Executive summary

During this first year of its new country programme UNICEF Mozambique delivered solid results in a challenging fiscal environment and with multiple, overlapping humanitarian emergencies.

In terms of the situation of children in Mozambique, the continuing financial crisis and associated donor concerns severely constrained the available fiscal space which, in turn, affected the provision of services. There were stock-outs of critical drugs and a reduction of investments in basic social services. In addition, the HIV national prevalence rate increased from 11 per cent to 13 per cent, with adolescent girls the fastest growing group in terms of new infections. In education, the second National Learning Assessment resulted in a further deterioration of basic literacy at grade three from 6.3 per cent to 4.9 per cent.

In terms of key results delivered, UNICEF Mozambique’s support to various humanitarian emergencies was noteworthy. Following confirmation of a polio case in Zambézia, UNICEF supplied and distributed vaccines and supported social mobilization for two rounds of vaccination which reached 534,000 children.

UNICEF continued the El Niño drought response which resulted in: the screening of 503,697 children for acute malnutrition and treatment of 34,440 malnourished children; and the provision of safe water to 42,200 people in 94 drought-affected communities. In addition, UNICEF worked with partners to integrate and improve the food and nutrition security seasonal assessments to include robust nutrition assessments. This allowed Mozambique to generate an integrated phase classification for nutrition for the first time.

UNICEF Mozambique's support after Cyclone Dineo benefitted over 44,655 school children through 57 learning spaces, 96 schools-in-a-box, 15,000 learner kits as well as emergency repairs of 163 classrooms with cyclone resilient roofing.

With the Ministry of Health and civil society organization (CSO) partners, UNICEF helped to bring health services closer to rural communities and enrolled 1,355 new community health workers (44 per cent female), thereby increasing the coverage of remote communities from 46 per cent to 64 per cent.

In the area of public finance for children, UNICEF produced four sectoral budget briefs, a citizen budget and a Budget Memo on the 2018 budget proposal aimed at advocating for the protection of social services. As a result of the intense advocacy with Government, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Parliament and civil society, the cuts proposed in the budget proposal were mitigated, particularly in the area of teacher hiring.

In terms of management results, UNICEF Mozambique focused on improving office effectiveness and efficiency by conducting a full workload analysis and a review of the internal collaboration mechanisms between programmes, operations and provincial offices. The establishment and staffing of two co-located offices in Nampula and Zambézia were completed,
all recommendations of the 2016 UNICEF ESARO peer review exercise were closed, and the human resource function and capacity was reviewed. UNICEF Mozambique finalized a new resource mobilization strategy to guide fundraising in the new country programme and a business operations strategy for the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) was endorsed in March 2017 by the United Nations Country Team.

In external communications, UNICEF reached almost nine million people through various digital assets in Mozambique.

In terms of collaborative partnerships, UNICEF Mozambique supported the design of the Global Financing Facility’s Investment Case. The collective expertise of development partners, civil society and the private sector was used to agree on a common direction for improving the health of women and children. The priorities are being financed from the national budget, complemented by a health common fund, the World Bank, and other donors.

In consultation with partners, a study on innovative financing for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) was conducted to assess the potential to create a Development Impact Fund to support accelerated infrastructure development in small towns. The feasibility study identified the potential to create a US$100 million blended-fund targeting 30 small towns to reach 450,000 people.

UNICEF Mozambique also finalized three United Nations (UN) joint programmes with a combined programmable amount of approximately US$30 million. These three joint programmes – in health with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO), social protection with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and nutrition with the World Food Programme (WFP) – were the result of complex discussions with both UN and donor partners.

In terms of programmatic shortfalls, the Government delayed approving the Social Protection Decree which hampered remodelling of different social protection programmes, including design of the child grant. With high-level advocacy from UNICEF and donors, it is hoped the Decree will be approved in 2018.

In addition, the development of a rural sanitation strategy was delayed, as it required reaching consensus between several ministries. The consultation phase has started, and UNICEF Mozambique will continue to prioritise this area in 2018.

**Humanitarian assistance**

In 2017 Mozambique faced several overlapping humanitarian situations. The El Nino drought emergency continued to affect the food and nutrition security of 2.1 million people in seven provinces up to the harvest in April/May. In February, Cyclone Dineo hit Inhambane province, affecting over 550,000 people, damaging over 2,000 classrooms and disrupting education for over 160,000 children. Cholera outbreaks occurred in the provinces of Nampula and Tete, as well as in Maputo city, resulting in 3,418 cases with five deaths. Following the detection of a polio case in Zambezia province, an emergency vaccination campaign was organized in districts across three provinces.

UNICEF Mozambique was involved in responding to all these situations and provided cluster leadership in WASH, nutrition, education and protection. Surge capacity (including deployments from the UNICEF headquarters standby partnerships) was deployed to support cluster
coordination and information management, as well as strengthening UNICEF’s own emergency response.


In nutrition, UNICEF Mozambique supported strengthening the Technical Secretariat for Food and Nutrition Security (SETSAN) assessments. This resulted in full integration of nutrition component and development of the integrated food security phase classification analysis, thereby helping ensure data informs longer-term resilient interventions. Support was provided to 265 out-reach teams (mobile brigades) for screening more than 419,000 children under the age of five and treating 7,499 children with severe acute malnutrition and 26,941 children with moderate acute malnutrition. Additionally, UNICEF reached 160,555 women who were pregnant or lactating with infant young child feeding services.

In WASH, UNICEF Mozambique provided 60,000 bottles of Certeza, a household water purification solution, and fuel to run backup generators and restore quick access to water following Cyclone Dineo. A total of 7,651 families received hygiene kits and close to 30,000 people benefitted from emergency rehabilitation of two water supply systems in Inhambane and Maxixe.

As part of the El Niño response, 42,200 persons (52 per cent female) in 94 communities gained improved access to safe water. This was through the upgrading of multi-functional, solar-powered drought resilient water points or the rehabilitation of boreholes to reach deeper aquifers, thereby building resilience to future droughts. An additional 58,080 people were reached through sanitation and hygiene promotion activities and point-of-use water treatment safe practices.

UNICEF Mozambique provided 21 hospital tents and 10 emergency health kits to restore access to basic health services following Cyclone Dineo. These contributed to over 6,200 children being treated for acute diarrhoea diseases. Oral cholera vaccine campaigns in Tete province reached 340,000 people, out of whom 58,800 were children under five years. For the cholera outbreaks, support consisted of health supplies for the treatment of approximately 1,000 patients and household water purification solution for over 170,000 people.

UNICEF Mozambique, WHO and partners supported the Ministry of Health to undertake two rounds of polio vaccination campaigns in Zambezia, two in Sofala and one in Tete reaching 534,319 and 702,762 children in round one and two respectively.

Following Cyclone Dineo, UNICEF supported 67 temporary learning spaces (17 school tents and 50 TARPA tents made with local materials and reinforced tarpaulin) and provided 19,999 learners’ kits, 96 school-in-a-box kits and 117 portable blackboards. In addition, emergency repairs of 163 classrooms with cyclone resilient roofing were undertaken. In total, the response benefited over 44,655 school children. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Education to develop a school Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan to strengthen future responses.

Communication for development (C4D) interventions were integrated throughout UNICEF Mozambique’s response. Around 350,000 people were reached with key messages on
breastfeeding, supplementary feeding, and hygiene and sanitation through multi-media mobile units outreach by the Institute of Social Communication) in four central and northern provinces (Tete, Manica, Gaza and Zambezia).

As UNICEF Mozambique’s response is mostly carried out though government institutions, it not only provided emergency relief to affected populations but also strengthened the capacity of the basic social service systems to prepare and respond to future emergencies. The drought resistant roofing repairs of classrooms, the upgrading of drought resilient water points, and the capacity development of health centres to actively screen for acute malnutrition and treat at the community level, all contributed to strengthen the resilience of communities and of the Government’s basic social services.

**Equity in practice**

During this first year of the new country programme, UNICEF Mozambique strengthened its provincial presence and its investment in Zambézia and Nampula. These two provinces were selected based on a review of key indicators of the situation of children. They not only have the lowest indicators and relatively low Government budget allocation per capita, but also represent over 40 per cent of the child population in Mozambique. In addition, the door-to-door polio vaccination campaign conducted in 2017 revealed that a large number of families in the province of Zambézia were living in new settlements not considered in health centre planning, hence leading to very limited coverage. UNICEF supported the Zambézia provincial Department of Health to conduct a mapping exercise of the new scattered communities scattered to include them in their health plans for 2018 and beyond.

UNICEF Mozambique continued its long-standing tradition of generating evidence on inequities that face children in the country. An important bottleneck has been the inequitable resource allocations for the provision of key social services. These inequities were highlighted over the years through multidimensional poverty analyses, situation analyses, budget briefs and specific thematic studies. The findings were used widely by several stakeholders, including by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, for revising the methodology of the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework to include a provincial dimension to help reduce geographical inequalities in budget allocations. Donors and the IMF particularly appreciated the geographical inequity analysis of outcome indicators versus budget per capita allocation, disaggregated by provinces.

However, UNICEF’s analyses continued to show disparities in allocation and outcomes for children. In 2017 UNICEF Mozambique finalized a study to assess whether the aforementioned provincial dimension to reduce equities was being utilized. An analysis of budget documents was undertaken, and interviews with key stakeholders at national and subnational levels held, including the Ministry of Economy and Finance and its representation at provincial levels. The study showed that the devised formula was not being applied and highlighted several bottlenecks for provincial and sectoral allocations. The study was presented during an annual meeting of the main directors and technical staff of the Ministry of Economy and Finance and its provincial representations along with key development partners who support public finance management in the country. As a result, the Ministry of Economy and Finance started using the findings to help improve the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework once again, and the budgeting methodology in 2018 and beyond.

Another important approach used by UNICEF Mozambique to draw attention to inequities in outcomes as they relate to budgetary allocations is through annual Budget Briefs. These
publications provide reader-friendly information on social sector financing (allocations and expenditure) based on official government budget documents. The Briefs, widely distributed and used including on TV, radio and social media, highlight large inequities in per capita geographical allocations in health, education, WASH and social protection. The inequities are also shown related to gender and income groups. Examples of 2017 findings included:

- Around 35 per cent of WASH sector spending benefits the wealthiest groups of population, while only 11 per cent benefits the poorest.
- Zambezia province receives less than half the WASH allocation of Nampula province on a per capita basis.
- Boys and girls benefit nearly equally from spending on primary and secondary education, but for tertiary education, boys benefit considerably more than girls.
- There is unequal geographical distribution of resources to the various basic social protection programmes, taking into account per capita allocation among the poor population. In 2017, Chicualacuala delegation of the National Institute of Social Action (in Gaza province), for example, was allocated around US$27 per poor inhabitant, while, the Gurúe delegation in Zambézia province received an allocation equivalent to US$2 per capita, although it covers more than one million people estimated to be poor.

If such inequities are not highlighted, they cannot be addressed, and the impact in outcomes for children will be perpetuated. UNICEF Mozambique will continue to engage in budget analyses and advocacy to ensure that all children have all their rights realised, regardless of their sex, socioeconomic status or where they live.

**Strategic Plan 2018-2021**

Even though it was developed one year before the finalization of the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021, the current Mozambique country programme is well aligned with the Strategic Plan and the regional priorities defined by the UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Management Team.

In addition to the sectoral results in health, nutrition, education, WASH and child protection, the Mozambique country programme also includes results for adolescents and for social inclusion. UNICEF Mozambique also increased its focus on early childhood development, mainly through the health, nutrition, education and child protection programmes. Communication for development aimed at harmful social norms and social mobilization is integrated in all sectoral programmes, but supported mainly from the communication, adolescents and partnership programme which concentrates UNICEF Mozambique’s human resource capacity in C4D.

Given the disaster-prone nature of Mozambique and its exposure to climate change, all programmes contribute to UNICEF’s emergency preparedness and response in case of crisis and include interventions aimed at strengthening the resilience of communities or of the Government’s basic social services. Finally, the country programme supports the corporate gender action plan, mostly through its interventions aimed at the reduction of child marriage and gender-based violence, as well as a focus on adolescent girls in relation to HIV/AIDS, health, nutrition and education.

UNICEF Mozambique is engaged in all the change strategies of the global Strategic Plan. However, given the current economic crisis which has greatly reduced the fiscal space of Government to invest in children, the strategies around winning support for the cause of children from decision makers and the development and leveraging of resources and partnership for children are especially important. UNICEF and the UN system’s unique position as partnership
brokers with Government and other stakeholders has led to an increase of financial resources. This has been through joint programmes (health, nutrition, social protection, adolescence) and bilateral grants as well as increased opportunities to leverage larger donor funds (such as the Global Financing Facility and other Global Funds).

In 2017, UNICEF Mozambique significantly focused on its enablers, aimed at improving the office effectiveness and efficiency. The office conducted a full workload analysis, a review of the internal collaboration mechanisms between programmes, operations and the provincial offices, and reviewed its programmatic convergence strategy. As a result, work processes were streamlined, staff trained on innovative ways to collaborate and internal accountabilities clarified and strengthened. This change management investment will be continued in 2018 to consolidate and further strive to increase effectiveness and efficiency.

UNICEF Mozambique continued to work with the UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) to contribute to the regional priorities through the compact mechanism established by the Regional Management Team. Since the UNDAF and the country programme were developed before the start of the current economic and financial crisis, UNICEF Mozambique and ESARO jointly reviewed all programmes to ensure they remained relevant and fit for purpose. While the reviews mainly confirmed their relevance, a few areas were identified for adjustment which will be integrated on the 2018 Annual Workplans.

Emerging areas of importance

**Climate change and children.** Mozambique is one of Africa’s most exposed countries to climate change, with recurrent drought, floods and cyclones. In 2017, UNICEF continued to respond to emergencies. The UNICEF emergency response (described in detail in the Humanitarian Assistance section of this annual report) is primarily implemented through government at decentralized levels and builds the resilience of communities and of basic social services to respond to these recurrent shocks.

There are a number of key results from UNICEF Mozambique’s support, including:

- SETSAN is now able to assess nutrition as well as food security resulting from drought;
- Health centres have strengthened capacity for active case finding through mobile brigades. These are now treating acutely malnourished children at the community level and only referring complicated cases to health facilities;
- Sub-national education authorities have enhanced capacity to assess and supervise classroom repairs with cyclone resistant roofing, and;
- Drought-affected communities are equipped with upgraded water points with solar powered pumps which can access more water in times of drought for use by humans and cattle (their main source of livelihood).

**Urbanization and children.** Municipalities are emerging as potential key players on decentralization and local governance. In 2017, the Sustainable Child Friendly Cities Initiative was launched in seven municipalities to promote early childhood development (ECD), nutrition and good governance. This involved collaboration with the National Association of Municipalities and support from two partner cities in Italy. A public space for children component of this initiative was initiated with UN-Habitat, to identify, design and improve spaces used by children in slum areas in two cities. This participatory (listening to children), innovative (using a mobile app) and inclusive (working with children from informal neighbourhoods) approach was tested and will be fully implemented in 2018.
**Children on the move.** Following the inclusion of Mozambique in regional research on Children on the Move, UNICEF, in partnership with the Office of the Prosecutor General, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Save the Children, conducted an assessment and adapted the research tools and methodology to the country context. A plan was also defined to respond to critical child protection violations in the scope of the survey which will start in 2018. The research will contribute to increased understanding of issues impacting children on the move, and of patterns of child migration in the southern Africa and Horn of Africa regions to influence programming and advocacy.

**Early childhood development (ECD).** UNICEF Mozambique continued to strengthen its focus on ECD through several interventions, including:
- Finalizing the methodology and obtaining clearance of the ethical review for a caregiving study to be conducted in 2018;
- Strengthening the partnership with the NGO PATH to develop a holistic ECD package in one district and to embed basic ECD in nutrition and health initiatives;
- Piloting with Save the Children and the Ministry of Education and Human Development an accelerated school readiness initiative, and;
- Developing a basic manual and training package for community-based child care and play group initiatives with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action.

**Focus on the second decade.** In 2017, in the context of the youth-focused sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention Geração Biz programme, UNICEF partnered with three ministries (Youth and Sports, Health and Education), UNFPA and the youth association Coalizão to adapt the SMS-based technology to the U-Report platform and to roll-out the programme known as SMS BIZ. This aims to improve adolescent and young people’s access to comprehensive and personalised sexual and reproductive health and HIV information through SMS. The SMS BIZ partners set up a counselling hub managed by Coalizão to respond to adolescents’ queries, including on gender-based violence. The counselling service is anonymous, so neither the counsellors nor users can identify the other. A total of 350,000 questions were responded to and partnerships with the three telecom operators were established to provide free unlimited SMS for the period of 2017-2020.

Around 130,000 adolescents and young people (56 per cent male, 44 per cent female) registered with SMS BIZ were engaged in discussions addressing misconceptions about sexual and reproductive health, HIV prevention and treatment, and increasing uptake and linkages to HIV and gender-based violence services. Results from a poll were positive, with 60 per cent of respondents referred to health facilities during the counselling session. SMS BIZ officially launched the Girl-to-Girl invite system on the International Day of the Girl Child in October, with outstanding results. Within 72 hours, more than 8,600 girls registered with the girls’ user population, increasing the percentage of females by four per cent to 44 per cent. Five girls registering more than 50 friends were awarded prizes at the World AIDS Day celebrations in Maputo by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

**Summary notes and acronyms**

**Acronyms**
- C4D – communication for development
- CCPC – Community Child Protection Committee
- CHAI – Clinton Health Access Initiative
- CHW – community health workers
Capacity development

Community health workers (CHWs) are a key strategy to bring health services closer to rural communities. In 2017, UNICEF Mozambique, the Ministry of Health and provincial training teams enrolled 1,355 community health workers (44 per cent female) for a five-month training course, increasing coverage from 46 per cent to 64 per cent of planned communities reached.

