In 2017 there were significant advances in knowledge of the situation of children in Morocco. For the first time, the Government released child-centred multidimensional and monetary poverty data, disaggregated by geographic location, gender and socio-economic conditions. This information was available thanks to updated statistics and analysis on child poverty produced by the National Observatory of Human Development (ONDH) and the Ministry of Family, Solidarity, Equality and Social Development (MFSESD) with UNICEF support. The analysis found that nearly 4 out of 10 children in Morocco were living in multidimensional poverty, and of those, three lived in rural areas. Data on maternal mortality from the preliminary results of National Survey on Population and Family Health, conducted by the Ministry of Health with the support of UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO, also were released in 2017, showing clear improvements in maternal survival, but also the persistence of marked inequalities.

These new insights reinforced the implementation strategies of the first year the Government of Morocco-UNICEF country programme for 2017-2021. The programme emphasized systems-building and policy dialogue at the national level and provided support to making decentralization most effective for children. Where modelling was required to assure subsequent scale-up, the most disadvantaged regions were prioritized.

In education, UNICEF Morocco supported the finalization of national frameworks and tools in three areas: preschool education, inclusive education, and life skills education. For each area, models in vulnerable areas helped inform the national frameworks. Technical support was provided to the Ministry of Education (MoE) at decentralized level to develop tools for teachers and pilot training modules that covered 220 preschool teachers and reached more than 2,200 preschool children. The UNICEF-supported inclusive education model for primary education was officially adopted by the MoE. UNICEF-supported capacity development at decentralized level extended inclusive education implementation to 60 schools in 2017, benefiting 19,000 children. Life skills and citizenship education were mainstreamed through development and piloting of a life skills-based counselling program, including entrepreneurship that benefited 3,593 adolescents and youth.

In child protection, UNICEF Morocco continued to focus on increasing access of children in contact with the law to protective justice aligned with international standards. A total of 450 professionals were trained on applicable law and human rights standards, including juvenile justice, and modalities and communication techniques with children. Recent statistics were encouraging: in the five jurisdictions targeted by UNICEF, the number of children in conflict with the law benefiting from alternatives to detention per year increased from 7,000 in 2014 to 8,600 in 2016.

UNICEF also collaborated with the National Council for Human Rights to promote child participation in child rights monitoring. Thirteen regional consultations were held involving more than 500 children, including children on the move and disabled children, with the aim to assess children’s views regarding the complaints mechanism, identify their perception of the national
policies targeting their rights, and propose advocacy messages to duty-bearers.

UNICEF Morocco supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) to equip the regional hospital in Beni Mellal Khenifra (one of the poorest regions) with equipment in screening for congenital hypothyroidism. A total of 15,620 newborns benefited from neonatal screening for congenital hypothyroidism in the priority regions. UNICEF continued to support the MoH to maintain the country’s high child vaccination coverage by providing procurement services for more than 20 million doses of vaccines (valued at US$6.8 million) in 2017.

A total of 4,103 students and the staff from 19 schools in three mostly rural communes in the province of Zagora (a disadvantaged rural area) benefited from upgraded water and sanitation (WASH) infrastructures in their schools and a hygiene and environment awareness campaign.

In 2017 there were delays in engaging the Ministry of Finance on joint work to develop financing options for preschool. It is hoped that this work will begin in 2018. In 2017 there were also challenges in engaging national partners on work on social norms related to violence against children, even though this issue is identified as one of the five axes of the National Child Protection Policy.

UNICEF Morocco’s partnership with the European Union was expanded, with two new agreements finalized in December 2017— one on support to migrant children and one on social protection. Partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was strengthened to promote early child development in the framework of the South-South policy of the Government.

Internal office initiatives contributed to improvement of operations and programme management performance. Throughout 2017, UNICEF Morocco consistently met UNICEF global key office performance indicators and received the most positive Global Staff Survey results in the region.

### Emerging areas of importance

The overall focus of the UNICEF Morocco 2017-2021 Country Programme is on the two age groups that are currently most underserved, and among whom inequalities in development opportunities are largely manifested, namely, early childhood and adolescence. In 2017,

**The second decade.** UNICEF Morocco continued to focus on the second decade of life via its multisectoral programme ‘FORSA – Opportunities for All’. The five-year programme (2014-2019), supported by Canada, implements a model of integrated interventions in education, child protection and social inclusion. UNICEF Morocco and partners provide young people with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills, capabilities and experience to negotiate multiple life domains and become economically independent.

In 2017, the programme made advances through three areas of intervention. First, out-of-school adolescents and youth were reached via development of a second-chance school model developed in cooperation with the Ministry of Education that integrates basic competencies, training opportunities, life-skills, and school-to-work transition mechanisms. Secondly, life skills-based education approaches were developed based on the MENA Life Skill and Citizenship Education Initiative. Thirdly, disabled adolescents were supported through a pilot aimed at expanding the inclusive education model adopted for primary education. These three areas were mainstreamed through a multi-stakeholder approach involving vocational training department, health ministry and decentralized coordination mechanisms as well as strong
involvement by civil society. A total of 3,593 adolescents and youth were reached by life skills and citizenship-based education in 2017.

**Integrated early childhood development (ECD).** UNICEF Morocco’s advocacy and technical support contributed to positioning integrated early childhood development (ECD) as a national priority for the new Government and accelerated the South-South cooperation efforts of the Government in this area. To this end, in September 2017, on the sidelines of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, UNICEF and the Government of Morocco co-hosted a high-level meeting to promote South-South cooperation on ECD. This meeting marked the first anniversary of the Rabat Declaration on ECD adopted at the international conference organized by the Government of Morocco with support from UNICEF Morocco. The declaration formalized the role of Morocco as a knowledge broker and partnerships catalyser in this domain of South-South cooperation. The high-level meeting brought together 10 African Ministers of Foreign Affairs in addition to the representatives of Middle Eastern countries and international cooperation institutions, including the Islamic Development Bank, the African Development Bank and several other UN agencies. Follow-up to the Rabat Declaration was underway, with high-level political commitment, including the establishment of an inter-country, inter-sectoral committee, planned for 2018, that will monitor the implementation of the engagements of the declaration. The work of the committee will be informed by UNICEF’s global six-point call to action for Governments and partners to maximize the potential of the earlier year.

Programmatically, ECD was integrated into UNICEF Morocco’s four programme components and appeared as a specific component in workplans with government partners. In education, the focus was on the development of standards and norms for preschool. In 2017, UNICEF Morocco technical support to MoE at decentralized level led to the development of tools for teachers and piloting training modules reaching 220 preschool teachers and more than 2,200 children. In child protection, preliminary work began on developing parental education modules related to social norms and violence against children. In health, work focused on nutrition and increasing the use of sufficiently iodized salt. Communication materials were developed with the Ministry of Health and will be distributed in 2018, following the results of a nutrition survey conducted in 2017 with UNICEF support.

**Children on the move.** Morocco is a country of origin, transit and destination for migrants, mostly from sub-Saharan Africa. The 2017-2021 country programme identifies children on the move as particularly vulnerable and an area of focus. In 2017, working with government counterparts, implementing partners, donors and young people, UNICEF Morocco assessed the situation of migrant children in Morocco. Participants jointly identified the structural causes of the non-realization of their rights, with a clear focus on gaps in term of access to education, health, justice and protection. This informed the development of strategic approaches and allowed UNICEF Morocco to develop two proposals for multisectoral support to children on the move. A US$2million partnership was signed with the European Union (EU) in December 2017 for multisectoral (health, education, protection, justice) support to uprooted children. Implementation will begin in 2018. The partnership will allow UNICEF Morocco to recruit dedicated staff to support this emerging area of work.

### Summary notes and acronyms

**Acronyms**

CMT – country management team
CNDH – Conseil National des Droits de l’Homme
CONEVAL – National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy
COP – Conference of Parties
CPD – Country Programme Document
CRC – contract review committee
CSO – civil society organization
DFAM – Division of Financial and Administrative Management
ECD – early childhood development
EWEA – Early Warning Early Action
GSCC – Global Shared Services Centre
HACT – harmonized approach to cash transfers
HIV - human immunodeficiency virus
HQ – Headquarters
HR – human resources
ICT – information, communication & technology
IMEP – integrated monitoring and evaluation plan
INSAF - Institutions Nationale de Solidarité avec les Femmes
LTA – long-term agreement
LSCE – life skills and citizenship education
M&E – monitoring and evaluation
MDS – Ministère Développement Social
MENA – Middle East and North Africa
MoE – Ministry of Education
MoFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoH - Ministry of Health
MoLJ – Ministry of Liberties and Justice
MOSS – Minimum Operating Security Standards
NGO – non-governmental organization
ONDH – Observatoire National du Développement Humain
OR – Other Resources
PCM – programme coordination meeting
PBR – programme budget review
PM – performance management
RFP – request for proposals
RO – Regional Office
RR – Regular Resources
SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
SOP – standard operation procedures
TA – temporary appointment
ToA – table of authorization
UN – United Nations
UNCT – United Nations Country Team
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS – United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNFPA – United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNGA – United Nations General Assembly
UNICEF – United Nations Children’s Fund
USAID - United States Agency for International Development
WCA _ West and Central Africa
WHO – World Health Organization
Capacity development

Capacity development was a core cross-cutting strategy for UNICEF Morocco's 2017-2021 Country Programme.

In 2017, UNICEF strengthened the capacity of technical staff of the National Observatory of Human Development (ONDH) and line ministries in performing child multidimensional poverty analysis, through a training on multidimensional overlapping deprivation analysis (MODA). This contributed to the realization of the study, ‘Profile of Child Poverty in Morocco’.

During the Fourth Moroccan Evaluation Week, organized by the Moroccan Association of Evaluation with support from UNICEF, the capacity of approximately 100 evaluation practitioners was strengthened in the areas of norms and standards of evaluation, techniques for impact and evaluation, ethics in evidence generation and the evaluation of public aid for programmes for children.

During the annual ‘Women’s Voice’ festival, UNICEF partnered with civil society to train community health workers on communication for development methods related to ECD, breastfeeding and iodized-salt use. A total of 756 women benefited from 30 sessions of health education organized for vulnerable communities.

