

## Myanmar

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### Executive Summary

The context within which progress is made for children under the programme of cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and UNICEF remains promising overall, yet still challenging.

UNICEF continued to provide strong support to the development of national policies and strategies in sectors highly relevant to children – education, health, child protection, social protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Implementation of activities was somewhat delayed and decreased as a new administration and a new Parliament came to power. Yet, UNICEF's engagement with multiple actors across the political spectrum since 2012, and with a particular intensity during the 2015 elections, helped preserve the initial investment in policy reforms and systems strengthening in 2016, and helped its work with the new Government.

More than 100 children and young people were released from the armed forces, bringing the total to 800 since the signing of the Joint Action Plan in 2012. In targeted townships, the number of children aged 3–5 years accessing early childhood facilities reached close to 155,000, an increase of 50 per cent compared with 2015. Five hundred newborn health corners were established and investment in cold chain strengthening this year represented 65 per cent of the past 10-year investment. Emergency interventions reached almost 100,000 children.

UNICEF continued to mobilize the Myanmar society in support of children's rights. Regular sessions were held with the committees of the new Parliament at union and state levels, and the Interfaith Platform for Children was mobilized ahead of the 21st Century Panglong Conference to urge parties to make peace in the interests of children.

More than 5,000 young people signed up to the new U-report platform, making their voices heard by policymakers on subjects such as domestic violence, poverty, health and peace. UNICEF engaged with ethnic armed organizations on several initiatives for children. In the south-east of Myanmar, such partnerships included joint mine risk education and WASH initiatives between the Government and ethnic groups.

UNICEF strengthened relationships between the Ministry of Health and Sports and health departments of non-state entities, resulting in services being provided to women and children such as immunization (polio campaign), water and sanitation, HIV prevention, nutrition, and maternal and child health in Kachin, Kayin and Shan.

In an effort to further build and use government systems, UNICEF Myanmar accelerated the rolling out of the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers among government entities, with 14 departments now adopting the modalities. Similarly, there was a \$20 million increase in procurement services from 2015 to 2016, reflecting the greater reliance on government systems and finances, which allowed for greater use of UNICEF resources for support to policy reforms and system strengthening. Technological innovations capitalizing on the rapid expansion of telecommunications were mainstreamed into the health systems, child protection, the promotion of youth voices and birth registration. UNICEF field offices moved

further in empowering the state and regional governments, namely through the development of plans for children (Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Mon, Rakhine, Sagaing and Tanintharyi).

Despite progress, 1 out of 5 children continue to be born without registration, between 100 and 150 die every day before having a chance to celebrate their 5th birthdays, close to 30 per cent of children under 5 suffer from moderate and severe malnutrition, half of them reach adulthood with incomplete education, and more than half live in poverty. A UNICEF-supported analysis of the situation of children with disabilities revealed that two out of three do not attend school and 90 per cent do not visit the doctor.

An estimated 1.8 million children still need peace, and restrictions of freedom of movement and discriminations placed on thousands of children in Rakhine prevent them from accessing adequate health care, good nutrition and education.

The inauguration of a new administration and a new Parliament provided significant opportunities to accelerate and deepen commitments to children in Myanmar. Systematic investigation and analysis of data arising from new sources of information – most prominently the 2014 census and the 2016 Demographic and Health Survey – generated a fresh understanding of the challenges and opportunities for the approximately 17 million children living in Myanmar.

All of this helped the Government and children’s advocates formulate a ‘New Vision’ and ‘New Results’ for children in Myanmar during a high-level conference in October this year. The new administration seized the opportunity of its first budget submission to gradually implement its new commitments for children, including through the financing of its social protection strategy.

## Humanitarian Assistance

The humanitarian response operations in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states continued in 2016 due the protracted nature and complex crises that belie their contexts. UNICEF reached close to 100,000 children in 2016 through emergency interventions and raised approximately US\$12.5 million in support of its humanitarian response activities, about 50 per cent requested in the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal. In 2016, UNICEF Myanmar led robust responses to the protracted crises in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states in partnership with the Government of Myanmar, local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organisations. In addition, UNICEF supported the Government of Myanmar’s flood response efforts in Bago, Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing. UNICEF advocated with government counterparts for integration of humanitarian and development coordination mechanisms and a ‘whole of state’ approach to ensure that all children have access to essential services.

**WASH:** In Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states, UNICEF worked with government officials to continue basic service provision to internally displaced persons in camps and promoted government leadership of services for internally displaced persons, including integration of the WASH cluster into broader sector development coordination and planning structures, operation and maintenance of WASH hardware in camps for internally displaced persons, latrine desludging activities, and water supply. UNICEF supported the Government of Myanmar and communities to minimize vulnerabilities to climate-related disasters through provision of WASH supplies, funding and technical support. Overall, UNICEF-supported emergency WASH activities reached 313,000 people in 2016, including more than 249,000 people affected by the 2015 floods.

**Nutrition and health:** High achievements in the nutrition sector this year were largely due to an expansion in partner capacity, particularly in Rakhine. In all, nearly 27,000 children aged

6–59 months received micronutrient supplementation in Kachin and Rakhine, and more than 8,000 children 6–59 months old were treated for severe acute malnutrition. Furthermore, more than 11,600 pregnant and lactating women received support for infant and young child feeding through emergency programmes. UNICEF worked to improve access to health services across 10 townships in Rakhine and 9 conflict-affected areas in Kachin and Shan. More than 7,800 children and women were vaccinated against measles and an additional 8,780 children under 1 year of age received other required vaccinations.

**Child protection:** More than 20,500 displaced and other conflict-affected children received psychosocial support through UNICEF and its partners in 2016. UNICEF monitored progress towards the Joint Action Plan to end use and recruitment of children by the Myanmar Army and accelerated its engagement with ethnic armed groups listed as persistent perpetrators of use and recruitment of children. In 2016, 104 children were released from armed forces and armed groups, and UNICEF and partners continued to provide socio-economic support to 650 children and young people in 2016.

To improve data collection on grave violations against children, UNICEF trained 223 frontline workers on the monitoring and reporting mechanism for violations against children. More than 6,000 teachers, internally displaced persons and host communities, including 2,400 children, received direct lessons in mine risk education.

**Education:** In 2016, more than 26,300 children in Rakhine and nearly 6,200 children in Kachin and Shan benefited from pre-primary and primary and non-formal education in safe spaces. UNICEF advocated for the Rakhine State Education Department to continue supporting community volunteers in temporary learning spaces, leading to volunteer teachers being included in in-service teacher training.

**Disaster risk reduction:** UNICEF continued to support the capacity building and training of government staff on inclusive disaster risk reduction planning, warehouse management and promotion of inclusive and child-focused public awareness regarding eight common hazards. UNICEF has received a seat on the Government's Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction Task Force and will steer the drafting of an action plan for the National Disaster Management Committee. UNICEF participated in the first Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction Task Force meeting on 27 October, and advocated for a greater emphasis on inclusion and protection of vulnerable groups, ensuring a cross-sectoral approach as well as tackling the underlying causes of vulnerability, and building resilience and adaptive capacity. UNICEF also organized a consultation on the Disaster Risk Reduction Youth Volunteer Programme Strategy and supported the Relief and Resettlement Department in implementing the strategy in nine townships of Ayeyarwaddy, Mon and Rakhine. UNICEF also completed a revised child-centred risk assessment in addition to a climate change vulnerability analysis to identify the areas where children are most at risk. This information can be utilized by programme sections for prioritization of activities and areas within the 2018–2022 Country Programme.

## Emerging Areas of Importance

**Climate change and children.** UNICEF supported the installation of 10 solar water pumping systems in the dry zone of Myanmar, replacing handpumps and diesel-powered systems. The systems are popular with communities and the Government due to their very low running costs and high functionality. UNICEF has also provided 450 climate-friendly and ozone-friendly solar refrigerators for safe storage of vaccines, particularly in hard-to-reach areas with no access to electricity. These solar fridges also do not use lead batteries, thus avoiding the high maintenance costs and environmental risk of disposal.

With the objective of decreasing the vulnerability of communities through promoting climate- and disaster-resilient WASH infrastructures and increasing government capacity at district

and township levels to prepare and respond to emergencies, UNICEF has been implementing a climate-resilience WASH project in four townships in Ayeyarwady and Rakhine that are at high risk of disaster and have low pre-existing access to water and sanitation. The project includes demonstration of climate-resilient safe water supply systems and sanitation facilities that will provide access to resilient and safe water supply and water and sanitation facilities to 90,000 people. An internal Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment is being completed, which will help guide future initiatives that increase adaptability to the changing environment in the country.

**Migrant and refugee children.** UNICEF finalized a study with the International Organization for Migration and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on the impacts of migration (both domestic and cross-border) on children. The study is informing government responses across all sectors on how to address the unique vulnerabilities children face when migrating with their parents or independently, as well as how migration of caregivers affects children who are left behind. For children who are internally displaced due to conflict, UNICEF worked with partners to support essential services provision, including leading clusters for WASH, nutrition, education and child protection.

**Accelerate integrated early childhood development (ECD).** The situation analysis carried out for the preparation of the new Country Programme 2018–2022 highlighted the importance of greater focus for both early childhood development and the second decade. For the former, the current programme is emphasizing the first 1,000 days, using an integrated approach to promote nutrition specific and sensitive interventions. UNICEF collaborated with key ministries and Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) networks to hold a multi-stakeholder workshop for nutrition in Kayin State, involving more than 50 local authorities and partners, including ethnic health organizations. Subsequently, an integrated local plan was developed to prioritize actions for scaling up nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions with a focus on the first 1,000 days. Implementation will be overseen by a multi-sectoral state steering committee and Kayin's nutrition plan is expected to serve as a model for multi-stakeholder collaboration under a decentralized SUN framework that could accelerate implementation for nutrition and be replicated to other states/regions.

For children in the age range of 3–5 years, UNICEF has strongly advocated for mother tongue-based early education. The first-ever integrated early childhood intervention service programme was designed with multi-sectoral involvement led by the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Home Affairs and others facilitated by international and national consultants supported by UNICEF. Mother tongue-based material development was supported through capacity building of 65 Language and Cultural Committees.

**The second decade.** For children in the second decade of life, the situation analysis has shown the significant decline in school attendance from the age of 11 onward, mirrored by an increase in child labour, including some of the worst forms. Addressing these issues will be a major element of the new Country Programme.

The first 'Adolescents Conference' was organized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement with support from UNICEF, Action Aid and 15 other organizations, and resulting in a list of recommendations for the national youth policy, currently under development by the ministry. UNICEF is supporting the Myanmar Adolescent Development Network and facilitated the formation of a Yangon-based network named 'Teens and Dreams'. U-Report was launched as a key mechanism to help build a youth movement and mobilize the voices of adolescents and youth as an advocacy force.

'Movements' and children. The Interfaith for Children platform is emerging as a key 'movement of children', and UNICEF continues its engagement to support its work in promoting peace and tolerance in the country. Religious leaders from Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Muslim communities organized a prayer event ahead of the 21st Century Panglong Conference calling for children's needs and rights to be put at the centre of the peace discussions; and met with the United Nations Secretary-General to highlight the impact of conflict on children.

## Summary Notes and Acronyms

C4D	Communications for Development
DCT	direct cash transfer
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
NGO	non-governmental organization
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

## Capacity Development

UNICEF provided technical and capacity support to the Department of Social Welfare for appropriate programme design of a universal, unconditional Maternal and Child Cash Transfer Programme in Chin State, starting in 2017. This involved supporting the development of key products such as the costings, operations manual and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. This is the first flagship programme of the National Social Protection Strategic Plan to be delivered state-wide through a government-led implementation modality.

The Department of Social Welfare was supported to further build on the introduction of its case management system, which expanded to 10 new townships in 2016, bringing the total townships with government child protection social workers to 37. More than 1,200 cases of children who experienced violence, abuse or exploitation were responded to in 2016, with increased linkages to the police and judiciary to address victims and witnesses. Support was provided to strengthen coaching, mentoring and on-the-job capacity building to the new social workers. Case management will be rolled out across all 11 townships in Chin State in 2017 as a part of the Government's commitment to address social vulnerabilities within the social protection strategic framework.

More than 280 Central Statistics Office staff members at the union and state/regional level were trained to undertake vital registration, including for births. Support included on-the-job training to use the newly established vital registration e-platform in all districts across Myanmar.

A multi-level Ministry of Education Capacity Gap Assessment was completed identifying the ministry's human and institutional capacity gaps across nine priority areas. This will help UNICEF and other development partners target capacity-building initiatives in the future. Key recommendations include the need for improved coordination across departments and levels, and a comprehensive, integrated monitoring and evaluation system.

## Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

Recent data, especially Census 2014, were analysed and utilized to inform policy efforts and was instrumental in informing a high-level conference on 'New Vision, New Results for

Children in Myanmar' in October, led by the Ministry of Planning and Finance and supported by UNICEF. This was a successful platform to undertake an evidence-based discussion on the new government's strategic vision for children, including identifying top priorities, key sectoral policies and enabling environment policies. This situational analysis of children in Myanmar shaped thinking around UNICEF's new Country Programme by, for example, illustrating the scale of health- and nutrition-related deprivations and disparities.

In collaboration with the Division of Rehabilitation of the Department of Social Welfare, UNICEF also produced and launched the first Situation Analysis of Children with Disabilities in Myanmar, providing insights on the types of exclusions faced by children with disabilities. UNICEF commissioned a formative evaluation to assess the merit of the decision-making processes since the mid-term review in relation to the development of a child protection system in Myanmar. It assessed UNICEF's support on social work case management to the Department of Social Welfare as an entry point. The evaluation provided rapid feedback on the programme's strengths and weaknesses; established an evidence base for the new country programme; and generated learning for advocacy on systems strengthening.

The non-formal primary education independent review revealed it as an effective alternative education modality in terms of completion, student learning, re-entry to the formal education system. However, operational constraints include expanding outreach, and policy recommendations to address this were developed. UNICEF supported the development and production of Child-Focused Township Profiles in Kachin, Kayah, Magway, Mon and Sagaing. These profiles provide an evidence base for planning at the decentralized level, and are being used to discuss data gaps and data-quality issues with key officials and parliamentarians.

## Partnerships

Following the historic elections in November 2015, UNICEF firmly established relationships with new Ministers and Chief Ministers, built partnerships with new parliamentarians, mobilizing advocates for the realization of children's rights, and produced an inventory/analysis of members of national and state/regional parliaments, and Parliamentary Committees. UNICEF conducted workshops to increase capacity in law-making, oversight and budgeting, including briefings on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, child law, and social protection. The partnership with the Interfaith for Children platform was further developed during 2016. Religious leaders from Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Muslim communities organized a prayer event ahead of the 21st Century Panglong Conference calling for children's needs and rights to be at the centre of the peace discussions, and met with the United Nations Secretary-General, highlighting the impact of conflict on children.

UNICEF helped to build a adolescent/youth movement to mobilize their voices for advocacy. In 2016, U-Report and Teen Network were established as key mechanisms. A National Adolescents' Conference brought together 300 youth and resulted in recommendations for the national youth policy development. UNICEF partnered with the One Minute Foundation to create clips reflecting children's life experiences. A partnership between the Ministry of Education, Mon National Education Committee and UNICEF bridged the government and non-state actor education systems through school grants, curriculum and in-service teachers training.

A partnership was established with 65 ethnic language and cultural committees to prepare a bilingual teacher's guide and story books for kindergarten students. A partnership between the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement and the Cash Working Group has enabled cash transfers in emergency responses to be synchronized with systems strengthening. UNICEF has contributed to systems strengthening, capacity building and

public awareness on inclusive disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness at the national and sub-national levels.

## External Communication and Public Advocacy

Within its overall Advocacy and Communication Strategy 2014–2017, UNICEF Myanmar established five priority issues:

- (1) Increased public finance for children: The Myanmar Police Force and UNICEF held a New Vision, New Results for Children conference developing a long-term vision and informing planning and budget allocations; provided technical support on public financial management and helped secure \$8.3 million for cash transfer implementation in Chin State (2017–2018); distributed the UNICEF/Spectrum budget guide to new parliamentarians; and 4,000 people were reached through 11 Facebook posts.
- (2) Critical interventions in the first 1,000 days: The national birth registration rate for children under 5 years of age increased from 72 per cent to 79 per cent following a birth registration campaign; the nutrition budget increased from US\$5 million to US\$15 million (2015/16 and 2016/17 fiscal years); the National Strategic Plan 2015–2018 for newborn/child health and the National Action Plan on Food and Nutrition Security 2016–2020 includes core interventions on the first 1,000 days; and public awareness was increased through 67 Facebook posts reaching 759,570 people, including a polio vaccination post viewed by more than 345,000 people; 19 stories were produced by print and broadcast media.
- (3) Children with disabilities: Government officials, religious leaders, media, and civil society organizations attended the launch of the situation analysis; a comprehensive advocacy strategy on the rights of children with disabilities was developed for 2016–2017; a toolkit on creating disability-inclusive videos produced; and public awareness through print, broadcast and social media reached 63,700 people through 9 Facebook posts and 12 stories in print and broadcast media.
- (4) Children in Rakhine and children affected by armed conflict: See human rights.
- (5) Media partnerships: Such partnerships were further developed to ensure priorities were featured in all media; workshops were conducted on child rights, ethics and journalism training in 7 states/regions, with 72 journalists mobilized to cover stories on children’s rights; and public engagement expanded rapidly, with the social media fan base increasing from 29,848 in January 2016 to 48,140 in December 2016.

## South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

The South-East Asia Primary Learning Metric is a regional initiative with the goal of improving quality of education and learning through the development of a common primary education learning metrics for Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization member countries. The metrics assess primary school Grade 5 students and cover reading, writing, mathematics and global citizenship/civics education. The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Secretariat, UNICEF Myanmar, the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office and the Australian Council for Educational Research provided technical support to the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metric Technical Team and Steering Committee to engage throughout the process of the field trial in Myanmar on 1 December 2016.

The Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metric extends capacity building among participating countries, including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia and Lao People’s Democratic Republic.

UNICEF supported exchanges between the Philippines and Myanmar on children affected by armed conflict and reintegration. In order to ensure acceptance and adoption of the social model of disability by the Department of Social Welfare and the Ministry of Health, UNICEF organized a study tour to Malaysia with representatives from these two ministries, the Federation of People with Disabilities and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population. The delegation learned about registration and classification processes and mechanisms. The tour was very helpful in overcoming the critical bottleneck represented by the medical model preferred by the Ministry of Health, and ensured a broad understanding and acceptance of the social model by all partners. With UNICEF support they are working together to finalize an assessment tool responding to these criteria.

UNICEF supported a high-level delegation of officials from the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement to attend the Government of Malaysia-UNICEF organized 'A Billion Brains; Smarter children, healthier economies' conference in Kuala Lumpur in November 2016 that facilitated learning on child sensitive policies to improve social protection for children, and expand universal healthcare. This resulted in the acceleration of some key commitments around child-sensitive social protection and child protection in Myanmar.

### Identification and Promotion of Innovation

In 2016, UNICEF focused on systems strengthening and adolescent engagement by introducing new ways of working and utilizing digital technology, including the following:

**Systems strengthening:** A partnership with a 'design thinking' NGO to support on-the-ground capacity of social work case management is a global innovation for UNICEF and is demonstrating strong results on applying design-thinking methodology to complex social problems within a systems-building approach. Training of case managers with this methodology is part of broader systems strengthening work and the development of key modules of the CommCare platform to support midwives is complete with pilot implementation started in three townships. A launch and advocacy workshop is planned for December and the scale-up to 10 townships has been prepared and is pending ministry approval. Free SMS services with Ooredoo for the implementation of Messaging Life has been secured.

