharing systems and regular updates of UNICEF Mongolia website.

**On-track**

**IR 2880/A0/04/200/205** The media plays an active role in social dialogue on issues pertinent to child rights, with increased quality and breadth of coverage of children’s issues in the media.

**Progress:** Within the scope of this IR, special events are observed. This year, the SOWCR was launched in February under the theme ‘Urban Children.’ Given the importance of this year’s theme, the full report was translated and widely disseminated. The Ulaanbaatar city Government was involved and actively participated. In addition, the CRC Day was observed in collaboration with the MPDSP and NAC. Overall,
UNICEF is working to contribute to increasing the quality of media coverage on children, through improved capacity of media organizations. Discussions are underway to reactivate the Child Journalist Club initiative.

### PC 2 - Integrated and inclusive interventions for children

**On-track**

**PCR 2880/A0/04/300** Increased use of services and strengthened practices for the fulfilment of young children’s rights to health, nutrition, protection and school readiness, particularly for marginalised children.

**Progress:** The government and civil society networks at the national and sub-national levels endorsed the Child Friendly Community initiative. As a result the UNICEF-supported REDS strategy, the U5MR and IMR decreased in the most disadvantaged areas from 32.5 to 20.8 and 25.1 to 17.35 per 1,000 live births respectively between 2010 and 2012. In contrast, both indicators remained constant in the non-REDS areas during this period. In the context of the *A Promise Renewed* global strategy, the Government established a working group on Maternal and Newborn Child Health (MNCH) and continued to upscale the existing REDS strategy to reach the most disadvantaged populations, with the goal of reducing disparities in combating child mortality. In addition, the MoH has increased funding for Family Clinics by 30 per cent as of 01 July, 2012 and by 42 per cent as of 01 Jan, 2013 with higher portion to peri-urban areas.

The articles about food fortification were included in the Food Law that is to be approved by Parliament this year. This is a major step in advancing the efforts on the approval of the Food Fortification Law 447. National trainers on Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) were trained and in turn conducted the training for 4,010 or 87 per cent of all pre-school teachers nationwide. The application of ELDS contributes to improving the quality of ECD in the country.

The Family Education and Assessment tool was administered to 12,500 poor households nationwide. The Family Education Assessment (FEA) tool revealed basic issues of household vulnerabilities in regard to accessing relevant information, social services, skills training, employment and income generation opportunities. Each *soum* or *khoroo* carried out actions to assist these households through multi-sector efforts, capacity building and the inclusion in the state and NGO programmes.

Other achievements include: 1,440 children received supplementary nutrition services as part of the REDS; the supplementary Immunization campaign conducted for the prevention of measles and rubella with 95.5 per cent national coverage; and 20 pairs and 35 sets of furniture and toys supplied to the remote *baghs* and *khorooos* in focus areas enabling enrolment of 180 target children in 2012-2013, which increased the enrolment rate by 1.8 per cent.

WHO and Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations (GAVI) provided support for REDS and vaccine costs for the MR campaign. In consultation with Government counterparts, a separate IR is to be created for nutrition to have clear results with better management of nutrition interventions.

**On-track**

**IR 2880/A0/04/300/306** At least 75 per cent of disadvantaged children and women benefit from high-impact preventive health and nutrition intervention through the Reaching Every District Strategy in at least 15 districts or *aimags*.

**Progress:** REDS strategy is being supported by UNICEF in six *aimags* or districts with high child mortality where a significant reduction of child mortality compared to 2010 (on average 10 per cent) is occurring. Target groups are populations identified in REDS focus areas and 1,440 children received supplementary nutrition services.

Marginal Budgeting for Bottlenecks (MBB) has been conducted for the health sector and bottlenecks were identified. Advocacy based on REDS strategy and MBB analysis the MoH has increased funding for Family health centers by 30 per cent as of 01 July, 2012 and by 42 per cent as of 01 Jan, 2013 with a higher portion
The assessment tools for child-friendly kindergartens were developed and preparation for the pilot project in some areas) in preschool education quality indicators.

The supply of 382,000 sachets and 1,259,280 tablets of micronutrient supplements for Nalaikh and Khuvsgulaimag’s children, and pregnant and lactating women was ordered.

The facilitator handbook for IYCF counselling training has been translated and edited. The food fortification issue is included in article 9 in the Food law, which is currently being discussed by the Parliament.

The MoH provided human resources, premises, transport costs, essential supply costs for implementation of REDS, EMOC/ENC assessment, immunization campaign, breastfeeding campaign, and partial costs of vaccines. WHO and GAVI provided support for REDS and vaccine costs for the MR campaign.

Separate IR is to be created to have clear results and better focus on the reduction of stunting in the country.

**On-track**

**IR 2880/A0/04/300/307** In the focus areas all children aged from 3-5 years have access to child friendly preschools and quality standards for monitoring school readiness are operational.

**Progress:** The training on the application of the ELDS was organized with 446 professionals receiving certification as ‘National Trainers.’ As a result of the training, these new trainers are providing support to over 4,100 teachers on the successful implementation of the ELDS in multiple iterations, and on the development of Early Childhood Education (ECE) curriculum. The implementation guidelines for the ELDS have been received by 87 per cent of teachers nationwide and this has positively affected the quality of activities supporting the development of over 130,000 children in the country. In UNICEF focus areas, 98 per cent of preschool teachers participated in the ELDS training resulting in a significant increase (up to 10 per cent in some areas) in preschool education quality indicators.

The assessment tools for child-friendly kindergartens were developed and preparation for the pilot project has been completed. In order to generate evidence-based planning for the provision of child-friendly education services, these tools facilitate self-assessment of kindergartens in collaboration with parents, local communities and authorities. For increased inclusion of target children in the focus areas, 20 gers and 35 sets of furniture and toys were supplied. This enabled the additional enrolment of 180 target preschool-aged children in 2012-2013, an enrolment increase of 1.8 per cent.

A *Handbook for Parents on Reading Books to Children* was developed to encourage positive behavioural changes in parenting and to promote new approaches to ECD in the family setting. Many parents relied primarily on kindergartens for the care, education and development of their children. Therefore, the handbook is designed to develop positive relations in the family and encourage parents to spend time with their children, particularly through educational activities such as reading books to them. MoES was a partner in this contribution. No adjustments were made to the program.