UNICEF, jointly with the Direction of National Solidarity, conducted training programmes for 150 newly recruited child protection focal points to strengthen their knowledge and ability to apply competency-based child protection practices to their work. The training programme also supported the elaboration of a basic case work process and tools on child development, a child protection legal framework, communication with children in difficulties and conflict management and mediation.

To ensure court proceedings are aligned to child right standards UNICEF supported the capacity strengthening of 450 professionals, including judges, prosecutors, police social workers, educators, detention officers and probation officers, through trainings that took into consideration international and regional standards and guidelines. The training provided practical approaches to address issues that arise for children in criminal justice systems, including modalities and technics for communication, mediation and development of life projects for children at risk.

Evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy

In 2017, UNICEF Morocco, in collaboration with its partners, used evidence generation as a key strategy to inform policy dialogue and advocacy.

A study on child poverty - adopting MODA, the multidimensional overlapping deprivation analysis - was completed in collaboration with the ONDH and the Ministry of Solidarity Family, Equality and Social Development (MFSEDS). The results were announced by the Minister of Social Development at the Conference on Child Poverty in MENA, with significant resonance in national media. This had an impact on the national dialogue on child poverty and the indicators proposed by the study are candidates for adoption for monitoring the SDG1.2 target in Morocco.

Data on maternal mortality from the preliminary results of National Survey on Population and Family Health, conducted by the MoH with the support of UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO, were released, showing clear improvements, but also the persistence of inequalities. A complete set of data will be available in 2018 to be used for advocacy and to update the situation analysis of...
In child protection, a study was completed in collaboration with the Ministry of Liberties and Justice (MoLJ), focusing on the Kafala system (adoption in Islamic law) to inform the process of the revision of the Kafala Law. Within the same project, a ‘satisfaction survey’ on juvenile justice services was completed. It included recommendations for the improvement of services and procedures. The evidence generated by these two studies was used to frame the Project ‘Himaya: Access to Child-Friendly Justice’, which aims to enhance the standards of services for children in contact with the law.

On Universal Children’s Day, a statistical data brief featuring key child indicators was produced by UNICEF Morocco and shared with the media. The data was used by major media outlets, including the L’Economiste, a major national newspaper, which dedicated its central pages to the issue.

**Partnerships**

UNICEF Morocco began a new programme cycle in 2017 and continued to leverage partnerships to advance children’s rights. Partnerships with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Education, Health, Social Development, Justice, Governance and the Interior continued, along with partnerships with local government to ensure operationalization of equity-based responses in the field.

Line ministries remained the principal partners for delivering results for children. Advances were made with the Ministry of Health to develop an integrated child health policy to guide Morocco’s path toward achieving the child health related SDGs. UNICEF maintained strong partnerships with the Ministry of Education both at central and decentralized levels in key areas of intervention such as inclusive education, reduction of violence in schools, and second chance schooling.

Two UN Joint Programmes (UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, UNWOMEN) with national partners were developed in 2017 on ‘Harmonization and Evaluation of Public Policies’ (with the Ministry of General Affairs and Governance) and on ‘Support to the Evaluation of Public Policies for an Equitable Human Development’ (with the ONDH). Both joint programmes built on positive results achieved in the previous programme cycle.

New partnerships with civil society were formed in 2017, for example with the Association Voix de Femme to undertake a communication for development campaign on child health, and with the local NGO INSAF to support young girls who were exploited in domestic labour or at risk to rejoin their families and continue their education and vocational training.

UNICEF also continued to partner with constitutional bodies such as the National Human Rights Council to develop capacity for child rights monitoring and with the Mohammadia League of Religious Scholars to promote tolerance, moderation and resilience among vulnerable adolescents and youth in Morocco, with support from the Government of Japan.

UNICEF Morocco’s partnership with the EU expanded, with two new agreements – one on support to uprooted children and another on social protection – finalized in December 2017.

**External communication and public advocacy**
In 2017, the communication and public advocacy plan was tailored to support the main focus of the new country programme: ECD and adolescence. The components are also in line with the global cause framework. Preschool and nutrition were the entry points for the first; youth empowerment for the second.

The ECD side event at the UN General Assembly was a strong moment of advocacy supported by a national media communication to reinforce the Government’s commitment to concretize the national ECD agenda. For nutrition, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to develop a communication and public advocacy roadmap to tackle iodine deficiency in the country impacting children during their early childhood. Regarding youth empowerment, the documentation of the success story of Miloud, an adolescent who benefited from the Canadian-funded project FORSA programme life skills interventions, was used widely for digital and integrated communication (TV, radio, web, print). On the Celebration of World Children’s Day, tolerance ambassadors elected by their peers in Ichraq, a Japanese-funded project to promote tolerance among adolescents, were invited to takeover UNICEF’s office. On this occasion, Eco-Media and 2M (the two main influential media groups in the country) joined UNICEF’s movement and were heavily engaged to publicly advocate for UNICEF’s priorities based on evidence prepared by UNICEF.

In general, the communication and public advocacy was evidence-based, for example, during the MENA regional conference on child poverty hosted by Morocco a strong public advocacy was undertaken to position the MODA approach. On three occasions in 2017, UNICEF Morocco, thanks to media engagement, raised the visibility of the ‘children on the move’ as an emerging issue.

Reinforcement of digital communication continued in 2017 and 615, 267 people were reached via UNICEF Morocco’s social media outreach.

**South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation**

The Government of Morocco has a strong focus on South-South cooperation. In 2017, via knowledge curation, matching South-South cooperation supply and demand, technical support and network building, UNICEF Morocco continued to influence national partners to engage in such cooperation for children’s rights.

The Conference on ‘Child Poverty in MENA: from measurement to policy action’, which took place in Rabat in May, was co-organized by UNICEF and Moroccan partners. The conference strengthened the exchange of knowledge and practices between countries in MENA and other regions around the measurement of child poverty and the use of the research evidence for policies. The conference communique identified South-South cooperation as an effective strategy to institutionalize child poverty measurement and support the realization of SDG1.2. The conference also renewed the partnership between the ONDH and CONEVAL-Mexico and their collaboration on evidence generation and evaluation.

In September 2017, during the United Nations General Assembly, the Government of Morocco and UNICEF co-hosted a high-level meeting to promote South-South cooperation on ECD. This meeting marked the first anniversary of the Rabat Declaration on ECD adopted at the South-South cooperation conference in 2016. The declaration formalized the role of Morocco as a knowledge broker and partnerships catalyser in this domain and a global partner in South-South cooperation. The high-level meeting brought together 10 African Ministers of Foreign Affairs in addition to the representatives of Middle Eastern countries and international cooperation.
institutions. The follow-up to the Rabat Declaration was underway with high-level political commitment, including the establishment of an inter-country intersectoral committee planned for 2018 that will monitor the implementation of the engagements.

UNICEF-Morocco, in collaboration with UNICEF-Burundi, organized an exchange visit of an inter-ministerial delegation of the Government of Burundi to Morocco on information systems and the collection and analysis of development data. A similar exchange visit was organized in collaboration with UNICEF-Comoros focused on education.

Identification and promotion of innovation

Working in a middle-income context with high public administration capacity, UNICEF Morocco continuously sought new and different ways to add value for partners to advance progress toward results for children.

As there is currently no legal framework for foster care in Morocco, UNICEF developed a partnership in 2017 with local civil society to implement foster care pilots for children in contact with law to provide family-based care as an alternative to institutionalization. The first phase of work included raising awareness among various stakeholders, especially justice actors and the community, about the importance of family and the institutional harm on children deprived of family care and protection.

Similarly, a partnership was established with a local civil society organization to develop an innovative social inclusion programme for vulnerable youth based on a creation of a ‘Makerspace’, a small business incubator, which also included appropriate life skills and psychosocial support. The programme consisted of a three-month curricula for vulnerable youth (mostly targeting rehabilitation centres and in social care institutions) to increase their self-esteem, choose a vocational training and get support in finding a job or creating a small business.

Support to integration and cross-sectoral linkages

The effective and equitable integration of young people in the labour market is a national priority in Morocco. Vulnerable and not professionally qualified adolescents and youth are at high risk of exclusion in the process of transition from childhood to adulthood, especially in the transition into the labour market.

UNICEF Morocco pursued an integrated and systematic approach for adolescents and youth programming and, with national partners, in implementing a model that integrates intervention in the areas of education, child protection and social inclusion and social, civic and economic participation. The FORSA (‘Opportunity’ in Arabic) programme aims to reinforce skills and capacities of the most vulnerable adolescents and youth through promoting professional and vocational training and counselling. By focusing on categories of most vulnerable adolescents, FORSA contributed to the operationalization of the National Strategy on professional training 2016-2021 and the strengthening of policy dialogue among stakeholders, including the private sector, on issues faced by adolescents and youth.

Human rights-based approach to cooperation

The 2017-21 Country Programme, was prepared taking into consideration the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
In 2017, UNICEF supported the National Council for Human Rights (CNDH) to develop the framework for the establishment of the independent mechanism with a clear mandate to receive and address individual complaints of alleged violations of children’s rights. The mechanism will be operational upon the adoption by the Parliament of the new law of the Council, expected in 2018.

UNICEF supported the Council through its training institute for human rights to develop training modules on communication with children and on the monitoring of public policy related to children rights. Child rights focal points working in all 13 regional commissions of the Council were trained.

UNICEF also collaborated with the Council to promote child participation in all existing child rights monitoring and reporting mechanisms. Thirteen regional consultations were held involving more than 500 children, including children on the move and disabled children, with the aim to assess their views on the complaints mechanism, identify their perception of the national policies that target their rights and propose advocacy messages to duty bearers. The conclusions of the nation consultations were shared mid-December and follow up is planned in 2018 to monitor progress.

In close collaboration with the Ministry of Human Rights and the inter-ministerial delegation on human rights, UNICEF pursued efforts to enhance networking among NGOs working on human rights monitoring in three regions.