School councils were identified by the Ministry of Education and Human Development as the most important platform for communities to engage in school life. UNICEF helped develop a school council kit, including materials on absenteeism, dropout, gender-based violence, and violence against children. Training on the enhanced kit reached 217 school directors, 31 district education officials and 1,101 school council members (479 women) in Zambézia province.

UNICEF Mozambique partnered with Government and civil society to train members of 296 community child protection committees (CCPC) on case management and provided technical support to committees in 73 districts. The committees identified 71,133 children, assessed their needs using government-approved instruments and provided direct support and referred to statutory services where necessary.
UNICEF Mozambique, together with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, supported the establishment of a Parliamentary Budget Office in the National Assembly. The Office has oversight and approval of the national budget and thus plays a key role in ensuring the realization of children’s rights. A senior economist and three parliament staff assigned to the Parliamentary Budget Office produced 15 documents analysing the impact of bills on the budget.

UNICEF Mozambique supported the Government to develop and implement communication for development capacity building plan, which resulted in training of 103 government and CSO staff nationwide.

The second course on research ethics was organized with the University Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo and in Cabo Delgado province with the Catholic University.

**Evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy**

UNICEF Mozambique generated evidence that informed policy dialogue and fuelled strategic advocacy for children’s rights, helping to limit the impact of the economic crisis on social sectors. A notable contribution was evidence used to mitigate the proposed cuts to the number of teachers planned to be hired in 2018.

Four budget briefs underpinning this advocacy were widely disseminated to decision-makers, influencers and media. A Budget Memo (an analysis of the 2018 Budget proposal) informed key stakeholders during the approval phase of the budget. Other public finance for children advocacy products supported included a study on budget allocation criteria, an analysis of social sector spending in the past 10 years and the production of a Citizen’s Budget which includes content requested by CSOs for the first time.

Evidence generation also focused on multidimensional child poverty and deprivation. An analysis was conducted on nutrition, child marriage and information poverty, and the preliminary results presented at a national conference on poverty and inequality organized with the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) and the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Formative research on child marriage is being used to inform the development of a national communication for development strategy for the prevention and elimination of child marriage.

UNICEF Mozambique adapted to the country context a “myth-buster” report that confronts common misperceptions about cash transfers and presented it at the National Social Protection Week, an event promoting the social protection system in the country.

UNICEF used the results of a survey with members of Parliament about their knowledge of the situation of children and of the social sector budgets for engagement in dialogue and capacity building, bringing attention to key deprivations and budget matters.

Finally, the Government approved the creation of a National Council for Food Security and Nutrition, placed under the authority of the Prime Minister to advance the multi-sectoral Nutrition Agenda.

**Partnerships**
UNICEF Mozambique engaged in the preparation for the financial support of the Global Financing Facility. The process drew on the collective expertise of development partners, civil society and private sector to agree a common direction for improving health and well-being of women and children. The priorities are financed from the national budget, complemented by a health common fund, the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DfID) Joint Programme, World Bank and the Governments of the Netherlands and the United States of America.

The WASH innovative financing initiative was established in 2017 to assess the potential for the creation of a Development Impact Fund to support accelerated infrastructure development in Mozambique. A feasibility study led by a steering committee composed of key Government partners and sector donors (Government of the Netherlands and the World Bank) identified the potential to create a US$100 million blended-fund targeting 30 small towns to increase water access to roughly 450,000 people.

UNICEF played a convener role in early childhood development and early learning by expanding the umbrella ECD Network (Rede) as a platform for awareness and advocacy. UNICEF’s advocacy tools were used by Rede members, to reinforce key messages about the importance of early childhood.

In the area of budget transparency, memoranda of understanding with the International Budget Partnership and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy bolstered UNICEF’s ability to support the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Parliament and civil society. In generating evidence on multidimensional poverty, a partnership with UNU-WIDER and the UNICEF Office of Research was effective in analysing and presenting results. A partnership between two Italian cities, the National Association of Municipalities and UN-Habitat was crucial for the development and launch of the Sustainable Child Friendly Cities Initiative.

During the year UNICEF Mozambique finalized three UN joint programmes to the value of approximately US$30 million. These three programmes – in health, social protection and nutrition – are a result of complex discussions with both UN and donor partners.

**External communication and public advocacy**

Public advocacy for child rights in Mozambique was conducted through digital communication, media relations and strategic events organization. When there was a convergence of interests, UNICEF in Mozambique adopted and benefitted from the organizations global approach. UNICEF Mozambique was able to attain a broader and varied audience when disseminating key messages, particularly on priorities clearly stated in the advocacy blueprints for child marriage, nutrition, social protection and early childhood development.

The strong focus on digital communication enabled UNICEF Mozambique to be able to engage with the national audience, as well as to talk to development partners. As a result, almost nine million people were reached through UNICEF digital assets in Mozambique, as follows:
- Website – 89,949;
- Microsites and Internet of Good Things (IoGT) – 85,993;
- Facebook - 6,491,289;
- Twitter - 1,505,856;
- Instagram - 359,248;
- YouTube - 68,088;
- LinkedIn - 77,119;
In addition, UNICEF Mozambique reached up to 1.5 million people through traditional mass media.

Key child rights events were supported with both social media and media outreach. These included:
- Breastfeeding Week – a targeted campaign to new mothers);
- ECD Regional Workshop (#3E and #EarlyMomentsMatter);
- World Children’s Day (#YouthTakeOver);
- World Prematurity Week (targeted campaign to soon to become mothers);
- National Health Week (targeted social media campaign);
- World Toilet Day (global photo essay on sanitation);
- Children’s Fortnight launch event with First Lady (Praça da Paz);
- Fair ‘n Square (on children with disabilities);
- Emergency response (for drought, polio, and others).

To improve its reach, UNICEF Mozambique initiated the implementation of the Facebook Advertising Strategy in the last quarter of the year. More than 60 decision-makers used their voices and influence on behalf of children through statements. They included the President of the Republic, Members of the Parliament and Government, the First Lady, Provincial Governors, and the UNICEF National Ambassadors Neyma and Clarisse Machanguana.

**South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation**

UNICEF Mozambique, in partnership with the International Budget Partnership, a leading global organization on budget transparency, participation and oversight, promoted capacity building and knowledge exchange between Portuguese speaking countries on the Open Budget Index. UNICEF organized a workshop with key government officials from the Ministries of Finance from Brazil, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe and Timor Leste who were responsible for reviewing and providing feedback to the Open Budget Index (OBI) questionnaire. As a result, the understanding of these officials on the importance of monitoring transparency, participation and scrutiny, as well their capacities for reviewing the International Budget Partnership’s assessment for the Open Budget Index before it is finalized was strengthened.

UNICEF Mozambique led the creation of a network and online platform to facilitate exchange of budget-related information and experiences. This network is relevant for South-South cooperation, as it is the only one of its kind that brings together different Portuguese-speaking countries which have similar regulatory frameworks, and that provides information in the same language.

In 2017, UNICEF Mozambique and UNICEF Angola, the only Portuguese-speaking countries in the region, completed the adaptation and translation of a series of booklets on inclusive education ‘The Right of Children with Disabilities to Education: A Rights-Based Approach to Inclusive Education’. This comprehensive set of technical materials will allow Government counterparts to understand the various thematic areas related to children with disabilities and foster their capacity and willingness to learn more about inclusive education. The intent of the series is to provide evidence and good practices needed to enable a national dialogue, and advocate for inclusive education with governments and partners. In Mozambique, the booklets will be a central part of the capacity building initiatives, once the inclusive education strategy is approved.
Identification and promotion of innovation

UNICEF Mozambique increased the use of SMS technology to improve real time data. Using RapidPro, an open source platform for the development and management of communications, the nutrition programme implemented a monitoring system that collected data on a weekly basis from 45 select districts. Through the exchange of SMS between the system and the nutrition health staff, UNICEF gained immediate insight into the situation on the sites, especially the number of malnourished children and stock levels of supplies. This reduced the information cycle from three months to approximately 10 days.

RapidPro also facilitates the implementation of U-Report, known in Mozambique as SMSBIZ. The platform grew steadily and has 131,500 registered users. Through SMSBIZ, counselling services are provided via SMS and over 400,000 SMS were exchanged for this purpose. In addition to the counselling provided, an innovative system was developed to enrol new female users and balance the gender ratio of users. A “Girl to Girl” invitation system was launched as a competition and 72 hours after launch over 8,000 new girls had registered. The winners of the competition received prizes awarded by the Prime Minister, UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director and the UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador during the commemoration of World AIDS Day.

To improve health services delivery and quality at community level, UNICEF Mozambique in partnership with Malaria Consortium continued implementing the upSCALE programme. By providing smartphones to community health workers they are better able to follow health screening and referral protocols leading to improvements in the quality of care. In 2017, the additional 407 community health workers were provided with phones. This contributed to health care services being provided to 29,402 children under five years and to 3,110 pregnant women. In total, 106,816 consultations in communities took place with direct support of the programme.

Support to integration and cross-sectoral linkages

In 2017 UNICEF Mozambique invested in the revision of its programmatic convergence strategy to guide design and implementation of multisectoral programmes. Through a series of workshops, co-facilitated by UNICEF ESARO, two priority areas - nutrition and child marriage - were identified where interventions will be co-designed.

In nutrition, UNICEF Mozambique worked with provincial authorities in Zambézia and Nampula to integrate efforts around sustained behaviour change in key areas impacting on stunting. This built on learning from the infant and young child feeding and community-led total sanitation approaches. The leadership of the Permanent Secretary in each province stimulated collaboration of sectors in order and ensured the saturation of communities with key messages.

In collaboration with UNFPA and the Coalition for Elimination and Prevention of Child Marriage, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action (MGCAS) was supported to establish an intersectoral child marriage technical working group. The membership includes five line ministries and two government institutions, who have focused on developing a national media campaign and a decentralized framework to monitor implementation of the national strategy of prevention and elimination of child marriage.

As part of the implementation of its health promotion strategy, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to implement the model family programme. This is undertaken through the community-based health committees and community health workers, and promotes the adoption of key healthy behaviours, including the use of family planning methods, vaccination cards, mosquito
nets, covered latrines, and in-house handwashing systems. In 2017 a total of 84 health committees were revitalized in Zambezia and trained on the promotion and identification of model families.

In social protection, strong coordination work with donors and Government was channelled through a national social action working group, the creation and support of an inter-ministerial working group on the Child Grant. In addition, UNICEF continued its multisector internal convergence group on social protection with the participation of all the office sections.

**Service delivery**

UNICEF Mozambique supported the organization of a National Health Week which reached 3,920,000 children (over 85 per cent of children aged 6-59 months) with Vitamin A, deworming, immunization screening and referral for acute malnutrition. UNICEF also supported procurement of essential supplies, training and operationalization of acute malnutrition treatment, targeting over 700 health facilities and 128 mobile brigades which treated 34,440 children.

Support was provided for the expansion of iron folic acid supplementation for adolescent girls to cover additional districts in the four target provinces, reaching 628,000 adolescent girls.

Improvements in the coverage of water, sanitation and hygiene were supported through capacity development of government service delivery modalities. As a result, 201,408 people gained access to an improved water source (189,693 in rural areas and 11,715 in small towns) and 141,394 people gained access to improved sanitation (141,394 in rural areas and 5,495 in small towns). In addition, 63 schools gained access to water supply and 20 schools with sanitation facilities.

The birth registration of 797,250 children was supported through three channels: routine registration (519,551), a public-private partnership with Lurio Green Resources (197,862 children) and community health workers (79,837 registrations). Community child protection committees identified 71,133 children, conducted needs assessments, provided services directly or referred children and family members to existing statutory and non-statutory services.

UNICEF’s flagship project SMSBIZ (U-Report platform) achieved very good results and recognition at national and global level targeting children, adolescents and young people aged 10-24 years with peer counselling on HIV and sexual and reproductive health. In 2017, over 65,000 children and adolescents aged 10-19 and around 65,000 young people aged 20-24 received counselling through this innovative mechanism.

**Human rights-based approach to cooperation**

The year 2017 was the first of the current programme, which was based on a high-quality situation analysis. The situation analysis highlighted inequities in outcomes for children based on geographical, wealth and gender determinants. These were confirmed in a later analysis of more recent data from the latest Household Budget Survey. The latter confirmed the disadvantaged situation of Zambezia and Nampula, the most populous provinces, in the majority of indicators for children when compared with other provinces. This had led to a geographical focus of the country programme in those provinces.

UNICEF continued to be actively involved in supporting Mozambique’s efforts for the realization of human rights. UNICEF participated in the development of the Universal Periodic Review National Action Plan based on concluding observations and recommendations to which the
Government showed much openness, and facilitated the placement of an intern with expertise in human rights National Directorate of Human Rights. The UNCT agreed to create a CSO platform to engage with the Government on human rights issues, and donors are keen to support this area of work.

UNICEF Mozambique provided comments into the Government’s report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child to be submitted in 2018 and financed its translation into English. Significant milestones were the adoption of the Worst Forms of Child Labour List, and the launch of the National Plan of Action to Address Child Labour. UNICEF also supported dissemination of child rights through wide distribution of a child-friendly summary brochure on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In supporting implementation of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities in collaboration with Handicap International, UNICEF Mozambique continued its support to the operationalization of the information, orientation and accompaniment services in Maputo, Matola and Beira. These allow people with disabilities to access basic social services, including social protection. The collaboration also led to the establishment of a multisectoral model for identification, assessment, prescription, adaptation and distribution of assistive devices. UNICEF was involved in the continued discussions between the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Government of Mozambique about the alleged mass graves discovered in 2016, with a conclusion yet to be reached.

**Gender equality**

Ending child marriage is a priority for UNICEF Mozambique. An implementation plan and a communication for development strategy for child marriage were finalised during the year. Approximately 1.5 million people (60 per cent women and girls) in 11 provinces were reached through radio drama and live debates on child marriage in local languages. Three thousand girl mentors were trained through the joint UN action for girls’ programme on child marriage, gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and HIV, and on nutrition. UNICEF Mozambique also supported Linha Fala Criança, a child hotline, with over 113,000 (65 per cent girls) calls received and 532 cases (7 per cent relating to child marriage) referred to the relevant support services and assistance provided.

UNICEF Mozambique worked with the Ministries of Education and Children, Gender and Social Action to advance girls’ rights and prevent gender-based violence and marriage of school-aged children. Interventions included dissemination of gender and child marriage strategies, development of joint action plans, capacity building of gender focal points and advocacy with Government for increased funding to gender-related activities. A multi-sectoral coordination mechanism was established at provincial and district levels for prevention of violence and sexual abuse to improve reporting and referral mechanisms.

UNICEF Mozambique constructed facilities in 25 schools providing water and sanitation to an estimated 10,000 learners (55 per cent girls). These girl-friendly facilities included separate toilets for girls, a private place for washing hands and body, and a place to dispose of sanitary pads. Normative research on menstrual hygiene management in schools is ongoing in seven provinces and the findings will provide recommendations for planning effective interventions, national policies and advocacy.

To advance health access to rural vulnerable women and children, 1,355 community health workers (600 female and 755 male) were trained to implement integrated community case
management in Zambézia and Nampula. The percentage of women CHWs increased from 30 per cent in 2016 to 44 per cent in 2017, and a gender component was introduced to their training manual.

**Environmental sustainability**

UNICEF Mozambique developed a greening action plan for 2017. The first action conducted in January involved mobilizing all staff for an entire day to review and clean files and archives rooms. The outcome was 10,200 kg of papers which were disposed of and taken by a recycling company. As the office is currently going through a comprehensive rehabilitation, the expectation is that in 2018 the premises will apply various eco-friendly solutions and ground floor accessibility for people with disabilities. The 2016 baseline data shows that UNICEF Mozambique’s GHG emission per staff was reduced by 40 per cent in comparison with 2015 at 1.8 tonnes CO2E. This was much lower than an average UNICEF country office emission.

On the programme side, UNICEF Mozambique upgraded 25 existing boreholes into mechanized and solar powered multi-functional deep boreholes in districts affected by the El Nino induced drought. These systems allow for maximization of water yield reaching higher number of communities and people in need of safe and clean drinking water. The solar powered water systems are environmentally sustainable innovative response with potential to drive change in the Mozambique WASH sector. The upgraded water points will strengthen the resilience of communities by providing increased access to water in times of drought for human consumption, as well as for cattle which is their main source of livelihood.

In addition, UNICEF Mozambique in partnership with UN Habitat and the Ministry of Education improved the resilience of schools, through the construction of infrastructure with adapted roofing to sustain the impact of cyclones and strong winds in the most-at-risk communities.

**Effective leadership**

The country management team (CMT) undertook several initiatives aimed at strengthening the country office effectiveness and efficiency. The Meaningful Collaboration initiative analysed bottlenecks to effective collaboration between programmes, programme/operations and Maputo/provincial offices. The initiative resulted in the development of a framework for matrix management of provincial staff and led to a series of trainings for selected staff on collaboration.

UNICEF Mozambique also conducted an office-wide workload analysis aimed at identifying causes of excessive workload and developing solutions to address them. As a result, key business processes (including the harmonized approach to cash transfers, individual and institutional contracting and travel) were revised to clarify ambiguities and streamline workflows. Several functions were also identified as requiring either workload redistribution or additional post creation. UNICEF will train staff on the revised processes in the first quarter of 2018 and use the new performance management system to identify staff requiring support to increase efficiency.