**U-Report and adolescent engagement:** UNICEF Myanmar launched the U-Report Platform allowing adolescents and youth to express opinions and inform decision-making processes of the Government and development partners. Myanmar is one of the first countries to have access to the Facebook messenger channel for RapidPro/U-Report. Four months after its launch, U-Report Myanmar has more than 4,000 U-Reporters participating in weekly polls. All polls have had a response rate of above 50 per cent – the highest of all U-Report countries. The platform is being used to connect the Government with children and youth. For example, results of a poll on peace and social cohesion were presented to the United Nations Secretary-General immediately before the Panglong Peace discussions; and questions on the content of the new youth policy currently under development have been posed by the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement.

**Social innovation:** As follow-up to the Social Innovation Weekend on Climate Change, developed messages were presented to government decision makers advocating for greater involvement of adolescents in the National Climate Change strategy.

### Support to Integration and Cross-Sectoral Linkages

UNICEF supported the Government's high-level conference, entitled New Vision, New Results for Children, in which a range of actors from different ministries and departments convened under the coordination of the Ministry of Planning and Finance to discuss priorities

for children from a holistic perspective – looking at sectoral results as well as a set of broader priorities, such as peace, data, public finance, partnerships, required to improve the lives of children in Myanmar. UNICEF presented the situation analysis of children in Myanmar to the conference. The subsequent discussion focused on key actions required to achieve the child-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Department of Social Welfare has been supported to prepare for the roll-out of a Maternal and Child Cash Transfer programme in Chin State. The implementation requires a cross-sectoral approach, including the Ministry for Health and Home Affairs as well as the Ministry of Social Welfare. Engagement of these ministries has been supported by collaborative working between the relevant sections in UNICEF.

UNICEF has set up a partnership with WaterAid and the Burnett Institute to support the Ministry of Health and Sports to assess the status of water and sanitation provision in health facilities in four geographical zones of the country. The study will shed new light on this neglected issue and inform future policy and plans for improving services and practices.

Technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to improve its public financial management has strengthened its capacity for coordination across departments and divisions for multiple areas related to children, including child protection, early child development, social protection and disaster risk management. Strategic engagement with the Ministry of Planning and Finance has led to an increase in the budget ceiling for the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement's 2017/18 budget submission.

## Service Delivery

In high malnutrition burden states of Kayin, Magway and Rakhine, infant and young child feeding and integrated management of acute malnutrition services were rolled out as an integrated part of the Government of Myanmar health system. New national guidelines, protocols and job aids, including supportive supervision and monitoring tools, were finalized. Training of Trainers trained 36 managers and officials with township-level trainings expected early in 2017. Some 750 health managers and 2,240 community health workers have increased skills and tools to provide infant and young child feeding support according to national standards. Infant and young child feeding training by the Government with 12 international NGOs, local NGOs and ethnic health organizations increased partners' capacity to support infant and young child feeding using government-standardized guidelines and tools in their respective programmes and geographical areas.

A polio outbreak in Northern Rakhine in 2015 necessitated implementation of three campaigns in the first half of 2016. Basic health staff and community volunteers were trained by the Government and NGOs to improve skills and knowledge in interpersonal communication, micro-planning and tracking of missed children. UNICEF ensured that all essential supplies were available and 500 NGO volunteers helped track and refer missed children. In Rakhine, more than 150,000 children aged 0–59 months were vaccinated in each campaign round, while, by June 2016, townships reported coverage of 40 per cent for three doses of oral polio vaccine compared with 20 per cent and 25 per cent in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

Some 1,034 facilitators and 16,663 teachers in 44 townships of 'Whole States' – Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Mon and Rakhine, received Child-Friendly Schools/Language Enrichment Programme and Head Teacher Training. In total, 182 head teachers received training on school management and leadership. School-based In-Service Teacher Education activities were conducted in townships in Rakhine (seven), Chin (five), Kachin (three) and Kayah (three). Some 3,098 head teachers attended and 12,100 teachers are participating in the 20-

week In-Service Teacher Education course. In addition, 782 teachers from Chin and Kayah received refresher training on the secondary life skills curriculum with psychosocial skills for adolescents.

### Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

UNICEF Myanmar played a leading role in human rights-focused advocacy efforts. UNICEF called for lifting movement restrictions in Rakhine preventing Muslim children from accessing health and education services, and dialogue was established with the Annan Foundation for enhanced advocacy. UNICEF contributed to the United Nations-wide advocacy framework identifying policy shifts for the realization of children's rights. Intensive dialogue took place during 2016 with non-state actors for use and recruitment of children in armed forces and on obligations under international law.

The Karenni National Progressive Party fully developed a timebound Action Plan with UNICEF and the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting, which is ready for signature but requires government consent. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement to articulate a bylaw on the rights of the persons with disabilities that aligns with the rights enshrined with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Regarding human rights reporting, UNICEF provided input for the visits of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in and key child rights concerns were reflected in her report to the Human Rights Council March 2016. UNICEF provided input to the Secretary-General on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar May 2016. UNICEF also provided input to Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar for the High Commissioner for Human Rights report to the Human Rights Council in June 2016. As part of the United Nations Gender Theme Group, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement and its Inter-Ministerial Task Force to prepare for the review by the Committee for the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women of Myanmar's fourth and fifth reports at the session held in July 2016. The same actors are preparing the State Party Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child due in February 2017, by providing guidance on the content, data and consultation mechanisms.

### Gender Equality

A Government-led Situation Analysis of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Myanmar, supported by the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Gender Theme Group, has strengthened the evidence base for policy advocacy on gender, providing quantitative evidence of gender disparities, particularly in women's participation in strategic roles, which is informing development of Myanmar's first United Nations Development Assistance Framework process.

Capacity and reach of social services to respond to gender-based violence in emergency and development settings has been strengthened through expansion of the Government-led case management system to 40 townships, as well as the expansion of the NGO-led case management services in Kachin camps for internally displaced persons and northern townships of Rakhine, reaching 272 girls and 248 boys. Prevention of gender-based violence was enhanced through provision of safe spaces for adolescent boys and girls (access for 129,742 girls/124,741 boys) in conflict-affected communities, and life-skills training, reaching 16,598 adolescents (8,480 girls).

A bottleneck analysis of gender dynamics affecting participation of girls and boys in secondary school in Kayah provided qualitative insights into widespread school drop-out at post-primary level, especially of boys. Despite outperforming boys academically, girls are not viewed as leaders, while boys face stronger pressures to gain paid work. The findings frame policy recommendations for gendered approaches to supporting girls and boys to transition to and complete secondary education.

Myanmar's capacity for gender-sensitive response to disasters is being strengthened through development of the Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction 2017–2020, and UNICEF leadership of the Vulnerability and Inclusion group is ensuring meaningful representation of vulnerable groups, including women and children, in the process. Through leading the 'preparedness' component, UNICEF has leveraged influence to ensure that gender and inclusivity are mainstreamed in the Disaster Management Handbook, which will be used to guide legislation.

Through the Myanmar Consortium for Capacity Development on Disaster Management, training of 147 government, Myanmar Red Cross Society and civil society representatives on inclusive disaster risk reduction has helped ensure that government-led disaster risk reduction and emergency response activities, systems and policies are gender-sensitive, reducing the vulnerability of women and girls to disaster impacts. Gender sensitivity has also been adopted as a guiding principle for the Disaster Risk Reduction Youth Volunteer Programme Strategy

## Environmental Sustainability

In 2016, UNICEF continued to support the Government of Myanmar to improve environmental sustainability through the inclusion of environmental sustainability in the disaster risk reduction legal frameworks and policies, including the Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Myanmar National Framework for Community Disaster Resilience, the Disaster Risk Reduction Youth Volunteer Strategy, and the Myanmar Climate Change Strategy. At the World Environment Day ceremony on 5 June 2016, and with UNICEF support, youth representatives provided comments to government representatives to argue for increasing public awareness about the causes and consequences of climate change and loss of biodiversity, and strengthening environmental legal protections. UNICEF highlighted the benefit of using children and adolescents as agents of change within the developing climate change strategy. The inclusion of environmental sustainability helps ensure inclusion in national and sub-national decision-making and aim at informing/supporting coping strategies and livelihood choices to reduce further deterioration of environmental conditions and help strengthen their climate/disaster resilience.

UNICEF continues to work with the Ministry of Health and Sport in developing policies related to waste disposal, including old cold chain equipment, immunization waste management and disposal, and electronic waste disposal. These activities assist in helping the Government of Myanmar to reduce environmental hazards resulting from inadequate practices.

In 2016, UNICEF supported the installation of 10 solar water pumping systems which can provide clean water for approximately 20,000 people. These 'clean' systems replace diesel/generator systems, which are cheaper to install, but are costlier to communities and the environment. The communities are covering between 30 per cent and 60 per cent of the costs of installation themselves, which has resulted in high levels of ownership. UNICEF also supported training to local electricians, government staff and community members. The solar pumps have resulted in increased functionality of the water system, decreased costs per household, and a cleaner and more sustainable system.

## Effective Leadership

The country management team is leading the preparation of the new Country Programme 2018–2022, ensuring that all staff are engaged in the process. Training in results-based management is ensuring a strong focus on results. An enterprise risk management workshop was held to update the office risk profile and build staff capacity in risk management. Close attention has been given to improving harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT) performance, including the establishment of a dedicated HACT focal person and regular attention at country management team and programme management team meetings. Implementation of programme visits has been good; however, challenges have been faced with the timely conduct of spot checks and audits. Steps will be taken in the 2017 HACT assurance plan to address these weaknesses.

The country management team and programme management team monitored effective programme implementation, through regular review of key performance indicators, revisiting programme risks and mitigation strategies identified as part of the 2016–2017 theory of change. A comprehensive review of indicators ensured greater alignment with global indicators and the selection of indicators for the performance scorecard. Business Continuity Plans for country and nine field offices were updated and tested, taking in account potential risks and mitigation measures to reduce the impact of an emergency on UNICEF staff, physical infrastructure and programmes, and to maintain continuity of critical functions.

The zone warden system was tested on a regular basis, particularly after increased levels of conflict in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states, as well as small-scale explosions in Yangon. The Risk Control Self-Assessment was reviewed, updated and shared with the Country Management Team in March 2016. Each programme was assessed against four specific risks impacting result delivery, namely, change in administration, fund-raising, human resources and administrative reforms. The assessment was reviewed in August 2016. The office management organized support from the regional security adviser and stress counsellor, in the light of increased tensions in the country.

## Financial Resources Management

The country management team played a key role in ensuring effective management of contributions, budgets, bank accounts, direct cash transfers (DCTs) and monitored performance of relevant key performance indicators on a quarterly basis. The programme and operations group met regularly throughout the year and reviewed in detail budget utilization, outstanding DCT advances, DCT funds and HACT Assurance Plan implementation. Critical issues were escalated to the country management team.

UNICEF Myanmar has successfully transitioned to the Global Shared Services Centre for finance invoice processing and master data management in May 2016. As of November 2016, there were 1,423 and 170 cases submitted for invoice processing and master data management, respectively, during 2016. Bank reconciliations were prepared, reviewed and electronically submitted in the system within the deadlines, in accordance with the prescribed roles and responsibilities among the Global Shared Services Centre, the UNICEF Myanmar Finance Team and the Chief of Operations. There were no outstanding reconciling items for more than two months throughout the year. All accounting schedules and activities were efficiently managed.

Weak financial capacity and centralized controls in government implementing partners leads to delays in cash disbursements, which results in delays in achieving results within the agreed time frames and DCT refunds. This is coupled with weak banking systems, which, while slowly improving, are still ineffective and costly due to high banking fees imposed on

transactions. Capacity-building efforts during spots checks and one-on-one meetings with counterparts.

Internal and financial controls and work processes including release strategy, table of authorities and segregation of duties were effectively implemented and monitored. UNICEF Myanmar ensured efficient and effective utilization of organizational resources in a transparent manner. Efficiency gains are explained in the section below.

## **Fundraising and Donor Relations**

In 2016, UNICEF Myanmar successfully mobilized other resources of US\$16.5 million, corresponding to 59 per cent against the annual target of US\$27.8 million. Some 90 per cent of other resources (including 2015 roll-over) for the regular programme have been fully utilized as of 20 December 2016. The remaining US\$3.1 million is in multi-year grants that will be re-phased to 2017. In addition, US\$8.5 million was raised against UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children appeal, reaching 34 per cent of the target. Of the total US\$16.5 million other resources – emergency allocated for 2016, including 2015 roll-over, 87 per cent were fully utilized as of 20 December 2016. The remaining amount of US\$2.1 million will be re-phased to 2017.

A new partnership with the United Kingdom Department for International Development raised US\$5.1 million for WASH activities. The Government of Japan provided US\$2.16 million to support child protection, with the Australian Government provided US\$2.22 million for similar purposes. In addition, US\$2.04 million was raised through GAVI, Global Thematic Funds and Consolidated Funds from National Committees to support the introduction of the pneumococcal vaccine programme.

The country management team monitored the timely and quality submission of donor reports throughout 2016. Out of 62 donor reports required during the year, 55 were submitted on time by the end of November, with another 6 due in December. One donor report was submitted late due to delays in submission by sister United Nations agencies under a joint report, resulting in an expected compliance of 98 per cent by the end of the year. No negative feedback was received from any donor on the submitted reports.

The office hosted several donor visits, including from the Japan, Danish, Australian, Swedish and Japan National Committees. In some cases, private-sector supporters joined the visits, including Starwood Hotels, H&M Foundation and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation.

## **Evaluation and Research**

UNICEF Myanmar enhanced its evaluation function and national evaluation capacity development in 2016. The office completed the Midterm Evaluation of Township Education Improvement Plan Activities Pilot Activities (rated highly satisfactory by the Global Evaluation Reports Oversight System) and the Final Performance Evaluation of School-Based In-Service Teacher Education Pilot Programme (rated satisfactory) whose recommendations relate to the effectiveness of the Quality Basic Education Programme. UNICEF Myanmar completed the Seven Things This Year Initiative evaluation (rated highly satisfactory by the global evaluation reports oversight system), which examined one of the projects focusing on engaging mothers and caregivers to enhance their role and contribution to child survival and development by promoting seven key health practices.

The Formative Evaluation of UNICEF's Strategy and Approach to Child Protection Systems Building assessed the development of a social work case management system as a key entry point to protect children's rights in Myanmar. The evaluation highlighted where the system is performing well and where improvements can be made, and identified the need to

scale up delivery of child protection services through a strategic plan focusing on how to reform the case management system and the capacity to deliver social services for children.

The developmental evaluation of the peacebuilding, education and advocacy programme strengthened the evidence base around the programme in conflict-affected contexts. Overall, 100 per cent of management responses were closed within 12 months from uploading into the evaluation management response tracker, and budget use for evaluation reached 1.5 per cent. UNICEF Myanmar attended an initial stakeholder meeting on the formation of the Myanmar Monitoring and Evaluation Association. More than 40 participants representing civil society organizations, academia, the private sector and United Nations organizations joined the event. In November, UNICEF Myanmar supported government participation to the first Asia-Pacific Evaluation Association Conference, focusing on national evaluation policies in the SDG-era. Internal training on 'Real-World Evaluation' was provided to 40 staff members.

### Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

Efficiency and effectiveness at UNICEF Myanmar was ensured through the establishment of long-term agreements for goods and services, pre-qualification of vendors and prepositioning of emergency supplies in multiple locations. Existing long-term agreements supported the implementation of the HACT Assurance Plan, resulting in saving staff time. UNICEF Myanmar also achieved value for money when hiring consultants and service providers through adequate sourcing strategies and negotiating fees.

Cost savings were achieved with regard to rental of premises for the UNICEF Myanmar Yangon through negotiation with the landlord, resulting in a 5.2 per cent rent reduction effective 1 April 2016. In addition, office space was shared with UN Women as of January 2016, resulting in saving in rent and operating costs. Further, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) collocated with UNICEF in two field locations in 2016, resulting in total savings of US\$115,000. With regard to international travel, US\$42,000 was saved through comparison of airfare from three local agents and New York headquarters. In addition, a 5 per cent cost saving has been achieved on the annual electricity cost.

UNICEF Myanmar completed the environmental footprint assessment to establish a baseline for energy usage and carbon footprint. The office is currently selecting a service provider to conduct an energy audit and examine environmental impact reduction through projects and behavioural changes to reduce the costs and environmental impacts of office operations. Other measures resulting in cost savings included: use of technology (e.g., Skype for Business) to reduce communication costs, powering off offices and air conditioning when not in use to reduce utilities costs, and rationalized travel to reduce carbon footprint and fuel consumption. Quarterly review of savings and of the efficiency gains were carried out. Additionally, UNICEF Myanmar actively collaborated with other agencies to harmonize operational needs and carried out joint activities such as procurement, capacity building and common services such as security and medical. Micro-assessments are shared among United Nations agencies, thus generating savings and eliminating duplication.

### Supply Management

Supply and Logistics support remains a strategic input towards achieving results for the Country Programme. Some US\$34 million worth of goods and services were procured, including offshore, local procurement, procurement services, programme, and operational and construction services, and US\$4.6 million worth of construction undertaken through HACT processes.

Procurement services valued at US\$22.5 million, including US\$19 million through GAVI, were procured, requiring extensive support from the Supply Unit due to the weak government systems, internal restructuring, cumbersome and lengthy customs clearance

processes, and limited physical and human resource capacity. Warehousing and transportation to all sites was arranged for these supplies. In the cold chain strengthening project, contracts were established for installation and maintenance in all 330 townships of the country.

Due to the complex and lengthy clearance processes, the Supply Unit initiated a coordination meeting among concerned departments of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Planning and Finance and Ministry of Commerce for effective dialogue among stakeholders to identify bottlenecks and streamline processes.

As a result of a thorough assessment of the Ministry of Education procurement capacity to recommend cash transfer through the HACT mechanism for US\$7 million, the Supply Unit is currently working with different departments of the Ministry of Education, providing technical support and building capacity by conducting risk-informed joint procurements for kindergarten kits, consultancy contracting, and printing and construction services. The assessment was conducted by the Supply Unit along with the Education section, under the leadership of the Chief of Operations. A similar procurement assessment is being undertaken for the Department of Rural Development for construction of 11 warehouses in the country, via HACT modality.

In collaboration with other United Nations agencies, the Supply Unit conducted trainings for capacity development of the Department of Relief and Resettlement in warehouse and logistics management.

Strategic sourcing was conducted for high-value complex services, Internet services for Yangon and 10 field locations, managed security and guarding services, pre-qualification of engineering and construction companies for Education and WASH construction projects. In total, 15 long-term agreements were established, including for information and communication technology, security, HACT assurance services, transportation, clearance, hygiene kits, etc.

<b>Procurement values (in US dollars)</b>	
Programme Supplies	\$4,389,813
Operational Supplies	\$597,431
Procurement Services	\$22,586,435
Construction Services	\$859,324
Programme and Operations Services	\$5,586,828
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,019,831</b>

<b>Construction via HACT</b>	
Education	\$4,008,006.00
WASH	\$604,681.00
	<b>\$4,612,687.00</b>

The Supply Unit cleared and transported 52 air and 55 sea shipments of 124 containers for a total value of US\$29.2 million. Current warehouse stock is US\$1.6 million, comprising

US\$1.4 million (regular) and US\$145,500 (emergency pre-positioning). The total value of supplies issued was US\$2.6 million and overall supplies managed in the warehouse US\$4.09 million.

### Security for Staff and Premises

Staff safety and security of UNICEF premises is a key priority and management worked closely with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security, Senior Management Team and Operations Management Team to ensure that all precautionary measures were undertaken, emergency preparedness guidelines were adhered to and security advisories were shared with staff. The United Nations Department of Safety and Security conducted a Minimum Operating Security Standards compliance assessment for all Yangon/field offices. In addition, the office requested an onsite visit of the security firm looking at recommendations for improving security of premises. Based on both assessments, the office prepared an action plan, assigned tasks to respective units and offices, and accomplished all recommended actions.