Morocco presented the Universal Periodic Review on human rights in 2017. UNICEF Morocco provided inputs to NGOs working on the shadow reports and advocated to the Government regarding the fulfilment of children's rights, including removing decisions regarding the rejection of recommendations concerning the parental recognition of children born out of wedlock and their rights.

**Gender equality**

UNICEF continued to support the production of gender-disaggregated data and evidence. The National-MODA report on the profile of child poverty, which was produced with ONDH and the MFSESD, presents analysis of child deprivation, for both boys and girls within several well-being dimensions. This advocacy of gender data disaggregation targeted the main producers of information such as the Ministry of Health (especially for the Population and Family Health survey 2016-2017), the Ministry of Education and the ONDH (especially for the Households Panel Survey 2017 and the Regional Information System).

Other more specific programmatic efforts have been deployed for the promotion of the rights of girls and women. In education, UNICEF and partners developed a pilot programme to keep girls in school in the Chichaoua district, where the rate of girl’s dropout is the highest in Morocco. In parallel, family awareness sessions and visits to the nearest campus/Dar Taliba were organized with the local authorities to encourage parents to allow their girls to go to secondary school. As a result, The rate of girls’ access to such schooling increased from 35.19 per cent in 2016/2017 to 54.39 per cent in 2017/2018 in this district.

Many vulnerable families, especially in rural areas, place their minor girls as domestic workers. UNICEF developed a partnership with INSAF, a national NGO to support minor girls who were exploited in domestic labour or at risk, to reintegrate them with their families and continue their education or vocational training. The girls received psychosocial support and their families
received cash transfers. This had an impact on reducing gender-based violence by empowering the young girls and protecting them from exploitation and potential abuse.

UNICEF Morocco also contributed to the regional study on child marriage, which aimed to gain a better understanding of this practice and collect data of early marriage prevalence and practice.

UNICEF Morocco continued to be an active member of UN inter-agency gender thematic groups. As part of gender mainstreaming in UN planning, the thematic group was convened to use the gender scorecard for monitoring.

Environmental sustainability

In 2016, capitalizing on Morocco’s hosting of the 22nd Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22), UNICEF Morocco, in partnership with the Phillips Foundation and Philips Lighting, had implemented a pilot model for a boarding secondary school lighting improvement project using a mix of solar and light-emitting diode (LED) technology to enhance the quality of lighting for school rooms and facilities in Marrakech.

In 2017, UNICEF Morocco capitalized on the success of the pilot project and scaled-up the partnership agreement with Philips Lighting to extend the coverage to 20 targeted lower secondary boarding schools in four geographic areas. The partnership aims to develop a regional model of private-public partnership for school retention and school environment improvement, eventually benefiting 4,000 boarding school students and a total of 12,000 lower secondary school children. The scaled up project, which will begin in 2018, will promote the use of renewable and efficient energy and contribute to enhanced access to schooling, leisure and safety for children, especially girls, and contribute to awareness, mobilization and decision making in favour of environmental sustainability.

UNICEF Morocco adopted several measures to reduce its carbon footprint. All lights in the office were replaced with LEDs and movement detectors were installed in common areas. This should allow UNICEF to reduce its electricity consumption for lighting by two-thirds. In view of the importance of water consumption, a consultant was identified with the technical support provided by eco-efficiency team and funding from DFAM. UNICEF Morocco continued to use a no-waste-solution, which certifies that used ICT materials are returned to the market with a guarantee of 0 per cent waste, through the reuse of removed parts and the recycling of leftover materials to create a wide range of products exclusively from the raw materials extracted during the process of recycling toner cartridges.

Effective leadership

In line with global guidance, UNICEF Morocco developed a streamlined annual management plan (AMP) priorities and significantly reduced the number of indicators compared to past years. Individual performance evaluation report (PERs) deliverables were better aligned with AMP priorities and included the key performance indicators (KPI) of the UNICEF global Country Office Scorecard. The scorecard indicators were reviewed as a standing item of the country management team meeting agenda and mitigating measures were put in place when necessary. On a monthly basis, the programme coordination meeting took a detailed look at programme-related management indicators. The status of AMP priorities was reviewed in-depth by the country management team at mid-year.
These initiatives contributed to improved operations and programme management performance. Throughout 2017, UNICEF Morocco consistently had a ‘green’ rating for overall performance based on the global KPIs. UNICEF Morocco achieved more than 70 per cent of its AMP priorities.

In January 2017, in preparation for the development of the workplans for the new country programme cycle (2017-2021), UNICEF Morocco conducted results-based management training for all programme staff.

The business continuity plan was tested and previously closed audit recommendations are being tracked.

Financial resources management
The country management team continued to monitor key performance indicators on a regular basis, including grant expiry. Direct cash transfers (DCT) liquidations, budget commitments/utilization, resource mobilization, donor reporting, bank optimization and implementation of HACT quality assurance activities. UNICEF Morocco operations and programme colleagues met regularly to discuss and address bottlenecks and strengthen internal controls.

Cash flow forecast monitoring was strengthened and streamlined depending on the real expenditure needs to ensure appropriate levels of replenishment. Thus, 10 months out of 11 were below the benchmark.

Bank reconciliations were completed, uploaded and approved in VISION within the established deadlines. The UNICEF Regional Office organized training for super users to prepare for the transition to the new HACT Manager system. To meet the requirements of new eZHaCT system, VISION roles were updated, end users were trained by the super users and the work processes were reviewed and streamlined.

UNICEF Morocco conducted spot-checks in line with HACT assurance activities. A long term agreement (LTA) was established and a third-party monitor contracted to take on spot-checking. One hundred per cent of spot-checks were performed as per minimum required (education: 5; health: 3; protection: 2; social inclusion: 1). The findings were mainly related to the need for FACE/HACT training for new implementing partners, accounting systems weaknesses and confusion on rules on fund reprogramming. Follow-up mechanisms to ensure thorough implementation of recommendations were strengthened via the spot-check and programmatic visit ‘Action Tracker’, which was reviewed at each programme coordination meeting.

As of 31 December 2017, one DCT of more than 9 months was outstanding.

Fundraising and donor relations
Thanks to high-value, multi-year grants from Belgium, Canada and the EU, UNICEF Morocco began its new programme cycle well positioned overall financially. Because it has experienced disparities in the past in its ability to mobilize resources for the four different outcomes, mobilization of resources for under-resourced outputs was identified as an AMP priority for 2017. Ten proposals were developed in 2017, mostly targeting under-resourced areas of the country programme. At year end, seven were either funded or highly likely to be funded, notably grants from USAID (nutrition), EU (migration, social protection), and Japan (child protection). UNICEF Morocco had more than 65 per cent of its 2017-2021 Other Resources (OR) ceiling
mobilized at the end of 2017.

In 2017 UNICEF Morocco strengthened awareness of UNICEF’s contributions and its positioning among national counterparts. UNICEF gathered information on the strategic interests of the donor community and identified areas of overlap with UNICEF programme priorities. Communication strategies were implemented to strengthen brand and positioning. Strategies that proved effective in 2017 in mobilizing funds for under-resourced programme areas included focusing on emerging areas of importance such as migration and tolerance promotion to submit multi-sectoral proposals that fund several areas of UNICEF’s work.

UNICEF Morocco also actively sought opportunities for resource mobilization for UN joint programmes, including a joint proposal with UNHCR and IOM to the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security.

Partnerships with the private sector, in particular with Phillips Lighting, were expanded to include a cash component in addition to in-kind contributions.

All donor reports were submitted on time. Ninety eight per cent of available resources of the annual CPD OR ceiling was absorbed.

**Evaluation and research**

In 2017, UNICEF Morocco accelerated the implementation of the evaluation recommendations of the ‘Local Development Program and Children and Youth Rights’ (DELDEJ). The management response for this evaluation was closed within the agreed deadline of 31 March 2017 and the action points of the seven evaluation recommendations were all completed. This evaluation served as a reference for the programming of the decentralization component of social inclusion in the country programme. It also served as orientation to define priorities for the work plan with the ‘Direction Générale des Collectivités Locales’.

Per the Country Programme Costed Evaluation Plan 2017-2021, UNICEF Morocco planned the evaluation of the ‘School to Work Transition project’ (FORSA) for 2018. The preparation phase for this evaluation was launched in the fourth quarter of 2017 with the development of the draft terms of reference (ToRs), meetings with the project team, discussion of evaluation questions, and identification of members of the evaluation reference group. The revised ToR was discussed with the UNICEF Regional monitoring and evaluation specialist during a two-day mission in Rabat, with a focus on ethics consideration and the quality review. A revised version of the ToR will be developed and shared with the project team and management in January 2018. The evaluation is scheduled for June 2018.

UNICEF Morocco provided technical and financial support to the Moroccan Association of Evaluation to organize the Moroccan Evaluation Week conference in December 2017. Participants included national and international parliamentarians, local elected officials, central and territorial administrations, NGO members, independent experts and evaluators, emerging evaluators and managers of international cooperation organizations. The four-day programme included training sessions and debates on evaluation. UNICEF Morocco supported the participation of international independent experts and a specialist from the Regional Office to raise awareness on child-related issues in evaluations.

**Efficiency gains and cost savings**
The establishment in 2017 of three internal long term agreements (two LTAs for events management) and two UN common LTAs (for security of premises and travel agency), allowed UNICEF Morocco to free up staff time and achieve better value for money. The cost savings will be evident in 2018. Two more LTAs were in the final stages of development.

UNICEF Morocco hosted the Regional Management Team in May 2017 and negotiated to get the streaming of the whole event free of charge.

Savings of US$47,675 were achieved in 2017 from multiple initiatives, including price reduction negotiations on purchase of newborn screening equipment, reduction of translation services rate and pricing cost reduction based on a new LTA for communication agency services.

Travel processes were revised to reduce redundancies and ensure efficiency gains. Taking advantage of the transition to EzHACT, UNICEF Morocco revised work processes linked to HACT and ensured efficiency gains without compromising the application of rules and procedures.

**Supply management**

In 2017, UNICEF Morocco supported the Ministry of Health by providing procurement services to procure more than 20 million doses of vaccines and nutrition materials valued at US$6.8 million (an increase of 4.8 per cent vs. 2016).