**On-track**

**IR 2880/A0/04/300/307** In the focus areas, the number of disadvantaged families utilising quality basic social services has increased by at least 50 per cent.

**Progress:** UNICEF continued supporting the nationwide implementation of the Household Development Plan and the application of the FEA tool. The second round of family assessment was conducted in 21 aimags and 9 districts of Mongolia with the use of the FEA tool. The FEA tool was administered to 12,500 vulnerable
households in November 2012. On the basis of the tool the priorities were identified for the poor households in every soum and khoroo. Actions designed in collaboration with the local government, social workers, NGOs, health and education service providers; employment promotion and civil registration agencies were taken. The preliminary reports from the aimags and districts show that FEA follow up action resulted in the increased knowledge of households regarding existing services and the ways to access them; improved livelihoods through attending skills training courses, employment mediation, referral to food stamps and the medi-cart programme; secured access to pre-school and non-formal education centres; assistance in obtaining land ownership documents; and income generation activities.

The Child Friendly Community initiative concepts and objectives were endorsed by the highest-level decision-making bodies including the Prime Minister, Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection, Governors of Khovsgol aimag and Nalaikh district, and civil society networks. As a result of the raising awareness, partnership building and mobilization activities constituting the first stage in the adoption of the CFC initiative occurred, and commitments were made at the national level and in focus areas to devote efforts to creating child-friendly communities. Joint Workplans (2012-2013) for Khovsgol aimag and Nalaikh district identified specific actions towards building the CFC.

Partners’ contributions included the help of the Ministry of Population Development and its provincial, district and community level strictures, and the NAC. The main constraint in the reporting period was related to government re-structuring and change of the key personnel at the NAC and MOPDSP. No major adjustments were made.

**IR 2880/A0/04/300/309 Effective emergency preparedness measures are in place and clusters are activated in a timely manner in line with the CCC.**

**On-track**

**PCR 2880/A0/04/400 Equitable access to child friendly schools that are inclusive, academically effective, gender-sensitive, healthy, safe, protected and to involve families and communities.**

**Progress:** According to the Ministry of Education and Science, the primary net enrolment rate has been stable at 94.8 per cent in the last two years, which is 0.1 per cent higher compared to 2009-2010. The percentage of out-of-school children aged 6-15 years decreased from 0.8 in the 2010-2011 academic year to 0.7 in 2011-2012. Detailed statistics compiled by the National Center for Non-formal and Distance Education also show that the number of registered out-of-school children aged 6-14 years decreased by 37 and 15 per cent in 2011-2012 compared to the academic years of 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, respectively. This resulted in over 1,600 students re-joining mainstream schools. At the same time, the number of students who were enrolled in equivalency programme (EP) trainings has increased by 1.5 per cent in the current academic year, compared to 2010-2011. This can be attributed to targeted interventions to identify and enroll out-of-school children in NFE EP trainings.

As a result of national-level CFS promotion activities initiated by UNICEF in 2007-2008, over 40 schools nationwide are currently functioning as model CFS’s.

All four schools in the UNICEF target area of Nalaikh district have elements of CFS dimensions. These focus primarily on the need for improving the physical environments of educational settings, as revealed by the initial assessment in May 2012. In order to promote children’s fundamental rights to development, protection and participation, the Khovsgol target area has developed a provincial CFS policy and criteria to address the areas of education coverage, quality, and efficiency. The initiative to develop and implement a school improvement plan was based on the findings of school self-assessment completed at the beginning and end of each academic year. This initiative is now implemented by a number of schools in the area and over 50 per cent identified their mission as becoming a CFS in Khovsgol. However, systematic targeted interventions need to be implemented and supported by strong monitoring and evaluation in the two target areas in 2013, with a special focus on awareness-raising activities in Nalaikh district.
Major factors that impacted project implementation included the internal restructuring of the UNICEF CO, late approval of Mid-Year Work Plans (MYWPs) and expected changes in both national and local governments due to respective elections this year. The introduction and slow application of the new financial system was also a critical factor that hindered timely implementation.

**Progress:** The doubling of the number of students enrolled in NFE EP trainings in Khovsgol province compared to the national average can be considered a result of targeted interventions by UNICEF and partners in the last three years. The primary education net enrolment rate also increased by 0.4 per cent in 2012 compared to the previous year. Nalaikh district has also seen a 38.7 per cent increase in its NFE EP enrollment in 2012 compared to the previous year.

The UN Joint Programme for Ethnic Minorities was completed successfully in May 2012. A key result entailed 244 students out of 930 primary level EP students joining mainstream schools and 338 students completing primary education by EP.

From June to December of this year, two series of 30 day-long NFE EP training were organized for 660 out-of-school children, including 120 monk boys. Of these children, 41 (7 per cent) joined mainstream schools and 33 (6 per cent) completed primary school. A monitoring study on the child rights situation of children practicing religion in temples and churches was completed through site visits of 45 Buddhist temples and six Christian churches in Ulaanbaatar and 12 other provinces. Interviews were conducted at these sites with over 300 monk boys, of which more than half did not have access to any form of education service.

To increase learning opportunities for ethnic minority children, two training materials were published and are currently used by all second-graders and Mongolian language teachers in Bayan-Olgii province. These publications included a primary-level Mongolian language textbook consisting of a teacher guide, a student book and an audio CD, and methodological guidelines for Mongolian language teachers in the province.

UNICEF collaborated with Save the Children Japan to update the EPR Plan and Contingency Plan for the Education Cluster, which the two organizations co-lead.

**Progress:** The establishment of a Steering Committee in Khovsgol, as well as the completion of feasibility studies and baseline assessments in 55 schools and kindergartens, including baseline assessment, were key actions taken this year to address bottlenecks and gaps. These included low public investment in WASH facilities, lack of indoor WASH facilities in schools and kindergartens, and unavailability of soap at hand-washing stations. The MoES, with UNICEF’s support, has developed WASH in Schools Guidelines and standards. The designs and estimates of 55 schools and KGs are being prepared, and these will provide the basis for advocacy activities to increase investment in WASH in Schools. Of the 55 schools and kindergartens, UNICEF will directly support at least 24.