The office signed a standard operating procedure with the security service provider to address identified weaknesses, such as access control of the premises. UNICEF Myanmar has received funding to improve security measures and the Minimum Operating Security Standards. While the past year was marked by significant peace initiatives by the Government, the same period also witnessed continued tensions and increased armed conflict, particularly in Kachin and Shan States, between the government army and ethnic armed groups.

In addition, conflict in Rakhine State following an attack on a border outpost in Maungdaw resulted in restrictions on humanitarian movements. The heightened tension in Rakhine took a toll on the staff and increased the negative perception of the United Nations and the international community. In light of the recent development, UNICEF Myanmar requested support from the Regional Security Adviser to review the security situation, preparedness and contingency planning. Management recognized the need to support staff in the field office and organized a session with the Regional Staff Counsellor on stress management and resilience via Skype. Briefing sessions to UNICEF zone wardens were also organized during the visit of the Regional Security Adviser. Four out of the nine field locations are classified as D hardship and one location is classified as E hardship.

### Human Resources

In 2014, UNICEF Myanmar undertook a substantive review of the office structure to align with the significant political changes in the country to ensure appropriate staffing profiles and staffing mix to support effective programme management. The office structure comprises 201 fixed-term positions, of which most are currently filled, with only 3 active recruitments such positions. The office moved to utilize the new talent management system for staff posts and consultancies immediately after the training in February 2016. This has streamlined the management of receiving applications, but can be a challenge for local applicants, in terms of connectivity.

. With regard to performance management, the office has transitioned to the new ACHIEVE system. For 2015, 88 per cent of staff had completed their 2015 performance evaluation report as of the end of February 2016. The workplan in response to the global staff survey was addressed and completed, as reflected in the annexes.

Through participation in an inter-agency workgroup, the office adheres to the minimum standards for HIV in the workplace. Over the past three years, significant resources have been invested in providing emergency preparedness and response training to staff, with 25 staff participating in individual opportunities related to their technical field and general

responses to emergencies. In addition, two group trainings were conducted by the Yangon emergency unit in the field, covering 36 staff members. To date, 92 per cent of staff have completed all the required mandatory training certificates. In 2016, in line with global shifts and priorities, Human Resources supported the move for all staff files to be digitized and uploaded to New York for lodging with the Global Shared Services Centre in good time.

## Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

UNICEF Myanmar has supported the use of Office 365 tools to improve collaboration between the country office and field office as well other country offices within the region and headquarters. UNICEF Myanmar has established a HACT assurance team site page, providing both country office and field office staff instantaneous access to up-to-date data that facilitates tracking of cash transfers.

Skype for Business/Skype conferencing tools are used to enable staff engagement with regional, headquarters and external parties in particular, enabling colleagues in the field offices to participate in regular information-sharing sessions held in the country office.

To address the connectivity challenges, in November 2016 UNICEF Myanmar established a long-term agreement with an Internet service provider for fibre-optic Internet services in nine UNICEF Myanmar office locations, in addition to an institutional contract for VSAT Internet services service for field offices where fibre-optic Internet services were not available due to lack of infrastructure. This will significantly improve Internet connectivity for all UNICEF Myanmar offices and facilitate access to UNICEF Web-based resources and collaboration tools for efficient and effective programming.

The information and communication technology team continues to contribute to programmatic activities and has provided technical support to establish the use of mobile applications such as CommCare, a patient management system used by midwives for prenatal/post-natal and newborn health-care management, as well as the implementation of U-Report. Launched in August, U-Report is a social messaging tool that targets young people across the country, allowing them to engage in social development and issues that matter to them.

As Facebook continues to be the most popular social media tool of choice in Myanmar, UNICEF Myanmar continues to use this platform to address its key advocacy priorities, including:

1. Children in armed conflict;
2. Rakhine inter-community violence;
3. 1,000 days;
4. Public finance for children; and
5. Children with disabilities.

## Programme Components from RAM

### ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

**OUTCOME 1:** Malnutrition is prevented and treated among women of reproductive age and children under 5 through increased access to sustainable, quality integrated nutrition interventions.

#### **Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Since the Government of Myanmar joined the SUN movement in 2013, political commitment to addressing nutrition is evidently gaining ground, as illustrated in the preliminary 2015–

2016 Demographic and Health Survey results that saw stunting reduced from 35.1 per cent (2009) to 29.2% (2016). Inequities persist, however, geographically and across wealth quintiles. To sustain and accelerate these gains equitably, this year, two large programmes started to be rolled out by the Government in high-burden states and regions: Community infant and young child feeding and integrated management of acute malnutrition, which aim at improving both nutrition supply and demand. However, with the change in Government in 2017, there were delays in high-level policy decision-making, which has slowed progress with strengthening the enabling environment for nutrition sustainably and in the longer term.

At the policy level, despite ongoing efforts by SUN multi-stakeholders and the United Nations network, these efforts have yet to be translated into tangible outputs such as increased predictable and reliable investments, costed plans for nutrition, and functional monitoring and enforcement of legislation. Policy guidance for nutrition is yet to be defined at a high level, although a national nutrition workshop to stimulate stocktaking is planned for early 2017 as an important step towards a strategic national plan for nutrition and consolidating past efforts in this regard.

Government counterparts for nutrition faced competing priorities following the new Government's transition, which has impeded decision-making. Significant bottlenecks in fiscal budgeting, management/coordination in the Government for nutrition have been identified and need to be addressed with ongoing advocacy by UNICEF and partners. Furthermore, enforcement of key nutrition legislation, such as the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and salt iodization, has been limited due to reforms in some ministries and challenges in bringing authorities together. However, some important actions were taken in 2016, such as agreeing with the Government of Myanmar on a plan to strengthen universal salt iodization. The Government also issued a deadline to formula companies for voluntary recall of products not compliant with the code.

While the roll-out of key interventions through the government health system, such as integrated management of acute malnutrition and infant and young child feeding, has been slow over the past years, notable progress was made this year as national guidelines and job aids were finalized, supplies and equipment were in place at health facilities and the training of health workers was initiated. infant and young child feeding training benefited more than 2,000 health workers and community volunteers and 700 health managers from targeted townships in high-burden states of Kayin, Magway and Rakhine, as part of the first phase of national roll-out by the Government, while national-level training for integrated management of acute malnutrition was conducted and will be followed by state/region and township-level training early next year.

UNICEF continued to support the Government in maintaining high national coverage of biannual vitamin A supplementation and deworming (94 per cent and 94.8 per cent, respectively) through procurement, micro-planning and community mobilization. However, limited disaggregated data and low coverage in hard-to-reach and non-government controlled areas remain a challenge. To address gaps in hard-to-reach areas, UNICEF continued to strengthen its partnership with local NGOs to integrate vitamin A supplementation and deworming with Expanded Programme on Immunization outreach, reaching more children than through health facilities alone. Coverage of micronutrient supplementation for young children and pregnant/lactating women also increased through routine government services and in humanitarian settings in targeted areas. Overall efforts supported by UNICEF in 2016 have enabled health facilities and health workers to receive necessary skills, job aids, supplies and equipment for nutrition in targeted states/regions, which provides the groundwork for accelerated scale-up and continued increase in effective coverage next year.

On the demand side, UNICEF supported the Government of Myanmar to develop important communication materials related to infant and young child feeding, Breast-milk Substitute code and universal salt iodization, targeting health workers, companies and the general public. Mass media broadcasts promoting exclusive breastfeeding reached an estimated 864,000 people. UNICEF is also strengthening partnerships with NGOs in a joint effort towards evidence-based, standardized communication strategies and messages for infant and young child feeding, including hygiene. In this regard, a formative research plan and proposal for infant and young child feeding is at a current discussion stage with the Government for implementation next year. Findings from the formative research will be used to develop evidence-based and more effective communication strategies, messages and tools that target specific barriers related to behaviour change and adoption of practices.

UNICEF, as the humanitarian cluster/sector lead for Nutrition, continues to ensure that planned targets for humanitarian action are met for nutrition, through resource mobilization, partnerships and local capacity building. Many of the planned targets for Humanitarian Action for Children were met or exceeded, particularly in Rakhine. Low coverage in Kachin was experienced due to limited number of available humanitarian partners. Despite targets being met, persistent high malnutrition requires more integrated, multi-sectoral approaches with strong community mobilization and Communication for Development (C4D), which has been limited thus far due to unavailability of funding and partners.

UNICEF is currently developing strategic partnerships with local NGOs to implement integrated health, nutrition and WASH interventions in high-burden, hard-to-reach areas. Furthermore, the UNICEF field office in Rakhine, with support from the Nutrition team, facilitated two important workshops in Northern Rakhine this year, bringing together authorities and partners from various sectors to reach consensus on the key causes of persistent malnutrition in the area, including protection issues. A total of 52 and 71 participants took part in the two workshops, respectively, and priority actions from various sectors were identified, which will inform future local plans, investments and strategies that UNICEF and its partners will continue to support in the next year.

**OUTPUT 1:** Strengthened political commitment, accountability and national capacity to legislate, plan and budget for scaling up nutrition interventions for women of reproductive age and children under 5.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Progress on strengthening the enabling environment for nutrition has been slow despite ongoing efforts by SUN multi-stakeholders and the United Nations network. These efforts have yet to be translated into tangible outputs such as costed plans to guide increased investments for nutrition, management/coordination in the Government, functional monitoring and enforcement of legislation. With the new Government, policy guidance for nutrition is not defined at a high level, although a national workshop is planned for early 2017 to consolidate past efforts and catalyse direction towards a strategic national plan for nutrition.

Enforcement of key nutrition legislation has been limited. UNICEF supported the new national technical working group for the Breast-milk Substitute code to meet regularly to establish a functional code monitoring and enforcement mechanism. However, discussions have been slow due to unavailability of key officials and competing priorities. The group issued a deadline this year to formula companies on voluntary recall for products that were not code-compliant; however, follow-up and action by the Government is needed. UNICEF mobilized funding and technical assistance in support of salt iodization and has held discussions with relevant ministries on an action plan to address policy, legislation and programme gaps over the next year. UNICEF made significant investment to the Ministry of Health and Sports' large-scale micronutrient survey currently still in the preparation phase.

Although external technical assistance and supplies have been mobilized, human resources at management level within the ministry needs to be augmented. Thus, the survey may be revised to have a national focus, with selected disaggregation only in key states/regions deemed most vulnerable following preliminary results of the Demographic and Health Survey 2015–2016. The Government plans to make the final decision by the end of 2016.

Achievements this year include consensus reached across several sectoral ministers and SUN stakeholders in identifying 20 priority core actions for nutrition (specific and sensitive) for Myanmar. The United Nations network also supported a nutrition stocktaking exercise. These efforts are expected to provide evidence and inform discussions on equity, strategic results, targets and resource allocations for nutrition as the new Government develops relevant plans over the next five years. At the sub-national level, UNICEF collaborated with key ministries and SUN networks to hold a multi-stakeholder workshop for nutrition in Kayin, involving more than 50 local authorities and partners, including ethnic health organizations. Subsequently, an integrated local plan was developed to prioritize actions for scaling up nutrition specific and sensitive interventions, and implementation will be overseen by a multi-sectoral state steering committee. Kayin's nutrition plan is expected to serve as a model for multi-stakeholder collaboration under a decentralized SUN framework that could accelerate implementation for nutrition and be replicated to other states/regions. UNICEF provided substantial advocacy and technical support to the National Nutrition Centre that resulted in the inclusion of costed high-impact, nutrition-specific interventions (infant and young child feeding, micronutrient supplementation, integrated management of acute malnutrition) in the Government's Essential Health Services Package supported by the World Bank and, subsequently, the new National Health Plan (2016–2021) being drafted. Through these initiatives, evidence-based nutrition interventions will continue to be prioritized and scaled up, backed by increasing fiscal resources in upcoming years.

**OUTPUT 2:** Increased national and sub-national capacity to provide equitable access to nutrition interventions that prevent and treat malnutrition among pregnancy and lactating women and children under 5.

#### **Analytical Statement of Progress:**

While roll-out of key interventions through the Government health system, such as integrated management of acute malnutrition and infant and young child feeding, has been slow over the past years, progress was made this year. UNICEF provided substantial support to MoHS to finalise new national guidelines, protocols and standardized job aids for nutrition (integrated management of acute malnutrition, infant and young child feeding, Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative), including supportive supervision and monitoring tools. Government-led training on integrated management of acute malnutrition was conducted, starting with a central Training of Trainers where 36 managers and officials from Kayin, Magway and Rakhine, participated. These states are targeted, in the first phase roll-out of integrated management of acute malnutrition in Myanmar, due to their malnutrition burden. State/region/township-level trainings for integrated management of acute malnutrition estimated to reach 1,620 health workers is expected to take place early next year. UNICEF continued to support the Government in maintaining high national coverage of biannual vitamin A supplementation and deworming (94 per cent and 94.8 per cent, respectively) through procurement, micro-planning and community mobilization. However, limited disaggregated data and low coverage in hard-to-reach and non-government controlled areas remain a challenge. To address gaps, UNICEF has partnered with a local NGO and worked with local health authorities to integrate vitamin A supplementation and deworming with Expanded Programme on Immunization outreach in some townships in Kachin, which benefited 7,884 children (100 per cent in targeted areas). Lessons learned from the Expanded Programme on Immunization+ approach will inform scale-up of similar

integrated approaches in other hard-to-reach areas, such as in Chin and Rakhine. Additionally, collaboration with ethnic health organizations was initiated in Kayin to start integration of vitamin A supplementation and deworming into the Expanded Programme on Immunization, as part of an integrated local plan for nutrition developed by local authorities from various ministries to prioritize actions for scaling up nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions.

UNICEF continued to support the Government in the procurement of micronutrients, including micronutrient powders for young children and multiple micronutrients for pregnant and lactating women, to address critical supply gaps in four targeted states of Chin, Kayin, Magway and Rakhine. Coverage of iron and folic acid supplementation with an adequate dose in pregnant and lactating women has continued to increase over the past years and is currently estimated at 83 per cent. A total of 60,638 children 6–23 months old (50 per cent coverage) benefited from micronutrient powders in Kayin and Magway regions, which is double the number of children reached the previous year with UNICEF support. While coverage of micronutrient powders increased, the effectiveness and sustainability of current delivery channels through the Government and partners needs to be evaluated next year to inform policy decisions about future investment and scale-up.

In 2016, UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Health and Sports to procure anthropometric equipment to cover 100 per cent of health facilities (2,158) in the four targeted states (Chin, Kayin, Magway and Rakhine) prioritized for infant and young child feeding and integrated management of acute malnutrition programme roll-out over the next two years. Efforts this year enabled health facilities and health workers to receive necessary skills, job aids, supplies and equipment for nutrition in the four targeted states, which provides the groundwork for accelerated scale-up and continued increase in effective coverage next year.

**OUTPUT 3: 003.** Improved infant and young child feeding practices are adopted by more mothers/caregivers.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Notable progress was made this year in increasing the capacity of health workers to provide infant and young child feeding counselling and support to mothers at facility and community levels. Central, state/regional and township-level infant and young child feeding trainings were conducted, with UNICEF support, covering 17 townships in Kayin, Magway and Rakhine, as part of the first phase of national roll-out by the Government. A total of 750 health managers and workers and 2,240 community health workers have increased skills and tools to provide infant and young child feeding support according to national standards. In addition, UNICEF supported Government to provide infant and young child feeding training to nutrition-sector partners (members of the national Myanmar Nutrition Technical Network), which included 22 staff from 12 international NGOs, local NGOs and ethnic health organizations. This has increased the capacity of partners to support infant and young child feeding using government-standardized guidelines and tools in their respective programmes and geographical areas.

UNICEF also supported the Government to revitalize the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative by updating assessment guidelines and training materials. A total of 52 medical staff from 18 large hospitals (which were previously assessed to meet the initiative since past decades) across the country were trained on these guidelines. Following the training, three of the hospitals were assessed and were found to meet all initiative criteria. Assessments for remaining hospitals are planned next year. UNICEF will continue its ongoing advocacy and technical support to the Ministry of Health and Sports for the integration of the initiative into routine hospital quality assurance, particularly for newborn care.

This year, UNICEF supported the Government to develop important communication materials related to infant and young child feeding, the Breast-milk Substitute code and universal salt iodization, targeting health workers, companies and the general public. Mass media broadcasts promoting exclusive breastfeeding reached an estimated 864,000 of people. UNICEF has also strengthened its partnership with NGOs, in a joint effort towards evidence-based, standardized communication strategies and messages for infant and young child feeding, which includes hygiene. In this regard, a formative research plan and proposal for infant and young child feeding has been jointly developed and is in current discussion with the Government for implementation next year. Findings from the formative research will be used to develop evidence-based and more effective communication strategies, messages and tools that target specific barriers related to behaviour change and adoption of practices, which is currently lacking in Myanmar.

**OUTPUT 4:** Preparedness and response for nutrition meet the core commitments for children in humanitarian action

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF, as the humanitarian cluster/sector lead for Nutrition, continued to maintain and expand strategic partnerships with NGOs in the provision of essential nutrition services in humanitarian areas, in line with the Humanitarian Response Plan and UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children. UNICEF mobilized a substantial amount of supplies and in-kind items, despite large gaps in funding. In 2016, UNICEF achieved most targets set in these plans: e.g., 8,097 children 6–59 months old with severe acute malnutrition were treated (> 100 per cent of the Humanitarian Action for Children target; 71.6 per cent of the Humanitarian Response Plan target), with a cure rate of 77.5 per cent.

In total, 22,856 children under 5 (> 100 per cent of the target for Rakhine, 0 per cent of the target in Kachin) and 7,724 pregnant and lactating women (96.4 per cent of the target in Rakhine and 1.1 per cent of the target in Kachin) benefited from multiple micronutrient supplementation. Additionally, 11,377 pregnant and lactating women (> 100 per cent of the target in Rakhine; 65.9 per cent of the target in Kachin; 72.4 per cent of the Humanitarian Response Plan target) received infant and young child feeding counselling support. While planned humanitarian coverage targets for Rakhine were reached, targets were not reached in Kachin because of the limited humanitarian partners for nutrition there. Nevertheless, UNICEF partnered with local NGOs to reach children with routine vitamin A supplementation and deworming in Kachin through an integrated Expanded Programme on Immunization approach. There are plans next year to leverage this partnership to include additional interventions under HAC.

Although UNICEF reached planned targets in Rakhine, the situation there is serious, particularly in Northern Rakhine, with global acute malnutrition prevalence above the World Health Organization (WHO) emergency threshold (> 15 per cent). The high burden of severe acute malnutrition, coupled with poor infant and young child feeding practices and hygiene and sanitation conditions, require multi-sectoral integrated programmes, intensive community mobilization and C4D. UNICEF is developing a partnership with a local NGO to implement these additional strategies, but limited resources prevail. UNICEF facilitated consultations in Northern Rakhine that brought together authorities and partners from various sectors, including local administration, to reach consensus on the key causes of persistent malnutrition there, including protection issues. Priority actions were identified that are expected to inform future local plans, investments and strategies.

As cluster lead, UNICEF facilitated development of a nutrition strategy for humanitarian contexts with the nutrition cluster. Outlining key issues and approaches complementary to

the Humanitarian Response Plan, the strategy highlights cluster advocacy priorities and will be updated periodically. It is an important tool that will support integration of emergency preparedness and response into relevant nutrition plans as they develop under the new Government. Although the Ministry of Health and Sports began integrating humanitarian coordination into its routine sector coordination under the Myanmar Nutrition Technical Network last year, network meetings have not been regular this year due to competing priorities with the formation of the new Government. Nevertheless, sub-nationally, UNICEF field offices are supporting local health authorities to better integrate nutrition into routine sector programmes and to lead humanitarian coordination. State health authorities in Kachin and Rakhine states currently lead nutrition coordination meetings, although their leadership capacity needs to be strengthened. Rakhine has been prioritized by the Ministry of Health and Sports for the first phase of roll-out of key national nutrition programmes (integrated management of acute malnutrition and infant and young child feeding), demonstrating the Government's commitment to integrating humanitarian action into its routine sector programmes.