UNICEF Morocco signed four long term agreements (LTAs) to obtain the best possible values in the marketplace. Two LTAs were signed for events management services in support to programmatic activities. One LTA was signed for spot-check services to contribute to the completion of UNICEF Morocco’s HACT Assurance Plan.

And the fourth LTA was for travel agency services, resulting as UNICEF Morocco participated in three initiatives related to the UN common procurement workgroup.

Two more LTA RFPs were in the final stages for procurement of car rental and office security services. The common procurements improved negotiation power and value for money and contributed to the promotion of ‘One UN’.

UNICEF Morocco ensured competitive bidding and launched nine RFPs for services and one ITB for programmatic supplies, initiated 32 institutional contracts and completed submission of three CRCs.

UNICEF Morocco completed a local ITB and purchase order for the acquisition of laboratory equipment for neonatal screening of hypothyroidism, resulting in a savings of US$38,000.

The total value of procurement performed is shown in table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total value of supplies and services received (in US$)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programmatic supplies including PS-funded</td>
<td>US$6,940,290.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channelled via regular procurement services</td>
<td>$6,839,472.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channelled via programme</td>
<td>$100,818.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Security for staff and premises

UNICEF Morocco did not face any major security concerns in 2017 and no serious incidents were reported throughout the year. Nevertheless, criminality seemed to be increasing and one staff member was assaulted and robbed.

Morocco was rated as low risk (2). UNICEF Morocco premises were MOSS compliant, but in view of growing concerns linked to the terrorist threat and following the assessment of the Regional Security Advisor, the access control was reinforced with installation of a vehicle blocker, a luggage scanner and a new metal detector. The CCTV system was renewed and a new fire alarm system was installed to provide more granularity in zone detection. All new systems met HD standards.

UNICEF Morocco organized three evacuation drills in 2017. The business South-South cooperation continuity plan was tested during last week of December. UNICEF Morocco continued to maintain excellent working relations with the UNDSS Security Advisor.

Human resources

In the framework of the Human Resources (HR) Partnering strategy, support was provided to staff and management. An analysis was done of the challenges and context in which the office staff was working to provide support and help staff achieve their goals throughout the employment cycle. This included strategic analysis of recruitment needs (seven recruitments in 2017); examination of means to attract new talent (one TA/ one UNV/ five stretch assignments/ four consultants); integration and orientation of staff members from onboarding to separation; and support in performance and career management, learning and development. Systematic feedback was provided to unsuccessful internal candidates.

To promote an enabling environment where continuous and honest feedback is accepted and valued, UNICEF Morocco set performance management (PM) as a priority in the annual management plan (AMP) and in the OIP, despite positive GSS results in this area. This allowed staff to establish clear links between individual and organizational objectives. A performance management workshop was organized with the participation of the Regional Chief of HR and 100 per cent of 2016 PERs were finalized before deadline.

Following the staff retreat and the Global Staff Survey, UNICEF Morocco established an OIP emphasizing staff wellbeing, security and work/life balance. A well-being committee was set up to contribute to the improvement of the working environment. Two staff members were nominated during a participatory exercise as speak-up focal points. The visit of the staff counsellor contributed to stress management and reinforcing staff well-being. UNICEF Morocco had two active peer support volunteers who provided positive input.
The restructuration of operations through the typology exercise was finalized. To cover a two month funding gap, the Representative authorized the use of Regular Resource (RR) funds for one position in the education section.

The joint consultative committee met three times to establish and monitor the OIP.

**Effective use of information and communication technology**

Under the guidance and support of the UNICEF Regional Office, UNICEF Morocco was transformed to a LIGHT Service Centre to support the Algeria and Tunisia offices at the end of 2016. Both of those offices were successfully migrated to the LIGHT office model in 2017. After eight months of service, the project is now reaching steady state, and is currently serving remotely around hundred unique concurrent user sessions seamlessly. Reduction of the hardware footprint in the LIGHT offices will result in overall infrastructure cost savings.

The shift to cloud-based services continued to be reinforced by expanding the office TeamSite. Efficiency was improved, as illustrated by creation of a new portal for Environmental Footprint Assessment, to streamline the process and to build a local database for future years. The same principal was used to add a custom-built portal providing self-documentation of key ICT activities, including hardware inventory and life-cycle tracking and monthly backups. In 2017, usage of OneDrive increased by 425 per cent, resulting in increased mobility of staff and improved resilience of the file sharing system.

In May 2017, Rabat hosted the regional management team meeting, which was streamed online to all staff in the region as part of efforts to advocate and support effective use of video- and audio-conferencing.

The migration to Windows 10 was successfully completed by the end of November. UNICEF Morocco reached 100 per cent workstation compliance with the organization hardware standards and became the first office in the region to certify its office profile for Regional Office approval.

UNICEF Morocco continued to collaborate with the Regional Office to build a Regional Dashboard for performance and connectivity monitoring of KPIs.

Year-end ICT survey results indicated 74 per cent extremely satisfied and 26 per cent satisfied users.

**Programme Components from RAM**

**ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS**

**OUTCOME 1** By 2021, inequities in access to quality integrated child health interventions are reduced.

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF Morocco continued to support the Ministry of Health (MoH) and provided technical and financial support to develop an integrated child care policy. This document will be the reference for ensuring equity in access to care. Of note is a strong commitment at the senior level of the MoH and consultation with the local (decentralized) level of the organization of regional workshops with the mobilization of healthcare providers and managers of the different levels of
the pyramid of healthcare provision of the territorial representatives of other cross-sectoral departments. Sixty decision-makers at the decentralized level of the different ministerial departments and civil society took part in these workshops. They discussed the main points of the policy document and the way high-impact, low-cost priority interventions could be adapted to local specificities. The workshops identified key social determinants of health to undertake appropriate measures for ensuring equity in the provision of care for children and to integrate health into the policies of other departments such as education, equipment and transport.

In 2017, for the first time, focus groups were organized with families, children and community members. A total of 602 children and 580 families/community members in eight regions participated in this consultation.

In 2017, UNICEF Morocco supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) disability strategy with respect to ensuring better prevention and early detection of disabilities, especially related to iodine deficiency and to early childhood development. UNICEF Morocco continued to support an action plan targeting the general population's awareness of the use of iodized salt for food and the training of salt producers on the salt iodization process. Five regional advocacy and awareness meetings for salt producers and local decision-makers were organized. A total of 250 representatives of decentralized services of the Ministry of Health of the National Office of Food Safety and salt producers and conditioners were mobilized. Thirty salt production units adopted iodization as a result of UNICEF Morocco's advocacy and benefited from self-check kits to check the iodine in the salt produced. A total of 15,620 newborns benefited from screening for congenital hypothyroidism in the priority regions.

UNICEF Morocco continued to support integrated and quality management of newborns through standardization of essential newborn care, operationalization of the neonatal care network, institutionalization of audit Clinic of stillbirth and neonatal deaths, and supportive supervision. UNICEF Morocco also supported capacity development via e-learning around the recommendations of good medical practices for neonatal complications. MoH capacity was enhanced through the training via e-courses of 183 primary healthcare workers, hospital providers and partners.

MoH capacity was further enhanced through the training of 150 health care providers in clinical audit and 367 in neonatal screening of congenital hypothyroidism. Thirty two community agents were trained on major C4D themes of maternal and child health, in particular early childhood development, the promotion of breastfeeding and the use of iodized salt, and care services and congenital screening for congenital hypothyroidism.

Communication for development sessions organized with a local NGO around the priority themes of maternal and child health provided an opportunity to interact directly with the population and to sensitize 130 women and 62 children.

In 2017 priority was placed on the transfer of competencies from the central level to the regional level in planning. Three hundred local decision-makers from 12 regions were trained on the use of tools to measure and correct inequalities in access to health. Regional task force meetings in priority regions identified territorial inequities, prioritized high-impact and low-cost interventions and advocated with other local partners for coverage indicators.

Challenges included the delay in the appointment of the Government until late May 2017 and the dismissal of the Minister of Health in October 2017 followed by the Secretary-General. The collection of data from the field for the National Health Survey and Nutrition Survey (including
iodine deficiency disorders) were delayed. The delay of the surveys made the availability of data for monitoring indicators of results difficult. UNICEF Morocco advocated to accelerate the completion of these surveys. For the iodine survey, UNICEF supported the test phase of collection and analysis tools to facilitate the implementation of the survey in full.

OUTPUT 1 National capacity to develop an integrated child health policy and its regional action plans based on child rights, the life cycle and inequities in social health determinants is enhanced.

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF Morocco continued to support the Ministry of Health (MoH), providing technical and financial support to develop an integrated child care policy. There was a strong commitment to this policy at the senior level of the MoH and consultation with the local (decentralized) level of the organization of regional workshops with the mobilization of healthcare providers and managers of the different levels of the pyramid of healthcare provision of the territorial representatives of other cross-sectoral departments. Sixty decision-makers at the decentralized level of the different ministerial departments and civil society participated in workshops to discuss the main points of the policy and identify high-impact, low-cost priority interventions adapted to local specificities. The workshops identified key social determinants of health and measures to ensure equity in the provision of care for children. Participants also discussed ways to integrate health into the policies of other departments such as education, equipment and transport.

In 2017, for the first time, focus groups were organized with families, children and community members. A total of 602 children and 580 families/community members in eight regions participated and shared their perceptions of the right to health and the provision of existing care. The results indicated that the areas to be developed included communication for development (C4D), improving access and quality of care across quintiles and age groups.

Challenges included the delay in the appointment of a government until late May 2017 and the dismissal of the Minister of Health in October 2017 followed by the Secretary-General in the development of the document of integrated health child policy.

In 2017, 300 local decision-makers from 12 regions received training on the use of planning and advocacy tools based on the equity matrix (inspired by MoRES). Regional task force meetings in priority regions identified territorial inequities, prioritized high-impact and low-cost interventions and advocated with other local partners with coverage indicators considering the social determinants of health with a cross-cutting approach. The transfer of competencies from the central level to the regional level in planning based on equity and intersectoral work was a priority in 2017.