Progress in improving rural sanitation has remained stagnant since 2000, mainly due to low investment in this sector and a lack of rural sanitation policies and strategies. Although public investment in the water and sanitation sector has increased three-fold from 2009-2011, investment in rural sanitation is not significant. To address this issue UNICEF, together with key stakeholders, has developed a ‘sanitation roadmap’ for 2012-2013 and has agreed to adopt the Community Approach to Total Sanitation/Community Led Total Sanitation (CATS/CLTS) approach. A Joint UN Thematic WASH Working Group was formed and the UN Joint Programme has run smoothly as a result. In addition, the WG has been engaging in joint advocacy activities, especially on achieving MDG targets and goals relating to WASH.
The GoM showed strong political will and commitment to the WASH sector by signing the Bali Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene at the 3rd East Asian Sanitation (EASAN) Conference this year. The GoM also participated in the 2nd High Level Meeting on Sanitation and Water for All in Washington DC. UNICEF will continue to work with the GoM and key stakeholders to develop an Action Plan based on the EASAN3 and HLM outcomes.

Global Hand-washing Day and World Water Day events were jointly organized by WASH sector stakeholders in order to raise public awareness on WASH issues and support the strengthening of stakeholder and partner capacity. The Khovsgol Department of Health successfully organized a one-month campaign on sanitation and hygiene, covering 12 schools and 12 kindergartens in the aimag.

**On-track**

**IR 2880/A0/04/400/412** Adolescent development and health, including HIV and AIDS prevention, and their involvement in community development and environmental sustainability is promoted.

**Progress:** The health teachers’ network initiative has been piloted since 2011 and reinforced in 2012, with regular meetings and capacity-building activities involving eight network coordinators and 146 health teachers from 120 schools. Nine online teaching materials were also developed on different topics requested by health teachers. As a result, health teachers from targeted areas had the opportunity to engage in professional trainings designed according to their needs, to use additional training materials and to share experiences with other teachers online.

One strategy used to support healthy environments in schools in selected sites was the introduction of primary-level mental health services in schools through capacity building of staff in direct contact with children with psychological problems. Development of training materials for school doctors and social workers was also completed, and these will be used for follow-up training of relevant staff in Khovsgol aimag and Nalaikh district.

The implementation of the Children’s Solution on Climate Change project continued with the Seminar on Climate Change, an ‘Eco Report’ Workshop for Eco Ambassadors, and a ‘New Novelty and New Idea’ exhibition. The hundred teachers from schools in Ulaanbaatar and Tov province were trained on approaches to initiate personal and collective participatory action on climate change among children. This included dissemination of good practices and experiences on children’s participation and innovative and inclusive approaches to the mitigation of climate change.

In collaboration with the MPDSP and NAC, an extensive campaign was organized to collect the opinions of children on issues related to their lives and development. The opinion of 135,000 children and 30,000 teachers and parents were collected during the campaign with five priority issues for the GoM to address.

As a result of a projects competition, 1,465 students from 41 classes received training on road safety and 7,000 students worked on making their own school environment more comfortable.

**On-track**

**IR 2880/A0/04/400/413** The government demonstrates functional capacity in the provision of a continuum of services. From prevention through to responses to child-protection issues, families are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to prevent violence and abuse.

**Progress:** More than 60 officials from the Khovsgol Education and Children’s Departments as well as managers and teaching staff from 10 schools and 11 kindergartens in Moron City, were trained on the main elements of the programme. This training included raising awareness and means of preventing, reporting and responding to abuse and exploitation. Participants became knowledgeable about situations that may arise, the actions and procedures to undertake when reporting a concern, and the associated managerial responsibilities. As an expression of commitment, eight schools and four kindergartens adopted these policies and procedures, although supporting tools and training materials will require further development in the future. Full implementation of the procedures, combined with child empowerment activities, will considerably reduce violence in schools.
In addition, capacity-building training sessions were organized for over 30 welfare and education social-workers in Khovsgol to demonstrate the case management model and multi-disciplinary approaches to the provision of child protection services.

Partnerships have been strengthened this year through the implementation of joint projects with national NGOs, including the National Centre against Violence and Mongol Uruk. These projects have focused on developing services for child victims of abuse, improving the legal provision for children and building the capacity of professionals to provide psychosocial support during and after emergencies.

The ‘Justice for Children’ committee structure was replicated in the remaining three aimags of Mongolia, to coordinate and provide professional support for juvenile offenders and child victims. Over 100 professionals improved their knowledge and skills in applying multi-disciplinary approaches to justice issues concerning children.

Child-friendly courtrooms have been established at seven sites to enable participation of children in court proceedings without intimidation.

### PC 800 - Cross-sectoral costs

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<tr>
<td>PCR 2880/A0/04/800 Programme Support</td>
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<td>IR 2880/A0/04/800/001 Governance and Systems</td>
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**Progress:** Office objectives and priorities were defined in the AMP that is the internal strategic management tool for the Office (Programmes, Operations and Coordination). The Annual Management Plan (AMP) defined programmes’ priorities, management priorities and performance indicators. These indicators were monitored periodically and corrective actions were undertaken when needed. A new Country Programme Management Plan (CPMP) was in place starting January 2012 for the 2012-2016 programme cycle. The Khovd Zone Office was relocated to Khuvsgul aimag in April 2012 in line with the new CPD-CPMP. Office premises were provided rent-free. The CMT is the main office governance structure, assisting the Representative in the decision-making process and acting as an advisory body composed of PCR Team Leads with representation from a cross-section of staff categories and staff association. The structure and mechanisms of these office committees are described in their respective Terms of Reference. The country office developed a risk profile and library for the 2012-2016 CPD. The office Business Continuity Plan (BCP) however, was not tested due to other pressing priorities. All circulars, directives and documents related to UNICEF’s ethical framework was shared to all staff during their induction and briefing. All staff had access to the UNICEF Intranet and the local network shared drive containing these. During the March 2012 Annual Management Review (AMR), a half-day orientation on the ethical framework was provided to staff.