**OUTPUT 5:** Timely and quality leadership and technical assistance (Nutrition).

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Human resources for nutrition in Kachin and Rakhine were strengthened this year to build more sub-national capacity of partners. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Health and Sports with specific technical assistance, through international and national consultancies, to build capacity in SUN coordination, national micronutrient survey and roll-out of infant and young child feeding and integrated management of acute malnutrition programmes. However, some of the challenges include the lack of government budget allocations to address Human Resources gaps in nutrition at both national and sub-national levels, to facilitate the transfer of capacity provided by short-term technical assistance. As part of the United Nations network, UNICEF contributed funds to hire consultants to work with the REACH facilitation team in conducting a national nutrition stocktaking exercise which will be used to support the Government in developing updated, costed national plans relevant to nutrition.

**OUTCOME 2:** Increased equitable access and use of quality high-impact maternal, newborn and child health services.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF's overall technical and operational support to maternal, neonatal and child health programmes of the Government of Myanmar has contributed to the access and use of quality high-impact services. This was indicated in the recently launched preliminary Demographic and Health Survey report (2015–2016) by the Ministry of Health and Sports, which revealed important updates on under-5 mortality and the neonatal mortality rate, at 50 and 25 per 1,000 live births, respectively, which were lower than the estimates generated by the 2014 census. However, several critical interventions to reduce newborn mortality are constrained; for example, institutional delivery and skilled birth attendance were only 37 per cent and 60 per cent, respectively – remaining at almost the same level as in the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2009–2010. Stronger efforts need to be made, as the Demographic and Health Survey also revealed that only 55 per cent of eligible children received all vaccinations.

UNICEF's supported immunization programme review revealed that the low immunization coverage and high drop-out rates in some areas was likely due in part to the limited number of immunization sessions provided per month by government health workers. Other reasons

include cold chain systems were not widely available in most of the service delivery points, inadequate knowledge of caregivers on the importance of immunization, fear of side effects and knowledge on where services are provided could hinder them to demand for services. Although Myanmar has made significant progress towards polio eradication, measles elimination and control of rubella as well as congenital rubella syndrome, the threat of outbreak of these diseases still exists, as noted in the current outbreaks of circulating vaccine derived polio virus and measles in Maungdaw Township and Nagaland, respectively, as well as diphtheria in Ayeyarwaddy, Shan South and Yangon. The findings call for action to enhance social mobilization and community demand generation in addition to improved supply readiness, quality and availability.

A WHO-UNICEF Regional Joint Mission in August 2016 resulted in the formation of H6+ partners to provide coordinated technical support to a country-led initiative in striving to achieve the unfinished Millennium Development Goal agenda and to achieve SDG target 3.2. *To end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5, reducing the neonatal mortality rate to 12 per 1,000 livebirths and the under-5 mortality rate to 25 per 1,000 livebirths* by 2030. Given the Demographic and Health Survey findings, this will provide an important platform to accelerate and coordinate quality support to the Ministry of Health and Sports in securing the Global Financial Facility's fund through development of an investment case and revitalizing the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Technical Strategic Group at national level.

Considering the high infant and under-5 mortality rates in Myanmar compared with other countries in the region, UNICEF has been working closely with the Ministry of Health and Sports to support the development of a system of identifying the causes of child death. This has resulted in the establishment of the child death surveillance and response system in 2016. Although the system is not yet fully functional, UNICEF has provided support in developing the training materials and guidelines, which will ensure its successful roll-out in 2017 and beyond.

The National Health Plan (2016–2021) was drafted with a view to finalization before the end of the year. It was the first time that the health plan is being developed consultatively with external partners: development partners, the United Nations, ethnic health organizations and civil society organizations. The first consultation occurred in late October and UNICEF was part of the process to ensure that child health, nutrition and development is on the national prioritized agenda and UNICEF's Country Programme Document to be aligned with the National Health Plan. Ultimately, the plan aims to achieve universal coverage of a comprehensive package of health services by 2030, but incrementally, inclusively and realistically – with primary attention to equity. For the first time, the plan will follow the four key building blocks of health system strengthening (not the vertical programming):

1. Human resources for health;
2. Health information;
3. Health service delivery; and
4. Health care financing.

UNICEF was also a part of national consultation organized by the World Bank to re-define and further prioritize the basic essential package of health services, which will be the focus of this five-year plan. This basic essential package of health services will be integrated into the National Health Plan and the Government will be accountable for its access as of 2020 by all Myanmar citizens under Universal Health Care umbrella.

UNICEF continued to be at the forefront in advocating with the Government to increase resource allocations for children as well as provide technical support in leveraging resources

from donors. As a result of the continued lobbying, the Ministry of Health and Sports has allocated nearly US\$3 million for procurement of traditional vaccines for the first time in history. That meant that the resources which had been used by UNICEF for the procurement of traditional vaccines could be used to support strengthening of service delivery in high-risk areas. In addition, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health and Sports in submitting a Health System Strengthening proposal to GAVI. The proposal has been approved and the country will receive nearly US\$52 million in support of the Expanded Programme on Immunization programme for the period 2017–2019.

**OUTPUT 1:** Strengthened political commitment, accountability and national capacity to plan and budget for the scaling up of equity-based high-impact maternal, newborn and child health services.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016, UNICEF and WHO supported the Government of Myanmar's application to GAVI for Health System Strengthening-2 funding was successful, including funding for Japanese Encephalitis vaccine introduction, and further leveraged substantial funding for programme implementation in 2017. Progress was also made in strengthening the cold chain system in preparation for the introduction of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine expected in 2017. The national review of the Expanded Programme on Immunization and vaccine preventable disease surveillance was carried out with a team of international and national experts, pointing to key actions to improve national capacity in the immunization programme.

With technical support from UNICEF, a standardized advocacy and training package in line with the national child death surveillance and response (CDSR) guideline was developed by the national Child Health Working Group. This guideline has been completed also with accompanying tools for frontline health workers and an advocacy package was disseminated to guide sub-national governments in prioritizing this programme quality assurance approach.

In partnership with JSI, a mobile health application aiming to improve quality of care provided by midwives for reproductive, maternal, neonatal and child health services has been introduced. The application was seen by stakeholders as one of the important innovations in the country for its features in improving the quality of such services and collecting a real-time cohort data of clients. It was included as one of the programme activities contributing towards strengthening the health information system, the Ministry of Health and Sports top prioritization in the first 100 days and follow-up action plan of the new Government. Eight key modules out of 13 have been customized in line with nationally approved case management guidelines. Two modules on antenatal and post-natal care were rolled out in three townships, with 120 midwives participating in testing the functionality of the apps, Internet connectivity and input collection for evidence-based Standard Operating Procedure development.

UNICEF's support to the sub-national government resulted in child-centred planning and equity-focused health services to reach underserved children. The state health authorities in Northern Shan and Kayah managed to convene coordination forums which have brought implementing partners including ethnic health organizations together and discovered solutions to improve health service access for children in remote and conflict-affected areas. Technical assistance was also extended to six townships in Shan for developing micro-planning for immunization coverage improvement. UNICEF's technical support in Kachin, Kayah, Mon and Sagaing led to the prioritization of child health in a cross-sectoral State/Region Development Plan 2016–2017 which was prepared with high commitment from the Chief Ministers, Social Affairs Ministers and sectoral counterparts. In Kachin and Mon,

the development of child-focused township profiles was also supported as evidence for further advocacy targeting parliamentarians. In Rakhine State, UNICEF was heavily involved in the composition of the state's Socio Economic Development Plan 2017–2021, which managed to mobilize more support to the state in terms of equity-focus health systems strengthening, human resources and infrastructure allocation for service delivery.

**OUTPUT 2:** Increased national and sub-national capacity to provide equitable access to quality, high-impact maternal, newborn and child health services.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Most maternal, newborn and child health services programming and supply procurement was on track, as a result of substantial technical and operational support to the Department of Public Health. UNICEF procurement of services and financial support of GAVI-Health System Strengthening facilitated the distribution of US\$3.2 million worth of medical supplies to 120 hard-to-reach townships. As many interventions to reduce newborn deaths are most effective when delivered around the time of birth, these interventions are also most effective if provided at standard health facilities rather than at home. Improved capacity readiness of health facilities was demonstrated with establishment of newborn corners in 500 health centres and 50 primary hospitals.

UNICEF, in partnership with the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health supported the Ministry of Health and Sports to enhance emergency paediatric care and quality of care at referral hospitals. Three regions (Ayeyarwady, Magway and Sagaing) which carry the highest number of under-5 deaths (2014 Census report), were the focus areas of this approach. Seven out of 18 targeted hospitals at district level received hands-on, competency-based training and could stocktake items essential to deliver quality maternal, newborn and child health services. Enforcing the referral linkage with nearby primary hospitals, township/station medical officers were included in the training. More than 160 hospital staff received training on emergency paediatric care, resulting in increased capacities to manage major childhood illnesses. Each district hospital, in close consultation with its respective management, also developed 'Hospital Improvement Plans' aimed to improve the environment for effective emergency paediatric care.

To support Myanmar in reaching global targets for disease control, elimination and eradication, UNICEF supported the response to the outbreak of circulating vaccine derived polio virus in the northern part of Rakhine State through three rounds of polio immunization campaigns in high-risk townships and a nationwide campaign reaching nearly 4.6 million children. As a result, there have been no new cases reported this year. The measles outbreak in Nagaland Self Administrative Region was interrupted with the support of UNICEF in collaboration with WHO, where more than 16,000 children 9 months to 15 years old were vaccinated. UNICEF continued to play a significant role in strengthening or establishing routine services in uncovered areas (border, conflict and self-administrative areas) whereby 80 staff from Wa Health Department and 3 ethnic health organizations were trained on immunization service provision and micro-planning, which contributed in reaching 60,000 children who received polio vaccine for the first time. Also, UNICEF continued forging partnerships with NGOs to strengthen the capacity of non-state actors' health departments and forging further collaboration with ethnic health organizations.

In 2016, the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine was introduced and UNICEF contributed in cold chain expansion, whereby more than 1,000 types of equipment were installed, representing more than 65 per cent of all cold chain investment made in the past 10 years. Efforts were made to strengthen immunization supply chain aimed at improving Expanded Programme on Immunization stock management at all levels, starting with the data use

assessment and revealing a need to improve health workers' skills in managing and using immunization supply chain data.

**OUTPUT 3:** More mothers and/or caregivers adopt appropriate newborn and child health practices.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2014, the national C4D Technical Working Group was revived with UNICEF's support. The Health Education Division, Department of Public Health, has been supported to secure approval on revised terms of reference for the group. The division was supported to coordinate with FM radio channels, airing on MRTV, development of audio-visual job aids for midwives which was in mHealth (CommCare application).

Interpersonal communication training for basic health staff and health volunteers on six key family practices (exclusive breastfeeding; complementary feeding; full course of immunization; hand washing at critical times; sleeping under mosquito nets; home care and care seeking for common childhood illnesses) in Kachin State, planned for 2016, was postponed to January 2017 given high staff turnover in the Health Education Division/Ministry of Health and Sports.

The Ministry of Health and Sports was supported to evaluate the Seven Things This Year initiative, the project which mobilized mother support groups in selected townships through the social network of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association. Despite significant challenges, UNICEF managed to facilitate partners in October 2016 to disseminate the final report and presented key findings, lessons learned and recommendations with the association's president, EC members, and Ministry of Health and Sports officials, including the directors of the Child Health Division and Health Education Division. Key findings from the report included significant increase in the awareness level of mothers/caretakers on exclusive breastfeeding, steps of hand washing, and nutrition for pregnant mothers because of the Seven Things This Year initiative, supported by UNICEF. Qualitative findings from the evaluation also highlighted the relevance of the project in the local context and the achievement of the project's ultimate objective in empowering mothers/caretakers. The findings highlighted the limitation of knowledge and practices on danger signs of a sick child and insecticide treated mosquito nets among mothers/caretakers. The evaluation recommended to strengthen the Results-Based Monitoring Framework in future projects.

The communication plan of action for strengthening routine immunization, developed in 2015, was expected to be implemented in the first six months of 2016. However, due to an outbreak of the circulating vaccine derived polio virus, attention was diverted to responding to the outbreak through implementation of five rounds of the polio immunization campaign. This also affected the introduction of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, which was previously scheduled to be introduced on 1 March 2016 and was then been postponed to 2017. With UNICEF support, information, education and communication materials were locally translated to seven main ethnic languages to more inclusively raise the awareness of caretakers regarding routine immunization and its uptake.

**OUTPUT 4:** Preparedness and response for maternal and child health meet the core commitments for children in humanitarian action.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016, there were 39,816 people in the conflict-affected areas of Kachin and Rakhine states who have had access to basic maternal, newborn and child health services as a result of support provided by UNICEF, in partnerships with Health Poverty Action, the Myanmar Health Assistant Association, the Disaster and Epidemiology Unit in the Ministry of Health and Sport, and health personnel of non-state actors. In particular, significant progress has been made in conflict-affected parts and hard-to-reach areas of Kachin State, achieving 66 per cent coverage for the third dose of pentavalent vaccine and 84 per cent coverage of measles immunization to children under 2 years of age in nine townships from January to June 2016. However, challenges in access to health services remain due to active, extensive and frequent conflicts in some areas in Kachin and Shan states. These active conflicts have hindered the development of long-term sustainable solutions by affecting the trust between the parties in conflict as well as jeopardizing the speed of strengthening health systems and improving access to health services in hard-to-reach areas and areas beyond government-controlled areas.

Improving equitable access to health care remained a challenge in 2016. This is largely due to restrictions on service providers, insufficient quality health-care services, ongoing movement restriction for affected communities, and limited skilled staff to support health operations in Rakhine. While the referral pathway has improved over time, challenges remain with established protocols/restrictions applied to health referrals, contributing to inequitable and delayed access to services. Certain parts of Rakhine, such as Buthedaung, Maungdaw and Rathedaung, have consistently had lower rates of coverage. The outbreak of measles in Rathedaung (cases are admitted to Maungdaw hospital) is an indication of the low coverage in those areas. Access restriction in Rakhine has worsened since the emergence of the 9 October violent attacks to border post guards in these townships. UNICEF continues to provide technical and financial assistance in planning and implementing this both at national and sub-national levels. It is crucial that the Ministry of Health and Sports continues to focus on increasing access in these townships not only for immunization, but also for other maternal, newborn and child health services. UNICEF will continue to advocate for, prioritize and provide support to these geographic areas with low coverage as well as other areas of Rakhine State through healthy system strengthening and improving health infrastructure by mobilizing additional funds from the Three Millennium Development Goal Fund in 2017.

**OUTPUT 5:** Timely and quality leadership, management and technical assistance in maternal, newborn and child health services.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

During the reporting period, there were no staff changes in the structure, and high-level technical assistance was provided to implementing partners and development networks by participating actively in the Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Services Technical Strategy Group, National Immunization Technical Advisory Group as well as Lead Child Health Working Group. This support involves travel of staff and also programmatic monitoring visits to project site and hands-on capacity development to national and sub-national partners. This output was proposed to be discontinued and shift the reporting to Outcome 902 for Young Child and Survival Development technical assistance.

**OUTCOME 3:** Water and excreta-related diseases in under-5 children are equitably reduced.

### **Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016, the focus of the WASH programme was to strengthen the enabling environment for WASH by supporting the Government with the development of national standards, strategies and plans, and by strengthening sectoral coordination among key line ministries. UNICEF continued to work with governments at national and sub-national levels for modelling of community-managed approaches to improve rural water supply, demonstration and evidence generation on sanitation through Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approaches and illustrating the effectiveness of group hand washing in schools.

With careful attention to widespread consultation and ensuring buy-in with the new Government after its transition, and sectoral ministries, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Health and Sports and Ministry of Education have endorsed the National WASH Strategy and Investment Plan, which is now submitted to the Economic Policy Committee of the national parliament for review and approval. After approval, the strategy and investment plan will become a sectoral guiding document for planning, implementation and monitoring of WASH programmes. During this process, UNICEF was able to establish a shared vision among the three ministries to achieve the WASH SDG by 2030.

Sectoral coordination among government departments and WASH partners at state/regional level was strengthened through organization of WASH coordination meetings in Kachin, Magway and Rakhine with the leadership of state/regional governments. At the national level, the WASH Thematic Working Group is functioning, but government participation is low. UNICEF is advocating for restructuring the sector coordination mechanism at the national level to ensure that the Government of Myanmar takes leadership role in sector coordination.

As a result of the Department for International Development-funded Accelerating Sanitation and Water for All project, 125,215 people (65,080 female) from 146 communities in Myaing, Nahtogyi, Pauk and Wetlet townships have access to safely managed drinking water after installation of community-managed water supply system.

The Sustainability Assessment of the Accelerating Sanitation and Water for All project concluded that the outcome for sanitation interventions is almost achieved, with 83 per cent of households gaining access to a latrine, with use being confirmed through observation, and 88 per cent of households surveyed have access to piped schemes provided, mainly in their yard or plot (96 per cent). Similarly, the outcome conditions at household level with regard to hygiene were only partially achieved, with 53 per cent of households indicating that they wash their hands with soap after defecating and are equipped with hand-washing facilities with water and soap or detergent. For the remaining 46 per cent, the main challenge is access to a hand-washing facility.

By the end of 2016, the CLTS approach has been introduced in 8 states/regions, and a total of 189 new communities have been declared open defecation free. The CLTS programme has been extended to an additional 215 villages, reaching 103,992 people in 19,478 rural families. As a result of three years of continuous efforts on working together with the Government and non-state actors, a total of 157 villages have attained open defecation free status in Kyar Inn Seikkyi Township in Kayin State.

With the objective of establishing standardized WASH facilities and services in all schools in Myanmar, UNICEF provided technical assistance to develop National Standards for WASH in Schools and the Thant Shin Star School Guidebook (Three Star Guidebook). A technical working group comprising the Department of Basic Education, Department of Public Health, Department of Rural Development, UNICEF and NGOs was formed, which has provided

overall support and guidance to the consultants. Through a series of national and sub-national consultations, final draft documents have been prepared, which are being reviewed by the relevant departments and ministries, and it is expected that these will be endorsed by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health and Sports for roll-out in 2017. Meanwhile, UNICEF, together with partners has tested the draft Thant Shin Star School Guidebook in targeted areas. During the reporting period, a total of 43,147 students (52 per cent girls) and 986 teachers in 245 primary and post-primary schools from 11 townships have access to improved WASH facilities which meet 'Three Stars School standard'. Thant Shin (Mr. Clean) is a main character of the Thant Shin Star School approach and has become a model for promoting good hygiene behaviour among schoolchildren.

The UNICEF-led WASH cluster continued to support WASH coordination of protracted emergencies in 3 states (Kachin, Rakhine, and Northern Shan) and the cluster reached 341,561 people with access to safe and reliable WASH facilities, of which UNICEF reached 18 per cent (64,154 people). The WASH sector information management system (4W) is regularly updated and used for planning and monitoring of the humanitarian response works. For improving effectiveness of humanitarian responses and long-term sustainability, UNICEF, together with key partners, has been advocating and generating examples on greater integration of humanitarian to development programmes.

During the Cyclone Komen recovery response and water shortage in 2016, UNICEF supported approximately 308,000 people with emergency water supplies, 64,000 people with emergency sanitation measures and 30,000 people with essential hygiene items. Similarly, during the 2016 flooding in Rakhine, UNICEF reached 24,300 people from 4 townships with essential WASH supplies and 214 village water systems were rehabilitated through the Department of Rural Development, ensuring that at least 64,650 people rapidly re-established safe water supplies.