OUTPUT 2 Institutional local actors and civil society have strengthened capacity to provide standardized low-cost, high-impact interventions in nutrition, integrated childcare and health education in the most deprived regions.

Analytical statement of progress
In 2017, UNICEF Morocco supported the MoH disability strategy. The regions of Casablanca-Settat (representing one-third of the Moroccan population) and Beni-Mellal-Khenifra (one of the poorest regions, with 53,210 expected annual births) were prioritized and equipped in screening for congenital hypothyroidism. A total of 15,620 newborns benefited from neonatal screening for congenital hypothyroidism, exceeding the initial target.

UNICEF Morocco continued to support integrated and quality management of newborns as part of the implementation of the every newborn action plan. Several measures were carried out to make available quality neonatal care for all newborns. Essential newborn care was standardized, an neonatal care network became operational, clinic audits of stillbirth and neonatal deaths were institutionalized and capacity was enhanced via e-learning around the recommendations of good medical practices for the main neonatal complications.

E-learning courses were developed to improve quality of newborn and child care and a total of 183 primary health workers, hospital providers and partners were trained via the MoH e-learning platform.

A total of 150 health care providers were trained in clinical audit and 367 were trained in neonatal screening of congenital hypothyroidism. Thirty two community agents from an established community network received training on communication for development themes related to maternal and child health, in particular early childhood development, breastfeeding, and the use of iodized salt. A total of 756 women benefited from 30 sessions of health education organized at the level of vulnerable communities.

UNICEF Morocco continued to support the promotion of the use of iodized salt and the training of salt producers on iodization processes. Five regional advocacy/awareness meetings for salt producers and local decision-makers were organized. A total of 250 representatives of decentralized services of the MoH, the National Office of Food Safety and salt producers were mobilized. Thirty salt production units adopted iodization due to UNICEF Morocco advocacy and benefited from self-check kits to check the iodine in the salt produced.

More than 98 per cent of Moroccan children received immunization with UNICEF support. UNICEF supported procurement of vaccines, which reduced costs of health services for the system and the people. More than 20 million doses were purchased by Morocco in 2017 at a cost of more than US$6.8 million. Morocco successfully managed the constraints related to the global unavailability of IPV and overcame this challenge without any polio case. New vaccines, including anti-pneumococcal and anti-rotavirus, were added to the vaccines purchased through UNICEF Morocco succeeded in introducing the anti-hepatitis vaccine at birth.

Challenges included the delay in the appointment of Government until late May 2017 and the dismissal of the Minister of Health in October 2017 followed by the Secretary-General. The collection of data from the field for the National Health Survey and Nutrition Survey (including iodine deficiency disorders) was delayed.

**OUTCOME 2** By 2021, education policies and strategies ensure equitable access and completion for the most marginalized in terms of sex, geography and ability.

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF Morocco, in collaboration with Ministry of Education and civil society organizations, made significant contributions in two major strategic sub-sectors of the Morocco education
system: equity in access for all children and quality of education. UNICEF’s leveraging capacity and convening role helped to influence the education system in the areas of inclusive education, pre-learning, out-of-school children, quality of learning through life-skills education and school-based monitoring, UNICEF’s work was recognized by the Government, development partners and UN agencies.

Key results were achieved through the development of strategic documents and frameworks, strengthening of human resources capacity and information systems, and increased availability of curricula and manuals. This work strengthened equity and inclusion in both formal and non-formal education.

In 2017, inclusive education for children with disabilities was upheld through the participation and engagement of multiple stakeholders, development partners, and civil society organizations, led by the MoE. This resulted in greater awareness of the issue and enhanced policy measures to respond to the educational needs of children with disabilities. It also led to adoption of an official national curriculum and organizational framework for inclusive education for disabled children. The curriculum was implemented for primary education in one decentralized region. In 2017, the model was extended to 60 schools, benefiting 19,000 children and building capacities at a decentralized level, both in terms of integration of disabled children in education planning and of capacity building through teacher training.

Through technical support, advocacy and capacity building, the national framework of preschool education was finalized, including training modules for preschool teachers. In 2017 UNICEF supported a final review of the national curriculum and norms frameworks were cleared under universal standards and Convention on the Rights of the Child compliance. Technical support provided to the MoE at decentralized level resulted in development of tools for teachers and piloting of training modules covering 220 preschool teachers and benefiting more than 2,000 children. UNICEF also supported preschool sub-sector planning at decentralized level, enabling the development of decentralized strategies and action plans for extension and quality strengthening of preschool services as a response to the constraints on national scaling up due to lack of budget and a national financial model for preschool education extension at national scale.

In 2017 preschool national enrolment rate decreased, driven by weakened local capacities of monitoring traditional preschool sub sector. In 2018, UNICEF Morocco will support the inclusion of preschool enrolled children within MASSAR (the individualized MoE monitoring system).

Out-of-school children were a priority for UNICEF support to the MoE in 2017. A technical South-South workshop was organized with the participation of three countries from WCA and MENA and resulted in a joint framework of action covering prevention and remediation dimensions. UNICEF launched upstream level support in 2017, including strengthening tracking out-of-school mechanisms and development of an out-of-school information system with decentralized desegregation. Both tracking and monitoring areas of support were included in the MoE action plan and were launched in the fourth quarter of 2017.

Remediation dimension for out-of-school children was targeted through the extension of second-chance school pilots. In 2017, with UNICEF support, 12 second-chance schools were opened in four regions, benefiting approximately 600 adolescents and youth.

UNICEF supported the development of a model aimed at strengthening quality learning (remedial), life skills and the vocational training component, enabling the development of norms
and standards for second chance schools at national-level.

UNICEF Morocco influenced the quality of the education system through strong advocacy to include life skills and citizenship-based education within the national curriculum. This was mainstreamed through extracurricular and curricular channels. A national model of a life skills based counselling program was finalized with UNICEF support and was piloted targeting 1,197 adolescents and youth (1,167 in formal education and 30 in non-formal education). Entrepreneurship was a specific area of intervention with the implementation within one region benefiting 2,396 adolescents and youth and enabling decentralized capacity building both institutional and at school level for mainstreaming extracurricular activities in partnership with NGOs.

UNICEF Morocco’s advocacy with the MoE in 2017 led to the launch of an initiative to mainstream life-skills education and citizenship within the class curriculum through adapted pedagogical methods and approaches. UNICEF supported a technical workshop in December 2017 at which an action plan for lower secondary life skills curriculum development was defined by national and regional teams of experts.

Challenges in 2017 were related to changes in MoE leadership, which impacted defining clear leadership of life skills planning and interventions. UNICEF Morocco strengthened capacities through policy dialogue with the main MoE directorate and using UNICEF MENARO momentum of LSCE Launch to define ownership. This has enabled defining MoE leadership and finalizing technical framework in November with large consultation for launch of implementation in December 2017.

Education governance was supported via INSAF UNICEF MENARO framework, UNICEF Morocco supported strengthening of school-based monitoring at decentralized level. A school-based equity dashboard involving 24 schools was finalized. The model was embedded in the MoE monitoring system and was adopted for a larger system of school-based performance monitoring integrating equity and quality dimensions.

UNICEF supported a training of trainers on school violence. Training within 2016 pilot areas was extended to cover 165 schools, benefiting 10,800 children with safer school environments.

**OUTPUT 1** National partners have enhanced capacity to extend access to preschool, basic and post-basic education to the most vulnerable children.

**Analytical statement of progress**
In collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and civil society, key results were achieved through the development of strategic documents and frameworks, strengthening of human resources capacity and information systems, increasing availability of curricula and manuals, and strengthening of equity and inclusion in both formal and non-formal education.

A national framework of preschool education was finalized, including training modules for preschool teachers. UNICEF Morocco supported a final review of the national curriculum and norms frameworks cleared under universal standards and Convention on the Rights of the Child compliance. Technical support was provided to the MoE at decentralized level to develop tools for teachers and to pilot training modules covering 220 preschool teachers. More than 2,200 children were reached through experimentation of training modules and preschool education tools. UNICEF Morocco supported preschool sub-sector planning at decentralized
level, resulting in the development of decentralized strategies and action plans for extension and quality strengthening of preschool services in the regions of Sous-Massa, Tanger-Tetouan-Al Hoceima and Oriental.

In partnership with the MoE at decentralized level and a major NGO, a parental education kit was developed under a participatory approach covering 3-6 age range and targeting preschool teachers in vulnerable areas. In 2017, the kit was for national level advocacy enabling mobilization of several ministries (Social Development and Education) resulting in greater awareness about social demand side interventions and including parental education as Ministry of Social Development priority.

Out-of-school children were a priority for UNICEF MoE support. A technical South-South workshop was organized with the participation of three countries from WCA and MENA that resulted in a joint framework of action covering prevention and remediation dimensions. UNICEF launched upstream support including strengthening the tracking mechanisms for out-of-school children and development of an out-of-school information system with decentralized desegregation. Both tracking and monitoring areas of support were included in the MoE action plan and were launched in the fourth quarter of 2017.

The remediation dimension for out-of-school children was targeted through the extension of second chance school pilots. With UNICEF Morocco support, eight second chance schools were opened in three regions, benefiting approximately 500 adolescents and youth. UNICEF supported development of a model aimed at strengthening quality learning (remedial), life skills and vocational training, enabling the development of norms and standards for second chance schools at national level.

Inclusive education modeling for primary education was officially adopted by the MoE. UNICEF supported capacity development at decentralized level to extend inclusive education implementation to 60 schools in 2017, benefiting 19,000 children. A training of trainers helped expand the model to two other regions under a national action plan of extension of inclusive education targeting access, learning and achievement. Furthermore, planning capacities have been targeted to develop specific decentralized strategy and action plan with cross sectoral contribution and participation targeting 726 primary schools for 2018.

**OUTPUT 2** National partners have increased capacity to provide quality learning through life skills education.

**Analytical statement of progress**
UNICEF Morocco worked to improve quality learning through life-skills education in secondary schools via a range of channels, stakeholders, and partners, including the counselling system, improvement of teaching methods and approaches within classes, and development of extra-curricular activities.