UNICEF also invested in revising its programmatic convergence strategy, with a focus on nutrition and child marriage. The revised strategy will be finalized in early 2018 and include specific accountability frameworks for increased convergence in the selected programme areas.

Other 2017 management priorities undertaken included:
- Full staffing and establishment of two co-located offices in Nampula (eight staff) and Zambézia (13 staff) provinces;
- Closure by mid-year of all recommendations of the 2016 peer review exercise conducted with ESARO;
- Quarterly review by the CMT of implementation progress of the action plan to mitigate risks identified in the risk and control self-assessment;
- Completion of a comprehensive review of the human resource function; and
- Conducting a full simulation of the office's business continuity.

The country management team regularly reviewed the key performance indicators and organized comprehensive mid-year and annual reviews with full involvement of the newly recruited provincial teams.

**Financial resources management**

The country management team monitored key performance indicators monthly. In December, the financial utilization was 96 per cent of funded resources (98 per cent for Regular Resources/RR, 95 per cent for Other Resources Regular/ORR, 95 per cent for Other Resources Emergency/ORE and 98 per cent for the Institutional Budget. Some US$48.3 million in Other Resources Regular was re-phased to 2018 and beyond. Outstanding direct cash transfers (DCTs) between six to nine months totalled US$1,154,435 representing 8.5 per cent of transfers. This is slightly above the country management team target.

Good progress was made in HACT assurance with completion of 38 of the 39 planned micro assessments, 51 of 65 spot checks, 214 of 161 programmatic visits and 12 of 13 planned audits. Over 255 staff from implementing partner organizations across the country as well as 25 UNICEF staff attended training, which provided an overview of HACT principles and the most common issues encountered by partners in using the funding authorization and certificate of expenditure forms (known as FACE forms). The training also included a session on government rules on daily subsistence allowances and on procurement processes, which were delivered in partnership with government officials. In addition, 20 new staff completed on Agora the HACT mandatory training and 17 the FACE online training.

Sound financial management was maintained throughout the year. The bank reconciliation process ran smoothly including preparation and timely approval. Reconciling items were investigated on time and acted upon within reasonable time. The office continued to review and analyse open items and General Ledger account balances on a timely fashion. Bank optimization was ensured through the process of regular cash flow forecasting followed by periodic adjustments and closely monitored and controlled by the Finance Unit. From January to November 2017, the average benchmark ratio was maintained at 15 per cent.

**Fundraising and donor relations**

2017 was a demanding year in terms of fundraising and donor relations in Mozambique. Donors’ concerns related to channelling their resources through the Government remained an issue. This resulted in a number engaging UNICEF to support programme implementation with involvement of, but not through Government. This was a particular issue for DFID who opted to channel approximately US$52 million through UNICEF, of which US$25 million is to act as a Fund Manager for DFID’s own contribution to WASH in Mozambique.

UNICEF Mozambique finalized a new resource mobilization strategy to guide and inform
fundraising in the new country. The strategy will be assessed during the Mid-Term Review and adjusted as required. In addition, the office hosted an Eastern and Southern Africa-wide training with representation from 10 UNICEF country offices, on working with the European Union using the new PAGODA framework.

Three new UN joint programmes were developed, valued at approximately US$30 million, predominantly funded by DFID but also involving the Governments of Sweden and the Netherlands. In addition, UNICEF Mozambique signed a US$24 million multi-sectoral proposal covering nutrition, WASH and behaviour change, funded by the European Union. Given the continuation of the El Nino phenomenon at the beginning of the year followed by Tropical Cyclone Dineo causing significant damage in Inhambane province, UNICEF Mozambique received new Other Resources Emergency contributions of almost US$3 million to support the responses. This reduced to 50 per cent the funding gap of Mozambique’s requirements in the 2017 Humanitarian Action for Children. Although UNICEF National Committee contributions were limited, this has not negatively impacted programming given all sections have diversified their funding bases.

In terms of contribution management, UNICEF Mozambique was allocated programmable funds worth over US$89 million towards the 2017 Annual Workplan which was valued at US$79 million. All donor reports were submitted on time.

**Evaluation and research**

The Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, reviewed regularly by the country management team, included 46 researches, evaluation and studies, valued at approximately US$6 million. The evaluation function was strengthened with the recruitment of a research and evaluation specialist who will start in January 2018. UNICEF Mozambique’s Research and Evaluation Committee met regularly to assess the management requirements associated to each research, evaluation and studies, and applied a tier-system based on the office’s standard operating procedure.

Mozambique was a case study for the global evaluation “Reducing Stunting in Children Under Five Years of Age: A Comprehensive Evaluation of UNICEF’s Strategies and Programme Performance”. The evaluation concluded that UNICEF Mozambique was successful in advocating with Government for a multi-sectoral approach for stunting reduction and providing leadership with key partners. The evaluation also identified the importance of improving the availability and quality of nutrition data. In response, UNICEF Mozambique is rolling out a new methodology for food and nutrition security assessments and developing a cross-sectional baseline survey for nutrition.

The evaluation of the UNICEF Mozambique Accelerated School Readiness Pilot Programme is measuring the impact of school-readiness initiatives implemented together with Save the Children in Zambézia. The selection of primary schools to be part of the evaluation took place in September, followed by the first round of data collection in November. The evaluation will assess children’s learning and attendance in school, comparing children who have received pre-primary education and those who have not. The results will be important to inform the design and advocacy for scale up of school-readiness programmes.

WASH in small towns was also evaluated. The findings show that stakeholders are satisfied with the project’s impact and believe it will increase access to basic water and sanitation.
services. The results of the evaluation will be used to continue strengthening current and future interventions for WASH in small towns.

**Efficiency gains and cost savings**

The business operations strategy for the new UNDAF cycle (2017-2020) was endorsed in March 2017 by the UN Country Team during a visit of the Director of the UN Development Operations Coordination Office. Based on a cost-benefit analysis, the business strategy recommends 11 new common services which would bring close to US$1 million in savings for the whole UN in Mozambique in the next four years. UNICEF led the business operations strategy formulation process under the guidance of the administrative specialist and with direct support of UNICEF chairpersons of information and communication technology and procurement sub-working groups. The UN Operations Management Team, co-chaired by UNICEF, monitored progress of the Business Operations Strategy action plan, which involved the establishment of several long-term arrangements for common services. Savings will therefore start to be monitored in 2018.

An outsourced workload analysis of UNICEF Mozambique provided directions to increase office efficiency through various channels:
- Addressing the high workload identified for certain positions through load redistribution or post creation in 2018;
- The clarification of accountabilities for key business processes with the elaboration of streamlined VISION workflows (travel, cash transfers, individual and institutional contracting);
- Ad-hoc groups of selected staff to swiftly propose solutions to issues identified as affecting efficiency;
- A management matrix clarifying the accountabilities between Maputo and provincial offices.

The office will train staff on these new ways of working in the first quarter of 2018 and will monitor impact at mid- and end year.

**Supply management**

The 2017 Supply Plan identified needs for US$6 million of supplies and US$6.2 million in institutional services. The actual procurement was US$15.7 million, excluding Procurement Services, of which 65 per cent was performed locally.

The office managed 11 Long-Term Arrangements, covering UNICEF-specific needs and UN common services. The supply throughput, including supplies channelled via Procurement Services, amounted to US$44 million, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNICEF Mozambique 2017 Supply and procurement</th>
<th>Value of supplies and services received (including off-shore orders)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programmatic supplies</td>
<td>$4,800,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular procurement services</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAVI procurement services</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional services</td>
<td>$5,406,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which are construction related services</td>
<td>$2,504,141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$2,504,141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational supplies</td>
<td>$87,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International freight</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$10,293,977</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By end of 2017, the inventory value was US$1.35 million: almost being supplies prepositioned for emergencies in line with the Early Warming Early Action plan. Some US$737,763 of supplies were issued from UNICEF warehouses, bringing the value of supplies managed by the office to US$2.1 million.

Construction and civil works rehabilitation activities delivered via a partnership, including those through Government procurement systems, exceeded US$5.8 million, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WASH</th>
<th>$4,235,002</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$929,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
<td>$559,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>$40,883</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNICEF is engaged in collaborative procurement initiatives with the UN system in Mozambique and co-leads the UN Procurement Working Group. In 2017, the office managed contracting activities for five common service categories, in line with the business operations strategy.

UNICEF Mozambique continued to be active in strengthening government supply chains. UNICEF increased WASH coverage rates through a dedicated capacity building strategy that used government procurement systems for non-emergency civil works projects. The “on-the-job training” strategy supports building internal government capacity in all aspects of the service contracting cycle, from technical specifications development to tendering and contracting processes, and ultimately, contract management, including quality control of the construction.

In health and nutrition, UNICEF focused its support on strengthening the government’s supply chain in vaccination and treatment of acute malnutrition. Three new cold rooms out of nine planned and required for national expansion were installed. This allows adequate provincial storage space for newly introduced vaccines and upcoming campaigns. UNICEF continued supporting the Ministry of Health in improving their multi-year forecasting of vaccines and emergency nutrition supplies, upgrading the cold chain systems, and in building their capacity to manage and maintain their cold chain systems.

**Security for staff and premises**

Peace talks between the Government of Mozambique and the main opposition party Renamo established a truce in early 2017. This had an immediate effect in the central part of the country where UNICEF Mozambique has its main geographical focus areas. A definite peace agreement was expected to be signed by the end of 2017, but was delayed to 2018. The UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) lifted partial travel by road movement restrictions but maintained a close monitoring system through the functions of Area Security Coordinators and Provincial Security focal points.

With further economic situation deterioration in Mozambique, UNDSS reported increased criminality in Maputo, mainly house break-ins, car hijackings and street muggings. Sporadic kidnapping cases continued to occur in Maputo, although fewer cases were reported than in the two previous years.
The memorandum of agreement with the provincial government of Zambézia for UNICEF office space was extended, with an increased number of staff. UNICEF opened a small zone office in Nampula province, currently with eight staff, within premises of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

UNICEF Mozambique implemented security upgrades in 2017 through Arkhe, the contracted security company which provides security guards services to the country office. All existing security systems were upgraded, including replacement of some CCTV, access doors, alarm, electrical fences and smoke detector systems. The security systems are connected to Arkhe’s guards, radio room surveillance and armed rapid response teams. The security coverage was increased with an additional guard.

Staff participated in regular radio checks conducted by UNDSS, and a fire evacuation drill was conducted in July. The communication tree was tested through a business continuity plan activation simulation in November. In terms of security training, female staff attended a UN women security awareness training in April, and drivers were continuously briefed by UNDSS on safe driving practices.

Human resources

Implementation of the recruitment plan to fill the positions created or modified to support the implementation of the new country programme was completed in 2017. This involved the recruitment for 53 positions finalized by year end, 40 of which under the regular vacancy modality. Twenty of the changes were either promotions or same level movements of existing staff, 12 who had previously been either temporary appointments, UN volunteers or consultants, and 25 were staff entirely new to UNICEF. Diversity indicators were either maintained or improved. Four rounds of one-week induction training were offered to newly arrived staff to support their acquisition of basic knowledge of UNICEF’s programmes and processes.

In addition to staff, 60 individual consultancy contracts were issued in 2017. These were in response to various short-term capacity gaps and needs identified throughout the year, as well as to respond to the ongoing drought and cholera emergencies in the north of the country.

The new performance management training was piloted in the country office in May, followed-up by 13 clinics on the human resources reform in Maputo and intensive training in the provinces. The 2017 year-end appraisals and 2018 planning were framed in the culture of regular, continuous, and open feedback, including a calibration exercise of the 2017 Performance Appraisal System planned for the first quarter of 2018.

Following discussions in the joint consultative committee, an office improvement plan was agreed to address the results of the Global Staff Survey, which encompasses various ongoing initiatives. These included the workload analysis, meaningful collaboration, regular UN Cares activities, as well as ethics training to improve staff knowledge on mechanisms for reporting fraud and misconduct, including protection from retaliation. Seven of the 11 actions planned were closed, and the remaining are in progress, expected to conclude in the first quarter of 2018.

Effective use of information and communication technology

In 2017, UNICEF Mozambique provided the two newly opened co-located offices in Nampula and Quelimane with state-of-the-art video and audio conference solutions along with
connectivity, to increase efficiency and collaboration with the Maputo central office. Five refresher training sessions on Office 365 were provided to all users. The official remote support tool, TeamViewer, was instrumental in providing effective and efficient information and communication technology support to the remote locations.

Collaboration, knowledge-sharing and informed decision-making were enhanced using the SharePoint tool and the OneDrive cloud-based solution, both allowing users to store and share data easily.

In a continuous effort to reduce hardware footprint, UNICEF reduced the number of standalone printers and invested in a central and cost-effective printing solution that provided all users and guests with a simple printing solution.

The office has created a process to streamline the increasing needs in term of data collection and analysis tools, in compliance with both UNICEF and local regulations in term of data hosting. A domain registration process was developed, along with a web hosting in response to the programme needs for rapid data collection and analysis using the ODK software and other rapid data management tools.

Digital and social media was effectively used to share content and engage with key stakeholders, allowing UNICEF to reach around nine million people throughout the year. In October, Facebook was used to implement the office digital strategy and resulted in one million people reached in three months, with a focus to specific audiences usually not accessible through traditional digital communication tools.

Programme components from RAM

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 By 2020, Children in the first 1,000 days in high burden provinces have improved nutritional status

Analytical statement of progress
In 2017, the nutrition programme supported by UNICEF benefitted approximately 4.8 million children under five, including over 628,000 adolescent girls.

Major advances were made in elevating nutrition as a priority at highest political level and engaging in nutrition governance reform. This included the adoption of a new high-level National Counsel for Food and Nutrition Security (known as CONSAN) within the office of the Prime Minister. This complements new leadership the long-standing Technical Secretariat for Food and Nutrition Security within the Ministry of Agriculture.

Historically, SETSAN has struggled to convene sectors, given its position as a directorate within the Ministry of Agriculture. The CONSAN aims to address this challenge by elevating leadership to the Prime Minister’s office. The new SETSAN director has championed nutrition in Mozambique bringing strong technical skills to guide national efforts. This coincides with initiatives to revise the National Strategy for Food and Nutrition Security, including a major review of the National Action Plan to Reduce Chronic Malnutrition (known locally as PAMRDC). This work was kicked-off with a national study, the Cost of Hunger, led by WFP with partner support. The study concluded that over 10 per cent of Gross Domestic Product is lost annually
due to malnutrition. The study is due to be formally launched in early 2018.

UNICEF working with partners, focused support on moving nutrition action in the two provinces with the highest rates of stunting, and due to their size, the largest number of stunted children, over 40 per cent of the national total. A key milestone, complementing the national CONSAN, was the engagement of the Provincial Permanent Secretary and District Administrator in seven initially targeted districts to lead multisectoral action. This was supported by UNICEF-tailored advocacy underlying the need for senior nutrition governance and support to provincial SETSAN for orientation and sensitization of stakeholders. Under this leadership, operational plans for the National Action Plan to Reduce Chronic Malnutrition are being prepared and monitored.

Leadership was galvanized by the latest data from the 2015 National Household Expenditure Survey which highlighted very little change in rates of stunting. Mozambique continues to suffer from lack of adequate knowledge and practices on infant and young child feeding and on hygiene, with less than 13 per cent receiving an optimum diet, even in food secure districts. Building on the approved national nutrition social and behaviour change communication strategy, UNICEF is on track to achieve an additional key milestone by setting up an integrated model addressing key infant and young child feeding and hygiene-related issues in targeted districts. This will help address the institutionally siloed and fragmented approach which has prevailed so far. With the inclusion of a major focus on community-based nutrition through the Global Financing Facility support to the Investment Case for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH/N), this positive momentum anticipates to be taken to scale quickly.

In the follow-up support to the El Niño-triggered nutrition emergency, UNICEF worked with partners to integrate and improve the food and nutrition security seasonal assessment to include a more robust method to assess nutrition situation. This allowed Mozambique to generate an Integrated Phase Classification for nutrition for the first time. This classification guided the emergency response, pointing to districts in need of urgent humanitarian intervention to address acute malnutrition.

**OUTPUT 1** By 2020, strengthened sub-national level human and institutional capacities to coordinate, monitor and evaluate Government multisectoral, food and nutrition security policies and action plans.

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF supported SETSAN, the multisectoral coordinating body for addressing food and nutrition security, to undertake a series of provincial and districts advocacy actions in 26 districts and government planning support sessions in seven districts. These translated to the adoption of district-level multi-sector plan for stunting reduction under the district administrator leadership, a first of its kind in Mozambique. This is a useful first step in moving the planned National Counsel for Food and Nutrition Security leadership into practice.

At the policy level, the advocacy of UNICEF, the Food and Agriculture Organization/FAO, WFP, and the European Union combined with renewed leadership from SETSAN, allowed fast adoption of the decree on the creation of the CONSAN under Prime Minister’s Office. The ongoing evaluation of the current Food and Nutrition Security Policy and the PAMRDC is also well underway and will be completed in 2018. Together with the capacity assessment analysis of nutrition governance conducted by UNICEF, these actions are expected to create the necessary conditions for high quality, bottom-up multisectoral actions, and improved
accountability and monitoring of stunting reduction indicators.

UNICEF also supported WFP and partners in the finalization of the Cost of Hunger and the Fill the Nutrient Gap studies. These studies attracted high-level political interest on the cost of malnutrition for Mozambique’s economy as well as on the development of possible interventions. UNICEF sponsored an advocacy event on promoting exclusive breastfeeding, which building on the World Breastfeeding Week reached out to over 500,000 people through various media channels.