**OUTPUT 1:** Evidence-informed policies, standards and guidelines developed and implemented to build and sustain hygienic and healthy living conditions for women and children in Myanmar.

#### **Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Under the leadership of a multi-sectoral task force chaired by the Department of Rural Development, Myanmar's first-ever National WASH Sector Strategy and associated Investment Plan for 2016–2030 commenced development in 2015 and was completed in 2016. Sectoral ministries such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Health and Sports and Ministry of Education have endorsed the Strategy and Investment Plan in 2016, and submitted it to the Economic Policy Committee of the national parliament, which is chaired by the State Counsellor, for review and approval. Covering 2016–2030 and aligned with the SDGs, the Strategy and Investment Plan include rural WASH, WASH in Schools, WASH in Health Facilities and WASH in emergencies. UNICEF provided technical and financial assistance throughout the process, while ensuring broad national and sub-national stakeholder participation.

A Technical Working Group, formed in 2015 with representatives from the Department of Basic Education, Department of Public Health, Department of Rural Development and other relevant line ministries, and NGOs, continued to work on the WASH in Schools National Standards and Thant Shin Star Guidebook (Three Star Guidebook). The final draft documents have been prepared and are being reviewed by the technical working group members. It is expected that these documents will be approved and endorsed by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health and Sports in 2017.

With the objectives of reviewing the CLTS programme implemented by NGO partners with support from UNICEF and identifying lessons learned and good practices for scale-up

through an open defecation free campaign in Myanmar, a CLTS review was conducted to better understand how approaches could be better contextualized to the Myanmar context. During the review, specific attention was given to enabling factors, implementation procedures and factors affecting sustainability that could help scaling up. After the review, a CLTS toolkit including guidelines, training manuals and verification checklists has been developed with the participation of the Department of Public Health and key CLTS implementing partners.

Sectoral coordination and collaboration among government departments and WASH partners at the state/regional level was strengthened through organization of WASH coordination meetings in Kachin, Magway and Rakhine with the leadership of state/regional governments and the regional Department of Rural Development office. To further strengthen sectoral coordination, terms of reference of the state/regional WASH Technical Working Group were developed and presented to the state/regional governments for endorsement.

To establish a national baseline on WASH in Health Care Facilities, the Ministry of Health and Sports has agreed to conduct a nationwide assessment of WASH in Health Facilities with support from UNICEF, WHO and Water Aid. A technical working group led by the Ministry of Health and Sports has been established and fieldwork will be conducted from December 2016 to August 2017. Findings and recommendations will also help to develop national standards and guidelines of WASH in Health Care Facilities in Myanmar.

**OUTPUT 2:** Targeted rural communities in the Dry Zone, conflict-affected children and women in Mon and Kayin states practice key hygienic behaviours (consistent use of toilet, stop open defecation practice), hand washing with soap at critical times, and drinking safe water).

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Progress towards results achievement is on track.

As of 2016, the CLTS approach has been introduced in eight states/regions (Ayeyarwady, Bago, Chin, Kayin, Magwae, Mandalay, Rakhine and Sagaing). UNICEF, together with key WASH partners, continued to generate evidence on successful open defecation free communities. The CLTS approach is being implemented by 11 organizations in Myanmar, but as of 2016, less than 1,000 communities have been declared open defecation free. UNICEF therefore conducted a CLTS review with a view to informing the scale-up of CLTS in Myanmar. Key findings of the review are: CLTS is well known and accepted by the Government; the Ministry of Health and Sports has a high number of human resources in the field; and there is an active private sector. The review also highlighted some opportunities in CLTS promotion and scaling up, such as: Government is open to include CLTS in the national policy; slippage appears very low in Myanmar; and a tradition of constructing latrines already exists in Myanmar.

In 2016, a total of 189 new communities from 4 townships in 4 states/regions have been verified and recognized as open defecation free communities. The verification team included representatives from the Department of Public Health/Ministry of Health and Sports, Township Medical Office, UNICEF, school teachers and implementing partner NGOs. The CLTS programme has been extended to an additional 215 villages in 3 townships of 3 states/regions, reaching 103,992 people in 19,478 rural families. The verification of the open defecation free status of these villages will be done in 2017.

The CLTS approach in Kayin State has helped to bring the Government and non-state

actors in one forum to work together for establishing open defecation free communities. Following three years of continuous efforts on working together with the Government and non-state actors, a total of 157 villages have been declared open defecation free in Kyar Inn Seikkyi Township. An additional 70 villages in Kyar Inn Seikkyi Township are implementing the CLTS programme, which will benefit 24,797 people from 3,710 households. The township-level government offices and non-state actors work closely together, especially in the CLTS village selection, celebration of open defecation free ceremonies and organization of hand-washing campaigns. During these various stages, government and non-state actors work together and, subsequently, UNICEF has observed that CLTS has contributed to peacebuilding initiatives in conflict-affected areas. For example, because of the positive results achieved through CLTS, both entities have requested to expand CLTS and hygiene promotion to other villages of Kayin State.

In 2016, the Myanmar National Hand Washing Initiative – launched in June 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw with high-level commitments from senior government officials – gained momentum. The Thant Shin (Mr. Clean) character of Thant Shin Star School approach has become a popular character of good hygiene behaviours among children in schools, as well as a means of reaching family and community members through schoolchildren. A total of 176 schools in Kakareik, Myaing and Waing Maw townships implemented the Thant Shin Star School approach in 2016.

**OUTPUT 3:** Communities, schools and health centres have access to sufficient safe water in targeted rural communities in the Dry Zone, conflict-affected children and women in Mon and Kayin states.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Some 125,215 people (65,080 female) from 146 communities in Myaing, Nahtogyi, Pauk and Wetlet townships have gained access to safely managed drinking water after installation of household water metering systems. Community contribution ranged from 30 per cent to 60 per cent of the project's total cost. For sustainability, all 146 Water User Committees were trained in bookkeeping, water meter reading, meeting minute writing, etc. With a view to applying lessons from a sustainability assessment supported by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, this approach has been adopted as a successful model for community managed water supply systems in rural areas by the Government and included as a main approach for rural WASH in the National WASH Strategy and Investment Plans.

An additional 6,432 people (3,859 female) from a non-state actor area in Kyarinseikkyi township of Kayin State have gained access to improved water supply facilities, which has contributed to peacebuilding initiatives in the region.

UNICEF supported the Department of Rural Development and Department of Public Health with drafting a Water Safety Planning manual for piped water supply systems in rural areas, which was tested in 110 villages. As part of operationalizing of WSP, 16 participants from local NGOs and township-level Department of Rural Development offices were trained on water safety planning, to facilitate the development of water safety plans. Lessons learned will inform future scale-up.

UNICEF has further been working with Department of Rural Development and DPH to strengthen institutional and human resource capacity in water quality monitoring and testing systems at the state and regional levels. As a pilot, 40 engineers (22 female) from Department of Rural Development were trained and equipped with testing kits and reagents. In 2017, UNICEF will review the approach, and assist the Department of Rural Development

/Department of Public Health with developing a capacity development plan.

Through implementation of a climate resilience WASH project in four townships in Ayeyarwady and Rakhine states, 90,000 people will have access to resilient and safe water supply water and sanitation facilities. This project will decrease communities' vulnerability through promoting climate and disaster resilient WASH infrastructures and increasing government capacity at district and township level to prepare and respond to emergencies.

Through a UNICEF-assisted WASH in Schools project, 43,147 students (52 per cent girls) and 986 teachers in 245 primary and post-primary schools from 11 townships have access to improved WASH facilities. UNICEF applied three different implementation approaches, including partnerships with NGOs, direct contracting to contractors and implementation through the Ministry of Education. This revealed that combining hardware activities, such as construction of WASH facilities, with hygiene promotion is a challenge when implementing through contractors or the Government. Lessons from these three modalities will be reviewed and further refined for effective WASH in Schools programming. In all targeted schools, the Three Star Approach was introduced to strengthen operation and maintenance systems and good hygiene behaviours. To demonstrate options for providing access to safe drinking water to schoolchildren, UNICEF provided water filters to 500 schools from 11 townships. Based on the findings and recommendations of a performance evaluation, UNICEF will advocate for scaling up of low-cost, high-impact interventions for establishing 'Star Schools'.

**OUTPUT 4:** Preparedness and response for sufficient safe water, sanitation facilities and improved hygiene practices meet the core commitments of children and women in humanitarian situations.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The UNICEF-led WASH cluster continued to support WASH coordination in protracted emergencies in three states (Rakhine, Kachin and N.Shan) as part of the Myanmar 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), reaching 341,561 people with WASH activities in 2016. UNICEF, in partnership with eight international NGOs, two local NGOs and three government departments, reached 20,550 people in Rakhine and 29,657 people in Kachin/Northern Shan states. UNICEF has maintained WASH cluster leadership at the national and state level with regular meetings, 4W reports and provision of funds to partners as provider of last resort. As per the 2016 strategic operational framework, focus has been placed on adapting partner approaches to protracted internally displaced person situations, with extra attention placed on reducing operation and maintenance costs and transferring responsibilities to the Government wherever possible. Closer collaboration with the camp coordination and camp management cluster has led to increased government actions to support camps for internally displaced persons in all targeted states. The conflict in Kachin and Northern Shan escalated in the third quarter, and during the fourth quarter the situation in northern Rakhine deteriorated significantly, leading to multiple population displacements and severe restrictions on humanitarian access for WASH partners. Short-term contingency plans have been put in place and the cluster continues to advocate for access to deliver WASH services.

UNICEF completed its recovery response to 2015 Cyclone Komen with emergency WASH activities across five states and regions (Ayeyarwaddy, Chin, Magway, Rakhine and Sagaing) through partnerships with four international NGOs, three NGOs, the Myanmar Red Cross Society and two government departments. Severe El Niño-related water shortages in April/May 2016 impacted populations already hit by floods in 2015, and UNICEF supported

the Government to continue to reach these people. Overall flood response activities in 2016 supported approximately 308,000 people with emergency water supplies, 31,000 people with emergency sanitation measures and 64,000 people with essential hygiene items.

A heavy monsoon again brought severe floods to many parts of Myanmar between June and August 2016. UNICEF supported the Government and Myanmar Red Cross Society with supplies and technical assistance for immediate urgent responses in Ayeyarwaddy, Bago, Magway, Rakhine and Sagaing. Staff were deployed to support the Department of Rural Development, Relief and Resettlement Department, Ministry of Health, Department of Rural Development and Myanmar Red Cross Society with rapid assessments and coordination of bleaching powder and hygiene kit distribution to affected township centres, reaching 74,000 people.

Preparedness strengthening activities have continued over the course of 2016. Long-term agreements for rapid local procurement have been put in place and contingency stock levels in Kachin and Rakhine increased. As part of the new WASH resilience programme, UNICEF is supporting the Department of Rural Development to construct seven warehouses and stock them with emergency WASH equipment. Numerous WASH in emergency trainings have been supported through the cluster and an international training contract has been signed to provide Training of Trainers to key government and civil society organization staff. UNICEF has re-established WASH sector meetings with a standing emergency agenda item to bring development and humanitarian WASH partners together. Emergency response and preparedness has been incorporated into the new rural WASH Strategy and Investment Plan (2015–2030).

**OUTPUT 5:** Timely and quality leadership and technical assistance in WASH.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Effective and efficient technical assistance and leadership provided to implementation of the WASH programme in 2016.

In 2016, the UNICEF WASH programme engaged with the Government to advocate for sector reform and led coordination to scale up sector results. One key achievement in 2016 was the involvement of WASH officers/specialists in the country office and field offices to strengthen the enabling environment for WASH by supporting the Government to develop national standards, strategies and plans, such as National WASH Strategy and Investment Plans, WASH in Schools standards and Thant Shin Star (Three Star) Guidebook. WASH officers in Kachin, Mandalay and Rakhine field offices, with support from the country office, provided technical support to the regional/state government to strengthen sectoral coordination and service delivery, including humanitarian assistances among key line ministries at subnational levels.

The quarterly Young Child and Survival Development meetings have helped to bring together WASH, Nutrition and Health staff from the field offices and Yangon office and provided opportunities to discuss good practices and lessons learned and share experiences. The meetings also facilitated the brainstorming of a new Country Programme, including drafting of the WASH Programme Strategy Note.

The WASH sector in Myanmar is fragmented and falls under three ministries (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Health and Sports, and Ministry of Education) and sector leadership is not well defined. Therefore, the WASH unit continued to provide technical assistance to the Government and partners at the national and sub-national levels. The technical support to form a multi-sectoral task force for developing the

National WASH Sector Strategy and associated Investment Plan for 2016–2030, and Technical Working Group for WASH in Schools National Standards development are some examples of the technical assistance.

**OUTCOME 4:** Increased access to HIV prevention, treatment and care services for key adolescent populations, pregnant women and children living with HIV.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Myanmar's efforts to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, supported by UNICEF, has resulted in about 86 per cent of pregnant women attending antenatal care being tested for HIV and knowing their result. This is a significant increase to 71.7 per cent in 2015 (the latest administrative data available) from 65 per cent in 2014. This progressive change can be attributed to the efforts of the Ministry of Health and Sports with joint support from UNICEF, WHO, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the Global Fund, in addressing issues related to supply, building capacity of service providers, and ensuring availability of adequate resources to enable more decentralized point-of-care HIV testing. While an increase in performance has been observed in all aspects of the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV cascade, additional support is needed to increase access in hard-to-reach areas; increase testing of HIV-exposed children before 2 months of age and referral to antiretroviral treatment of HIV-infected children; and improve the quality of HIV testing and antiretroviral treatment to pregnant women.

In 2016, a National Strategic Plan of HIV and AIDS 2016–2020 was developed, with technical support from UNICEF together with WHO, UNAIDS, the United Nations Population Fund and other implementing partners. The plan has a clear focus on ensuring that all pregnant women in the country have access to HIV testing services at point-of-care and when tested positive, have access to antiretroviral treatment through referral services. The National Strategic Plan also highlights the need to increase access to HIV testing and treatment services among key adolescent populations, including those who identify as transgender. In addition, jointly with other agencies, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the National Action Plan and its implementing partners in developing concept notes for a new round of Global Fund grant (2017–2020) with a new service delivery model approach through fast-tracking access to integrated and high-quality services.

UNICEF continued to prioritize working on changing policies and strategies that will enable adolescent key populations below 18 years of age to access prevention and testing services for HIV. Through continuous joint advocacy efforts with technical leads from the Human Rights and Gender working group, a draft HIV law is being developed in-country and submitted to parliament. Meanwhile, Technical Working Group meetings for young people on prevention of HIV were convened by UNICEF together with development partners on a quarterly basis to address the special needs and challenges faced by adolescent key populations regarding sexual reproductive health and HIV services.

The Ministry of Health and Sports, with support from UNICEF, has implemented HIV testing campaigns during mass gatherings such as youth festivals, targeting key adolescent and youth populations. During 2016, this approach was successful in reaching these key populations for HIV testing, resulting in a yield of more than 6 per cent of those tested being HIV-positive, which is as efficient as other existing HIV testing strategies in the country. In addition to increasing access, the initiative also resulted in sensitization of service providers to perform HIV testing of adolescents and young people, which in turn helps to remove the barrier of age being a limit to consent for an HIV test.

**OUTPUT 1:** Strengthened political commitment, policy and data management systems to reduce new HIV infection in children, improve quality treatment for mothers and children, and reduce stigma and discrimination.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF's advocacy and technical support has resulted in strengthening the Government's focus on increasing HIV testing among adolescents, especially those with high-risk behaviours. UNICEF facilitated more HIV testing centres to reach more adolescent key populations and introduced innovative testing strategies in special events that are likely to attract adolescent populations.

HIV-related data on key adolescent populations remain limited in the country. As one strategy to address this concern, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health and Sports in developing a reporting tool which collect age-disaggregated data on HIV testing. This reporting tool is now being used in all HIV testing facilities.

UNICEF's partnership with the Clinton Health Access Initiative has resulted in a Web-based patient management system completed and tested in five antiretroviral treatment sites. Based on experience from the field testing and functional requirements, the system was re-customized and has been finalized. A second consultation and review meeting took place in October 2016 hosted by NAP together with UNICEF and Clinton Health Access Initiative for providing updates, particularly finalization of Open Medical Record System to all stakeholders. The future roll-out plan is to expand the training of software to the first 40 antiretroviral treatment centres in the next six months. The expected benefits of using the electronic medical record system are to: provide quality interventions at point of care by enabling service providers to use an algorithmic approach for HIV care; remind service providers, and their supervisors, of follow-up visits and reduce loss to follow-up using in-app tools and Web-based report generation; and collect and analyse real-time cohort data to track and improve programme performance, generate evidence for planning, and monitor quality of care, and generate evidence to improve it. The software will then be connected to District Health Information System 2, a Web-based platform of the Health Management Information System, which in turn supports strengthening the health information system of the country.

UNICEF has been the technical lead for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, which Myanmar aims to achieve by 2025. With support from UNICEF together with the Ministry of Health and Sports, WHO and UNAIDS, digitalized reporting (including for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV) has been made available and electronically interfaced with the District Health Information System 2,. National District Health Information System 2 training for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV programme was conducted in March 2016, and streams of both historical and cohort data were collected. The incorporation of key indicators in the system was a key achievement in 2016. Moreover, getting the cohort data of HIV-positive pregnant women with digitalized reporting (DHIS 2 tracker) was incorporated.

More than 20 sub-national coordination meetings were supported in 2016 and resulted in higher-level political commitment on HCT promotion among key populations. In addition, frequent advocacy opportunities were seized with state and regional government authorities. Subnational-level state/regional HIV workplans were launched in Mon, Kayah State and Sagaing Region. Taunggyi STD Team and Mawlamyine General Hospital participated as the field pilot site of the Open Medical Record System for individual electronic recording for antiretroviral treatment patients.

**OUTPUT 2:** Capacities strengthened and communities mobilized to increase access for HIV prevention, treatment and care services for adolescent key population, pregnant women and children living with HIV.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

As lead technical agency on prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV supporting the Ministry of Health and Sports, UNICEF has contributed to results in 2016. Between January and September 2016, 86 per cent of pregnant women attending antenatal care in facilities received HIV counselling and testing as part of such services. This represents a significant increase from 71.7 per cent of pregnant women attending antenatal care in facilities who received HIV counselling and testing as part of services for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in 2015. During the same period in 2016, 90 per cent of HIV-positive pregnant women were provided with antiretroviral treatment, compared with 84.3 per cent in 2015. Finally, 36 per cent and 9.5 per cent of male partners of HIV-positive and HIV-negative pregnant women, respectively, were tested for HIV, compared with 56 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively, in 2015. Partner testing among HIV-positive pregnant women has therefore been strengthened and needs to be further strengthened in the future.

To fill the gap in the continuum of care, UNICEF, in partnership with the Clinton Health Access Initiative, has continued to support the Ministry of Health and Sports in establishing a laboratory information management system that improved the quality of data on testing of HIV-exposed infants and reduced the time in delivering test results to care providers and, hence, caregivers. The system has enhanced data sharing among the National Health Laboratory and the National AIDS Programme in 2016. The introduction of an SMS printer in a few high-volume sites has also helped to reduce the time required to deliver reports to service providers. Additional initiatives such as the establishment of expert clients in high-volume sites continued to be used to reduce loss to follow-up. Due to all these efforts, the testing of HIV-exposed infants using polymerase chain reaction technology increased from 39 per cent in 2015 to 78 per cent among all live births of HIV-exposed children in 2016 (January to September). Improving paediatric treatment has been linked with increased early infant diagnosis testing and improving referral linkage to antiretroviral treatment through expert clients in partnership with the Clinton Health Access Initiative.