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<td>IR 2880/A0/04/800/002 Financial Resources and Stewardship.</td>
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**Progress:** The method for receipts and deposits is specified in the cash transfer work process. When VISION went live in 2012, the proposed role map was reviewed and endorsed by the CMT and approved by the Representative. The Operations Manager monitors staff movements and revises the bank signatory panel according to the process. The Representative signs the bank amendment letter. The bank reconciliation statement is prepared without delay every first working day of the month. The Senior. Finance Assistant obtains the stamped bank statement and this is immediately shared with the Administrative and Human Resource Officer, who processes the bank reconciliation statement. VISION is used in processing disbursements and receipts against the petty cash. Petty cash disbursement request and approval is based on a manual form. The office work processes (DCT, Travel, Supply & Contracts) were attuned to VISION workflows while the internal Guidelines for Financial Assistance was developed and shared with implementing partners. In VISION, the purchase requisitions for NEP are created using the system given the WBS
elements provided by the requesting Budget Owner. A memorandum receipt is issued and signed by the recipient and this is recorded and filed accordingly. In December 2012, the office moved to the new UN House provided rent-free by the Government. The Memorandum of Agreement is currently being reviewed by the Legal Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Its signature will be done in January 2013.

IR 2880/A0/04/800/003 Human Capacity

Progress: UNICEF Mongolia provided human resource support through this 'Intermediate Result' with the funds utilized in this IR to mainly help the organization contribute to the achievement of other IRs within the programme component, or across Programme components, in the country programme of cooperation.

IR 2880/A0/04/800/888 Human Resources for January 2012 payroll purposes only per global instructions

Progress: Human Resources for January 2012 payroll purposes only per global instructions.
Effective Governance Structure

The CMT met 11 times in 2012 to provide management oversight on office performance. The CMT advised the Representative on a range of activities including policies and office priorities, updates on achievement of results for the first year of the new CP cycle, internal audit preparations and a post-audit review of observations, budget utilisation, the current office risk profile and library, IMEP, fundraising strategies and progress in VISION implementation.

The 2012-2013 Office Management Plan was finalised in May. The Plan established the CO priorities, reporting structure and table of accountabilities, management of the Khovsgol Zone Office, memberships in Office Management Committees and programme management and coordination mechanisms. The internal Financial Assistance Guidelines and work processes for cash transfers, procurement of goods and services, travel and Programme Cooperation Agreements (PCAs)/ Small-Scale Funding Agreements (SSFAs) were also revised, following the implementation of new Financial and Administrative Policies at HQ level. A table outlining the delegation of duties was prepared to guide staff on actions in VISION. As a small office, it was a challenge to ensure a conflict-free Segregation of Duties (SoD), and manual mitigation was required as a result of these conflicts. The clean-up of SoD conflicts continues due to technical issues in ZRole and Approva. TORS and memberships of the office management committees were also updated for the period of 2012-2013. These committees continued to function well in providing oversight to contracts, asset management, staff appointments, publications and staff learning and development.

The Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) met twice to discuss issues on compensatory time-off, flexi-time, monitoring of sick leave, the action plan for the 2011 Climate Survey results, the planned office move and other concerns.

Testament to this good governance was the draft of the internal Audit Report of October 2012, which gave the overall assessment that “controls are adequately established and functioning well.” There were seven observations contained in this Audit Report with only one rated as a high priority. The CO responded to the draft audit observations and developed a proposed Action Plan to address the observations. The final Audit Report, due 16 December 2012, is being awaited at time of writing.

Strategic Risk Management

The review of the office 2010-2011 Risk Profile Action Plan in March 2012 showed the successful implementation of 27 out of 39 (71 per cent) planned activities. Despite reductions in the assessment of residual risks, it was concluded that the risk levels in the identified areas had remained the same. In line with the established procedures on the application of the Enterprise Resource Management (ERM) Framework, the CO updated its Risk Profile and Risk and Control Library for the period 2012-2013 to better align these with the new CP cycle. In this updated version, new specific risks were identified and corresponding plans to address and/or mitigate the risks were also explicated. The CO has rated three areas as ‘high-risk’: the country environment, the aid environment and the predictability of funding and natural disasters and epidemics. Nine other risk categories were identified as ‘medium to high risk.’ Progress towards managing and updating the assessment of these risks will be reviewed during the 2013 Annual Management Retreat.

Unfortunately, BCP testing did not materialise since the planned alternative site – the Representative’s residence – was not available, due to the re-assignment of the Representative. Thus, the rollout and activation of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT)-BCP equipment, as well as relocation to an alternate office site, will be carried out in 2013.

Evaluation

The office’s IMEP has been thoroughly discussed with partners and CO colleagues, in order to prioritise the most important data and processes. A procedure for IMEP activities was developed and endorsed by the CMT. The procedure outlines mechanisms to ensure the quality of processes including TOR format, research design,
methods of selection of consulting institutions, budget, and overall management and administration. The CMT also focuses strongly on applying and using findings to adjust programme interventions where appropriate and reflecting these developments in planning phases and its advocacy materials.

While the CO has not planned a comprehensive evaluation of the first year of the CP outside the Annual Review process, capacity strengthening in the field of evaluation is planned for 2013. This will apply not only to internal evaluation capacity, but also to the national evaluation capacity, through expanding partnerships with the Ministry of Economic Development and academia. Furthermore, an important exercise in 2013 will focus on mapping and understanding the Government’s monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and identifying strategic ways to work with and improve this system.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

The CO ICT environment and configuration was aligned with the VISION/SAP implementation requirements for hardware and Internet bandwidth upgrades. The migration of physical servers to virtual machines, as part of the Global Virtualization Project, was successfully completed with minimum interruptions to business applications such as VISION, Windows Server Update Services (WSUS) and Cisco AnyConnect.

As part of the BCP, the CO has one Megabytes per second (MBPS) internet connectivity with a service provider and has maintained its alternate data/voice connectivity using BGAN. The CO also acquired additional Iridium satellite phones this year, as well as a digital sender to facilitate the attachment of documents in VISION/SAP. Video conferencing and WebEx are extensively used in the office, and staff have been trained on an ongoing basis in Microsoft applications and the use of Very High Frequency (VHF) radios and satellite phone communications.