The capacity mapping and mid-level nutritionist capacity development were postponed to 2018 due to restructuring of SETSAN management team and delays in recruitment of the UNICEF nutrition governance specialist.

OUTPUT 2 By 2020, evidence based national nutrition related policies, legislation, strategies, and plans are adopted and implementation monitored.

Analytical statement of progress
The UNICEF-supported SETSAN seasonal food security and nutrition assessment was completed in June 2017, complemented by an update in November 2017. Starting from all 159 districts, among 20 districts targeted for detailed assessment, an estimated 27,000 children experience a degree of acute malnutrition. While the assessment confirmed major improvements from mid-2016, the revised response plan initiated humanitarian action in malnutrition hotspots in Cabo Delgado province.

UNICEF technical assistance to the Ministry of Health identified gaps in the routine nutrition information management system omissions in the District Health Information System (DHIS-2) system. In addition, a refresher training package, developed with the Ministry of Health was used for three provincial level trainings on monitoring nutrition interventions, reaching over 120 health and nutrition staff.

Using data collected in the Household Expenditure Survey a regression analysis of stunting determinants found a range of associated indicators, including water and sanitation. The initial results are being used for the Fill the Nutrition Gap analysis.

UNICEF continued to support the management and implementation of the National Salt Iodisation Programme (PRONIS). A strategic partnership with Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) worked in market engagement, inspection and law enforcement. To support law enforcement, a needs assessments and capacity development plan was developed for the Food Inspection Institute and the National Testing Laboratory. For the salt producers, UNICEF, working with GAIN, set up a salt producer association to facilitate access to policy and technical guidance on salt iodization, organize sustainable, cooperative mechanism for potassium iodate import and to coordinate national production. A national meeting organized by the Department of Industry - in charge of salt iodization - GAIN and UNICEF sparked renewed ownership and momentum, particularly on the side of the industry and a committee was set up to ensure sustainable import of potassium iodate.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health in partnership with National Food Security Association to train 80 food inspectors on the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and conducted joint monitoring visits in four provinces, Sofala, Manica, Tete and Zambézia. As a result of the first training the National Inspector of Economic Activities requested the Ministry of Health to
conduct more trainings for national Inspectors. The monitoring visits uncovered, in both formal and informal markets, many violations of the Code that are defended by merchants due to ignorance. Educating distributors and vendors of breastmilk substitutes is highlighted as an action for 2018.

OUTPUT 3 By 2020, service providers and communities have capacities to provide infant and young child feeding services.

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF, in partnership with the NGO ANSA, supported the Ministry of Health in the dissemination and development of operational plans for the Nutrition Social and Behaviour Change Communication Strategy in five provinces (Niassa, Nampula, Zambézia, Sofala and Tete). This reached over 180 participants from health, WASH, communication, and agriculture sectors.

The operational plans provide a clear situation analysis, a mapping of existing actions and define the roles and responsibilities to develop a framework for prioritization of provincial, district and community actions on nutrition social and behavioural change communication.

The integration of infant and young child feeding and WASH behaviour change interventions advanced in the seven targeted districts of Zambézia and Nampula. An operational model was presented to more than 85 key stakeholders in the seven districts including the Permanent Secretary, and consensus for integrated action was reached. The model brings together formerly siloed community workers from the Ministry of Public Work and Housing, the Ministry of Health and the Institute of Social Communication to join efforts and expertise for greater impact on prioritized stunting reduction behaviours. Additional progress was made in the alignment of the training packages and promotional materials. Improvements were made in bringing a stronger WASH related content into the infant and young child feeding package, as well as strengthening community health worker’s capacity to delivering nutrition interventions.

Mid- and mass media communication to promote infant and young child feeding, including micronutrient power supplementation, took place throughout four provinces included broadcasting of radio messages using the community radio network. Training was supported for 135 agriculture extensions workers who provide continuous nutrition education. In addition, 475 newly appointed community health workers received initial training on the infant and young child feeding and WASH package and 730 community workers received refresher training in targeted districts in Manica, Sofala, Zambézia and Nampula. This strategy aims at achieving rapid behaviour changes to reduce stunting. UNICEF also supported the training of 190 health workers.

Together, all this valuable work provided the necessary foundation for the scale-up of the integrated infant and young child feeding and WASH social and behavioural change model in 2018.

Building on lessons learned, these integrated efforts will feed into the national commitment to scaling up a minimum community-based nutrition package in the six northern provinces with the largest burden of stunting. The World Bank’s anticipated programme in support of the RMNCAH/N Investment Case includes a disbursement-linked indicator to incentivize action to take infant and young child feeding to scale.
OUTCOME 2 By 2020, people, particularly women and young children, more equitably access and use quality health and nutrition services.

Analytical statement of progress
While inflation and devaluation of the currency has slowed, the limited economic growth (3 per cent) and fiscal austerity continue to create a challenging environment to move the health sector forward. To maintain focus on results for women and children, the Investment Case for Reproductive Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition was finalized. The Investment Case sets out the critical priorities to overcome key bottlenecks, notably around quality of care. In addition, the Investment Case prioritizes 42 lagging districts. It further stratifies those where access to services needs the greatest attention and where quality improvement is essential to realize the potential of the current package of primary health care services for children. UNICEF was active with partners in preparing the Investment Case and focused support on those areas where the agency’s experience and expertise will contribute the greatest.

UNICEF maintained support to the Prosaúde Common Fund, focused on RMNCAH/N, and worked with UNFPA and WHO to designed a Joint Programme of support with significant multi-year funding from the United Kingdom. UNICEF looks forward to operationalizing the Investment case at the provincial and district level, and proposes to invest in evidence-based planning and monitoring in districts.

The coverage of key services, including institutional delivery, vaccination, vitamin A coverage, and post-natal care of newborns continued to improve despite the wider fiscal challenges. Malnutrition and HIV remain areas of significant concern, with the latest data showing that both HIV prevalence and stunting rates among children under-five remains unchanged. In Zambézia province, the 2015 data indicated an increase in HIV cases, particularly among children.

During 2017, health partners faced several challenges, including an acceleration of the “brain drain” of both national and sub-national ministry health staff, who are seeking more lucrative options with civil society and the private sector. In addition, fires within a warehouse as well financial challenges led to some stock-outs of commodities, such as gloves. However, in general, the most essential medical stocks were maintained. The brain drain and financial limitations indicate the fragility of the Ministry, and the potential impact on health service delivery. UNICEF and partners are engaged with high level task forces formed to tackle each issue and will require continued engagement though 2018.

OUTPUT 1 By 2020, primary health care facilities have increased capacity to deliver quality integrated maternal and newborn health services.

Analytical statement of progress
A primary health care mentoring model focused on maternal and newborn care in Zambézia was designed for implementation from 2018. Based on a baseline assessment of observed clinical practise gaps, the model enrols well-performing nurses as mentors for additional coaching support from paediatric and obstetric professional associations. In turn, the mentors provide monthly visits to their peers in nearby facilities using content developed by senior doctors. To support the model, a new partnership with Health Alliance International and with the national professional associations of gynaecologists and paediatricians was developed to implement alongside government officials. The initiative will reach all 220 primary health care
facilities, working with 45 mentors from district level peers.

An initiative for customer satisfaction survey (Shout-out-for Health) was coupled with the mentoring modelling. An innovative study using the SMS BIZ platform provided feedback from the users and the providers of reproductive, maternal, child and adolescent health services in Zambézia in shaping the content of mentoring visits. Evaluating the level of satisfaction, quality and humanization of the health services has provided important recommendations to the National Directorate of Quality and Humanization within the Ministry of Health.

In line with national efforts to improve knowledge and skills, UNICEF supported training of 279 MCH nurses (Niassa 96, Manica 85, Sofala 49, Gaza 24 and Tete 25) in essential newborn care, and ensured post-training supervision (225 in Zambézia, Nampula, Gaza, Maputo and Inhambane on-going) for quality implementation and subsequent facility accreditation in management of common childhood illnesses. It was noted that the latter needs to be strengthened.

In addition, within the national revision of the maternal and child health curriculum, two new training modules were developed in relation to newborns. These were on the prevention of prematurity and case management of preterm babies. During 2017, 55 trainers and 479 health workers were trained in the new modules.

To sensitize Ministry of Health policy makers, curriculum designers, and providers of newborn intensive care, a learning visit to Malawi led to a commitment and understanding of quality improvement for sick newborn care (newborn intensive care units). The Malawi model will be adapted in Zambézia during 2018.

To document better institutional neonatal and maternal deaths, UNICEF worked with WHO to expand the Maternal Death Audit to include neonatal deaths and to improve the quality of reporting and assessment. Since September, the revised database included new-born death notifications. Links between the hospital District Health Information System (DHIS-2) reporting system and the maternal and neonatal death database will be assessed in 2018.

To address challenges in the availability of newborn equipment, UNICEF has partnered with Village Reach to conduct an inventory of neonatal equipment, piggybacking on the partnership for a cold chain inventory.

Supplies of chlorohexidine for newborn cord care were purchased for all facilities and communities nationwide.

OUTPUT 2 By 2020, health workers at facility and community level are better equipped to provide and stimulate demand for quality integrated child health services.

Analytical statement of progress
Following the confirmation of a polio case in Derre, Zambézia province, UNICEF and WHO supported the Ministry of Health to complete two polio vaccination campaigns in 14 districts. An independent assessment showed a coverage of 94 per cent and 99 per cent respectively. UNICEF support included supply and distribution of vaccines, social mobilization and technical assistance in the coordination of the campaign. The campaign preparation helped to map additional communities previously underserved.
While the polio campaign required considerable time and energy, it underlined the need to continue work on scaling up the Reach Every Community strategy to reduce gaps in immunization coverage. The strategy scale-up to improve micro-planning and social mobilization for preventive child health services is on track, covering 16 districts in 2017: four in Manica, three in Nampula, one in Tete, and eight in Zambézia. Expansion to an additional 51 districts is planned for 2018.

A new partnership with Hellen Keller International supports the integration of vitamin A into child health delivery platforms - fixed site, mobile brigades and community health worker. Revised national guidelines on operationalization of vitamin A within these platforms was finalised for dissemination. Hellen Keller International as well as the Maternal and Child Survival Project supported by the United States Agency for International Development/USAID contributed to Reach Every Community scale-up in supportive monitoring.

Concurrently, progress was made with the cold chain expansion in partnership with Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI). Three of nine planned cold rooms were completed and can accommodate the increased storage requirements for additional vaccines and a growing population. The remaining six cold rooms will be installed in early 2018. Expansion of the provincial cold rooms will be followed by additional work at facility level. A first step, in partnership with Village Reach, was the completion of a national cold chain inventory. The inventory informs the facility cold chain upgrade plan as well as the distribution of motorbikes for outreach.

An important complement for the scale-up of community health workers (see output 5 earlier) is the use of the mobile phone-based “upscale” app in Inhambane and Cabo Delgado. This will improve the quality of case management, stock management and reporting generally, but specifically for integrated management of common childhood illnesses. In 2017, the supervisor module was developed and implemented in both provinces and the family planning module was also developed. Discussions have started between UNICEF and the Ministry of Health’s health management information system experts to systematically link these data to the national platform.

Finally, UNICEF continued to strengthen the health worker capacity in integrated management of childhood illness, training an additional 362 health workers.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2020, health workers at community and primary care level have increased capacity to identify, enrol and treat children with severe acute malnutrition.

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF support to acute malnutrition continued to focus on the ongoing nutrition emergency. However, improvements in nutrition security throughout the year allowed for long-term resilience building to detect and better manage cases of acute malnutrition.

As part of the emergency response, by the end of 2017 UNICEF support led to 419,751 children under-five years of age being screened for acute malnutrition by Ministry of Health outreach teams. In total, 7,499 children with severe acute malnutrition were identified and accessed treatment. During the same period, nationally, 26,941 children with severe acute malnutrition were admitted to nutrition treatment programmes.

Frequent stock-outs of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) and delayed availability of ready-
to-use supplementary food (RUSF) had a detrimental effect on programme coverage and continuity of services. This led to a high drop-out rate amongst beneficiaries of the rehabilitation programme. The deployment of real-time stock monitoring (through RapidPro) and the establishment of UNICEF pre-positioned stock and availability of RUSF through WFP in March and April 2017 dramatically improved the emergency response.

In 2017, inpatient treatment reinforcement reached more than 200 clinicians and 67 hospitals across 11 provinces, and the first contingency/preparedness plan was defined. Transition to a post El Niño drought emergency response is raising concerns over the longer-term investment of Government and partners into the National Nutrition Rehabilitation Programme (PRN programme) to ensure a responsive and resilient system is build. Issues including moderate acute malnutrition treatment, supply chain strengthening, and information management are yet to be fully defined.

UNICEF partnered with the Mozambique Paediatric Association to address issues of quality in treatment. More than 200 clinicians were trained in the management of severe acute malnutrition with complications in 44 hospitals across 11 provinces.

UNICEF maintained its role as emergency nutrition cluster lead, with 16 coordinating meetings involving 30 agencies chaired by the Ministry of Health.

UNICEF supported training on severe acute malnutrition screening and referral, targeting 95 traditional healers and 52 health workers in Nampula province and 278 community health workers in five districts of Zambézia province. Integrated supervision on the implementation of nutrition activities were supported in eight districts of Manica, six districts of Tete, and all districts of Nampula and Zambézia.

To address treatment seeking delays and untimely follow-up which leads to severe acute malnutrition with complications and higher defaulter rates, UNICEF and partners supported the Ministry of Health in developing and implementing a protocol to pilot community-based screening and identification. The protocol was implemented in three districts in three provinces (Nampula, Zambézia and Tete) in close collaboration with UNICEF and the implementing partners (Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance/FANTA and the Maternal and Child Survival Programme) to provide training, logistics and supervision. An assessment questionnaire was developed to assist in the documentation of this experience, which will guide on the feasibility of scaling-up to full coverage in the three provinces and/or nationally.

In terms of supply, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health in the delivery of therapeutic products (322 cartons of F-75, 421 cartons of F-100 and 9,525 cartons of RUTF) to all emergency supported provinces in the south and centre of the country (Gaza, Inhambane, Manica, Sofala, Tete and Zambézia).

**OUTPUT 4** By 2020, HIV-positive pregnant and lactating women and children better adhere to HIV treatment and related services.

**Analytical statement of progress**

In the area of early infant diagnosis the scale-up of point of care testing moved forward, mainly through the technical working groups in which UNICEF and CHAI play an active role. Expansion started in 44 health facilities in Sofala, Gaza and Maputo provinces. In addition, Nampula
province started the preparatory assessment for the expansion to approximately 16 health facilities. A total of 2,575 infants were tested using point of care testing the first quarter of 2017.

With the high level of co-morbidity between HIV and acute malnutrition, the centre of excellence approach was developed in high volume settings where complex care is required along a continuum, to ensure a child exposed or diagnosed with HIV and/or malnutrition has the best possible health outcome. Initial data shows that the approach has begun to demonstrate improved results in nutrition rehabilitation programmes. They reported a cure rate increase from 37 per cent to 68 per cent after the first phase of monitoring for moderate acute malnutrition and severe acute malnutrition. A new partnership agreement with CHAI was developed that will strengthen the technical oversight and quality assurance of the point of care testing expansion.

The communication strategy on retention for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and paediatric AIDS was finalized based on participatory research and approved by the Ministry of Health. This resulted in the development of targeted messages for television and radio spots. A mass media campaign was launched in November and is ongoing. Printed materials were also developed and consisted of leaflets, posters, child friendly booklets, and image albums for HIV patients. Those materials were and continue to be widely disseminated through implementing partners at all levels.

Strong foundations were laid for improvements in PMTCT/paediatric HIV retention. A new partnership with the Comunidade de Santo Egidio was initiated to improve patient tracking systems and quality of services for HIV positive pregnant women and their children. This organization has a strong track record of working with national facilities to achieve higher rates of retention that will be better documented and linked to the national policy dialogue during the partnership.

The bottleneck analysis for the “All In” platform was finalized. The main findings were that access to HIV testing, PMTCT and treatment services are not readily accessible to adolescents. The recommendations will contribute to the operationalization of the adolescent component of the national HIV strategy in 2018.

**OUTPUT 5** By 2020, capacity of the health system to plan, finance and monitor core RMNCAH interventions, with a focus on community level workforce and supplies, is improved.

**Analytical statement of progress**
UNICEF contributed to the finalization of the RMNCAH/N Investment Case, bringing focus on the critical priorities to resolve key bottlenecks towards continued reduction of maternal and child mortality. UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO are spearheading support for the Investment Case through a Joint Programme using each agency’s comparative strength to start key activities.

UNICEF and UNFPA continue supporting the ProSaúde. While this fund has significantly decreased, its emphasis on RMNCAH/N integrated planning contributes to overall coordination. These strategic adjustments (both in ProSaúde and the Joint Programme) help shaping operational planning mechanism as well as technical assistance to make the wider Investment Case a success. UNICEF anticipates supporting the Investment Case’s emphasis on reducing inequities, by building capacity for evidence-based subnational planning, firstly at provincial evel and subsequently at district level.
The scale-up of community health workers accelerated in 2017 with an additional 450 trained, equipped and deployed in Nampula (158), Zambézia (192) and Tete (100) and a further 905 enrolled in the five-month course. This increased coverage in Zambézia from 25 per cent to 52 per cent and from 39 per cent to 60 per cent in Nampula. UNICEF, supported by USAID and DFID, ensured payment of subsidies in nearly all provinces - an estimated 80 per cent of the programme cost - while the Government has taken over the procurement of needed medicines at community level. A study protocol for identifying facilitators and impeders for ensuring an increased percentage of female community health workers will be implemented in mid-2018.