Six counselling programs were finalized in 2017, aimed at building children’s life projects, career counselling and inter-cycle transition. In cooperation with the MoE’s Centre National des Examens, de l’Evaluation et de l’Orientation (CNEEO), programmes were piloted and reached 1,197 adolescents and youth in formal education (626 girls). The pilot programmes were ready for expansion to the four regions targeted by UNICEF Morocco. The programmes mainly focus on supporting young people in the development of their professional and personal projects, but also implement activities aimed at strengthening young people’s skills, with a focus on both
instrumental (cooperation, negotiation, decision-making) and individual (communication, self-managements) dimensions.

In 2017 UNICEF Morocco advocated for the integration of LSCE within the national curriculum, strengthened and supported by the MENA LSCE initiative. As a first step, an internal MoE technical workshop for class curriculum LSCE development was organized in December 2017, under the lead of MoE curriculum division. Teams of MoE subject experts were created and a national technical committee was developed, along with a life skills action plan for lower-secondary curriculum in four regions. Teachers, head-of-schools and children participated in the process, along with NGOs. TVET and the Ministry of Youth were integrated as national consultation partners. As both counseling and extracurricular divisions were part of the national life-skills technical committee, creating bridges between extra-curricular activities and class curriculum.

In partnership with civil society, UNICEF Morocco supported the implementation of programs within secondary schools in vulnerable areas aimed at strengthening school-to-work transition of adolescents and youth. In 2017, 2,396 adolescents and youth (2,366 in formal education and 30 in non-formal) benefited from entrepreneurship training and life-skills competencies modules. Specific programs for non-formal education were under development.

UNICEF Morocco provided technical expertise to national partners for LSCE interventions, ensuring coherence of initiatives under UNICEF MENA regional framework. A total of 3,593 adolescents and youth were reached by LSCE programmes (2,366 in formal education, 30 in non-formal). This represents about half of the 2017 target. Changes in MoE leadership impacted the national and decentralized agendas. Changes in decentralized staff required more focus on capacity development of new teams. UNICEF Morocco strengthened its policy dialogue with the main MoE directorates and used the momentum of the MENA LSCE Launch to define vision and ownership for the next steps of the project.

**OUTPUT 3** The education system has strengthened capacity to implement school-based monitoring and action that improves equitable access, completion and school-to-work transition.

**Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017 UNICEF supported MoE at decentralized level to pilot a school-based monitoring system for equity under the Institutions Nationale de Solidarité avec les Femmes (INSAF) initiative. A monitoring framework was developed with school-level stakeholders’ participation that included equity and quality dimensions. The framework was piloted in 24 targeted schools covering 720 children in the most vulnerable areas and was then extended to 24 additional schools due to strong local demand, mainly from head of schools, to develop schools’ capacities for monitoring. A district approach was applied in six districts, including all schools in the targeted districts instead of selected ones. Initial results showed a positive response by heads of schools toward clarity and simplification of monitoring at school level and enhancing participation of school stakeholders in all stages, from planning to execution and evaluation. The monitoring framework was embedded in the MoE monitoring system (MASSAR) and adopted at central MoE level for further development to simplify school dashboard performance indicators and implement them as an overall monitoring system of school performance.

The INSAF initiative supported development of a gender-based pilot to tackle girls’ access to and retention in secondary school. A programme covering 47 primary and secondary schools in Marrakech region was implemented targeting girls, parents and school administrators and
teachers. Interventions included mobilization of parents and communities, raising awareness of girls’ education completion and specific programmes of primary-to-secondary school transition and activities within schools with adolescent girls and their families. Attendance and retention rates for girls increased on average by 20 percent in all targeted schools.

The national action plan to end school violence, developed with UNICEF support in 2016, was extended through a training of trainers’ national program covering all decentralized MoE regions. The approach was implemented in 165 primary and secondary schools, benefiting 10,800 children.

A disaster risk reduction school-based kit was piloted in one region. The kit included tools for school-based simulation and was shared by MoE with targeted schools within identified ‘at risk’ locations.

OUTCOME 3 By 2021, national policies and systems better protect children deprived of family protection in line with international norms and the National Integrated Child Protection Policy.

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF Morocco started implementing the new Country Programme Document (CPD) 2017-2021, which aims to strengthen the protective environment through critical investment in national systems and support for social services and infrastructure. The CPD 2017-2021 is also aligned with key national priorities. It allows for smooth implementation of the national child protection policy (PPIPEM), which highlights the importance of strengthening the social workforce as part of the effort to standardize the offer of services, the structures and practices required for systemic identification, case management and appropriate follow up of child victims of violence.

UNICEF Morocco worked at multiple levels to prevent and respond to violence against children and to address their vulnerability. New partnerships were developed in 2017 with international cooperation agencies, academia and religious communities to support access of children to judicial mechanisms and to child protection systems and to reinforce the tracking of child rights violations. Targeted territorial interventions demonstrated the importance of inter-sectoral integration and coordination among subnational and local stakeholders, to capitalize on their essential role and to ensure greater consistency and convergence of their efforts and to accelerate outreach to the most disadvantaged.

The programme ‘Himaya - Better Justice for Children to Justice’, achieved significant accomplishments in the jurisdictions of Tangiers, Fez, Marrakech, and Casablanca, developing appropriate services, specialized structures, and coordinating mechanisms to improve the implementation of procedures and measures applicable to children in contact with the law. With the leadership of the Ministry of Justice, UNICEF Morocco supported the cross-sectoral dynamics and mobilization at the level of courts to develop a common vision and practical tools that helped elaborate action plans building on evidence-based priorities and ways to refer children to the suitable services, and offers of care and reintegration. The Ministry of Justice intends to expand this practice model to all jurisdictions in the country. UNICEF Morocco also supported tailored training for justice professionals on applicable law and human rights standards, including in relation to juvenile justice. Technical guidance was provided to begin training that reinforced the capacity of children in detention to facilitate their resilience and their social and economic inclusion upon their release.
A foster family model was piloted for children in conflict with the law in Taroudant and Agadir, in close coordination with the AMANE Foundation and the Ministry of Justice. The model was designed to prevent detention and to promote diversion from formal judicial proceedings for the child offender. The interventions at the level of the courts and in the community strengthened the collaboration between justice professionals and social workers, including through local community-based organisations and institutional actors to identify and mentor volunteers’ families and children. The first phase of work included raising awareness among various stakeholders, especially justice actors and the community, about the importance of family and the institutional harm on children deprived of family care and protection. The project also included capacity building for regional social workers, in courts and in NGOs, with regard to foster care mechanisms. The pilot will identify and capitalize on existing best practices related to foster care and contribute to deinstitutionalization of the child protection measures in general.

UNICEF Morocco launched a pilot to promote positive role models and civic engagement among vulnerable children and adolescents, in collaboration with the Rabita Mohammedia des Oulemas (faith-based organizations) and the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Through the project, UNICEF Morocco contributed to creating community-based recreational services that respond to the special needs and concerns of adolescents at social risk of exclusion. To date, 100 adolescents benefited from tailored training on leadership, digital engagement and nonviolent communication. An interactive website was created and animated by adolescents themselves to spread messages on tolerance and the value of citizenship. UNICEF Morocco collaborated with the University of Education Sciences to develop a life skills manual for psychosocial stability and self-management, and inter-personal social skills for communicating and interacting effectively with others, such as, conflict resolution skills. Future plans include trainings for professionals, advocacy, and family support services.

Despite the progress registered, some constraints remained. Institutional capacity development, especially with Ministry of Solidarity, continued to be a challenge. Access to specialised child protection expertise caused considerable delays in completing ongoing workplans.

**OUTPUT 1** National capacity to apply child- friendly proceedings, alternatives to detention and diversion in line with international norms is enhanced.

**Analytical statement of progress**
UNICEF Morocco focused its support in 2017 on increasing access of children (including victims, witnesses, and children at risk or involved in administrative or civil proceedings) to protective justice aligned with international standards. Five jurisdictions were supported to develop appropriate services, specialized structures, and coordinating mechanisms to improve the implementation of procedures and measures applicable to children in contact with the law. Despite some delays in implementation, the number of children benefiting from alternatives to detention and diversion increased from 7,000 in 2014 to 8,600 in 2017 in the five jurisdictions targeted by the project.

UNICEF-Morocco conducted field visits and coordination workshops that equipped diverse stakeholders with a common vision and practical tools, including a result matrix with specified indicators, to coordinate their interventions. Regional and local coordination committee action plans were connected to the unit of the court in charge of children and women, building on evidence-based priorities and possibilities for referring children to suitable services and offers of care and reintegration. In Fez, a regional workshop was conducted to initiate the identification of performance indicators to track and assess the integration of the international standards and to
improve the governance, efficiency and effectiveness of the justice services that address civil and family affairs.

UNICEF Morocco worked with UNICEF NY Headquarters to ensure adaptation and deployment of an information system related to the customization and implementation of the child protection system ‘Primero’ in the Moroccan courts, and to be connected to the different child protection units and custody. Likewise, UNICEF Morocco supported the establishment of five child friendly spaces within courts to create a non-threatening atmosphere for victims and to promote favourable conditions for reception, hearing and investigation.

UNICEF Morocco conducted trainings to influence the quality of the services provided by 450 professionals (including judges, prosecutors, police social workers, educators, detention officers and probation officers). Themes covered included applicable law and human rights standards, including in relation to juvenile justice, modalities and technics of communication and development of life skills project for children in difficult situations.

UNICEF Morocco also supported the Ministry of Justice to produce evidence on the application of child justice standards through qualitative and quantitative studies on justice. These included studies on Strengthening Administrative and Legal Procedures in Kafala; a Child and Family Satisfaction Survey on the Effectiveness of the Child Justice System; and an exploratory study on the social profile of children in contact with the law in Morocco. The assessment of the initial training of justice professionals and the study on the application of the best interest principal in jurisprudence were launched.

**OUTPUT 2** National and local partners have increased capacity to provide systematic identification, case management and appropriate follow-up of child victims or children at risk.