In 2013, the CO will upgrade two of its servers to meet the virtual configuration requirements, as well half of the existing workstations, due to obsolescence. A wireless share point device will also be operational in the new UN House.

**Fund-raising and Donor Relations**

In 2012, the CO successfully submitted 17 of its 18 donor reports on time and received an official commendation from AusAID, expressing its appreciation for the excellent communication established between the UNICEF project teams and themselves. Positive feedback was also received from the Korean and Japanese National UNICEF Committees, which visited Mongolia during the Summer, as had been the case each year during the last CP.

As the first year of the new CP, an estimated 45 per cent of the CPD OR ceiling had been raised by the end of 2012. The activities planned for 2012 in the MYWP for 2012 and 2013 were fully funded. All PBAs were utilised as planned, while special emphasis was put on the monitoring of PBAs as their expiry dates drew closer. The office management team closely monitored the implementation of planned activities via regular programme meetings and reviews, quarterly progress reporting and frequent bilateral consultations.

This year also saw the pursuit of increased engagement with the corporate sector. Recognising the impact and influence of major mining and extractive interests in Mongolia, the CO was supported by the RO, Australian Committee for UNICEF and UNICEF Geneva in liaising with companies in this sector. The purpose of initiating these contacts was to open discussions on corporate social responsibility and community development and analyse possible areas of collaboration. These companies included Oyu Tolgoi (Rio Tinto), Aspire Mining and Terra Energy.

**Management of Financial and Other Assets**

After the resolution of technical issues with VISION in April, monthly bank reconciliations were completed in a
timely manner with the appropriate delegation of duties. The Bank Signatory Panel was kept up-to-date on staff movements. However, utilisation of bank balances averaged 70.2 percent in 2012, indicating that cash forecasting needs improvement. The CO continues to encounter technical problems in clearing and reconciling DCT receivables and refunds in VISION/SAP. A request for proposals to undertake a macro-assessment of this system for the 2012-2016 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) programme cycle was issued in December 2011 but received no proposals. The request was reissued in November 2012 to attract qualified individuals, including those from international consulting firms.

The country is not yet fully Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT)-compliant, although the Funding Authorisation and Certificate of Expenditure (FACE) form is used to request and process cash transfers. In 2012, the financial management capacities of 21 new IPs were assessed using the HACT Checklist B. This assessment will facilitate the submission of a simplified certificate of expenditure, particularly for IPs rated as ‘low risk.’ Discussions and negotiations are ongoing with Government IPs, to use the State Treasury as the depository bank account for cash transfers.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) records continued to be adequately maintained and assets were tagged accordingly. The CO undertook two physical counts of assets in 2012 and conducted two Property Survey Board (PSB) meetings to confirm the asset count results and deliberate on the disposal of excess and obsolete assets.

The Khuvsgul Zone Office was established and equipped in April 2012. The Memorandum of Agreement signed between the Provincial Government and UNICEF provides a rent-free office space of 31.36 square metres to UNICEF.

After several delays, the Government completed its planned office building for UN Agencies in Ulaanbaatar at the end of this year, and is providing these offices rent-free. UNICEF will occupy 600.5 square meters (29.58 per cent) of the available floor space in the seven-story building. UNICEF’s share in the one-time investment cost was US$ 101,816 of which US$ 62,429 was covered by the Capital Asset Fund.

### Supply Management

Supply costs accounted for 17 per cent (US$ 637,932) of the total 2012 CP budget, 77 per cent of which was for local procurement. The average value of POs is roughly US$ 7,400. In 2012, the CO executed an inter-agency Long-Term Agreement (LTA) for printing services and updated the translation and interpretation services to shorten procurement processes and ensure availability of goods and services when required. A market survey to update the supplier database will be completed by March 2013.

A Humanitarian Logistics training workshop was conducted with the support of World Food Programme (WFP) Rome, as part of broader logistics capacity-building and training on the use of the Logistics Capacity Assessment tool. The workshop focused on equipping 24 participants from Government agencies, NGOs and INGOs with the basic logistics knowledge and skills required during disasters, through the application of logistics planning processes and tools. Follow-up actions and recommendations, including testing of the Rapid Logistics Capacity Assessment tool, were drafted to sustain the momentum of the Logistics Working Group. The CO has recognised that in 2013 it must reconsider its co-lead role in the Logistics Working Group within the Cluster approach, since it does not have the expertise and comparative advantage needed for this position.

In terms of procurement services, the CO assisted IPs in procuring US $1.7 million of supplies and equipment. The majority of these purchases were vaccines, injection needles and sterilization equipment, laboratory supplies and rapid test kits. With funding from the UN Foundation, UNICEF supported the MoH in its Measles and Rubella immunisation campaign by providing 330,000 doses of MR vaccines and devices.
Human Resources

The recruitment of the remaining new positions for the 2012-2016 CPMP was completed in March 2012 when the WASH Specialist (L-3) and Nutrition Officer (N-1) accepted their respective offers of appointment. Staff movements in 2012 affected the positions of Representative, Community Development Specialist, Communication Specialist, out-posted Community Development Officer, Senior Finance Assistant and the three Programme Assistants. On the average, the CO took four months to recruit international professionals and two and a half months to recruit national staff. The circulation of vacancy notices was widened through online job search web portals, while the support of the Regional Office was sought during the testing and interview phases of national professionals.

Retaining trained local staff is becoming a challenge due to the competitive salaries and conditions offered by mining and multi-national companies. In support of programme implementation, a total of 17 private and 16 institutional contractors were engaged in 2012. Nine of the institutional contracts were engaged on the construction of WASH facilities in schools and communities. This year, the CO had 12 LTAs for translation and interpretation services. Five volunteers have been recruited for one year and supported the CO throughout the reporting period.

In 2011, three parties had signed 87 per cent of the Performance Evaluation Reports (PERs) by 28 February of that year, compared to 93 per cent in 2009. In 2012, 86 per cent of Section 2.1 of PERs was signed by 31 May.