On live-saving medicines, UNICEF continued to work closely with partners towards the implementation of the national strategy to integrate all health and nutrition commodities through a network of national and sub-national stores. A study protocol to understand the bottlenecks and solutions for efficient medical supply chains at community level was developed. The mHealth initiative “upscale” worked toward integration of community health data into the national logistic management information system, SIGLUS, in 2018.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health in conceiving the new organigram for the Health Promotion Department, currently being approved by the Ministry and is also conducting an institutional capacity assessment to better define the organization needs and gaps for leading social and behaviour change communication. These actions were as part of the implementation of the Health Promotion Strategy.

As a first priority, the Health Promotion Strategy was translated in the establishment of health committees and trained community health workers who are implementing the Model Family initiative in Zambézia. Under this initiative, key healthy behaviours are expected to be adopted: use of vaccination cards, mosquito nets, latrines, handwashing, and family planning methods. In 2017, 84 Health Committees were revitalized in eight districts of Zambézia and trained on the promotion and identification of model families. The Department of Health in Nampula was engaged in the process of revitalization of health committees, which resulted in 64 committees from September 2017. An additional 60 health committees will be trained in Nampula in early 2018. Other platforms such as religious leaders, traditional healers and community theatre groups were engaged in promotion of pre-natal care, exclusive breastfeeding, prevention of malaria, cholera, diarrhoea, HIV, child marriage and violence in Zambézia, Nampula, Tete, Cabo Delgado and Maputo.

OUTCOME 3 By 2020, people in targeted rural, small towns, and peri-urban areas use sustainable and safe drinking water services, adequate sanitation and improved hygiene practices.

Analytical statement of progress
The various shocks that impacted Mozambique in 2017, including the debt crisis, Dineo emergency and continuation of the drought had direct repercussions on the WASH sector.

The UNICEF water, sanitation and hygiene programme significantly grew during the year, extending the DFID fund manager agreement and raising funds for a new WASH in health centres initiative, along with extensions of ongoing work in schools and rural areas. The increased resources and visibility of the WASH programme has facilitated greater advocacy opportunities, in collaboration with other sector partners.
The UNICEF stunting reduction initiative was successfully launched, with significant EU funding as well as the creation of an internal working group. The initiative is ongoing and developing clear intersectoral approaches that integrate infant and young child feeding, WASH and communication for development teams in the fight against stunting.

A large multi-donor drought response WASH programme was conducted in 2017 based on upgrading existing boreholes into solar powered multi-use mini-systems. This initiative will ultimately reach around 50 communities and help to develop standards and approaches to solar powered systems in Mozambique.

UNICEF launched a WASH in health systems initiative, starting discussions with the Ministry of Health on developing standards and norms. In addition, an innovative financing feasibility assessment was initiated, which showed that it is possible to create fiscal space for WASH by leveraging private sector participation in a blended fund for small town water systems.

UNICEF supported improvements in coverage for water, sanitation and hygiene which were achieved through capacity development of Government service delivery modalities. Extensive support was provided to improve government-led procurement, contracting and monitoring systems, including quality control. Through on-the-job training, UNICEF support increased access to WASH services and strengthened government systems for improved implementation efficiency for internal state budgets as well external development assistance support.

**OUTPUT 1** By 2020, the capacity of the Government at national and decentralized levels in policy development, planning, monitoring, coordination, programme implementation, financial resource leveraging and budgeting for equitable and sustainable access to WASH services at scale improved.

**Analytical statement of progress**
Under the leadership of UNICEF as chair of the WASH partners group, significant efforts were made to support the Government in the development of the new rural WASH sector plan (known as ‘PRONASAR’). Despite significant progress timelines were pushed back and the document has still not been finalized. As a result of the lack of a sector plan, and poor reporting on past disbursements, the sector plan common fund members collectively agreed to not disburse in 2017.

Following two no-cost extensions of the exceptionally approved DFID/UNICEF fund manager collaboration, which were linked to the debt crisis and DFID’s pull-out of the common fund), the United Kingdom requested UNICEF to continue in the fund manager role for the duration of their partnership with the Government until 2020. During the discussions, UNICEF advocated for several key changes including a larger Government capacity development component of the partnership. DFID agreed to all requested adjustments and an agreement was signed which will facilitate keeping these funds in Mozambique.

Work commenced on the development of a rural sanitation strategy, with a governmental consultancy contract being signed and field work started. UNICEF successfully advocated for DFID to co-fund the strategy development, supporting coordination and improving visibility of the initiative.

The 2017 WASH budget brief showed that only seven per cent of the 2017 WASH budget was financed through the national budget. An analysis of the 2018 proposed budget shows a further
decrease in WASH sector allocations. These analyses show the impact of the financial crisis on the WASH sector.

UNICEF initiated work on ensuring the availability of water, sanitation and hygiene in health facilities. Discussions with the Ministry of Health and field assessments found that there are no standards or norms in the country. In response, UNICEF developed an initial set of standards, and will work with the Ministry to formalize these during 2018.

An innovative financing feasibility study was completed in 2017 by a UNICEF consultant and guided by a steering committee of key Government partners, the Government of Netherlands and the World Bank. The study indicated that it is possible to create a development impact fund for around US$100 million that would target 30 small towns. UNICEF will continue in 2018 to further elaborate the model and build support for the initiative.

UNICEF supported the National Directorate of Water and Sanitation to hold a seminar on the national level monitoring system, and supported the coordination of the donor group to upgrade the system using modern technology. The donor group has agreed to support a pilot in two provinces in 2018.

OUTPUT 2 By 2020, Government has increased capacity to lead and coordinate Humanitarian WASH partnerships to meet the needs of the impacted populations

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF continued supporting Government partners for increased service delivery using their own systems for procurement, contracting and implementation of water infrastructure projects. With exception of the multi-use solar systems, all results for increased access to safe water were realized through this modality.

In 2017, boreholes were drilled in rural communities and schools. Through UNICEF direct support, over 250 boreholes were drilled and equipped with handpumps in Tete, Nampula and Zambezia provinces, and community water committees trained on their management.

Through UNICEF support under its response to the El Nino-induced drought, 27 multi-use water systems were constructed in six provinces through upgrading of existing boreholes into motorized solar powered systems. This resulted in increased and more reliable access to water, while contributing to communities’ resilience. For 2018, documentation and review of the intervention will take place to inform WASH sector strategies. In a similar vein, based on Government requests in 2017, UNICEF started the design of eight small water supply systems in rural areas for Nampula and Zambezia. The work is planned to start in last quarter of 2018 for construction of two systems, following the design phase.

Under the AGUASANI programme, the rehabilitation and expansion of water supply systems for two small towns in Inhambane were completed. The system in Jangamo town was inaugurated by the Provincial Governor and by the the President of Mozambique the town of Morrumbene. These systems are providing water to 12,000 people through the household and public connections in operation to date. The number of household connections are increasing, supported by the creation of a revolving fund to reduce the financial barrier of the connection fee. In 2018, besides the conclusion of the water supply system in Homoine, UNICEF will continue its technical assistance and support to operators and other delegated management framework stakeholders for management, operation and monitoring of water supply services.
UNICEF will also work at national level to include these practices within the implementation model across small towns and secondary systems in Mozambique.

In addition, through UNICEF’s role as Fund Manager for DFID, around 65,000 people were reached with improved water sources through various modalities. These include the drilling of boreholes and construction or expansion of small piped water systems.

OUTPUT 3 By 2020, communities in target rural and peri-urban areas, small towns, schools and health centres, achieve open defecation free status, with increased access to adequate sanitation services, improved hygiene practices.

Analytical statement of progress
In 2017, UNICEF supported an increase in sanitation capacity both within UNICEF and in Government, where three new sanitation staff members were engaged with UNICEF support.

With the use of the community-led approach to total sanitation, 498 communities with 216,421 people were declared open defecation free by the Government. UNICEF alone ensured that 146,889 people gained access to improved sanitation; 46,922 of whom were supported through the DFID fund manager agreement.

The majority of these results were achieved in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Works Housing and Water Resources that uses private sector implementation model on hygiene education and promotion, with a monitoring role of the Government.

These results alone are not sufficient to meet the national open defecation free and improved sanitation targets. Greater national momentum and drive is required, including increased involvement of all ministries, stronger deployment of implementers, and increased domestic investment in sanitation.

UNICEF is addressing these needs through capacity support under output 1. The support to a national sanitation strategy should increase the role of the other stakeholders. The planned development of an advocacy strategy should raise the priority of sanitation amongst all stakeholders; and a sanitation budget analysis aims at making an investment case for sanitation. The national capacity development plan aims at increasing sector capacity to plan, implement and monitor.

The WASH in schools end-user survey was completed during the year and initial results presented to the multisectoral forum. The results will be translated into new standards and norms for water, sanitation and hygiene in schools in Mozambique in 2018.

OUTPUT 4 By 2020, Government has increased capacity to lead and coordinate humanitarian WASH partnerships to meet the needs of the impacted populations.

Analytical statement of progress
Mozambique is particularly vulnerable to recurring natural extreme events such as floods, cyclones and droughts. During the reporting year, Mozambique experienced flooding, cyclones and droughts as well as cholera outbreaks. UNICEF, as WASH cluster lead, worked closely with the Government in coordinating humanitarian interventions, ensuring harmonised response approaches and strategies. A ‘who, what, where and when’ matrix (known as 4W) which maps
WASH cluster-supported interventions up to the community level was regularly updated, and humanitarian meetings were held on regular basis.

Strengthening capacity of WASH cluster and sector partners for a timely humanitarian response continued to be a priority. Twenty-six staff from Government and NGOs attended technical training on WASH in emergency organized by UNICEF. Under UNICEF’s coordination, Family Hygiene Kit and Female Dignity kits were developed/standardized and agreed among WASH cluster and sector partners.

As a result of UNICEF WASH interventions in response to El Niño, 94 communities (42,200 people) gained permanent access to safe water, and 58,080 people were reached through sanitation and hygiene promotion activities. Over 125,000 households across the country were provided with CERTEZA - water purification solution for point-of-use water treatment - as part of cholera and flooding response.

In response to Cyclone Dineo, assistance was provided to run back-up generators and restore quick access to water supply as well as for rehabilitation of two water supply systems destroyed in Inhambane and Maxixe municipalities, benefitting close to 30,000 people.

Over 11,640 people internal displaced due to political conflict were assisted with hygiene kits in Manica and Tete provinces.

**OUTCOME 4** By 2020, policy makers have increased evidence on early learning and school readiness programmes, leveraging advocacy and resources to scale up.

**Analytical statement of progress**

This was the first year of the new country programme 2017-2020, shaped largely by the global SDG 4 agenda along with UNICEF’s Strategic Plan and adapted to national goals and priorities. The education programme promotes an inclusive, effective and efficient education system through support to the Government on: (i) developing the policy and practice to expand early learning; (ii) improving primary teacher capacities; (iii) improving the access, inclusiveness and retention of primary students, and; (iv) increasing the capacity of education officials to plan, manage, monitor, and apply policies and regulations. All aim to ensure better learning results for children.

The results of the second National Learning Assessment in 2016 reinforced the need for concerted efforts to boost learning. The presentation made at the Education Sector Annual Review Meeting showed that the percentage of Grade three children that could read and write at grade level had decreased from 6.3 per cent in 2013 to 4.9 per cent in 2016. On the positive side, during the same meeting all the common fund donors committed to extending their support until 2019 by signing a revised memorandum of understanding.

UNICEF education efforts and results were enhanced by establishing strong links with the central and provincial education authorities. Beyond the Government counterparts, UNICEF found allies in CSOs, development partners, academia, media and communities to achieve the results and targets. UNICEF’s active participation in the education common fund has avoided fragmentation of partners’ contributions. UNICEF and the German development agency, GIZ, collaborated jointly in the area of school management and the education management information system.
UNICEF’s independent advocacy voice and position played a decisive role in the achievement of several important milestones. These include the development of an inclusive education strategy to be presented to the Government in early 2018, the approval of a school managers’ self-study manual, the completion of an evaluation of an in-service course for school managers, and the dissemination of the gender strategy.

UNICEF managed to leverage resources for children, particularly for girls, by mobilizing funds to generate evidence on girls’ drop-out which was co-funded by Global Affairs Canada. Subsequent discussions have triggered the development of a US$2.4 million proposal to advance girls education.

Continuous high-level dialogue accompanied by solid expertise stimulated debate on key issues. These included the need for investing in young children by expanding pre-school education, the importance of commitment to education in emergencies, and on developing a policy framework for inclusive education. UNICEF framed its technical dialogue around teachers as the critical actors in the fight to improve the quality of primary education and student learning of basic literacy and numeracy skills. Technical and financial support was provided to the national in-service teacher training programme, which reached over 12,000 early grade teachers.

Key research efforts included a longitudinal dropout study (conducted by the Pedagogical University/Universidade Pedagogica), a baseline for a school-readiness pilot, and Mozambique’s agreement to participate in the UNICEF Office Research-led study on teacher absenteeism. A notable achievement was the agreement among the Ministry of Education and Human Development, the World Bank and UNICEF that the data collection phase of the teacher absenteeism study would be integrated into the 2018 World Bank’s Service Delivery Indicators Survey, as a qualitative complement. All of the above research benefitted from a participatory methodology and involved capacity building of national partners, contributing to future ownership. Upon completion, UNICEF will follow up to ensure that data and evidence are used by Government and other stakeholders to inform advocacy, planning and policy formulation.

The school councils have been instrumental in voicing children’s concerns with regard to demanding quality education, focusing among others to make functional a complaint reporting mechanism working for gender-based violence, sexual abuse and teacher absenteeism. Another mechanism that enables the monitoring of children’s right to education is district supervision, which is currently reaching 45-50 per cent of schools and tackles areas such as presence of teachers and directors, teaching-learning processes, financial management and functionality of school councils. UNICEF is advocating for this mechanism to be used nationwide.

Access to preschool education in Mozambique is as low as six per cent; and UNICEF has used modelling and piloting as a way to boost school readiness. The approach was also used to test the school-based education preparedness response plan which is expected to be expanded in 2018 and eventually taken to scale.

Demographic growth continues to be a challenge by pushing the system to expand beyond its capacity to ensure quality. This is reflected in chronic inefficiencies, such as the low primary completion rate, high director, teacher and student absenteeism, and inflation of student enrolment figures on which per capita school funding grants are based. A lack of policy frameworks in key areas including early learning and inclusive education have resulted in limited awareness and ownership, low investment, and insufficient standards and coordination. The
financial crisis which started in 2015 is still having a negative impact. The education budget in 2017 fell slightly, and the Ministry announced that in 2018 only 2,000 new primary teachers will be hired compared to the usual 8,000 to 8,500. In addition, increasing pressure from the International Monetary Fund to reduce the public-sector wage bill will have a significant impact on the education sector, representing more than 80 per cent of the Government payroll. Turnover was a significant constraint during 2017, particularly in Zambezia.

**OUTPUT 1** By 2020, policy makers have increased evidence on early learning and school readiness programmes, leveraging advocacy and resources to scale up.

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education in piloting an alternative, low cost accelerated school readiness programme for the expansion of the pre-primary education in Mozambique. During 2017, the 120-hour accelerated school readiness pilot was pre-tested in 15 schools/communities in Milange district in Zambezia, benefitting 988 children, 90 community facilitators and 1,082 caregivers/parents. The pre-testing phase has informed the accelerated school readiness curriculum improvement and the design of the pilot, which is currently implemented in Milange, Derre and Morrumbala districts in Zambezia, reaching 2,700 children and 2,700 of their caregivers in 90 primary school facilities.

The American Research Institute is conducting the baseline and end-line evaluation of the pilot. A baseline study in 30 communities of Derre and Morrumbala districts was conducted in November to mark the initial level of the academic and social preparedness of children as well as parent’s engagement and support. The results will be further assessed at the mid-point level and evaluated at end-point for robust evidence of cost effectiveness, impact and up-scaling feasibility.

UNICEF also provided technical inputs on the proposed national curriculum for community play groups led by the Ministry of Gender and Social Action, now in the final stages of approval.

UNICEF Mozambique hosted a high level regional pre-primary education costing and data analysis event in September in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the World Bank. This important event generated momentum for ECD and early leaning in the country. It recommended the formulation of a new strategy and operational plan for expanding pre-primary education and ECD in Mozambique, on which UNICEF and World Bank are engaged to follow up in 2018.

Fifty early life tips and a video to promote fathers’ involvement in children’s early development were produced and featured on UNICEF communication platforms reaching more than 100,000 people.

UNICEF continued to play a convener role in ECD by maintaining and expanding the umbrella ECD Network (Rede) as a platform for awareness and advocacy, and enhancing the role of civil society. UNICEF’s advocacy messages and tools were used by Rede members, increasing the potential audience and reinforcing important key messages about the importance of early childhood.

**OUTPUT 2** By 2020, primary teachers have improved pedagogical competencies and are better motivated to produce effective learning of literacy and numeracy.
Analytical statement of progress
Through its quality education pillar, UNICEF supported three interlinked in-service teacher training initiatives: the national programme led by the Ministry of Education and Human Development and two supplementary schemes in target districts in Tete (on reading) and Zambezia (on low-cost didactic materials).

UNICEF support for the national programme enabled in-person preparatory seminars for representatives from every teacher training institute, thereby improving the quality of training offered to the approximately 12,000 teachers nationwide. Funding enabled the teacher training institutes to rollout the fundamentals of the in-service training to student teachers. With UNICEF support, the Ministry of Education and Human Development held a seminar on the coordination of in-service teacher training activities, building consensus for the need for an integrated multi-year in-service training plan.