**Analytical statement of progress**
The first year of the CPD was challenging for both UNICEF Morocco and the Ministry of Solidarity, Family, Equality and Social Development (MFSEDS), the primary actor in charge of the coordination of the national child protection policy. UNICEF Morocco supported the process of elaborating integrated action plans to implement the policy and contributed to mobilising funds for the implementation of policy. UNICEF enhanced strategic partnerships, including with the EU, to engage with the MFSEDS to address challenges in the national child protection policy, namely, the creation of local/territorial child protection systems at the provincial level.

UNICEF Morocco coordinated with the EU support to reinforce local child protection systems in three provinces. UNICEF Morocco supported the mapping of child protection systems at provincial level, and the creation of feasible models for potential replication.

As a part of the cooperation between Morocco and the Government of Belgium, UNICEF Morocco mobilised financial support for the MFSEDS to operationalize Objective 4 of the integrated public policy of child protection (PPIPEM), which concerns the promotion of protective social norms for children.

During the initial phase of the project in 2017, major efforts were made on agreement-making and interventions design, technical framing and planning, and the establishment of governance mechanisms. There were some delays in the implementation of the workplan, but results are expected to be seen in 2018. The main achievements in 2017 included a training workshop on social standards for members of the enlarged steering committee that targeted almost 20 departments and 5 NGOs; and progress in the design and planning of activities, including
development and terms of reference for a knowledge, attitudes and practice (KAP) study on social norms. The possibility of a national study on violence against children was discussed, a communication for development training programme was organized, and a programme to promote positive parenting was designed.

The main challenges facing the ongoing implementation of the action plan included the sensitivity of the area of work and delays in decision-making by the main partner.

In order to tackle domestic minor work, and in some extent gender-based violence and abandonment of children born out of wedlock, UNICEF Morocco developed a partnership with a national NGO’s to support young minor girls who were exploited in or at risk of domestic labour to reintegrate with their families and continue their education or vocational training. The programme built social workers’ capacity to identify those vulnerable girls, develop and implement appropriate development plans and follow up with their families.

**OUTPUT 3** Independent institutions, government and civil society have strengthened capacity to monitor child rights in line with international norms.

**Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, UNICEF-Morocco collaborated with the National Council for Human Rights (CNDH) and Inter-Ministerial Delegation for Human Rights to establish and reinforce independent child-sensitive monitoring mechanisms with a clear mandate to regularly receive and address individual complaints of alleged violations of children’s rights.

Collaboration between UNICEF Morocco and the CNDH significantly contributed to establishing independent mechanisms for children’s rights through three strategic and interconnected interventions. UNICEF Morocco supported elaboration of an internal reference document/guidance that defined the mission, structure, modality of governance and functioning of the appeal mechanism. The document will inform the process of integration of the expected mechanism with the current structure of CNDH. This process was developed through internal workshops involving operational staff, key members of the board and resource persons of the CNDH. An experts’ workshop will be held in early 2018 to allow for the participation of the new members of the board and to validate the guidance based on concrete international benchmarking.

UNICEF Morocco provided technical support to the National Institute for Human Rights to develop training programmes on the monitoring and reporting of children’s rights. The Institute hosted three training workshops that targeted the operational staff of the three subnational committees of the CRDH on techniques for listening to child victims of rights violations; child right based techniques to monitor national policy and the roles of the INDH in monitoring the violation of child rights. The Institute also organised specific training sessions for 145 child rights focal points, newly recruited by the ‘Entraide Nationale’, for 10 psychologists of the National Delegation for the Penitential Administration and for 17 directors of child protection centres pertaining to Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Thirteen subnational consultations involving 500 children were carried out by the CNDH subnational committees to inform children about the context of the protection of their rights, allow them to freely express their views and perceptions on the exercise of their rights and involve them as key actors in the development, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of CRDH regional workplans and in the process of setting up the complaint mechanism.
In collaboration with the Inter-ministerial Delegation for Human Rights, UNICEF Morocco supported strengthening the coordination and synergy of NGOs in terms of children’s rights monitoring. With UNICEF Morocco’s support, the delegation implemented a tailored capacity building programme that allowed, inter alia, design of a plan of action to monitor and report on the realization of children’s rights in the regions of Tangiers-Tétouan El Hoceima and Fes – Meknes.

**OUTPUT 4** National capacity to provide alternative care and deinstitutionalization of children is enhanced based on agreed standards and guidelines.

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF Morocco promoted alternatives to institutionalization and reinforced social workers’ capabilities in providing family support and counselling services, and, within residential institutions, supported controls to ensure compliance of services. In 2017, under the leadership of the Ministry of Solidarity, in close coordination with the Direction of National Solidarity (Entraide-Nationale), UNICEF Morocco supported a specialized child protection officer training, evidence generation on social work forces and alternative care standards and NGOs to promote alternatives to institutionalisation.

In collaboration with UNICEF Morocco, the Ministry of Solidarity launched a study on a job competencies framework for social workers. An intermediate report was developed and the study will be issued in the first quarter of 2018. The study will support the assessment of the existing responses on the basis of international standards in order to measure their level of compliance. It is also expected to elaborate a national legislative framework that defines the profiles, required competencies and means for control and accreditation for social workers, in parallel to the ongoing reinforcement of the other components of the national system and institution-wide resources.

In preparation for the training program that will accompany the social work framework and in partnership with the national agency in charge of social care structures, UNICEF Morocco developed a training programme for newly recruited child protection local focal points to reinforce their capacity in terms of basic case work processes and tools, child development essentials, child protection legal framework, communication, conflict management and mediation. The trainings focused on vulnerable target groups, including children living on the streets, victims of sexual abuse and migrants’ and refugees’ children. Essential concepts and tools were translated to Arabic for a better use.

To improve sustainably the quality of child protection structures, including care centres quality standardizing care and protection, UNICEF, in partnership with the social department ministry recruited a group of consultants to realize a national study on the Standardization of Child Protection Facilities, Services and Practices in Morocco. An international consultancy firm contacted to undertake the study was replaced by a national team to ensure consistent implication of the national and local stakeholders in the process of elaboration of the standards.

National capacity to provide alternative care and deinstitutionalization of children was enhanced based on agreed upon standards and guidelines. As a first step in social care reform, UNICEF Morocco, in partnership with the national agency in charge of social care structures, prepared a conceptual framework and tools for the pilot’s identification, development and follow up for family strengthening youth care leaving programs. Both the framework and tools were
aligned with the UN alternative care guidelines.

**OUTCOME 4** By 2021, child poverty and well-being are regularly monitored, and social policies, especially social protection systems, are strengthened to favour the social inclusion of vulnerable girls and boys at the national and decentralized levels.

**Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, for the first time, Morocco officially released data on multidimensional child poverty, enriching the social policy national debate with evidence from the study produced via collaboration between the National Observatory of Human Development (ONDH), the Ministry of Family, Solidarity, Equality and Social Development (MFSESD) and UNICEF Morocco. The key messages and results from the study were announced by the Minister of Social Development in the opening session of the International Conference on Child Poverty in MENA: from measurement to policy action, and received important mentions on national media.

The study was based on the ‘Multidimensional Overlapping Deprivation Analysis’ approach, developed by the UNICEF Office of Research, and adapted to the context of Morocco in a national stakeholder meeting held in January. The staff of ONDH and line ministries were trained on the methodology to enable them to regularly update the measurement of child poverty. The child poverty indicator developed by ONDH and MFSESD, with UNICEF’s technical support, is a candidate for monitoring SDG 1.2 on multidimensional poverty. National and subnational dissemination of the study is planned for 2018.

The conference on ‘Child Poverty in MENA’, held in Rabat in May, was the first event of this type focusing on child poverty in the region. The results of the Moroccan study on child poverty were released at the conference. The conference also provided an occasion for South-South exchange and consolidation of international partnerships. Approximately 200 representatives of governments, statistical offices, UNICEF country offices and academia from MENA and other regions participated to the conference. The conference ended with a final communiqué which summarizes the major recommendations that emerged from the debate, supporting the routinization of the child poverty measurement and the importance of developing policy-relevant indicators and analysis to correctly inform and influence national programmes and policies. UNICEF Morocco and the UNICEF MENA Regional Offices provided technical and financial support for the conference, and engaged with ONDH and other Moroccan partners in its organization.

UNICEF Morocco advocated for the reform of social protection, which was confirmed among the policy priorities of the new Government of Morocco in April. A new joint programme on the ‘Harmonization and the Evaluation of Social Policy’ between the UN and the Ministry of General Affairs and Governance (MAGG) was assigned in October, including an outcome designed with UNICEF’s inputs on the development of the child-sensitive social protection strategy and programmes.

The Government of Morocco and the EU Delegation signed an agreement in December to support social protection reform over 2018-2020, based on the Vision and the Social Protection mapping done by the MAGG with UNICEF. The EU entered into a partnership with UNICEF to support its activities with the MAGG for the elaboration of the child-sensitive social protection strategy and the development and the implementation of a harmonized social transfer program for poor and vulnerable children. The EU partnership also supports the work with ONDH for the evaluation and evidence generation on social protection and children.
In 2017 efforts with the ONDH, the Moroccan Association for the Evaluation (AME) and MAGG promoted the culture and practice of policy evaluation. The fourth edition of the Moroccan Evaluation Week was organized by the AME with supported from UNICEF.

UNICEF worked closely with the Ministry of Economy and Finance to finalize the terms a new strategic partnership on Public Finance for Children (PF4C) in line with the ongoing public finance reform. The partnership covers the period of 2018-2021 and aims to support Morocco in the operationalization of the General Comment No.19 to the CRC on public spending and children's rights. Initially expected to start in 2017, the execution of the workplan was delayed by one year due to the long government transition and the preparation of the budget law of the new Government. The workplan for 2018 includes the production of a costing study on public pre-primary education and a capacity building initiative on PF4C for staff of line ministries.

UNICEF completed a participatory project of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in schools in disadvantaged and under-served areas, proposing a model of action to be replicated by the local communities. More than 4,000 students of pre-primary and primary schools in the Province of Zagora benefited from the enhanced WASH infrastructure and a hygiene awareness campaign.