Given that half of the staff cohort was new to the CO and a new CP structure was enacted this year, the HR Development Team conducted a team-building exercise to foster communication and inter-personal relationships. The introduction of the GROW ‘coaching culture’ model for supervisors, as well as competency-based interview trainings, were moved to 2013. In 2012, one professional staff member participated in the MDP course. Refresher training on VISION/SAP is planned for 2013. In response to the 2011 Climate Survey, an Action Plan was developed in 2012 to address concerns on workload distribution, professional development, coaching and HR policy implementation. An interim salary survey was conducted in May 2012, but results from OHRM are pending. Comparators from the private – particularly mining – sector have expressed reservations in participating in forthcoming salary surveys.

The CO does not have trained peer support volunteers, although two volunteers were nominated for these positions during the 2012 AMR. All staff have free access to condoms and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) kits and are informed on where and how to access VCT. The feasibility of implementing a cost-recovery mechanism for the UN Dispensary in 2013 is currently under review.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

The CO continues to seek opportunities to improve efficiency in its operations. For instance, the CMT and PC meetings are conducted as ‘paperless’ meetings, and interviews avail of the EAPRO telephone bridge. The Khovsgol Zone Office participates in meetings is via Skype. In 2012, US$ 16,777 in Value Added Tax (VAT) receivables were recovered in a timely manner, while US$ 5,529 was gained from the negotiated sale of foreign currency.

Changes in AMP & CPMP

The CO does not currently intend to make any changes to its Management Plan and CPMP in 2013 and will await the Midterm Review recommendations. Technical support from the Regional VISION Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) will continue to be sought as the need arises.
Acronyms

ACF  Action Contre la Faim
ADB  Asian Development Bank
ADRA Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AMR  Annual Management Review
ARM  Annual Review Meeting
AusAID  Australian Agency for International Development
BCC  Behaviour Change Communication
BCP  Business Continuity Plan
C4D  Communication-for-Development
CDC  Child Development Centres
CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CFC  Child-Friendly Community
CFS  Child-Friendly School
CMT  Country Management Team
CO  Country Office
CPAP  Country Programme Action Plan
CPMP  Country Programme Management Plan
CRC  Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO  Civil Society Organisation
CSS  Child Survival Strategy
CWD  Children with Disabilities
CYP  Child and Youth Participation
DCT  Direct Cash Transfer
DP  Democratic Party
DRR  Disaster Risk Reduction
ECD  Early Childhood Development
ECE  Early Childhood Education
ELDS  Early Learning and Development Standards
EMOC  Emergency Obstetric Care
ENC  Essential Newborn Care
EP  Equivalency Programme
EPR  Emergency Preparedness and Response
ERM  Enterprise Resource Management
FACE  Funding Authorisation and Certificate of Expenditure
FEA  Family Education Assessment
FGP  Family Group Practitioners
GAVI  Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations
GoM  Government of Mongolia
HACT  Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers
HCT  Humanitarian Country Team
HIV/AIDS  Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HQ  UNICEF New York Headquarters
HRBA  Human Rights Based Approach
ICT  Information and Communication Technology
IFRC  International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IMEP  Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
IMR  Infant Mortality Rate
INGO  International Non-Government Organisation
IP  Implementing Partner
IR  Intermediate Result
JCC  Joint Consultative Committee
LTA  Long-Term Agreement
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LSBE</td>
<td>Life Skills Based Education</td>
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<td>MBB</td>
<td>Marginal Budgeting for Bottlenecks</td>
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<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goal</td>
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<td>MDT</td>
<td>Multi-Disciplinary Team</td>
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<td>MES</td>
<td>Ministry of Education and Science</td>
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<td>MICS</td>
<td>Multiple-Indicator Cluster Survey</td>
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<td>MNCH</td>
<td>Maternal, Newborn and Child Health</td>
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<td>MNT</td>
<td>Mongolian Tugrik</td>
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<td>MoH</td>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
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<td>MoJ</td>
<td>Ministry of Justice</td>
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<td>MPDSP</td>
<td>Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection</td>
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<td>MPRP</td>
<td>Mongolian Peoples’ Revolutionary Party</td>
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<td>MYWP</td>
<td>Mid-Year Work Plan</td>
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<td>NAC</td>
<td>National Authority for Children</td>
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<td>NCNFDEN</td>
<td>National Centre for Non-Formal and Distance Education</td>
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<td>NEMA</td>
<td>National Emergency Management Authority</td>
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<td>NFE</td>
<td>Non-Formal Education</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Government Organisation</td>
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<td>NHRC</td>
<td>National Human Rights Commission</td>
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<td>NLM</td>
<td>Norwegian Lutheran Mission</td>
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<td>NMCHC</td>
<td>National Maternal and Child Health Centre</td>
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<td>NSO</td>
<td>National Statistics Office</td>
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<td>OR</td>
<td>Other Resources</td>
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<td>OT</td>
<td>Oyu Tolgoi</td>
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<td>PA</td>
<td>Programme Assistant</td>
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<td>PCA</td>
<td>Programme Cooperation Agreement</td>
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<td>PCR</td>
<td>Programme Component Result</td>
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<td>PER</td>
<td>Performance Evaluation Report</td>
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<td>PHC</td>
<td>Primary Health Care</td>
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<td>PMTCT</td>
<td>Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission</td>
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<td>PO</td>
<td>Programme Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPE</td>
<td>Property, Plant and Equipment</td>
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<td>PSA</td>
<td>Public Service Announcement</td>
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<td>PSB</td>
<td>Property Survey Board</td>
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<td>REDS</td>
<td>Reach Every District and Soum</td>
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<td>RHS</td>
<td>Reproductive Health Survey</td>
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<td>RO</td>
<td>Regional Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAM</td>
<td>Severe Acute Malnutrition</td>
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<tr>
<td>SME</td>
<td>Subject Matter Expert</td>
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<td>SoD</td>
<td>Segregation of Duties</td>
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<td>SSFA</td>
<td>Small-Scale Funding Agreement</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOR</td>
<td>Terms of Reference</td>
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<td>ToT</td>
<td>Training of Trainers</td>
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<tr>
<td>U5MR</td>
<td>Under-5 Mortality Rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
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<td>UNYAP</td>
<td>United Nations Youth Advisory Panel</td>
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<td>VAT</td>
<td>Value-Added Tax</td>
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<td>VCT</td>
<td>Voluntary Counselling and Testing</td>
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<td>VHF</td>
<td>Very High Frequency</td>
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<td>WASH</td>
<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</td>
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<tr>
<td>WB</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGFF</td>
<td>Working Group on Flour Fortification</td>
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<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organisation</td>
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</table>
• Though cost-effectiveness is important in development settings, it should weighed with other considerations, such as the impact of extreme climactic conditions such as those of Mongolia. This project has highlighted that the education, child protection and health outcomes outweigh the extra costs associated with establishing appropriate WASH facilities in these settings.