During the year, 667 teachers participated in two rounds of workshops on reading promotion (Tete) and development of low cost materials (Zambezia). UNICEF bolstered the potential impact of the training with programmatic supplies and services. With UNICEF support, the national in-service teacher training manual was revised and is in the process of being designed and printed for a national audience. UNICEF also procured 230 resource kits to help teachers make low-cost didactic materials and 150 mobile libraries containing 251 books (161 titles) to be rotated through schools using UNICEF backpacks.

Innovations included the trialling of SMS-based monitoring and the development of videos linked to the three in-service teacher training initiatives. SMS-based surveys were used successfully to monitor read-aloud activities in Tete, with a 40 per cent response rate. The Ministry of Education and Human Development agreed to use the approach to monitor training rollout at the school cluster (‘ZIP’ - Zona de Influência Pedagógica) and school levels in Tete and Zambezia provinces but struggled to provide the required data to enable a full launch. As such, only a pre-trial for Tete was possible, but with follow up plans for 2018. Two of the teacher training videos were completed, with the third planned for filming in December.

Regarding research and advocacy, the evaluation of the school directors course was anticipated in November. Other important milestones include securing the participation of Mozambique in a regional study on teacher absenteeism, for which an agreement to collaborate was struck between the Ministry of Education and Human Development, World Bank and UNICEF to coordinate fieldwork in early 2018 on the service delivery indicators survey and the teacher absenteeism study.

OUTPUT 3. Pre-positioning and provision of emergency items (school tents, school-in-a-box, learner kits, mobile boards, ECD kits) in response to emergencies (supplies)

Analytical statement of progress
Building upon 2016 efforts to support the Ministry of Education and Human Development’s Gender Strategy, UNICEF continued reinforcing its implementation through dissemination of the gender strategy and prevention of early marriage strategy. UNICEF efforts focused as well on strengthening the capacity of district gender focal points, planners and district education directors in the development of school action plans for mainstreaming gender in provincial operational plans for the target provinces of Tete, Zambezia and Nampula. The initiative was expanded to eight provinces including Maputo city during 2017 and will reach the whole country.
in 2018 as a direct result of the advocacy efforts of UNICEF with the Ministry of Education and Human Development and partners.

Related to the ongoing work on Decree 39 on regulating teacher misconduct in relation to gender-based violence against students, UNICEF organized a multi-sector monitoring review (education, protection, police, and civil society) to follow up on how the complaint mechanism worked in primary schools. While children have used this mechanism to voice their complaints, the review highlighted the need to strengthen the complaint tracking, analysis and follow up by setting a comprehensive referral system able to respond to reported abuse.

Efforts to improve access and retention through mobilization of communities continued. The development of a C4D plan and its operational plan focusing on prevention of dropout in primary education schools was initiated. These are expected to inform sector plans at all levels on dropout prevention with a focus on UNICEF target provinces of Zambézia, Tete and Nampula.

In support of the national efforts to revitalize and train school councils, UNICEF helped develop a school council kit with additional materials aiming at empowering them to play a more active social role on issues such as absenteeism, dropout, gender-based violence and violence against children. Progress included training using the enhanced kit of 217 school council (management) committees, reaching 1,101 school council members in 217 schools in Nicoadala, Maganja and Pebane districts in the target province of Zambezia. An assessment of school council functionality was conducted, revealing that committees were established with inadequate capacity building undertaken to enable them to fulfil their roles and responsibilities.

UNICEF was instrumental to the efforts of creating the architecture of inclusive education in the country, by assisting the Ministry of Education and Human Development to develop an inclusive education strategy and operational plan to be finalised in January 2018. Beyond the strategy consultancy, UNICEF’s support led to increased awareness on inclusive education by printing and distribution of inclusive education booklets for teachers and children in all three regional resource centres in the country.

As cluster lead for education in emergencies, UNICEF contributed to the Government’s emergency response to the Cyclone Dineo through the provision of 17 tents, 40 tarpaulins, 96 schools-in-a-box, 117 portable chalkboards, and 14,999 learner kits. In another flood-affected area in Sofala province, UNICEF supplied 44 tents, 47 school-in-a-box, 9,700 learners kits and 12 portable chalkboards. These critical supplies ensured than more than 17,000 children continued to access educational services.

**OUTPUT 4 Programme Support**

**Analytical statement of progress**
The first year of the new country programme strongly focused on foundational research to ground UNICEF support for system strengthening and inform the development of the new sector strategy. An example is the multi-year national study on the patterns and causes of primary dropout. The first round of data collection was conducted, and preliminary findings will be ready in early 2018. The ongoing findings will contribute to identify the focus of internal inefficiencies of the education system.

UNICEF forged opportunities to leverage key findings by taking up leadership and membership in various technical groups in the Education Common Fund, including focal point of the Human
Resources Working Group, Institutional and Administrative Working Group, and the Public Finance Management Interest. UNICEF’s support to the dissemination of the National Learning Assessment in various fora gave further visibility to the learning crisis and increased accountability at the provincial level.

One of the new programming areas in the new country programme relates to the district supervision approach. This approach touches upon areas related to all aspects of the effective functioning of a school. Nationwide, it is expected that district supervisors visit 50 per cent of schools once and at least half of the schools receive a follow-up visit. UNICEF provided additional funding in target districts to invigorate the district supervision to reach the hard-to-access schools rarely receiving visits. The aim is to push an increase from 50 per cent of schools to at least 70 per cent.

Based on the 2013 SDI findings which pointed to low learning outcomes, school management became one of the priorities for the sector which UNICEF included in the new country programme. The Directorate of Teacher Training developed a school managers’ manual to complement the existing teacher training institutes based one-month school management training to serve as resource material for school directors. During 2017, in collaboration with the German agency GIZ, the manual was rolled-out in all four teacher training colleges reaching 94 teacher trainers, in preparation to rollout training to school directors on school management. The evaluation of the training material of the school directors (see output 2) is expected to inform possible adjustments and integrating some manual components aiming to institutionalize them in the one-month training.

A strong commitment at provincial level to enhance data analysis, included the training of district planners to analyse key performance indicators in line with the education strategic plan. Efforts to set up the online education management information system platform which included procurement of equipment required to use Government’s online tool was met with limited proactivity from the central level to rollout the online platform. The online platform has the potential to further decentralize the data entry resulting in reduced workload at the provincial level and leveraging the devolution of data analysis to district and school levels.

Continued technical support was provided for provincial planning processes in Tete and Zambezia, along with funding that enabled six education officials to participate in a national training of trainers on planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation contents, preparing them to rollout future training.

OUTCOME 5 By 2020, the poorest and most marginalised children benefit from a more effective child and social protection system (cash and care).

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF continued to strengthen multi-sectoral coordination and response to child protection issues with a strong emphasis on capacity building, legal and policy reform and social norms transformation. Significant milestones included: (i) the adoption of the Worst Forms of Child Labour List; (ii) the launch of the National Plan of Action to Address Child Labour (2017-2022) and; (iii) the endorsement by the Council of Ministers of the New Civil Registration Code.

UNICEF contributed to increasing skills and knowledge of the police, social workers, prosecutors, legal aid providers, judges, community child protection committee members, civil registration staff and others, hence improving the environment to prevent and respond to
violence against and abuse and neglect of children. With operational support from UNICEF, the Government expanded the coverage of essential protection services at districts and communities. The police established an additional seven family and children units bringing the national total to 292, the Ministry of Justice installed and operationalized an electronic civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system at 38 conservatories and 120 registration posts throughout the country. UNICEF partners trained 296 Community Child Protection Committees, and the National Institute of Social Action refurbished all their Delegations to prepare them for the introduction of the electronic management information system.

These achievements improved results for children, including:
- The Police Departments of Family and Children attended to 7,075 children (62 per cent girls);
- The Legal Aid Institute (IPAJ) provided assistance to 7,065 children (46 per cent girls)
- The Child Helpline received 35 per cent more calls compared to last year and referred more children to services (633 between January and October);
- CCPCs attended to and referred 71,133 children to social and protection services;
- UNICEF supported the registration of the births of 797,250 children.

Significant gaps in capacity and services continue to impact a timely response to children’s need for protection, especially at the community and district levels.

The deteriorating socio-economic situation, the humanitarian crisis posed by El Nino and its aftermath (La Nina) combined with politico-military tensions in some areas of the country have exacerbated the risks and vulnerabilities children and families face. UNICEF, leading the Protection Cluster until October 2017, focused efforts on strengthening decentralized capacities of disaster management structures partnering with IOM and the National Institute for Disaster Management with 525 persons were trained in emergency affected provinces and districts. An additional priority was on mainstreaming protection throughout the humanitarian response by developing standard indicators and guidelines and engaging in regular interactions and advocacy.

OUTPUT 1 Implement birth registration activities in Niassa in partnership with Lurio Green Resources

Analytical statement of progress
Amendments to the current legal framework included:
- Use of new civil registration forms which include elements from health and statistics;
- Use of unique identifier for a person throughout their lifetime;
- Elimination of geographical boundaries, allowing registration anywhere within the country and to receive a birth certificate from any registration point regardless of where one was registered;
- Possibility to register a child without mentioning names through notification, to capture the statistics and vital events;
- Inclusion of health posts, community and religious leaders as birth notification points.

The e-CRVS is currently functional in 38 conservatories and 120 civil registration posts in throughout the country.

WHO and UNICEF held three consultation sessions to get inputs on models for death notification and registration business processes at the community level. The consultations
included the National Institute of Statistics, National Institute of Health, Ministry of Health, Investigation Centre of Manhica), Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs, USAID, Canada, the US-Centres for Disease Control, University of Toronto and other national and multi-lateral stakeholders. Following interoperability standards, a new information module within the national health management information system was designed to report data on facility-based maternal and neonatal deaths including the causes of death according to the International Classification of Diseases.

UNICEF supported outreach activities of the civil registration departments and contributed to registration of 797,250 children.

In the context of increasing the number and operational capacity of civil registration service points, UNICEF completed equipping and refurbishing conservatories in Pemba, Malema and Monapo and Chokwe.

UNICEF signed a three-year partnership agreement with Save the Children to support the demand creation of civil registration in Mozambique. Save the Children reached 9,728 people with social mobilization activities, trained community leaders and CCPCs, and conducted formative research to better understand the reason why people are not registering births and deaths.

A Inter-Institutional Working Group on Vital Statistics (known as GITEV) memorandum of understanding was signed by the Ministers of Justice, Health, Science and Technology, Interior, Foreign Affairs, Public Administration and by the National Institute of Statistics and Eduardo Mondlane University.

**OUTPUT 2** By 2020, a national child-sensitive social protection strategy operationalised in six target provinces.

**Analytical statement of progress**
UNICEF supported the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action in drafting a concept note on the child grant (0-2 years) covering the design of its cash and care components. The first phase of the programme will be implemented in 2018 in Nampula province with financial support from UNICEF and rigorously evaluated to inform programme scale up.

The management information system has been finalized and will be piloted at three National Institute for Social Action (INAS) delegations in 2018 to inform national scale up. UNICEF supported the refurbishment of all the delegations and the INAS central office to operationalize the management information system, and will supply information and communication technology equipment in 2018.

Regarding HIV-sensitive social protection, UNICEF signed a partnership agreement with World Education Incorporated to strengthen case management in Zambezia and two small-scale funding agreements with the NGOs Ophavela and AMME to implement health and social welfare fairs in Nampula and Zambezia starting in the first quarter of 2018.

Data indicates that demand for institutionalization is increasing. Mozambique has 109 institutional care centres of which eight are state-owned. Since 2015, six centres were closed due to unacceptable conditions. The number of children in institutional care has increased from 8,200 to 13,684 (6,764 are girls aged 0-17). In response, UNICEF aims to improve the response
to children living outside parental care by encouraging reunification and family reunification, improving management and care of children in institutions, and preventing separation from family care.

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action and the Judiciary conducted 114 inspections to centres to ensure their adherence to standards stipulated in the Decree 278/2010 on residential care centres, and for immediate placement of children with families or those eligible for alternative care. Additionally, the Attorney General’s Office and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action senior officials visited 11 centres, providing on-the-job training to more than 20 magistrates, judges and Social Action technicians, and demonstrating high-level commitment to alternative care.

In addition, UNICEF partner, the International Child Development Programme, increased the capacity of 29 Provincial Directorates of Gender, Children, and Social Welfare staff, nine Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action staff and 318 staff from residential centres in organizational development and psychosocial programming. International Child Development Programme’s efforts resulted in better child stimulation practices, improved psychological distress responses, and increased quality of care for children with disabilities in centres. UNICEF supported Government to develop a communication strategy to prevent separation of children from families, and promote their placement in alternative care (families). Finally, UNICEF is supporting the Government to develop guidelines and tools for a National Alternative Care Registry, which are important to guarantee a rapid link between potential families and individuals with children who need adoption or foster care.

UNICEF’s partners trained 296 CCPC members to perform community-based case management, referring cases to statutory services where needed, and conducted monitoring visits and provided technical support to Committees in 73 districts. The CCPCs identified, assessed and referred 71,133 children.

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action and partners concluded the revision of the case management tools (referred to as CSI) being used by the CCPCs and Social Action. The electronic version of the case management tools will be piloted in early 2018.

**OUTPUT 3**

By 2020, strengthened multi-sectoral collaboration between Government and civil society to prevent and address Violence against Children, child marriage and other harmful practices.

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF, UNFPA and the Coalition for Elimination and Prevention of Child Marriage supported the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action to establish an intersectoral Technical Working Group which focused on developing a national media campaign and a decentralized monitoring framework.

Women and Law in Southern Africa trained 130 multi-sector actors and developed child marriage elimination action plans in six provinces. UNICEF organized a national seminar with the Office of the First Lady. Participants approved standardized messages and adopted a declaration.

Based on formative research, UNICEF contextualized the global child marriage theory of change to inform annual planning and developed a convergence strategy for UNICEF and
UNFPA. The research underscored the importance of poverty and initiation rites as drivers of early marriages.

UNICEF engaged with Ministry of Education and civil society to advocate for revising the Decree 39 targeting pregnant girls', access to education and accountability for sexual abuse by school personnel. A consultant is conducting a comprehensive desk review of documentation relating to violence against children in schools and in collaboration with the Ministry of Education will develop reporting and referral procedures in schools.

UNICEF partnered with the Ministry of Health to strengthen a gender-based violence information management system and trained 57 provincial focal points to respond to such violations.

UNICEF supported the Child Helpline to strengthen violence against children reporting and referrals. Between January and September, Child Helpline received 113,972 calls (a 35 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2016), of which 70,345 required interventions and 633 victims (57 per cent girls) were registered and referred. With UNICEF support, Child Helpline developed call registration and management software aligned with regional standards, strengthened data management protocols and procedures, and developed a website. A study visit to Zimbabwe's child helpline, supported by UNICEF, enriched Child Helpline’s thinking on institutional and personnel reform, private partnerships and coordination with the Government.

UNICEF, IOM and the Attorney-General’s Office organized a regional forum to discuss cross-border protocols to investigate trafficking of persons with albinism, resulting in cross-border action plans that complement national plans.

UNICEF transferred leadership of the protection cluster to UNFPA in October, but remained engaged in promoting the child protection in emergency response. Until October, under the leadership of UNICEF, the cluster had reached 212,604 persons, conducted three assessments and developed a protection mainstreaming tool with key indicators.

UNICEF partnered with IOM and the National Institute for Disaster Management to train 27 provincial trainers from the National Institute as well as the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action focal points, deepening understanding of protection in emergencies. The trainers subsequently trained 525 persons (70 per cent women) in nine provinces and 15 districts, from provincial and district level disaster management committees.

UNICEF, the Attorney-General's Office, IOM and Save the Children adapted the 'Children on the Move' research protocol to the Mozambican context, and defined a response plan for critical child protection violations identified during the survey.

**OUTPUT 4** By 2020, strengthened legal framework and justice services adequately respond to children in contact or in conflict with the law.

**Analytical statement of progress**

With UNICEF support, the capacity of 330 professionals (160 judges and magistrates, 100 court clerks, 40 prosecutors, 30 legal aid lawyers) was strengthened in child friendly procedures and legislation. The institutional capacity of 25 courts to provide better services in target districts was also improved through the provision of 42 computers and printers, and 50 motorcycles.
In the context of South-South collaboration, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Ministries of Justice of Mozambique and Angola to establish collaboration between judicial training centre.

A multisectoral study tour to Spain led by the President of the Supreme Court was conducted, and a cooperation agreement is expected to be signed in 2018 to support justice sector reform with a focus on children.

The Ministry of Health, with UNICEF support, developed a database of non-fatal violence. This will enhance the quality of investigation procedures, particularly in regard to gender-based violence cases.

With financial support from UNICEF, the Legal Aid Institute supported 7,065 children (3,259 girls and 3,806 boys); and 11,350 persons were reached through the ‘Justice Caravan’ in seven provinces to increase awareness of their rights.

UNICEF’s partnership with the Police Department of Women and Children contributed to improving their institutional and technical capacity nationwide to respond to cases of violence against children and women. Seven additional police units were established in 2017 bringing the total to 292 units, including 24 model units of which 19 were created with UNICEF support in recent years, and 190 police personnel were trained.

With UNICEF support, the police reached over 43,640 persons in target communities in all provinces through community outreach and dialogues. They increased awareness on child rights, various laws and responses to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation, and on the role of the police. In During January to September, the Police Department of Family and Children attended to 7,075 cases: 4,303 civil cases (1,869 boys and 2,434 girls) 1,310 criminal cases (1,134 girls and 176 boys); and 1,462 other cases such as lost and found children (803 girls and 659 boys).