In partnership with the Kachin Baptist Association, volunteers from non-government controlled areas (were trained by the Ministry of Health and Sports on prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and reported back on performance for the first time in many years after the onset of conflict in Kachin. Through this partnership, 100 pregnant women received HIV testing in antenatal care, 4 HIV-positive pregnant women and 2 spouses in non-government controlled areas of Kachin were identified, provided with antiretroviral drugs, and put under active follow-up in 2016. At the sub-national level, there were eight new township expansions for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV compared with 2015. Six townships (Gwa, Man Aung, Minpya, Myebon, Pauktaw and Rambe) in Rakhine State, one township (Saytoketaya) in Magway region and another township (Htantalan) in Chin State were affected.

**OUTPUT 3:** Timely and quality leadership, management and technical assistance in HIV.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

During the reporting period, there were no staff changes in the structure and high-level technical assistance was provided to implementing partners and development networks by participating actively in the HIV Technical Strategy Group, as well as the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV working group. This support involves travel of staff and

programmatic monitoring visits to project site and hands-on capacity development to national and sub-national partners. The output was proposed to be discontinued and shift the reporting to Outcome 902 for young child and survival development technical assistance.

**OUTCOME 5:** Increased number and proportion of children accessing and completing quality basic education.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016, with support from UNICEF to the Ministry of Education, access to quality education was improved for students at all levels of education, especially for the most disadvantaged children, focusing on pre-primary and primary education.

The first indicator, primary net enrolment rate, was maintained at a high level of 100.9 per cent (girls: 99.5 per cent; boys: 102.3 per cent), which has resulted from the steady increase since 2012 (86.4 per cent) (net enrolment rate currently exceeds 100 per cent due to inconsistencies in the population and enrolment data, due in part to the fact that no national population census was carried out for 30 years until 2014). In UNICEF-supported townships through the Quality Basic Education Programme, the primary school enrolment rate increased by 3.35 per cent, higher than the national average of 1.52 per cent. This progress, albeit small, contributes to reducing the number of out-of-school children, currently 2.7 million among 5–16-year-olds in the country (2014 census data). Although enrolment has increased and been maintained at a high level, completion has been a persistent problem: the primary completion rate declined from 70 per cent in 2015 to 67 per cent in 2016, which is a further decrease from 73 per cent in 2014 – UNICEF is helping the Ministry of Education investigate the reasons through various types of support, including the out-of-school children study. The number of children enrolled in kindergarten is 1,263,611 (girls: 48 per cent; boys: 52 per cent) – since this does not include children in the non-government controlled areas in Kachin, Kayin and Northern Shan, the actual figure is considered to be higher.

After the appointment of the newly democratically elected government in April 2016, the Ministry of Education restructured its education departments twice within a period of months, in order to reflect new government priorities in terms of education reform. To support this newly restructured Ministry of Education to work towards achieving its aims and objectives, and to consolidate the achievements of the ongoing education reform process, UNICEF collaborated with other partners and maintained consistency of support through these transitions via the Multi-Donor Education Fund comprising Australia, Denmark, the European Union, Norway and the United Kingdom under the Quality Basic Education Programme. A total amount of US\$84 million was spent under the programme from July 2012 to June 2016 to support the Ministry of Education to lead the Government's education reform process through the Comprehensive Education Sector Review. A critical successful culminating achievement of the review initiative in 2016 was a production of a comprehensive, evidence-based and widely consulted upon National Education Strategic Plan 2016–2021, which now forms the blueprint for investment in and development of the education sector, for both the Ministry of Education and all stakeholders, to yield the most equitable, inclusive and quality education for all children of Myanmar.

In addition, as a part of the Comprehensive Education Sector Review process, the new basic education curriculum framework has been developed and endorsed by parliament in 2016. As a result of this, the Ministry of Education started implementation of the new, transformative education system (kindergarten + 12 years) in 2016, which means kindergarten plus 5 years in primary education, 4 years in middle education and 3 years in high school education, bringing the education cycle length into alignment with many of Myanmar's counterparts in the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations. The new

education system will be fully implemented within six years. As a first step, the Ministry of Education rolled out the kindergarten curriculum nationwide in 2016. Even though the Quality Basic Education Programme ended in June 2016, the programme's partners, namely the European Union and Denmark, extended their fund to support the Ministry of Education's national-level priorities of National Education Strategic Plan completion and implementation, procurement of kindergarten kits and Teacher Guides and big books printing for Myanmar and 65 ethnic languages, a 'Rakhine package' for school repair, internally displaced persons support and school reconstruction, and a "Primary Package" for non-formal primary education implementation this year. All four packages are ongoing until 30 June 2017.

Furthermore, UNICEF contributed at the national and sub-national levels to the aim of the Ministry of Education to improve children's learning and enable them to complete basic education by providing various capacity-building and quality programme interventions, such as the Child-Friendly School/Language Enrichment Programme, the School-Based In-Service Teacher Education Programme, primary-level head teacher training, Township Education Improvement Planning, South-East Asia Primary Learning Matrix, and Non-Formal Primary Education Programme, as well as the pilot Non-Formal Middle Education Programme, through the Whole State Approach), an approach aimed at strengthening the system building of the sub-national-level education offices towards decentralization, in five states – namely, Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Mon and Rakhine, supported through the Quality Basic Education Programme. The main funding sources for these programmes are the Government of Japan, SMBC through the UNICEF Japan National Committee, and H&M Foundation through the UNICEF Swedish National Committee. The combination of these efforts at upstream, downstream and evidence-generation levels has contributed to achieving the outcome result of the education programme.

**OUTPUT 1:** Equitable policies and supporting systems in place, with increased provision of quality, inclusive early childhood care and development services.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016, the Ministry of Education's capacity building to improve the procurement process for kindergarten kits and materials was brought into line with international standards with support of UNICEF, through standard protocol developments focused on core dimensions of transparency, accountability and efficiency. Partnership and technical support through UNICEF-funded international and national consultants to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement enabled them to design and develop the Early Childhood Intervention System, which identifies children below the age of 5 with developmental delays and, through an integrated service set with professionals and paraprofessionals, supports parents in their role as the first developmental assessor of their child. The pilot programme has been designed, screening tools and monitoring and evaluation tools are currently being adapted for training of Early Childhood Intervention paraprofessionals, and an advocacy plan and policy brief were developed with co-facilitation of Leprosy Mission Myanmar, one of the lead national agencies in terms of expertise on early childhood intervention. Adaptation of the East Asia Pacific Early Childhood Development Scale, a tool to measure the learning outcomes at early childhood development and kindergarten, a first step to help strengthen monitoring of the early learning curriculum, was initiated by the Yangon University of Education in collaboration with the University of Hong Kong. This will allow standardized measurement of the kindergarten curriculum application by teachers. The capacity of 65 ethnic language groups was strengthened for the development of bilingual teachers' guides and big story books for kindergarten students. In addition, mobile early childhood care and development services were pilot-tested in communities in Kachin and Rakhine states, including camps for internally displaced persons in partnership with the Myanmar Baptist Convention, resulting in early learning exposure for children who would otherwise have no

access to such opportunities. It also resulted in parental and caregiver engagement in the provision of mobile early childhood care and development, also a first for these communities. Two cyclone-resistant, school-based preschools were constructed, along with outdoor playgrounds in Nargis Cyclone-affected Laputta Township, and a maintenance manual was developed. A handbook for establishing an outdoor playground was developed in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Karen Baptist Convention and other early childhood development partners.

An end line assessment of the quality of preschools (with a sample of 90 preschools in 34 townships) was conducted, showing much improvement, with 61.1 per cent of preschools meeting the national quality standards in 2016, compared with 4.4 per cent in 2015. Key findings identified the strong association between school principals having received parenting education and management training and the quality of preschools, coupled with the appropriate pupil:teacher ratio for preschool, at 1 teacher for 15–20 children, native caregiver, full-time caregiver and the quality of preschool. This finding will be used to inform UNICEF's further advocacy on early learning.

**OUTPUT 2:** Primary/secondary/alternative delivery – Enhanced coverage, quality, and inclusivity of child-friendly teaching and environments in primary and secondary schools, including the provision of quality alternative education.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016, UNICEF continued its support to the Ministry of Education to expand and enhance the coverage, quality and inclusivity of child-friendly teaching and environments. As a result, approximately, 590,000 children in primary and secondary schools have benefited from UNICEF-supported training that reached a total of approximately 30,800 teachers, head teachers and township-level facilitators who increased their capacity to deliver child-friendly teaching through Child-Friendly School/Language Enhancement Programme, School-Based In-Service Teacher Education, head teacher and life-skills teacher training; and an additional 3,900 out-of-school children participate in alternative education programme (non-formal primary education and non-formal middle school education). Through these training initiatives, UNICEF succeeded in advocating with the Government to reach teachers from monastic schools and 'volunteer' teachers from camps for internally displaced persons, contributing to equalize the opportunity for quality enhancement among government schools and non-state schools, including Temporary Learning Spaces for children affected by conflict.

An important start for quality enhancement was also initiated through revisiting the existing primary exam system for Grade 5. The introduction of the South-East Asia Primary Learning Matrix to Myanmar is expected to not only enable Myanmar join its neighbours to monitor learner achievements through regional culturally appropriate metrics, but also to build the national capacity in learning assessment that will better assess the impact of its education on learners for overall quality improvement.

This past year also saw an important shift from expansive service delivery to system-building support, as the Quality Basic Education Programme (2012–2016) concluded in June 2016. UNICEF's Education Programme, taking advantage of its presence in six field locations, supports State and Township Education Offices to reinforce their capacity in evidence-based planning as well as participative dialogue and coordination. Concretely, the manual for Township Education Improvement Plan has been revised based on the evaluation conducted; both In-Service Teacher Education and Township Education Improvement Plans underwent evaluations which were rated by the UNICEF Evaluation office to high-quality standards. These evaluations and the findings they yielded will promote learning and inform

future programming. For example, the Township Education Improvement Plan manual was originally mainly focused on quantitative analysis, targeting only officers within schools and Township Education Officers. The revision to the manual has meant the addition of qualitative analysis to triangulate the data and has involved students, parents, community members, the General Administrative Department and other stakeholders, for inclusive consultation enabling more participatory education planning, and eventually feeding into supporting the decentralization processes. Broad stakeholder engagement has been encouraged through State Education Sector Working Groups supported by UNICEF in six locations, including five Whole State Approach locations. This system-building support, especially at the sub-national level, will be continued through the last year of the current Country Programme Document, in 2017.

**OUTPUT 3:** Sector Performance – Enhanced Education Sector performance, including improved planning, management, monitoring and evaluation capacity of key education actors at all levels.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The key achievement in 2016 was the finalization of the National Education Strategic Plan by the Ministry of Education, with support from UNICEF and funding partners, Australia, Denmark, Department for International Development, European Union and Norway, and other development partners. The plan provides Myanmar's first joint policy framework to guide education investments, domestic and external, over the next five years. It outlines an inclusive approach to improving teaching and learning, and provides the vehicle for Myanmar to achieve SDG 4 on education. The plan also provides an opportunity for Myanmar to seek accession to the Global Partnership for Education, and leverage Global Partnership for Education funds for National Education Strategic Plan implementation. At the request of the Ministry of Education, UNICEF is leveraging influence in the accession and grant application process through supporting a Ministry-led Global Partnership for Education Working Group, together with other partners.

Myanmar has made great strides in language policy development, supported by UNICEF and the University of Melbourne. Leveraging social cohesion impacts, the initiative has built local understanding of multilingual education through supporting Myanmar's first-ever International Conference on National Language Policy and Planning; enriched the knowledge base through analytical work on language diversity, inclusive communication for people with disabilities and use of the English language in education; and resulted in drafting of three state-level language policies in Kachin, Kayin and Mon through inclusive, participatory approaches.

A multilevel Capacity Gap Assessment, undertaken by the Ministry of Education with UNICEF support, has identified human resource and institutional capacity gaps across nine priority areas at central and sub-national levels. The findings provide the evidence base for institutionalization of a more systematic, government-led and demand-driven approach to capacity development for effective service delivery capacity in the Ministry of Education. The evidence base was also strengthened through the finalization of key studies, including the situation analysis of children with disabilities in Myanmar, led by the Department of Social Welfare; a bottleneck analysis of gender dynamics affecting the participation of girls and boys in secondary school, with implications for social cohesion; initiation of the Out-of-School Children Initiative; and a study on factors affecting drop-out from the UNICEF-supported Non-Formal Primary Equivalency Programme, all of which will inform dialogue with the Ministry of Education on strengthening the inclusiveness of the education system.

Working closely with Australia as co-lead, UNICEF continued to play a key role in sector coordination and aid effectiveness. UNICEF and Australia have leveraged their convening power in bringing development partners together to harmonize messaging for the new Government, and acted as the communication focal points between development partners and the Ministry. To support the Education Sector Coordination Committee, a new mechanism was initiated by the Ministry in November 2016, with an inaugural meeting taking place in December 2016, to strengthen coordination with development partners, UNICEF and Australia have coordinated comments from development partners to ensure that the committee builds on lessons learned, responds to the needs of Ministry of Education decision-makers, and provides a solid platform for Global Partnership for Education dialogue. Through its co-chairing role of an Education Thematic Working Group, together with Save the Children, UNICEF has also continued to play a convening role for outreach between the Government and education stakeholders, including NGOs and civil society groups.

**OUTPUT 4:** Humanitarian (Education in Emergencies/PBE/disaster risk reduction) – Enhanced emergency preparedness and response, including improved Education in Emergencies sector coordination and social cohesion programmes.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Education section continued its support to internally displaced students by provision and maintenance of temporary learning facilities, teaching and learning aids, incentives to volunteer teachers, co-leading Education in Emergencies coordination in Kachin and Rakhine.

These efforts enabled UNICEF to achieve reaching 79 per cent of the targeted 3–17-year-old children (32,476 out of a target population of 41,000 children) to access pre-primary, primary and post-primary education in temporary learning facilities in both Kachin and Rakhine. They also received integrated support such as psychosocial support, child protection and life-skills support.

In Kachin, UNICEF targeted expansion of access of 13,100 internally displaced students to pre-primary and primary and post-primary education in temporary learning facilities in non-government controlled areas. Of this target cohort, UNICEF reached 6,159 students (47 per cent) who accessed learning opportunities in safe learning facilities. In Rakhine, UNICEF targeted expansion of access to 36,000 internally displaced students to pre-primary, primary and post-primary education in temporary learning facilities in camps for internally displaced persons. Of this target group, UNICEF reached 26,316 students (73 per cent) who accessed learning opportunities in safe learning facilities. Funding constraints (62 per cent funded from the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal) and the limited number of implementing partners on the ground were the biggest challenges for education in the emergency sector in attempting to extend its coverage to more emergency- and conflict-affected children to access safe and quality education.

**OUTPUT 5:** Effective leadership and technical assistance assured for delivery of results.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016, the UNICEF Education section continued to strengthen its capacity for delivering results. This year, as part of the new Country Programme preparation, all the section members including education officers in the field offices went through the results-based management training course, which helped the section's work to develop a Programme Strategy Note, including theory of change, for the new Country Programme. Bi-monthly Education Team meetings bringing together education staff from the field offices and

education staff from Yangon were effective to collectively discuss good practices, lessons learned and recommendations. The meetings also provided opportunities to develop the Education Programme Strategy Note jointly and to take into account experience both at the national and sub-national levels. HACT training proven effective to enhance the section members' knowledge and skills to comply with HACT and to ensure the appropriate use of UNICEF resources accordingly. Missions of colleagues from the Regional Office were also helpful to identify opportunities on how to improve equity focus, gender responsiveness, and disability friendliness in the current programme and to prepare for the new Country Programme.

With the end of the big multi-donor education project in June, which UNICEF had managed since 2012, the human resource requirements for UNICEF education changed and a number of posts, especially those linked to project monitoring in the field offices, were abolished. Nonetheless, the section successfully managed the transition and continued to deliver agreed results. With the new Government in place, the Ministry of Education went through a major restructuring, including the merger of some departments and establishment of a new department, to which UNICEF responded adequately and effectively by adjusting the Ministry of Education-UNICEF Multi-Year Workplan for 2016–2017, and prioritizing the activities according to the needs of the restructured Ministry. The Education sector has seen development partners' increasing engagement in the sector, which presents opportunities as well as challenges around effective coordination. Yet, UNICEF continued its co-leadership role in the sector both at national and sub-national levels, as well as in thematic working groups, such as on teacher education, given UNICEF's high-level human resources. As part of the new Government's initiative, the Ministry of Education had an ambitious plan to organize a series of forums on different education topics. Although the organization of events in a short period of time was challenging, the UNICEF education section responded to the Ministry's need effectively and provided high-level technical assistance to the Ministry, in collaboration with other partners.

**OUTCOME 6:** Children in need of support, care and protection are identified by and have access to public social welfare systems.

#### **Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The past year has seen an increased visibility of child protection issues, including media reports of child sexual abuse, which is galvanizing the Government and partners to respond practically and quickly. The 2015 deployment of trained child protection social work case managers into the Department of Social Welfare at the decentralized level is now positioned as an important government-led intervention that can go to scale. UNICEF continued to support this government-led intervention in 2016, which expanded to an additional 10 townships (37 in total now, in addition to the 27 launched in 2015). To achieve full coverage, 330 townships across Myanmar will need to be reached. UNICEF has advocated with the Government and partners to focus efforts around this important intervention in response to increased cases of exploitation and abuse, and to view child protection social work case management as a cross cutting response to multiple vulnerabilities.

In 2016, a total of 2,822,453 children were covered by social welfare services, which has resulted in 125,378 children accessing needed protection services. This is a significant achievement, and signals this effort as an important sustainable entry point for building the foundations of a government-led child protection system. The Child Protection section has capitalized on this work, and is making efforts to bridge this with other important actors in the protection system. Work with the police and judiciary has entered a new stage of cooperation, with agreement to revise the core curriculums for police and judges secured, and specialized approaches to handle the increased number of children coming in contact

with the law as victims and witnesses. Decentralized approaches to link together government ministries and departments to respond in coordination has been a key feature of the work in 2016. The Ministry of Social Welfare is driving the expansion, with a minimum of nine more townships to be covered in early 2017, potentially many more.

Coordinated efforts with the Social Policy and Child Rights Monitoring section to support advocacy for increased budgets for the Ministry of Social Welfare have been coupled with technical support to the Ministry of Social Welfare to cost and budget for expansion of social work case management, increases to their reintegration and victim support budgets, which will assist them in addressing increased numbers of children and families in need of support whether they are affected by landmine incidents, trafficking, or recruitment into armed forces or armed groups. These efforts have contributed to a significant increase of the Ministry's budget ceiling from the Ministry of Planning and Finance for 2017/18 (budget allocation figures will be released in mid-2017).

An evaluation of UNICEF's support to child protection systems strengthening was conducted, yielding many recommendations for the way forward. Many gaps remain, and a focus on prevention needs strengthening. Improved coordination with police and judiciary, as well as education and health, are critical to increase the effectiveness of the work. However, this is to be expected, as the child protection system is only just emerging in Myanmar. The evaluation validated the strategic direction of the UNICEF programme in support of a sustainable child protection system that links increased government capacity building and coordination to the development of a set of critical child protection services, including family based alternative care and specialized services for victims of abuse. Linkages with NGOs and civil society organizations have been and continue to be critical. However, as the Government of Myanmar expands its legal frameworks and budgets for enhanced protection of children, efforts should prioritize technical and financial support to support this effort.

The Child Law was finalized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement with support from UNICEF. Consultations with parliament to brief them on the draft law were conducted, and bi-lateral meetings between the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Legal Vetting Department of the Union Attorney General's office were supported to ensure questions on the law were adequately addressed. Although the Child Law has not advanced to parliament for formal review in 2016, it has progressed, and is scheduled to be submitted shortly and approved in early 2017.