• Septic tanks with standalone treatment facilities are a good option for rural areas where the frequency of

Lessons Learned

1 WASH in Schools in Cold Climates

Abstract

Creation of child-friendly WASH facilities in targeted primary schools and kindergartens is one of the focus activities of the WASH programme. The situation of WASH facilities differs greatly between rural and peri-urban schools their urban counterparts. Since 2007, UNICEF, together with the MES, has introduced a new approach and innovative technologies for creation of child-friendly WASH facilities.

This innovation outline shares strategies and lessons on the creation of child-friendly WASH facilities within the CFS programme. The WASH in Schools programme has provided innovative solutions to develop WASH facilities within the existing school buildings by engaging children, parents, teachers and local Government officials.

Innovation or Lesson Learned

• Though cost-effectiveness is important in development settings, it should weighed with other considerations, such as the impact of extreme climactic conditions such as those of Mongolia. This project has highlighted that the education, child protection and health outcomes outweigh the extra costs associated with establishing appropriate WASH facilities in these settings.

• Septic tanks with standalone treatment facilities are a good option for rural areas where the frequency of

Other Publications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>1 Set of seven training modules</th>
<th>2 Walking the Human Rights Talking</th>
<th>3 CRC General Comments # 13 (2011) on “The right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence”, Committee on the Rights of the Child</th>
<th>4 CRC General Comments # 13 (2011) on “The right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence”</th>
<th>5 TEACHERS IN MONGOLIA: An Empirical Study on Recruitment into Teaching, Professional Development and Retention of Teachers</th>
<th>6 ELDS Implementation Guideline</th>
<th>7 Handbook for parents on reading books to children</th>
<th>8 Guideline of Supplementary Immunization Activity against Measles and Rubella for Health workers</th>
<th>9 Economic Impacts of Sanitation in Mongolia: A Country Study under the Economics of Sanitation Initiatives</th>
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</table>
cleaning septic tanks needs to be minimised. Designing a septic tank for extreme cold climates is an on-going challenge.

- Lessons and experiences from the school WASH project can be applied to other provinces within Mongolia and in other similar settings. Education, health and protection outcomes are more important than cost effectiveness concerns when dealing with WASH issues in cold climates. Although the initial investment is higher, there are long-term positive impacts. The main on-going issue is the availability of financial resources of the MES for replication of this approach in other provinces. Evidence-based advocacy activities require concrete results from the field. UNICEF was able to raise funding for the school WASH project after it was able to demonstrate results with innovative approaches.
- The ‘standard type design’ approach is not a suitable option for solving problems and improving school WASH facilities where school buildings are old. Therefore, designs should be context-specific and should maintain building standards.

### Potential Application

Lessons and experiences from the school WASH project can be applied to other provinces within Mongolia and in other similar settings. Education, health and protection outcomes are more important than cost effectiveness concerns when dealing with WASH issues in cold climates. Although the initial investment is higher, there are long-term positive impacts. The main on-going issue is the availability of financial resources of the MES for replication of this approach in other provinces.

### Issue

Extreme temperatures in winter, a shortage of nearby safe water and the unavailability of sanitation facilities are some of the main challenges faced by schoolchildren in rural areas. Children spend up to nine months of the year in school dormitories. More than half of rural schools were built during the Socialist regime without adequate WASH facilities. Using an outdoor dry pit latrine in winter is challenging for schoolchildren, particularly girls. To address these problems, UNICEF partnered with the MES to test alternative options. The most suitable option discovered was to establish indoor WASH facilities using the existing structure of school buildings and introduce suitable technologies for water supply and sanitation facilities.

### Strategy and Implementation

Primary schools and dormitories in which children were deemed the most vulnerable were selected for WASH facilities improvement. Aside from conventional technical standards, such as student-toilet ratios and water per capita, additional critical considerations were in planning and designing these facilities. These included the availability of space inside the existing buildings where child-friendly WASH facilities could be installed, heating facilities, the logistics of bringing water to schools in sub-zero temperatures and the installation of septic tanks in frozen ground.

At the planning stage, a team comprising the consulting design company, provincial- and district-level education staff, local Government officials, a parental representative and a number of teachers were involved. UNICEF applied a ‘local knowledge for solving local problems’ approach by limiting the role of external design company to that of capturing local knowledge and developing school WASH improvement plans. The role of UNICEF was focused on facilitation, coordination and quality assurance, including on child-friendliness criteria of the school WASH facilities.

During the implementation stage, school management and the local Government authority took responsibility for monitoring and supervision to ensure local ownership. Aside from the construction activities, the preparation of inventory of BCC materials and an analysis of primary school curricula are in progress. These will provide information on the development of hygiene promotion approaches.

### Progress and Results

After the introduction of the new approach to WASH in Schools and associated advocacy activities, AusAid and a number of National Committees for UNICEF provided funding for the project. UNICEF, together with the MES, has been implementing the WASH in Schools project activities while documenting lessons...
The REDS strategy was implemented from 2011 in 8 aimags and districts of Mongolia with support of Ms Surenchimeg Vanchinkuu. Initiatives will form the basis for developing hygiene promotion approaches and strategies. UNICEF is also conducting an analysis of primary school curricula to ascertain the coverage of WASH topics in these. The combined results from these two initiatives will form the basis for developing hygiene promotion approaches and strategies.