The List of Worst Forms of Child Labour and the National Plan of Action to Address Child Labour (2017-2022) were developed through consultations in all provinces involving around 1,000 actors from the Government, civil society and communities.

OUTCOME 6 By 2020, adolescents, particularly girls, their families and communities adopt key healthy and protective behaviours and are engaged in the development process.

Analytical statement of progress
2017 was the first year of implementing UNICEF Mozambique’s 2017-2020 Adolescents and Social Norms Strategy. This proved challenging due to the multisectoral nature of the adolescents agenda, the mix of skills needed to move very different programmes (for example between the adolescents and HIV programme and the C4D support to specific programme priorities) and the number of programmes and partners with whom UNICEF had to engage.

Solid achievements were ensured in almost all areas of the annual work plan. Some outstanding achievements were made, including in:
- The C4D capacity building programme and emergency response;
- The adolescents and HIV agenda – particularly completing the ‘All In’ Phase II, strengthening of the National AIDS Council’s Adolescents Working Group, and support for
Additionally, Ouro Negro continued to be one of the key C4D media programmes in Mozambique, with growing recognition from partners about its reach and results.

On children and adolescent engagement, it was found through field monitoring and ongoing discussions with key partners that there is a need to increase investment on the quality of child to child and adolescents’ media clubs, as well as adult commitment. In 2018, special support will be provided for child to child media clubs refresher guidance and capacity building of new members. In addition, guiding manuals on child participation are going to be printed and distributed.

The limited technical expertise of the Government Information Bureau (GABINFO) on communication for development requires a greater investment on their capacity, as well as on the C4D reference group consolidation in 2018.

OUTPUT 1 By 2020, multisector coordination on adolescent-sensitive issues, evidence-based policies and strategies, with a focus on HIV/AIDS, are in place.

Analytical statement of progress
Good progress was made in strengthening the Programa Geracao BIZ Multisectoral committee, with regular participation from UNICEF. Government multisectoral annual planning, national meetings and national girls’ conference were actively supported. Good progress was seen in the establishment and strengthening of the adolescents-led Government Working group in Zambezia (provincial level and district pilot in Maganja da Costa), but support to Nampula was postponed to 2018. Due to reduced number of meetings held in 2017, there was limited engagement with the Intersectoral Adolescents and Young People Support Committee (CIADAJ).

Good progress was made in in supporting the National AIDS Council’s Adolescents and HIV Working Group, including through the deployment of an individual consultant since July 2017. The consultant supported the Global Fund proposal review process in August and September 2017. A mapping of key adolescents and HIV programmes and another on relevant
communication materials were completed, the terms of reference for provincial adolescent and HIV working group was developed, and key messages formulated for World AIDS Day.

All In Phase II was completed with an in-depth bottleneck analysis undertaken in Zambezia, Nampula and Gaza. Complementary SMS BIZ/U-Report polls on condom use, correct knowledge and perceptions around quality offered in health facilities were launched and the data analysed. Data was presented at All In validation meeting and final report was submitted to the National Council to Combat HIV/AIDS. UNICEF ESARO supported the documentation of the Mozambique experience in supporting the participation of adolescents in the All In process.

Terms of reference for an adolescents living with HIV qualitative study were developed. The technical assessment was conducted and a contract started in early November. A reference group was established and the study protocol developed.

The Ministry of Health’s Investment case for the Global Fund Facility was supported, particularly in the revision of the adolescents component. The Ministry of Health’s School and Adolescents Health strategy was revised with inputs provided in two rounds, including during the development of a World Bank video on adolescent health.

Monitoring and evaluation indicators and targets were developed for the Adolescent Girls and Young Women component of the national HIV plan and validated at the National Consultation on HIV Prevention held in September 2017.

An adolescent-led situation analysis concept note was developed and the consultants are being recruited. The situation analysis is planned for completion in June 2018.

An adolescent girls and nutrition research study was completed in Nampula province, to support the development of messages and to inform the content of the Girls Mentoring Training Programme.

**OUTPUT 2** By 2020, disadvantaged children, adolescents and families have improved their knowledge and attitudes on key behaviour and social norms/practices on integrated sector priorities.

**Analytical statement of progress**

Steady steps continued towards more impactful social and behavioural change in Mozambique. More than 100 government and CSO partners (43 national level, 29 Zambezia and 31 Nampula) were trained in C4D with focus on a socio-ecological model. A reference group was created to support the C4D National Policy elaboration.

The Ministry of Health Communication Strategy and multimedia campaign was finalized and approved in partnership with the Johns Hopkins Centre for Communication Programmes. A mass media campaign was launched on World AIDS Day by the Ministry.

In the context of the global programme on child marriage, UNICEF supported the design and implementation of formative research to identify barriers and enablers related to its prevention and elimination. In the light of new evidence, UNICEF developed a customized community dialogues methodology to promote social change. A multimedia campaign was also produced, introducing positive deviance stories and mobilizing support of key influencers. Stunting reduction cross-sectoral platforms, including C4D, were launched in Zambezia and Nampula.
As new Expanded Programme on Immunization communication plan was developed, and technical support provided for the re-design of the organigram of the Health Promotion Department.

Some 84 health committees were revitalized and trained on model family key parameters. Two C4D strategies are under development to address the dropouts in school and issues related to good parenting and alternative care. Civil registration and viral statistics formative research is being developed by Save the Children as an input to a C4D strategy. More than 1,300 key members of the community were trained on civil registration and viral statistics to serve as community mobilizers. An information, education and communication civil registration and viral statistics package was reprinted and distributed to the provinces. Approximately 80,000 people were reached by community theatre in Zambezia and Nampula, and 252 religious leaders were trained in key priority provinces. UNICEF also supported the Institute of Traditional Medicine to organize trainings of traditional healers on child marriage, child and maternal health.

Ouro Negro became a transmedia initiative, comprised of a long-running education-entertainment radio drama, with weekly live radio shows in local languages, stories adapted for community theatre performances and a social media presence. Eighty-four new episodes were broadcast on more than 70 radio stations at no cost. In order to monitor the level of coverage and content recall, a rapid SMS assessment was conducted, registering an average of 25 per cent of radio listeners (approximately 1.5 million people) with at least 30 per cent of them listening to at least one episode per week. Ouro Negro live programmes were regularly produced on a weekly basis from March 2017 in all 12 Radio Mozambique provincial and local broadcasters and in 20 community radios in Zambezia and Nampula.

Support was provided to the Institute of Social Communication for the roll-out of multimedia mobile unit interventions and to 54 community radios on Facts for Life key topics.

Communication for development support was provided during Cyclone Dineo response, cholera outbreaks and polio eradication campaign. According to Independent Monitoring, 97 per cent of people were informed of the polio campaign. As part of the El Nino drought response, 391,681 people were reached in four provinces through multimedia mobile units between October 2016 and October 2017.

OUTPUT 3 By 2020, adolescents from selected youth groups, media networks and Child Parliament are increasingly aware of their rights to participation and engaged in child rights promotion.

Analytical statement of progress
Adolescents are increasingly aware of their rights to participation as demonstrated by the Sixth National Child Parliament supported in August which engaged more than 180, children and adolescents in different sessions.

UNICEF has been providing continuous support for the engagement of around 1.600 children and adolescents through child-to-child media programmes and debates on issues of their own concern. Discussions with adult mentors are simultaneously ongoing to ensure more acceptance and support for effective child participation.

More than 83,000 adolescents and young people were targeted by social mobilization activities conducted by youth parliament activists on prevention of HIV, violence and child marriage.
UNICEF supported the development of four public services announcements within a C4D campaign for the national sexual reproductive health and HIV programme Geração BIZ. The launch of the campaign, which promotes adherence to adolescent and youth friendly services, condom use and HIV testing is planned for the first quarter of 2018.

Within the UN Joint Action for Girls programme (Rapariga Biz), which has the ambitious goal of reaching one million vulnerable adolescent girls by 2020, UNICEF has been supporting one of the girls mentorship programme, a core activity implemented by UNFPA. UNICEF worked to ensure that all mentors are enrolled into the counselling platform SMS BIZ and also received the communication training package. Additionally, provincial communication plans were developed in the two provinces of Zambezia and Nampula, and key activities documented, including the National Girls Conference.

Around 130,000 adolescents and young people registered to SMS BIZ/U-Report were engaged in discussions addressing misconceptions about sexual and reproductive health, HIV prevention and treatment and increasing uptake and linkages to HIV and gender-based violence services. Results from a poll showed positive results, with 65 per cent of adolescents and young people indicating they had been referred to health facilities during the counselling session for additional individual face-to-face counselling, consultation or treatment.

A challenge has been attracting as many girls as boys to the platform with a ratio of 60 per cent boys to 40 per cent girls. SMS BIZ partners officially launched the Girl-to-Girl invite system on the International Day of the Girl Child on October 11th at the National Girls Conference organized in the context of the UN Joint Programme Action for Girls, funded by the Swedish Government. As a result, the proportion of girl users grew from 40 per cent to 44 per cent.

Through U-Report two surveys were conducted to assess the level of satisfaction, quality and humanisation of health services from the perspective of the users and of the health providers. The results indicated that 62 per cent of adolescents and young people reported being satisfied.

**OUTCOME 7** All children benefit from evidence based social and economic policies that address multi-dimensional poverty and advance the equitable realization of their rights.

**Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, UNICEF Mozambique generated evidenced that informed and fuelled strategic advocacy for children’s rights at national and subnational levels. One focus of research was multidimensional child poverty and deprivation, with three background papers produced and preliminary results presented at a national conference. Studies on school drop-out, including the first longitudinal study in Mozambique were initiated and will inform policies in education. Ethics in research generation continued to be an area of focus, with a graduate course on Research Ethics offered in two major universities in the country. UNICEF continued to support the collection of data by the National Institute of Statistics, providing financial support to the 2017 Census.

Steady progress was made in budget oversight, participation and transparency, despite the current economic crisis and mood of distrust in the country. UNICEF evidence and strategic advocacy helped limit the impact of the crisis on the social sectors, including contributing strongly to an increase of 150 per cent in the number of teachers planned to be hired. Four high-quality sectoral Budget Briefs were produced and widely disseminated, and a Budget
Memo (analysis of the 2018 Budget proposal) informed key stakeholders. Parliamentary oversight was strengthened through the establishment of a Parliamentary Budget Office in the National Assembly. With the International Budget Partnership, UNICEF organized a workshop for Lusophone countries on the Open Budget Index, with representatives from Ministries of Finance.

At the decentralized level, a new initiative with seven municipalities, the only really decentralized level of subnational government, was launched to promote early childhood education, nutrition and good governance. The Sustainable Child-Friendly Cities Initiative has the support of two international partner cities and is undertaken in collaboration with the National Association of Municipalities. Technical assistance was provided for provincial planning and budgeting processes, including capacity building of local civil society. A Public Spaces for Children Initiative was started, in collaboration with UN-Habitat, as an innovative approach to identify, design and fund spaces used by children in slums.

Important steps were taken to transform the National Social Protection Strategy into reality. A UN Joint Programme was agreed upon, with an innovative Child Grant designed with a cash and care component. An Operational Plan was developed, and UNICEF is co-chairing the working group that convenes UN agencies, donors, the World Bank and civil society organizations to discuss key policy actions. A management information system that will replace the current manual management of beneficiaries was finalized with UNICEF support.

OUTPUT 1 By 2020, quality research, analyses and evaluation on multiple dimensions of child poverty and deprivations inform policies and strategies for inclusive and equitable development

Analytical statement of progress
A major focus this year was research on multidimensional child poverty and deprivation in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, UNU-WIDER and the UNICEF Office of Research to explore various aspects of child poverty. Three background analyses on nutrition, child marriage and information poverty were produced, and preliminary results were presented at a national conference. Results were used in the planning exercise in the area of child marriage, and nutrition within the office and with Government.

Building on a study already underway, a longitudinal study on dropout in primary education was designed, the first ever in Mozambique. This study, organized in partnership with the Pedagogical University (Universidade Pedagogica), will provide a unique insight into the magnitude and nature of dropouts throughout Mozambique, by following children for a number of years. A specific focus was given to the random selection process of schools and communities. The participatory random selection of schools was led by UNICEF principal investigator and the Pedagogical University Statistician with the participation of representatives of education services at provincial and district levels and all the University’s data collection team. From a universe of 3,297 primary schools in Zambézia province, a Probability Proportional to Size (known as PPS) sampling methodology was applied. Research instruments and methodology were developed by UNICEF research team and validated in the methodological workshop during the design phase of the study. A response plan was also developed.

Focus on research ethics continued, with a second graduate course on Research Ethics realized in collaboration with the Eduardo Mondlane University (Universidade Eduardo Mondlane-UEM), and repeated in Cabo Delgado, one of the most remote provinces. As per a
new standard operating procedure on research and evaluation, anyone doing research for UNICEF Mozambique is required to take UNICEF’s Ethics in Evidence Generation course in Agora before field work. The Faculty of Sociology made this course compulsory for their PhD students. A group of Eduardo Mondlane University professors and researchers were trained in Research Methods with Hidden and Marginal Populations, as part of the collaboration with the University of Essex.

UNICEF supported the Census, including with an ad hoc communication campaign on social media. Despite the limited value of UNICEF’s contribution, it was acknowledged as a key partner, and has access to Census products, especially the cartography, with complete and updated maps which go to the lowest geographical unit. These are of extreme importance for UNICEF programme implementation in the areas of WASH, health, and education at decentralized level.

OUTPUT 2 By 2020, strengthened transparency, accountability and social oversight of national plans and budgets for inclusive social policies.

Analytical statement of progress
High-quality budget analyses underpinned UNICEF’s robust advocacy. Four sectoral Budget Briefs were produced and widely disseminated through a launch event with Government, the IMF Representative, Members of Parliament, CSOs and donors. They were also used in sectoral meetings and as part of comprehensive media engagement.

An innovative two-page infographic was produced for each brief. A Budget Memo - an analysis of the 2018 State Budget Proposal tabled at the Parliament - was produced and disseminated to Members of Parliament, international financial institutions and civil society organizations. This analysis was used in a meeting with IMF during their Article IV mission for a fruitful discussion on the wage bill, which is a concern of theirs. UNICEF advocacy impacted significantly the debate, contributing strongly to an increase of 150 per cent in the number of teachers planned to be hired, and calling for improving the efficiency of current hires.

Within its Open Budget Initiative, UNICEF supported Ministry of Economy and Finance to engage with civil society around the budget cycle, facilitating meetings on the budget elaboration methodology, and on the main lines of the budget proposal. Support was provided for the production of an improved Citizen’s Budget, providing technical assistance to the Budgeting Directorate, and promoting capacity and knowledge exchange between countries on the Open Budget Index. With the International Budget Partnership, UNICEF organized a workshop for Lusophone countries on the Open Budget Index with representatives from Ministries of Finance. UNICEF led the creation of a network and online platform to facilitate exchange of budget-related information and experiences between these countries.

Parliamentary oversight was strengthened through the establishment of a Parliamentary Budget Office in the National Assembly, an initiative of UNICEF and Westminster Foundation for Democracy.. A Senior Economist is onboard, and three parliamentary staff were assigned having received training and visited similar offices in other countries. The Parliamentary Budget Office produced 15 technical analyses of different bills that impact the budget, including the budget proposal, making substantial contributions to the debate with the Government.

Transparency and citizen participation were also reinforced in the Plan and Budget Commission through UNICEF’s provision of technical assistance, with many positive results. The capacity of
approximately 100 Members of Parliament (40 per cent of total) on the situation of children and on budgets for social sectors was built, using the results of a survey.

UNICEF continued to support participation and social accountability in the budget process by providing technical and financial support to the Budget Monitoring Forum to produce analyses and position papers, events and advocacy efforts.

Finally, UNICEF continued the strong relationship with IMF. Thanks to the high-quality work on public finance for children and budget analyses, UNICEF is considered by the IMF as a key player and partner. UNICEF met regularly with the IMF Representative, and was also invited to meet the Article IV IMF mission delegation. During the meeting, UNICEF provided a detailed analysis of the possible impact of IMF proposed interventions and cuts in the national budget on social sectors. The open and frank discussion helped mitigate the proposed cuts on the number of teachers to be hired at national level.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2020, strengthened capacity of Local Governments to maximize the realization and promote equity for children in planning and budgeting processes.

**Analytical statement of progress**
In a country with low level of decentralization but high level of inequalities, local government institutions require special support to bring the needs of children of marginal areas to influence planning and budgeting decisions to reduce inequalities.

As part of UNICEF Mozambique’s decentralization and local governance agenda, municipal councils are a key partner in order to engage with key players at local level, identifying possible champions for change, and promote better and more equitable services for children in urban areas. The Sustainable Child-Friendly Cities Initiative was launched in seven municipalities (Maputo, Manjacaze, Quelimane, Maganja da Costa, Ribaue, Pemba and Montepuez) with the support of two Italian partner cities (Milan and Reggio Emilia) and in collaboration with the National Association of Municipalities. The initiative covers three areas: pre-school education, nutrition, governance and child participation.

Other initiatives related to the Sustainable Child Friendly Cities Initiative were also started, including the Public Spaces for Children approach in collaboration with UN-Habitat, an innovative programme to identify, design and fund spaces used by children in slums areas in the cities of Maputo and Quelimane.