UNICEF continued to support the Union Supreme Court, which launched its five-year strategic plan in 2016. Justice reforms for children are reflected, including review and revision of the core training curriculum for judges in light of the adoption of the new Child Law. Support to the police also continued, with trainings for police, including border guard police, in Rakhine State conducted and plans developed to revise the core curriculum for police in 2017 agreed. This work is increasingly being drawn together with the Department of Social Welfare's expansion of child protection social work case managers to increase coordination and referrals.

UNICEF scaled up its focus on adolescent engagement in 2015, linking this engagement to child protection and innovation. A partnership with a group of young innovators in the south-east was formed and will aim to strengthen collaboration between social workers and young people in their communities. A large initiative with Action Aid to engage adolescents in life skills and civic engagement, coupled with UNICEF's increased focus on reaching adolescents affected by conflict and displacement, is building a large network of young people who can increasingly speak out around issues that impact them, including protection.

**OUTPUT 1:** Conduct national study on institutional care.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

New data from the census show that there are nearly 30,000 children living in private non-governmental orphanage care, and more than 250,000 children residing in religious-based care facilities. More than 6 per cent of children are living in kinship care or with non-relatives (nearly 700,000 children). It was not possible in 2016 to get the data from the census regarding the number and location of facilities, which are needed to conduct the national study on institutional care. Work continues with the Government to secure that needed information and conduct the study in 2017.

The partnership with Terre De Hommes and the Department of Social Welfare to model family based alternative care produced an important study examining the willingness of families to be foster parents in the two areas where foster care will be implemented in 2017 (Mandalay and Yangon). The study found that a majority of families are willing to take in children who are not their own, temporarily or long term. Families prefer younger children, but 30 per cent expressed a willingness to take in older children. The study confirmed a strong community practice of informally placing children in extended kinship care and with non-relatives in processes that are frequently mediated by elders and community leaders. The findings of the study were discussed with Government stakeholders, and options for developing supported kinship care and foster care, including the roles and responsibilities of Government child protection social work case managers, NGOs and communities were developed.

There were delays in finalizing the standards for residential care, although agreements are now in place to finalize the standards and develop standards for supported kinship and foster care, which will be taken forward in 2017. UNICEF continued the work with the Government and travel and tourism sector to prevent orphanage tourism, a stopgap measure to help reduce the spread of orphanages as more data are being collected, regulatory frameworks are being developed, and family based alternatives are being rolled out. Some 14,000 pamphlets and other awareness-raising materials were distributed, and 180 travel and tourism sector staff were training in 2016. UNICEF also identified a key local partner with the Ministry of Travel and Tourism to support the systematic roll-out of this work in 2017, and expanding to include commercial sexual exploitation of children.

**OUTPUT 2:** Increased social welfare system capacity to respond to child protection cases.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The work continued to accelerate in 2016 with significant UNICEF advocacy and technical support. As a part of the new Government's 100-day plan, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement increased the number of townships with child protection social work case managers from 27 to 37. Another priority of the 100-day plan was to address the rising number of children living and working on the street in Mandalay and Yangon. With UNICEF support, the Government prioritized mobile social work teams, building further on the same intervention to reach this highly vulnerable group. More than 1,200 cases of children affected by physical and sexual violence were referred to the Department of Social Welfare child protection social work case managers over the course of 2016, an increase from roughly 700 in 2015. Implementation of the National Social Protection Strategy in Chin State will take place in 2017, with the roll-out of a universal maternal and child cash transfer as well as child protection social work case managers across all 11 townships in Chin. In addition, rising numbers of reported cases of sexual abuse against children, especially girls, has also triggered attention at the ministerial level to the Department of Social Welfare child protection social work case management response.

In coordination with the police, the Government has identified the five regions with the highest number of reported sexual abuse cases and has committed to cover these areas with newly recruited child protection social work case managers. Coverage of the Department of Social Welfare child protection social work case managers will increase substantially in 2017. In close consultation with the Social Policy and Child Rights Monitoring section, UNICEF supported the Department of Social Welfare with their 2017/18 budget submission and relevant advocacy with the Ministry of Planning and Finance. As a result, the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement has received a budget ceiling increase, part of which will go towards recruiting, training and equipping the newly hired child protection social workers.

UNICEF funded an external evaluation of its support to the Government to strengthen child protection systems, using child protection social work case management as an entry point. The evaluation concluded that while there are a lot of areas for the system to grow and improve, it is a functional system that is reaching highly vulnerable children with child protection services in a way that is both appropriate for UNICEF's role in the country as well as sustainable. The evaluation found a high level of government ownership, acknowledging that the work is off to a good start given that there has never been a functional systematic approach to the protection of children in the country's history. The evaluation also found that the work with Point B, a UNICEF university-based partner that specializes in design thinking and problem-solving skills and has been engaged to strengthen on-the-job capacity building of newly recruited social workers, is making a significant difference towards the achievement of results.

**OUTPUT 3:** Strengthened legislative and institutional capacity to provide adequate care and protection to children in contact with the law.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

This past year resulted in a final full draft of the Child Law being submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers. The process of review and finalization of the draft was delayed in part by the decision to include a full chapter on children and armed conflict, with corresponding sanctions and penalties. The chapter required discussions between the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Ministry of Defence to agree on the final draft text – discussions that were supported by UNICEF. As these discussions took place, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Social Welfare to conduct briefings to the newly established Children and Women's Rights committee in Parliament. A final draft was submitted by the Ministry of Social Welfare to the legal vetting department of the Union Attorney General's office. UNICEF supported these discussions, and assisted the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at various stages of the process. Increased public awareness of child sexual abuse towards the end of 2016 has stimulated high demand for the law to be accelerated towards adoption.

In 2016, progress was made in enhancing capacity-building initiatives for justice system actors, including linking the emerging social work case management system to the justice interventions. Decentralized trainings and capacity-building workshops were organized in Kachin, Yangon and the South-East, bringing together Department of Social Welfare social work case managers, local police and the judiciary. This effort helped to strengthen local coordination and cooperation between the social welfare and justice actors for child protection, including referral. In line with ongoing support, the UNICEF Child Protection team, in cooperation with the training school of the Supreme Court, trained 198 judges on child rights in the context of the justice system and child-friendly judicial proceedings, bringing the total number of judges trained well over the target of 500 since 2011. Three

courts were also equipped with child-friendly interview rooms in areas with high caseloads of children in contact with the law.

Through the centralized training of police, UNICEF worked with the Myanmar Police Force to train 240 police in child-friendly procedures. In 2016, targeted trainings continued at decentralized levels for police in Rakhine, where 98 police, including border guard police, received a three-day training on child rights and protection. Work accelerated in 2016 to amend the core curriculum of the police and judges. UNICEF recruited an international consultant who will begin this process within the justice sector in early 2017. The 2017 plan of action with the judiciary, which is captured in the justice five-year strategic plan, includes revision to the core curriculum.

**OUTPUT 4:** Increased efforts to protect children from exploitation, including child labour, trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Data from the 2014 census show that 20 per cent of all children in Myanmar are economically active, with approximately half of these children in situations of exploitative child labour (totalling more than 1 million children). Regular engagement continued with the Factories and General Labour Laws Inspection Department of the Ministry of Labour, Child Labour Technical Working Group and the International Labour Organization, with the processes of developing Myanmar's hazardous work list and the Action Plan to Eliminate Worst Forms of Child Labour.

To increase the Government's capacity to identify and respond to children working in shops and factories, and building on UNICEF's comparative advantage entry points with Labour and Social Welfare, UNICEF has engaged the Ministry of Labour and the Department of Social Welfare and developed a model programme addressing child labour in Hlaingtharyar Township of Yangon with interventions that are integrated into the child protection case management system. Partnerships have been secured and the programme will be launched in early 2017, focusing on strengthening social work services through the Department of Social Welfare case management expansion to the area; investment in informal and vocational education in the township; strengthening the work of the labour inspectors and the commitment of factories to identify and seek solutions for children below the minimum working age; and ensuring that children above the minimum working age have their rights fulfilled.

UNICEF supported the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division of Myanmar Police Force to refurbish and equip a Child-Friendly Police Unit in Yangon. Discussions are under way on optimizing the work of Child Protection Task Forces of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division. UNICEF continued supporting the Government with provision of victim assistance services to repatriated women and child survivors of trafficking. In 2016, 265 children and families received reintegration support from the Department of Social Welfare, with UNICEF's assistance. UNICEF, in close collaboration with the Child Protection Working Group, supported development of a new module on safe migration, prevention of family separation during migration and prevention of trafficking for EXCEL – a non-formal education programme for out-of-school adolescents. A national platform on adolescents was established and the first adolescent conference was held, feeding into the development of the Government's Youth Policy.

UNICEF and the International Organization for Migration held a workshop in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss findings, and review and enrich recommendations of the joint study of the Impact of Migration on Children in Myanmar, which was well attended by respective government

stakeholders, the International Labour Organization and key partner NGOs. The report is undergoing final revisions in preparation for layout and print.

UNICEF intensified efforts to address emerging child protection risks associated with increased tourist flows and access to mobile phones and the Internet. UNICEF has shaped new partnerships in order to intensify engagement with the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the Myanmar Police Force and the Department of Social Welfare on preventing, identifying and addressing child sexual exploitation cases in the travel and tourism sector. It is closely linked with new collaboration with ECPAT on the Situation Analysis of Child Exploitation in Travel, Tourism and Online.

**OUTPUT 5:** National and international standards are implemented to prevent and respond to grave violations against children as per United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1612 and 1882 and to contribute to ongoing peacebuilding, including responding to emergencies.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Implementation of the Action Plan with the Government of Myanmar to end and prevent the use and recruitment of children continued in 2016. During the year, 101 children and young people were released, which brings the total number released since the signing of the Action Plan in June 2012 to 800. On average, UNICEF continues to receive 30 new complaints per month of child recruitment by the Tatmadaw. However, most of the cases relate to recruitment that took place before 2015. UNICEF continues to support and oversee the social-economic reintegration of 650 children formerly associated with the armed forces. UNICEF also continues to co-chair the inter-ministerial working group on reintegration. As Co-Chair of the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting, UNICEF and the United Nations Resident Coordinators' office engaged with five other listed parties in Myanmar. One action plan with the Karenni National People's Party/Karenni Army was finalized in February 2016 but requires the consent of the Myanmar Government for the United Nations to sign, which has not yet been given. Engagement with the Kachin Independence Army has opened a direct channel of advocacy and allowed the first formal release of children from this ethnic armed group.

In 2016, UNICEF continued to lead the monitoring and reporting mechanisms on the six grave violations against children. To expand the pool of information sources and enhance monitoring UNICEF conducted targeted Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism trainings for an additional 223 people from 28 faith-based and grass-roots organizations, including in remote and ethnic-controlled areas. The most-documented grave violations after use and recruitment remains killing and maiming, partly due to the landmines/explosive remnants of war contamination of 9 out of 14 states in Myanmar. In 2016, 103 new victims of landmines/explosive remnants of war were reported and assisted.

The Mine Risk Working Group at national and state levels (co-chaired by UNICEF and the Government) secured official approval to roll out the common Mine Risk Education toolkit, which reached 80,000 people with life-saving information. UNICEF also coordinated the development of a joint curriculum on mine-risk education. Some 35 mine-risk education trainers were certified by the working group in September. Further decentralization of the national Mine Risk Working Group took place with the establishment of government-led platforms in Kayin and Shan. Victim assistance work also expanded in line with international standards with the launch of a Victim Assistance Centre in partnership with Handicap International and the Myanmar Physical Disability Association in Kayin.

Community-based child protection mechanisms were maintained and strengthened in emergency-affected areas to scale up prevention and ensure immediate referrals of child survivors at risk of violence, exploitation and abuse. More than 80,000 children received protection through this work in 2016. To further strengthen coverage, quality and responsiveness, UNICEF started new programming in the northern townships of Rakhine. A specific focus on adolescents, especially girls, continues to be strengthened. UNICEF supported the Government of Myanmar's protection response to floods, supporting and backstopping government social worker deployments.

**OUTPUT 6:** Timely and quality leadership and technical assistance.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The staff structures in child protection were expanded in 2016 with the addition of a full time NOA for the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism, expanding the capacity of the children and armed conflict team to manage increased Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism reports and capacity-building needs.

**OUTCOME 7:** By the end of 2017, boys and girls benefit from increased budget allocations under health, education, social welfare and protection addressing the needs of the most vulnerable.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016, budget allocations in health and education continued to witness increases (now 1 and 1.9 per cent of gross domestic product, respectively), while the progress has lagged for the social welfare budget, where the base is very low (0.1 per cent of gross domestic product) and the target is quite ambitious (1 per cent of gross domestic product). Based on these trends, and based on the policy intent of the new Government, it is fairly safe to assume that the targeted increases in the allocations for health and education will materialize by the end of 2017, while social welfare may be more challenging. However, the new Government's stated priorities of greater attention to and investments in health, education and social welfare provide a positive enabling environment.

Concretely, there has been positive progress in signalling a possible increase in the social welfare budget in 2017, to which UNICEF has contributed through Output 2 by strengthening the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement's capacity and credibility to attract higher budget allocations through the Public Financial Management technical assistance project with the Ministry. The strategic engagement with Ministry of Planning and Finance (MOPF) enabled a first-time increase in the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement's budget ceiling. At the same time, adding to the momentum for future budget allocation, with UNICEF's technical support a key flagship programme of the National Social Protection Policy – the Maternal and Child Cash Transfer – has received donor funding for implementation in Chin State, starting in 2017.

To further ensure that social services are inclusive and address the needs of the most vulnerable, UNICEF supported a study tour to Malaysia for the Department of Social Welfare and Ministry of Health and Sports, and the findings have already been utilized to advance discussions on the introduction of a registration and certification system of people with disabilities, using a social model. At the sub-national level, UNICEF continued engaging around decentralized planning for the most vulnerable using the Local Social Planning approach, with a draft manual being jointly developed with the Ministry of Planning and Finance for its adoption in 2017 as a key planning reference document.

Concurrently, UNICEF's work on child rights monitoring through data analysis and evidence generation has highlighted further needs for investments in social sectors and strengthened data availability and coordination – both towards more adequate and equitable planning and budgeting. UNICEF undertook a comprehensive analysis of the situation of children in Myanmar using the data from the 2014 census to inform policy discussions within several ministries, including during the high-level New Vision, New Results for Children conference, organized in October, and led by the Ministry of Planning and Finance with the support of UNICEF. The outcome of this conference has led to an evidence-informed new vision on addressing key child issues by the Government of Myanmar, and also positioned child-related targets and indicators strategically in Myanmar's approach to the SDG agenda. In addition, the first-ever Situation Analysis on children with disabilities in Myanmar was launched in September and the event has accelerated momentum around disability programming among development partners, organizations working on behalf of disabled people and government departments. Particularly, the recommendations from the report are actively being used by the Department of Social Welfare to inform key national plans and frameworks aimed at improving social inclusion for children with disabilities.

At the sub-national level, Child-Focused Township Profiles have advanced important discussions at the state/region level on the availability, quality and use of child-related data at the state/region level.

UNICEF also continued to contribute to efforts to prioritize and realize the national goal of universal birth registration in Myanmar. Concretely, this has meant that efforts to introduce a simpler, more effective and equitable approach to registering vital events (including births) have resulted in the submission of a revised Vital Registration Manual to the chairman of the Coordination Committee on Birth and Death Registration in November.

**OUTPUT 1:** The situation of children, with focus on disparities and vulnerabilities is defined and analysed at national and regional levels.

#### **Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Recently released data, most notably from the Census 2014, were analysed comprehensively and utilized widely to inform policy efforts of various line ministries, such as health, education, social welfare, and planning and finance. In addition, it also helped shape thinking around the Government-UNICEF new Country Programme of Cooperation (2018–2022) by, for example, illustrating the scale of health- and nutrition-related deprivations faced by children across states and regions. This analysis has also represented the basis for a Situation Analysis on Children in Myanmar, developed in the form of a comprehensive presentation, which was validated and shared widely with government counterparts and other partners.

Moreover, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare, launched in September the first-ever Situation Analysis on Children with Disabilities. The findings have already been utilized by a range of government partners and disabled persons organizations to inform key national plans and frameworks aimed at improving social inclusion for persons with disabilities, including the development of by-laws, the national Strategy on People with Disabilities, the design of a registration and certification tool, and several inter-ministerial coordination initiatives on inclusivity.

At the sub-national level, child-focused township profiles have been launched and disseminated in Kachin and Mon, and completed in Kayah and Sagaing. Magway region is completing the data collection phase and data will be validated in early 2017. Kachin State

has organized a forum on data at the township level, to follow up on the lessons learned during the development of township profiles. Local stakeholders from this state, including parliamentarians, came together in December 2016 to discuss the challenges encountered (mostly related to the low quality of administrative records) and strategies to overcome them.

The Vital Registration manual has been finalized and submitted to the chairperson of the Coordination Committee on Birth and Death Registration in November for endorsement. UNICEF provided technical support to its revision, and previous limitations to birth registration in terms of age, geographic location and late registration have been removed. UNICEF has also provided on-the-job training in all states/regions to ensure the functionality of the vital registration e-platform for births/deaths. UNICEF supported the Government to conduct a need assessments in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan, in preparation for a Birth Registration Campaign in the eight states/regions not covered by the 2014/15 campaign. UNICEF has discussed the campaign with the recently reconstituted Coordination Committee on Birth and Death Registration, and the ground for the campaign has been laid. However, due to ongoing conflicts in these states, the campaign can only be started in 2017.

**OUTPUT 2:** By the end of 2017, national and sub-national policies and strategies are strengthened to address identified vulnerabilities of children.

#### **Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Following the establishment of a new Government, UNICEF and the Department of Social Welfare (the Department of Social Welfare) organized a high-level advocacy workshop with the new parliamentarians (from committees such as the Child and Women's Rights Committee and the Joint Public Accounts Committee) and senior government officials from relevant ministries to ensure continued commitment to implement the 2014 National Social Protection Strategic Plan. As a result of UNICEF's advocacy, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement listed among its top five 100-days priorities for the new Government, the roll-out the Maternal and Child Cash Transfer programme in the one of the most remote and deprived areas – Chin State. Taking advantage of the changed political context, the Department of Social Welfare, with UNICEF's technical support, secured US\$10 million in external funding from the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund to implement the Chin State Maternal and Child Cash Transfer for 2017 and 2018. To ensure the Department of Social Welfare's technical preparedness, UNICEF has provided dedicated support to develop a detailed manual for implementation based on consultations at national and sub-national levels.

Concurrently, in an effort to strengthen the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement's overall capacity to implement social welfare and disaster risk management programmes for children and other vulnerable groups, UNICEF initiated technical assistance to the Ministry on Public Financial Management. In 2016, the assistance focused on budgeting and introduced a framework for strategic planning to enable evidence-based and equity-oriented budgeting. From the inception stage, key stakeholders (including the Ministry of Planning and Finance and parliamentarians) were engaged, resulting in the budget ceiling for the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement being raised for the first time. While the strengthening of Ministry on Public Financial Management processes is a long-term effort, this has marked important progress.

On the social inclusion of children with disabilities in Myanmar, UNICEF continued to contribute to draft by-laws as a member of the Steering Committee for the implementation of the National Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. As part of its 100-day priorities, the Department of Social Welfare drafted its strategy on persons with disabilities, where UNICEF provided technical assistance to ensure that priorities are shaped based on the

recommendations of the Child with Disabilities Situation Analysis. UNICEF supported the Department of Social Welfare and the Department of Health to attend a study tour in Malaysia to learn about their system of registration/certification based on a social model of disabilities.