Next Steps

- Engage in discussions with MES on alternative energy sources such as bio-fuel and solar power for water heating, lighting and pumping.  
- Document lessons learnt and good practices, particularly on how school WASH facilities can be planned and designed to suit to the specific local conditions  
- Develop catalogue of WASH in Schools designs.  
- Prepare cost estimates to include cost per school and kindergarten in rural and peri-urban settings and use this to develop a national-level budget for school WASH facility improvement works.  
- Conduct a nationwide school WASH assessment and identify needs; develop an advocacy package from this assessment.  
- Finalise WASH in Schools guidelines by incorporating lessons learned from different areas of the project.  
- Identify gaps in the WASH in Schools sector by completing the BCC materials gap analysis and curriculum analysis. Subsequently develop a hygiene promotion approach and strategy.

2 Reaching Every District and Soum Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Type/Category</th>
<th>MTSP Focus Area or Cross-Cutting Strategy</th>
<th>Related Links</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lesson Learned</td>
<td>FA1, FA2 - Service Deliver, Advocacy, Partnership</td>
<td><a href="http://www.equityhealthj.com/content/11/1/15">http://www.equityhealthj.com/content/11/1/15</a></td>
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</table>

Contact Person

Ms Surenchimeg Vanchinkuu, Health and Nutrition specialist, UNICEF Mongolia, svanchinkhuu@unicef.org

Abstract

The REDS strategy was implemented from 2011 in 8 aimags and districts of Mongolia with support of UNICEF.

Innovation or Lesson Learned

Mongolia has a relatively well-developed health system that reaches the majority of the population to deliver basic health services. Immunisation coverage is high, at about 95-98%, according to the administrative data. However, through different surveys it became clear that immunisation coverage is very low in some areas of the country, particularly in remote areas and the peri-urban unregistered migrant population.
The GoM approved the Reaching Every District and Soum strategy in April 2011 after a successful pilot and assessment of the REDS strategy in Bayanzurkh district. The strategy can be used as a tool to identify specific hard-to-reach and unreached target groups and map their location and demographics. From this, UNICEF and partners can plan the delivery of basic health and social services.

The REDS strategy was able to deliver basic maternal and child health interventions. It also may headway into solving social issues such as the registration of poor families, unemployment, food security and housing issues, which were primary factors for improved health among the poor.

The strategy has also stressed a need for an equity-based approach to health policy and service delivery, while proposing a specific tool to reach disadvantaged communities. The REDS strategy assists poor families to access health services by solving various barriers faced by them.

**Potential Application**

The MoH has approved a nationwide strategy based on the REDS model, to be implemented by working groups at the MoH, as well as at district and intersectoral levels. GAVI and the WHO are implementing the strategy in four areas, under coordination by the MoH.

**Issue**

Thirty five percent of Mongolia’s population lives in poverty and between 5 and 20% are in day-to-day problem of life (such as lack of food, heating, hygiene items and transport cost) without access to basic health and social services. An important lesson learned from case studies was the overwhelming impact of social determinants of health (lack of registration, social and health insurance, housing and food, heating and inadequate environment) on capacity of the poor to access health services. In addition, UNICEF identified that solving these systemic social, health and immunisation barriers at policy and social service levels can contribute to a significant reduction in U5MR.

**Strategy and Implementation**

The REDS strategy is implemented through khoroo family clinics and soum health centers through the following strategy:

- Mapping of hard-to-reach areas.
- Identification of target group population such as the poorest, disabled, unregistered, remote, temporary residents, children in orphanages, single mothers, child labourers and school drop-outs in FGP catchment area.
- Conducting a barrier analysis for households, through house-to-house contacts.
- Development of micro-planning to deliver basic health services and implemented active monitoring and supervision.

A district- and health-center-level multidisciplinary team was established to determine solutions to the social systemic and health access issues that were identified through the barrier analysis. Health system barriers were mainly solved at the policy levels, whereas immunisation system barriers were primarily solved at service delivery level, in discussion with MoH decision makers.

**Progress and Results**

Removal of health system barriers: Sustained advocacy has resulted in improved Primary Health Care (PHC) financing, via a 40 per cent increase in budget allocation for family clinics. Support for 395 local nurses and field workers has provided outreach services to communities through the provision of training, transport and food cost. Detection, referral and treatment of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) has improved, through approval of specific procedures and targeted distribution of essential child health commodities to poor households. These have included 3200 hygiene kits, 500 first aid kits, 7000 bottles of essential antibiotics, 5000 sachets of oral rehydration salts and 25,000 zinc tablets, which poor families could not afford to buy. Targeted distribution of health education materials and family empowerment education were also conducted for these families.

Removal of key immunization system barriers (lack of trained vaccinator nurses, procurement and
replacement of cold chain, remoteness of immunization units): Since 2010, the strategy has trained 135 vaccinator nurses in remote and peri-urban areas and opened 24 additional immunisation units in remote areas. These units have newly-replaced cold chain equipment.

Removal of many social barriers service delivery level and discussions are on-going at policy level: A range of social barriers to health access were identified, including unemployment, food, house, lack of local registration, informal mining and lack of identification documents. A district-level multidisciplinary team and public private partnership facilitated the removal of social barriers. In 2011 alone, 19 families received ger dwellings, 6483 families received food and hygiene packages, 13,319 people registered with family and soum health centers and 945 people received their identification documents, which will allow them to receive social protection benefits.

Service delivery to target group population: District and aimag teams conducted 54 supportive supervision activities in selected areas. At the end of 2011, a total of 3283 children received catch-up immunisation, 1471 pregnant mothers were identified, of which 872 were in the first trimester and 9117 children received multi-vitamin supplements. CF treatment was provided for 339 malnourished and 228 stunted children, as well as 263 children with rickets and 172 children with growth problem.

Overall, the U5MR is decreasing in REDS strategy areas compared to 2010 data.

**Next Steps**

1. Share experiences of Uvs province with other aimags, including lessons learnt and best practice examples.
2. A comprehensive evaluation of the REDS programme implementation will be conducted in 2013, to assess actions in detail and evaluate the percentage of child mortality reduction can be attributed to the strategy.