Full-time technical assistance has been embedded in the Provincial Departments of Economy and Finance in Zambézia and Nampula to work in the area of evidence-based planning and budgeting. Preparatory work to generate Provincial Budget Briefs and dissemination of ‘Citizen’s Economic and Social Plan’ - a simplified version of the provincial annual plan has begun, and two provincial child-related data factsheets were produced to support provincial field visits of Members of Parliament.

The quality of the Provincial Economic and Social Plans) continued to improve, with better evidence-based goals and priorities, as well the integration of UNICEF interventions into the provincial planning. Following the commitment to the provincial planning, the activities to be funded with the support of UNICEF were inserted in Nampula and Zambézia plans for 2018, and new activities will be inserted during the revision of the plans between January-February 2018.
A partnership with the Civil Society Forum for Child Rights in Mozambique (ROSC) was started for the realization of social forums and capacity building of civil society platforms in the Nampula and Zambezia Provinces. It implies active participation in the entire provincial planning cycle.

**OUTPUT 4** By 2020, strengthened capacity to develop and implement an evidence-based child-sensitive and inclusive social protection policy framework

**Analytical statement of progress**

Steady progress was made in transforming the newly approved Social Protection National Strategy (ENSSB II) into reality despite a time of financial crisis, which has been a serious barrier to its implementation. An Operational Plan was developed and is awaiting approval by the Council of Ministers to be implemented.

UNICEF and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action co-chaired the Social Action Working Group, which convenes UN agencies (ILO, WFP and UNICEF), donors (DFID, Sweden, and the Netherlands), the World Bank and civil society organizations to discuss key policy actions and strategies.

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action, UNICEF and ILO led the development of the One UN Joint Programme, structured around the ENSSB II and fully aligned to its Operational Plan. The Joint Programme was approved in October and will run for three years, with an investment of US$18 million. In preparation for its implementation, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action in discussing key activities that will be initiated in 2018, developing a basic workplan and initiating procurement processes. This was a long and challenging negotiation process in a very challenging financial and political environment but it was finalized according to the timeline, keeping the focus on the result for children, and mobilizing more resources than originally expected.

UNICEF started discussions with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action and partners (World Bank, DFID, ILO and WFP) on the structure and composition of Operational Manuals that will be developed in 2018. For setting up a new child grant, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action established a technical working group with participation of the Ministry of Health and INAS, wherein a pre-design has been discussed and an advanced concept note drafted. This is pending approval by the technical body of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action. The pre-design includes the start-up phase of the programme, which will target 10,000 children in selected districts in Nampula province. This phase will provide information for expansion (2019-2020), including a baseline and an impact evaluation, which the contractual process was finalized this year.

e-INAS, a Management Information System that will replace current manual management processes of beneficiaries of the Social Protection National Strategy at INAS delegations was finalized, with UNICEF support. An HIV-sensitive social protection strategy, for developing links between current programmes and HIV services is being developed by UNICEF, with support from the Dutch Government.

UNICEF presented a ‘Myth Buster’ report that confront common perceptions about cash transfers at the National Social Protection week, an event organized by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action with support of ILO. UNICEF also contributed to the shock-responsive social protection agenda in Mozambique led by WFP and World Bank, supporting
the creation of a Government technical working group that involves relevant stakeholders.

OUTCOME 8 Human Resources Management

Analytical statement of progress
In 2017, UNICEF continued its efforts towards improving efficiency and effectiveness in programme management and operations support for programme delivery. This was reflected in the Annual Management Plan priorities, strengthened HACT assurance, and improved cash transfer monitoring while at the same time engaging in a significant humanitarian response to the El Nino drought and Cyclone Dineo in Inhambane.

UNICEF Mozambique maintained its efforts at ensuring efficiency in human resource management. The vacancy rate of all funded posts was 2.3 per cent, the Performance Appraisal System completed as required and staff welfare issues continuously tracked at the CMT meetings.

UNICEF continued to engage in the One UN structures: the United Nations Country Team, the Programme Management Team, the Operations Management Team, and outcome groups on food security and nutrition, economic transformation, education, gender, social protection, health, youth, governance outcome groups. UNICEF also significantly invested in staff with the organization of two staff retreats to follow up on findings of the Global Staff Survey.

OUTPUT 1 Human Resources Management

Analytical statement of progress
In terms of accountability, the achievement of UNICEF Mozambique’s priorities were tracked by reviewing the status of the Annual Management Plan indicators at monthly CMT meetings. The indicators, which included standard indicators (global and regional), were the benchmark for assessing progress and highlighting areas that needed improvement. The indicators and priorities were also assessed during the mid-year and Annual Review Meetings.

UNICEF Mozambique continued to implement audit recommendations in order to ensure efficiency of operations through internal controls.

Concerning planning, a peer review of all 2017 Annual Workplans was conducted in December 2016, strengthening their results-based management focus.

UNICEF Mozambique focused on training of staff and partners in HACT and the Government on travel and procurement procedures. The implementation of programmatic visits was strengthened, and planning in relation to One UN enhanced including uploading UNICEF data on the joint UN platform.

OUTPUT 2 Human Resources Management

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF Mozambique met its target for mobilisation of funds for 2017 (99 per cent) and 2018 (90 per cent). The resources were mobilised through proactive engagement of donors including selected UNICEF National Committees and bilateral donors, including the European Union,
Swedish International Development Agency/SIDA, and DFID. Resource mobilization also included donor briefings on new country programme, timely and quality donor reporting and heightened visibility via tweets and pictures from field trips.

Despite the depreciation of the Mozambican currency which greatly increased the available resources, the overall utilization rate was 95 per cent.

UNICEF Mozambique will focus on reducing the direct cash transfer processing time to the bare minimum. This will be done by promoting monthly verification of DCT status and by making individual staff more accountable.

OUTPUT 3 Human Resources Management

Analytical statement of progress
Implementation of the recruitment plan to fill the positions created or modified to support the implementation of the new country programme was completed in 2017. This involved the recruitment for 53 positions finalised by year end, 40 of which under the regular vacancy modality. Twenty of the changes were either promotions or same level movements of existing staff, 12 who had previously been either temporary appointments, UN volunteers or consultants, and 25 were staff entirely new to UNICEF. Diversity indicators were either maintained or improved. Four rounds of one-week induction training were offered to newly arrived staff to support their acquisition of basic knowledge of UNICEF’s programmes and processes.

In addition to staff, 60 individual consultancy contracts were issued in 2017. These were in response to various short-term capacity gaps and needs identified throughout the year, as well as to respond to the ongoing drought and cholera emergencies in the north of the country.

The new performance management training was piloted in the country office in May, followed-up by 13 clinics on the human resources reform in Maputo and intensive training in the provinces. The 2017 year-end appraisals and 2018 planning were framed in the culture of regular, continuous, and open feedback, including a calibration exercise of the 2017 Performance Appraisal System planned for the first quarter of 2018.

Following discussions in the joint consultative committee, an office improvement plan was agreed to address the results of the Global Staff Survey, which encompasses various ongoing initiatives. These included the workload analysis, meaningful collaboration, regular UN Cares activities, as well as ethics training to improve staff knowledge on mechanisms for reporting fraud and misconduct, including protection from retaliation. Seven of the 11 actions planned were closed, and the remaining are in progress, expected to conclude in the first quarter of 2018.

OUTPUT 4 HACT

Analytical statement of progress
The HACT assurance was been strengthened with the completion of 11 audits, 51 spot checks, 214 programmatic visits and 38 micro assessments. Of the micro assessments conducted, eight partners were found to be low risk and two of medium risk. About 132 per cent of the programmatic visits were conducted. For programmatic visits, a new template was designed by UNICEF Mozambique and endorsed by ESARO.
OUTCOME 9 Country programme is efficiently designed, coordinated, managed and supported to meet quality programming standards in achieving results for children.

Analytical statement of progress
Office governance and quality assurance continued well through throughout 2017 with monthly country management teams guiding the process in key areas.

In terms of planning, the mid-year and annual reviews took place as planned, with the latter involving all staff members and providing an engaging way for staff to shape the 2018 priorities.

2017 was a demanding year in terms of fundraising and donor relations in Mozambique. Donors’ concerns related to channelling their resources through Government remained an issue. This resulted in numerous donors engaging UNICEF to support programme implementation with involvement of, but not through Government.

UNICEF Mozambique focussed on strengthened the planning, implementation and follow up of the harmonized approach to cash transfers assurance, including training partners and staff on HACT and use of FACE forms.

On advocacy and partnerships, the UNICEF Mozambique reached different audiences with child rights messages with a strong focus on digital communication complemented by media relations and events outreach. However, the vacant post of Communication Specialist for more than six months resulted in additional workload for different team members.

The coordination of support to the multiple, overlapping natural emergencies (cyclone, drought, cholera and polio outbreak, as well as internal displacement) that affected Mozambique remained a priority throughout the year, in close coordination with key Government partners and members of the Humanitarian Country Team. UNICEF continued to co-chair with Government the Nutrition, WASH, Education and Protection clusters and chaired the Inter Cluster Coordination Group.

In supply management, supplies in the warehouse were efficiently managed to the extent that there is $1,238 programme in stock aged from six to 12 months (which are defective supplies to be sent to the Property Survey Board) and no expired stock.

OUTPUT 1 Programme Planning and Monitoring: UNICEF staff and partners are provided guidance tools and resources to effectively plan and monitor Programmes

Analytical statement of progress
HACT assurance was been strengthened with the completion of 11 audits, 51 spot checks, 214 programmatic visits and 38 micro assessments. Of the micro assessments conducted, eight partners were found to be low risk and two of medium risk. About 132 per cent of the programmatic visits were conducted. For programmatic visits, a new template was designed by UNICEF Mozambique and endorsed by ESARO. UNICEF Mozambique started monitoring of the programmatic visit reports and the sections chiefs were responsible for approval of the report. Monthly follow ups helped to identify challenges and adjust in due time. The quality of reporting improved, and the office met the target for the visits.
There was a great improvement on FACE forms use which is a result of training of the users. A total of 256 partner staff were trained on the use of FACE form. Consequently, the proportion of FACE forms with finance issues have reduced.

A session with 25 UNICEF staff on government daily subsistence allowance and procurement was delivered in partnership with Government officials. Twenty staff completed the HACT Agora mandatory training and 17 the FACE online training.

Programme convergence increased though the operationalization of four thematic groups on Nutrition, Adolescents, ECD and Social Protection chaired by section chiefs. UNICEF Mozambique received support from ESARO to further strengthen the work of these groups and revise the programmatic convergence strategy.

With the view to improve performance, UNICEF Mozambique hired consultants that facilitated sections on Meaningfully Collaboration and workload analysis. These served to guide the office on improving collaboration between and among programme sections, between operations and programs, and between national and provincial teams, to improve accountabilities, efficiency and results.

**OUTPUT 2** UNICEF staff and partners are provided tools, guidance and resources for effective advocacy and partnerships on child rights issues with stakeholders.

**Analytical statement of progress**

Public advocacy for child rights in Mozambique was conducted through digital communication, media relations and strategic events organization. When there was a convergence of interests, UNICEF in Mozambique adopted and benefitted from the organizations global approach. UNICEF Mozambique was able to attain a broader and varied audience when disseminating key messages, particularly on priorities clearly stated in the advocacy blueprints for child marriage, nutrition, social protection and early childhood development.

The strong focus on digital communication enabled UNICEF Mozambique to be able to engage with the national audience, as well as to talk to development partners. As a result, almost nine million people were reached through UNICEF digital assets in Mozambique, as follows:

- Website – 89,949;
- Microsites and Internet of Good Things (IoGT) – 85,993;
- Facebook - 6,491,289;
- Twitter - 1,505,856;
- Instagram - 359,248;
- YouTube - 68,088;
- LinkedIn - 77,119;
- SMS BIZ - 129,977

In addition, UNICEF Mozambique reached up to 1.5 million people through traditional mass media.

Key child rights events were supported with both social media and media outreach. These included:

- Breastfeeding Week – a targeted campaign to new mothers);
- ECD Regional Workshop (#3E and #EarlyMomentsMatter);
- World Children’s Day (#YouthTakeOver);
- World Prematurity Week (targeted campaign to soon to become mothers);
- National Health Week (targeted social media campaign);
- World Toilet Day (global photo essay on sanitation);
- Children’s Fortnight launch event with First Lady (Praça da Paz);
- Fair ‘n Square (on children with disabilities);
- Emergency response (for drought, polio, and others).

To improve reach, UNICEF Mozambique initiated the implementation of the Facebook Advertising Strategy in the last quarter of the year. More than 60 decision-makers used their voices and influence on behalf of children through statements. They included the President of the Republic, Members of the Parliament and Government, the First Lady, Provincial Governors, and the UNICEF National Ambassadors Neyma and Clarisse Machanguana.

In addition, several press releases and news notes were disseminated in English and translated into Portuguese, and interviews and media appearances undertaken on local and international radio, television and for newsprint.

UNICEF Mozambique in close collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports negotiated and signed memoranda of understanding with the three mobile phone service companies operating in the country (Vodacom, Movitel and Mcel). Through this, the companies are supporting the SMS Biz-U Report project in 11 provinces between 2017 and 2020, with free SMS addressed to adolescents and young people.

A CSO baseline study was conducted in five provinces (Zambezia, Tete, Nampula, Manica and Niassa), to define the initial status for the interventions of the Civil Society Forum for Child Rights in Mozambique. Five CSO/ROSC provincial networks capacity building sessions were conducted, in Manica, Zambezia, Tete, Niassa and Nampula. Around 50 organizations, including Parliament, Government, CSOs and other partners participated in the advocacy workshop for the revision of the legal framework with focus on child marriage.

National thematic groups were strengthened, including CECAP, Forum da Monitoria e Orçamento and Plataforma da Sociedade Civil para a Proteção Social, Movimento de Educação para Todos. The ROSC leadership and quality contribution was recognized by peers, Government and Parliament. ROSC lead the Budget Monitoring Forum event for the presentation of budget briefs.

**OUTPUT 3** Strategies to address cross-cutting issues related to child rights are developed and applied.

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF Mozambique continued to provide supplies and services to support programme implantation. The total procurement value reached US$14.8 million. The office continued engaging in collaborative procurement initiatives with the UN system in Mozambique and managed the procurement activities for five common service categories, in line with the Business Operations Strategy.

UNICEF supported the Government by providing procurement services for essential commodities exceeding US$28 million. UNICEF also focused on strengthening the capacity of the Government supply chains, including strengthening the Ministry of Health supply chains in
the key areas of vaccination and treatment of acute malnutrition. This involved supporting their multi-year forecasting of vaccines and emergency nutrition supplies, upgrading the central and national level cold chain systems, and in building internal capacity within the Ministry to manage and maintain their cold chain systems.

In WASH, UNICEF continued its capacity building strategy that uses Government procurement systems for non-emergency civil works projects. UNICEF was able to preposition goods worth US$1.34 million in tandem with the Early Warning Early Action plan.

The inventory was effectively managed, with no programme stock aged over 12 months nor any expired stock.

IN 2018, UNICEF Mozambique will focus on streamlining supply processes and ensuring continued effectiveness in supporting programme implementation, emergency response, and strengthening Government supply chains. The office will continue active participation in common UN procurement initiatives.

### Evaluation and research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sequence Number</th>
<th>Type of Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SETSAN Seasonal Food Security and Nutrition Assessment</td>
<td>2017/011</td>
<td>Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH Innovative Financing Feasibility Study</td>
<td>2017/006</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Hunger Study for Mozambique</td>
<td>2017/005</td>
<td>Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Budget Brief Social Action</td>
<td>2017/008</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Budget Brief WASH</td>
<td>2017/007</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Budget Brief Education</td>
<td>2017/009</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Budget Brief Health</td>
<td>2017/010</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis of the Budget Allocation Criteria used by the Government of Mozambique: An Analysis of the Territorial Allocation</td>
<td>2017/004</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure Analysis in the WASH Sector (2009-2015)</td>
<td>2017/003</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Memo 2018</td>
<td>2017/002</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other publications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Participate in the Census 2017&quot; poster for social media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Briefs 2017 (Education, Health, WASH, Social Protection) 2-pager Infographics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOMA (oral cancer) package (brochures and posters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth Registration IEC package</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geração BIZ Manual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flip chart for community health workers (Album seriado dos praticantes da medicina tradicional</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
para promoção de saúde, educação e protecção da criança)
ALL IN (Rapid Assessment of HIV response for adolescents in Mozambique)
Radio Manual for children and adults (Guião de Rádio para Crianças e Adultos)
SMS BIZ Package (Leaflets and Posters)
Annual Report 2016
Desk Calendars 2017

Lessons learned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Type/Category</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesson Learned</td>
<td>The SMS BIZ/Report Innovation Gender Challenge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson Learned</td>
<td>Workload Analysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Programme documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Type</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AWP/RWP</td>
<td>Programme Effectiveness AWP</td>
<td>Mozambique_AWP_2017_Programme_Effectiveness.xlsx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWP/RWP</td>
<td>WASH AWP</td>
<td>Mozambique_AWP_2017_Wash(2).pdf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWP/RWP</td>
<td>SPEaR AWP - Portuguese</td>
<td>Mozambique_AWP_2017_Social_Policy_Research_Evaluation.pdf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWP/RWP</td>
<td>Child Protection AWP - Portuguese</td>
<td>Mozambique_AWP_2017_Protection.pdf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWP/RWP</td>
<td>Health AWP</td>
<td>Mozambique_AWP_2017_Health.pdf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWP/RWP</td>
<td>Education AWP</td>
<td>Mozambique_AWP_2017_Education.pdf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWP/RWP</td>
<td>Communication, Adolescents and Partnership AWP</td>
<td>Mozambique_AWP_2017_CAP.pdf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>