Delays in signing the partnership between the General Direction of Local Communities (DGCL) and UNICEF resulted in limited progress being made in 2017 in the areas of supporting the child sensitive local planning and regionalization. The new workplan of expected outcomes by April 2018 includes a scoping study on opportunities for UNICEF engagement in the advanced regionalization process. The study’s results will contribute to reshape UNICEF’s work with DGCL, regions, provinces and communes in the new decentralization framework of Morocco.

OUTPUT 1 Data and analytical evidence on child wellbeing, multidimensional poverty and vulnerability, disaggregated by sex, geographical areas and disability status, are regularly available to inform policy and monitor progress towards the child-relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

Analytical statement of progress
Updated statistics and analysis on child poverty were produced by the National Observatory of Human Development (ONDH) and the Ministry of Family, Solidarity, Equality and Social Development (MFSESD) with UNICEF support. This was the first time that the Government released child-centred multidimensional and monetary poverty data, disaggregated by geographical location, gender and socio-economic conditions. The report ‘Profile of child poverty in Morocco’ was based on the Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis approach (MODA), whose parameters were adapted to the Moroccan context in a stakeholder meeting held in January. UNICEF supported the whole initiative, including training on the methodology of ONDH staff, and contributed to the report drafting. The results were presented by the Minister of Social Development during the opening session of the conference on ‘Child Poverty in Middle East and North Africa (MENA): from measurement to policy action’, and again by the ONDH staff during a technical session at the conference. Dissemination of the study results is planned for 2018.

The international conference on ‘Child Poverty in MENA’, held in May, was organized by the ONDH and UNICEFMorocco and the MENA Regional Office. The conference aimed to promote exchanges of experiences and collaboration in producing evidence to inform policies against
child poverty, and contribute to Morocco’s South-South cooperation strategy. Approximately 200 representatives of governments, statistical offices, UNICEF country offices and academia from MENA and other regions participated in the conference. The conference ended with a final communique which summarized the recommendations that emerged from the debate supporting the routinization of the child poverty measurement (including for a timely monitoring of SDG 1.2) and the importance of developing policy-relevant analysis to inform national policies.

In 2017, the ONDH’s territorial information system was generalized to the 12 regions of Morocco. This system reflects indicators on children and was supported by the joint-programme between the ONDH and the United Nations, including UNICEF.

In May, new data on maternal mortality was released by the Ministry of Health, with initial results of the National Survey on Population and Family Health (NSPFH) 2017. The survey was supported by UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO and the Arab League. A complete set of child indicators on health, nutrition, protection and water and sanitation will be available in 2018.

Key indicators on children were widely disseminated for Children’s International Day. Major national media, including the newspaper L’Economiste, the weekly Telquel and the public TV channel 2M, published the contents of the UNICEFMorocco data brief, featuring statistics on child health, nutrition, education, protection and poverty. The data brief, the results of the NSPFH-2017 and those of MODA will be the core of the Situation Analysis update in 2018.

UNICEF supported the organization of the fourth edition of the Moroccan Evaluation Week, promoted by the Moroccan Association of Evaluation. More than 140 evaluation professionals from Morocco and countries from Africa and Middle East took participated in seminars and capacity building initiatives.

OUTPUT 2 Public expenditure in social sectors is regularly monitored to ensure adequacy, efficiency and equity for children needs.

Analytical statement of progress
In 2017, constrained progress was registered in the public finance for children domain due to the delay in the signature of the partnership between UNICEF and the Ministry of Economic and Finance, the implementing partner for this result.

The political transition for the formation of the new Government took six months and the preparation of the first budget law postponed signing of the workplan between the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MoEF) and UNICEF. The collaboration, which was originally planned to start in 2017, will now begin in 2018. During 2017, a series of meetings took place to refine the partnership objectives at national and decentralized levels, to adjust them over a period of four years (2018-2021) and to better focus on concrete results (for example, on the financing of preschool education) as recommended by the Minister of Finance in a meeting with the UNICEF management.

The workplan for 2018 includes the production of a costing study on public pre-primary education, a training of staff of line ministries on the principles and practices of Public Finance for Children (aligned with the implementation of the reform of public finance started in 2016), and a South-South cooperation initiative to allow for exchange of experiences between Morocco
and countries at similar levels of development.

The partnership project with the MoEF was presented by UNICEF Morocco at the international Seminar on 'Investing in Children', which took place in Buenos Aires in October. Participation in the seminar gave international visibility to Morocco’s work on public finance for children (PF4C) and represented an important networking opportunity with countries that are more advanced in the field.

OUTPUT 3 National partners have enhanced capacities to ensure that national social protection system provides appropriate response to vulnerable children's needs.

Analytical statement of progress
The new Moroccan Government, which entered into function in April 2017, confirmed the reform of social protection among its priorities, assigning to the Ministry of General Affairs and Governance (MAGG) a coordinating role. In October, the United Nations signed the second phase (2017-2021) of the Joint Programme with the MAGG on the ‘Harmonization and Evaluation of Public Policies’, which includes support to child-friendly social protection reform.

The visibility of childhood issues in the plans for social protection reform was the result of advocacy conducted by UNICEF Morocco. The first phase of the Joint Programme, completed in June 2017, elaborated a child-sensitive social protection vision and a mapping of social protection interventions in Morocco. UNICEF had a central role in the preparation of these two documents, which were being published for wide use in national public debate. This will begin in the first quarter of 2018 with a series of thematic workshops and will conclude with a National Meeting on Social Protection in the last quarter of 2018. UNICEF Morocco provided financial and technical supported for the final edition of the background documentation and contributed to the preparation of draft terms of reference for the thematic workshops and the National Meeting.

In December, the European Union signed an agreement with the Government of Morocco to provide financial support to Social Protection reform and identified UNICEF as a partner in this reform process. A funding agreement for a period of three years was signed in December 2017 between the European Delegation in Morocco and UNICEF to support the implementation of a series of strategic activities that UNICEF will conduct with the MAGG and the ONDH to contribute to social protection reform. The programmatic activities covered by this funding agreement will start in February 2018.

In October, the technical staff of MAGG and UNICEF Morocco presented the key results of the social protection mapping, the main elements of the child-friendly social protection vision and the plans for the preparation of the national social protection strategy at the Social, Economic and Environmental Council of Morocco (ECES). The meeting, organized by the ECES, included the participation of representatives of different social and economic categories and unions, and its discussions will be reflected in an ECES series report, with recommendations for the development of national social protection strategy.

OUTPUT 4 Capacities of subnational institutions are enhanced for child-sensitive and participatory social policy planning to support vulnerable girls and boys.

Analytical statement of progress
As part of its engagement in supporting local planning and programming at decentralized level, in 2015 UNICEF Morocco began a participatory project of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in schools in disadvantaged and under-served areas, to propose a model of action to be replicated by the local communities. As a result, 4,103 students (2,160 boys and 1,943 girls) and the staff of 19 schools in three mostly rural communes in the province of Zagora (South-East Morocco) benefited from upgraded WASH infrastructures in their schools and a hygiene and environment awareness campaign aimed at supporting the correct utilization of the latrines and the spread hygiene behaviours, including handwashing. The intervention responded to the large inadequacy of WASH in school infrastructure in the region, especially in remote areas.

The facilities were designed to reflect the views of the beneficiaries (students, school staff, and students’ parents) collected through a series of participatory workshops. The infrastructure work (latrines, WC for individuals with disabilities, washbasins, water towers) was completed in June. A total of 103 sessions on hygiene, waste management and environment, handwashing and menstrual hygiene were conducted for students in November, using an awareness package adapted from a pre-existing tool developed by the Belgian Development Agency. The capacity of the local staff of the Ministry of Education and of the Province was enhanced to plan and carry out the awareness campaign. A sustainability plan for refreshing the awareness campaign at the beginning of every school year was elaborated and is part of the project documentation available to all partners.

The WASH in Schools project was implemented by the Province of Zagora, in coordination with the provincial education sector, in partnership with UNICEF Morocco and the General Direction of Local Communities (DGCL) of the Ministry of Interior. UNICEF Morocco provided financial support and contributed to the planning and execution of the participatory workshops as well as to monitoring the infrastructure work and to organizing the awareness campaign.

The late signature (in October) of the workplan between the DGCL and UNICEF meant there was limited progress in the areas of child sensitive local planning, including support to the regionalization process. The delays in signature and execution of the workplan were due to concurrent priorities in the action of the partner engaged in adapting the provisions of the new legislation of the advanced regionalization to the three decentralized levels (regions, provinces, and communes).

The workplan expected outcomes by April 2018 include completion and release of a training package for the preparation of the communal action plans (including participation, evidence generation and focusing on the access to basic social services), the preparation of a plan for the generalization of the Communal Information System (version 4, supported by UNICEF), and the realization of a consultation on the opportunities for UNICEF engagement in the advanced regionalization process. The results of the consultation will contribute to reshape UNICEF Morocco’s engagement with DGCL, regions, provinces and communes in the new decentralization framework of Morocco.

### Document centre

#### Evaluation and research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sequence Number</th>
<th>Type of Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study on Kafala</td>
<td>2017/002</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profil de la pauvreté des enfants au Maroc</td>
<td>2017/001</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other publications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Document Type/Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Le cadre référentiel de l’Education Inclusive</td>
<td>Other publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valise de sensibilisation à l’hygiène du projet de mise à niveau des infrastructures d’eau potable, d’assainissement et d’hygiène dans les écoles</td>
<td>Other publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Résumé statistique – UNICEF Maroc</td>
<td>Other publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Poverty in the Middle East and North Africa: from Measurement to Action– Conference Report</td>
<td>Other publications</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lessons learned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Type/Category</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesson Learned</td>
<td>Coordinated actions towards the institutionalization of child poverty measurement in Morocco</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Programme documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Type</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPD</td>
<td>Morocco CPD 2012-2016</td>
<td>Morocco CPD 2012-2016.doc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDAF</td>
<td>Morocco UNDAF 2012 - 2016</td>
<td>Morocco_UNDAF_2012-2016.pdf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>