In anticipation of further decentralization, and with specific attention to the social needs of children and their families, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Finance, supported the development of Local Social Plans in Tanintharyi region. In terms of methodology, Local Social Plans bring all actors that have a role in social services to coordinate their efforts. The projects have been submitted by the regional government in its budgetary request. UNICEF is developing a Local Social Plan Manual for the Ministry of Planning and Finance to adopt it as a guideline for the needs-based, people-centred planning process, which will also allow efficient use of resources.

**OUTPUT 3:** Timely and quality leadership and technical assistance.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The importance of having critical capacity in-house, especially in an upstream area of work such as Social Policy and Child Rights Monitoring, was confirmed by results achieved with such capacity in Outputs 1 and 2. In Output 1, the efforts around child-focused Township Profiles were successfully taken forward in their entirety, with in-house capacity in the form of the P3 Child Rights Monitoring Specialist, and NOC Child Rights Monitoring Specialist. Similarly, the birth registration agenda – and especially the ability to leverage momentum around revising the Vital Registration Manual – and the facilitation of the high-profile New Vision, New Results for Children conference were also advanced through the efforts of the P4 Section Chief and the NOB Social Policy Officer (Policy Advocacy).

Similarly, on Output 2, timely leadership and technical assistance helped secure key results in social protection, local planning and public finance for children. On social protection, the P4 Section Chief and NOC Social Policy Specialist ensured timely advocacy and high-quality support to the Department of Social Welfare in helping the social protection agenda for children advance in Myanmar – in the form of reinforced commitment to the implementation of the National Social Protection Strategic Plan when the new government/parliament assumed office, and also in ensuring the Department of Social Welfare’s positioning and capacity to secure external commitment of funding – and subsequently programme design preparations – for rolling out the Maternal and Child Cash Transfer in Chin State from 2017. Similarly, the NOC Social Policy Specialist played an important role in providing technical assistance to the Tanintharyi Region Government to complete the Local Social Plan process that helped highlight key social priorities, which were incorporated in budget submission proposals. Finally, the P3 Social Policy Specialist played a critical role in facilitating technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement to strengthen its budgeting process, which has resulted in the Ministry’s budget ceiling being raised significantly.

**OUTCOME 8:** The regular and humanitarian response is effectively supported through enhanced management, planning, monitoring and evaluation, advocacy and partnership, communication, supply and operational supports.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Effective management of UNICEF Myanmar was ensured through the preparation and implementation of the Annual Management Plan, the appropriate delegation of authorities to the most effective levels and the regular operation of the office management committees, including the Country Management Team, Programme Management Team, Partnership

Review Committee, Contracts Review Committee, Advocacy Committee, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, Research Steering Committee, Joint Consultative Committee.

The management meetings were informed by monthly updates on office performance indicators, prepared by the Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Unit and drawing data from the corporate systems. Monitoring frequency was increased for certain key indicators, notably funds utilization and outstanding DCTs, with follow-up made by the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist and Deputy Representative to ensure timely action taken by the appropriate section. This resulted in achieving close to 100 per cent funds utilization by year-end and a consistent record of keeping outstanding DCT within acceptable limits, including zero DCT over nine months at year-end.

Responsibility for the management of HACT has been shifted from operations to programme, to provide closer connection with the programme results. The transition initially led to some delays in completion of some HACT assurance activities, but by the end of the year responsibilities and mechanisms were clear and much of the delayed work was implemented.

The Field Services Unit provided day-to-day support and direction to the nine Field Offices in the country. This enabled Field Offices to engage state/region governments in six states and regions to prepare joint State/Region Programmes of Cooperation, providing a road map and targets for results to be achieved by the Government and UNICEF at the sub-national level. These Programmes of Cooperation helped improve awareness of authorities and partners of UNICEF's support and their role in joint activities, and enabled better coordination of partners and Government. Guidance and training enabled Field Offices to systematically identify barriers and bottlenecks impeding results for children and advocate with sub-national authorities and partners for their removal. UNICEF's field presence has been highly appreciated by sub-national partners and continues to offer comparative advantage for UNICEF as a trusted partner to support results for children on the ground.

Strengthened partnerships with parliamentarians has enabled UNICEF to advocate for the realization of children's rights, taking advantage of the new political environment in the country. Advocacy partnerships have also been further developed with media and with religious leaders. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong Conference provided an opportunity for the Interfaith for Children Platform to call for children's issues to be put at the centre of the peace discussions.

The U-Report platform has been launched and has provided a key mechanism for mobilising the voices of adolescents and youth as an advocacy force. Within four months there are already more than 4,000 U-Reporters signed up and participating in the polls.

The Supply Unit has provided key support to programme implementation. In particular, technical and capacity-building support was provided to the Ministry of Education to enable the Ministry to directly procure educational supplies and services in the value of US\$7 million in a competitive and accountable manner. In support of UNICEF programme sections, long-term agreements were established for emergency WASH items, HACT assurance services, transportation, customs clearance, Internet and security services. Clearance and transportation of programme supplies of US\$27 million was accomplished.

**OUTPUT 1:** Operating Cost for Staff and Non-Staff for Communication for Development and UNICEF Capacity for Supply and Logistics

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Progress towards results achievement is on track.

**OUTPUT 2:** Social norms and behaviours related to child survival, development and protection are improved through effectively coordinated C4D initiatives, technical oversight and institutional capacity building.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016, C4D revived two important partnerships that had been suspended due to staffing changes: the partnership with religious leaders and that with radios. The renewed partnership with religious leaders and the interfaith platform has been instrumental in supporting C4D efforts, both with communities and with decision makers. At the community level, interfaith committees were set up with a local organization (Rattana Metta) to promote children's well-being through the scriptures. Booklets highlighting the child welfare messages in the Buddhist, Islam and Christian religions have been finalized and are being used in two townships. Unfortunately, due to insecurity in Rakhine, establishing interfaith committees there has been delayed. A committee will be set up in Sittwe in December, but the timing for the Maungdaw committee is still uncertain.

Work with decision makers has been spearheaded through the Myanmar Interfaith Committee with which C4D had initial discussions in 2015. In 2016, the committee was reconvened with a more focused approach to identify key actions that the committee can take to advocate for children's rights. Two interactive workshops were held and, as a result, a conference was organized with high-level representatives from the four religions to advocate for the central role that children's rights must play in the Panglong Peace Conference.

The partnership with Radio FMs was renewed with MRTV and a plan of activities has been shared with them. In recognition of the fact that the media landscape has changed significantly since the partnership was initiated in 2014, a workshop is planned for the beginning of December together with the Health Education Division and the Ministry of Information to review how both programmes and radios can benefit from the partnership.

Discussions have been held with the Health Education Division, University of Public Health in Yangon and the Asia-Pacific Development and Communication Centre in Thailand to develop a sustainable capacity-building programme for C4D. In December, a meeting with the University of Community Health is planned to identify key C4D capacity-building needs, and this will be followed by a capacity assessment in January.

In line with capacity strengthening, consultations were held with the Health Education Division to establish a national technical working group on health promotion. Terms of reference were developed and shared, however, due to staffing changes in the Health Education Division, establishing this group has been stalled. The new Director of the Health Education Division has confirmed approval of such a group and it is expected to start in early 2017.

The evaluation of the Seven Things This Year initiative has been completed and findings shared with the partner organization and the Ministry of Health. The lessons learned and recommendations from the evaluation are being used to inform future C4D programming in health.

**OUTPUT 3:** Decentralized actions for the most disadvantaged children are guided by effective programme coordination and strategic leadership at sub-national level.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016, UNICEF Field Offices, supported by Country Office, were able to establish a very good relationship with the new regional government at the highest level in 12 states and regions. A series of high-level meetings were held with Chief Ministers and his/her cabinet as well as with parliamentarians to introduce UNICEF work and taking the opportunity to highlight key children issues in the state/region. Building on the good work done in past years, all field offices continue to take the lead role in strengthening state/regional-level sectoral coordination for education, health, mine-risk education and emergency/disaster risk reduction. Regular coordination meetings in six states and regions are now bringing together government, civil society and non-state actors to enable substantive discussions and agreements benefiting the most vulnerable: improved emergency response capacity based on clearly agreed roles and responsibilities enabling effective emergency response in Magway; and agreements to collaborate to extend education and health services in conflict-affected areas, facilitated by UNICEF.

Six State/Region Programmes of Cooperation for Children were successfully prepared jointly with state/region authorities, increasing their understanding of UNICEF-supported activities in their states and regions, particularly regarding their role in ensuring that results are achieved, and providing a forum for advocacy on barriers and bottlenecks impeding outcomes for children. Government officials have welcomed these Programmes of Cooperation as useful tools to improve transparency and coordination.

Conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding continue to receive attention across UNICEF programmes, especially in areas affected by conflict (South-East, Shan, Kayah and Kachin) or communal violence (Rakhine). In the South-East, UNICEF programmes convened government and non-state actor service providers in sector coordination bodies to improve services, generate peace dividends, and build relationships across dividing lines.

During the year, efforts were also made to improve the result focus of monitoring and reporting and to strengthen strategic monitoring of the broader sectoral context affecting outcomes for children. Such a strategic monitoring identified various bottlenecks and barriers across sectors, which were then presented to the sub-national authorities during the mid-year review of UNICEF Cooperation in the State/Region. With strong collaboration and technical support from the Social Policy and Child Rights Monitoring section, Child-Focused Township Profiles are being developed in four states and regions in order to understand the situation of children better at the local level and to support evidence-based planning and budgeting at the local level.

At the national level, efforts were made to improve coordination and facilitate collaboration among development partners active in local governance. A 'sub-national governance consultation meeting' was initiated and enabled information sharing about ongoing activities to strengthen sub-national planning. As a concrete example, UNICEF collaborated with UNDP in a township-level planning exercise in Mon State, presented key data on children's needs to inform township officials' planning for a UNDP-funded grant, and provided hands-on support to health and education officials. As a result, capacity to plan based on needs and available evidence was strengthened and two thirds of available funding committed to health and education improvement activities.

#### **OUTPUT 4: Effective and efficient management of Country Programme results.**

##### **Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016, a Consultative Group co-led by the Ministry of Planning and Finance and UNICEF was established to provide leadership to the development of the 2018–2022 Country Programme, and to ensure a participatory and inclusive process. The group convened twice and a stakeholder consultation took place in November bringing together the Government at union and state/region level and development partners to agree on key priorities and results for children that the 2018–2022 Country Programme will address in support of the Government's New Vision, New Results initiative.

UNICEF internal results-based monitoring capacity was strengthened to inform the design of the new Country Programme in the context of the SDGs. Three UNICEF staff were trained as results-based monitoring champions and more than 35 staff were equipped with necessary skills and tools to strengthen results-oriented programmes during a results-based monitoring training in August. Targeted results-based monitoring workshops were carried out to undertake causality and capacity gap analyses based on a Situation Analysis of children to inform the articulation of theories of change expressed in Programme Strategy Notes for the new Country Programme.

As part of risk-informed management, significant progress was made to strengthen HACT capacities, processes and knowledge management – including through establishment of a dedicated HACT resource within the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, implementation of HACT trainings, development of a governance and accountability framework, and setting up of a HACT SharePoint site. HACT orientations were conducted with government partners including Ministry of Education/Department of Myanmar Education Research, Ministry of Health/Central Expanded Programme on Immunization, and the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement /Disaster Risk Reduction, and more than 40 civil society partners were trained on HACT and the civil society guidelines.

UNICEF Myanmar piloted the use of e-Tools to streamline existing work processes and achieve efficiency gains in partnerships and travel management. Some headway was made, yet technical instabilities and frequent system changes prevailed, resulting in the decision to suspend the trial and focus on non-e-Tools-based systems of managing partnerships, programme visits and reporting. Key lessons learned from the trial were documented and shared with headquarters, the UNICEF and East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, and country offices in the region.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Committee continued to play an important role in monitoring the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, and led a comprehensive review of the 2016–2017 results matrix to align with standard Results Assessment Module indicators. Some 15 indicators were identified to capture key 2016 Annual Management Plan priorities for monitoring via the global performance scorecard. The Research Steering Committee continued to provide important quality assurance to key studies and researches as per Standard Operating Procedures for research, evaluations and studies.

In-house capacity to commission, design and manage high-quality evaluations with an equity focus was strengthened through implementation of a Real World Evaluation Workshop by Jim Rugh, with support from the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office.

UNICEF Myanmar attended an initial stakeholder meeting on the formation of the Myanmar Monitoring and Evaluation Association, bringing together more than 40 representatives from national and international civil society organizations, academia, the private sector and United

Nations organizations. UNICEF Myanmar also supported the participation of a representative from the Government to the first Asia-Pacific Evaluation Association Conference in Hanoi, focusing on national evaluation policies in the SDG era.

**OUTPUT 5:** The rights of Myanmar children are better promoted through effective advocacy and communication, resource mobilization and partnerships.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF has partnered with the newly elected and vibrant parliament, mobilizing them an advocacy force for the realization of children's rights. An inventory and analysis of all members of Union, and State/Region Parliaments has been produced. UNICEF has conducted workshops to increase their capacity to support children's rights in law making, oversight and budgeting, including briefings on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Child Law, social protection, and mine action awareness.

Media partnerships have been further developed to ensure child rights are prominently featured in print, broadcast and social media. Child Rights, ethics and journalism training workshops were conducted for Rakhine, Kachin, Chin, Mandalay and South-East (Mon, Kayin, Tanintharyi) media with 72 journalists mobilized to cover stories on children's rights. At the same time, public engagement through social media has continued to expand rapidly, with the social media fan base increasing from 29,848 in January 2016 to 48,140 in December 2016.

Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Muslim leaders from the Interfaith for Children platform were mobilized to organize a prayer event ahead of the 21st Century Panglong Conference calling for children's needs and rights to be put at the centre of the peace discussions, and met with the United Nations Secretary-General to highlight the impact of conflict on children.

U-Report was launched in Myanmar in 2016 mobilizing voices of adolescents and youth as an advocacy force. Four months after its launch U-Report Myanmar already has more than 5,000 U-Reporters signed up and participating in polls, with average response rate of 50 per cent.

In its advocacy for children with disabilities: the first-ever situation analysis of children with disabilities was launched. A toolkit on producing disability inclusive videos was produced with UNICEF Australia. Public awareness on disability was initiated through print, broadcast and social media, with 63,700 people reached directly through 9 Facebook posts, and 12 news stories were covered in print and broadcast media.

In its advocacy for children's rights in Rakhine State: UNICEF has called for the lifting of restrictions of movements which prevent Muslim children from accessing regular health and education services. Dialogue has been established with the Kofi Annan Foundation as a new partner for advocacy. UNICEF provided input to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar, for the High Commissioner for Human Rights report to the Human Rights Council in June 2016.

Through advocacy to increase public finance for children, US\$8.3 million has been secured for implementation of Maternal and Child Cash Transfer in Chin State (2017–2018). Technical support for the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on public finance management has been initiated. The public have been mobilized through social media, with 40,000 people reached directly through 11 Facebook posts.

In its advocacy for children affected by armed conflict: Intensive dialogue has taken place with listed non-state actors for use and recruitment on children in their armed forces and on

obligations under international law. The Karenni National Progressive Party has fully developed a timebound Action Plan with UNICEF and the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting, ready for signature.

**OUTPUT 6:** Increased capacity at national and sub-national levels to incorporate child-sensitive elements in disaster risk reduction (and resilience) platforms and actions.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF has advanced on its implementation of the Multi-Year Workplan 2016–2017 with the Relief and Resettlement Department. The first direct cash transfer has been completed and has further enhanced UNICEF’s collaboration and communication with the department. UNICEF also supported a national-level Warehouse Management Training through a collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, World Food Programme and Myanmar Red Cross Society; support to the national Emergency Operation Centre; support for the post-Sendai policy review and re-alignment process; support to the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction activities; and promotion of inclusive and child-focused public awareness regarding eight disaster hazards.

In August, UNICEF supported a multi-agency Cyclone Simulation Exercise in Rakhine along with state government officials and NGO partners. The exercise included practise from preparedness through response to recovery phase. The findings of gaps and strengths were summarized through group and plenary discussions. UNICEF is also finalizing a joint cash feasibility assessment in Rakhine State looking specifically at government and community acceptance and protection issues. UNICEF has continued to take the lead in developing the ‘preparedness’ section of the Disaster Management Handbook being developed at the request of the Relief and Resettlement Department, and is contributing to the mitigation, response and recovery sections. UNICEF held the first meeting with the contributors to the ‘preparedness’ section in mid-October, and is expecting to have the first draft ready by December.

UNICEF has been assigned a seat on the Government’s Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction Task Force and will steer the drafting of an action plan for to the National Disaster Management Committee. UNICEF participated in the first Task Force meeting, and advocated for a greater emphasis on inclusion and protection of vulnerable groups, ensuring a cross-sectoral approach as well as tackling the underlying causes of vulnerability, and building resilience and adaptive capacity.

UNICEF, with Handicap International and HelpAge International, has trained 88 government staff from the Relief and Resettlement Department, the Department of Social Welfare, FSD, DMH and NGO staff from the Myanmar Red Cross Society and civil society organizations in inclusive disaster risk reduction. By the end of 2016, total 148 people will be trained. UNICEF is also providing technical input to the development of training courses on a number of disaster risk management-related topics, as well as the development of the Disaster Management Training Centre’s Capacity Development Strategic Plan.

UNICEF, UNDP and United Nations Volunteers, supported the Relief and Resettlement Department in organizing a consultation on the Disaster Risk Reduction Youth Volunteer Programme Strategy. The three agencies are also supporting the Relief and Resettlement Department in implementing the strategy in nine townships of Ayeyerwaddy, Mon and Rakhine through a pilot project, and is in the process of recruiting new volunteers. Kick-off-events, with specialized training on how the Disaster Risk Reduction Youth Volunteers can raise awareness on disaster risk reduction and climate change in their communities, were organized in the three states during November and December.

UNICEF is in the process of updating the Child-Centred Risk Assessment and conducting a Child-Centred Climate Vulnerability Assessment that will contribute to inform UNICEF's overall programming, and the development of the new UNICEF Country Programme of Cooperation 2018–2022.

**OUTPUT 7:** Management and operation support.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Effective and efficient management and operations support was provided in 2016.

**OUTCOME 9:** Effective and efficient programme management and operations support.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Programme Management and Operations in 2016 is on-track.

**OUTPUT 1:** 01. Effective and efficient governance and systems.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Effective and efficient governance and systems in 2016 is on track.

**Document Centre**

**Evaluation and research**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Sequence number</b>	<b>Type of report</b>
Bottleneck Analysis: Gender Dynamics Affecting Participation in Secondary School Education in Myanmar and Implications for Social Cohesion	2016/007	Research
Formative Evaluation of UNICEF's Strategy and Approach to Child Protection Systems Building	2016/014	Evaluation
Evaluation of the Project 'Seven Things This Year Initiative'	2016/006	Evaluation
Assessment on Cascade of PMCT Services	2016/004	Study
NFPE Study	2016/003	Study
CLTS Review	2016/002	Review
Situation Analysis of Children with Disabilities in Myanmar	2016/001	SitAn
Evaluation of QBEPs Township Education Improvement Plan Activities	2016/013	Evaluation
Final Performance Evaluation of QBEP's School-Based In-Service Teacher Education Pilot Programme	2016/012	Evaluation

**Other publications**

<b>Title</b>
Estimated Cost of National Strategic Plan for Newborn and Child Health Development (2015–2018)
National Strategic Plan for Newborn and Child Health Development (2015–2018)
Public Budgets: How Governments Should Spend Money for Children's Rights (both English and Myanmar Versions)

Humanitarian Action for Children 2016
Myanmar: Meeting the Humanitarian Needs of Children in Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan State
Meeting the Humanitarian Needs of Children in Myanmar 2016, Fundraising Technical Concept Notes
Synthesis Report: Language Education and Social Cohesion (LESC) Initiative
Myanmar Country Report, Language, Education and Social Cohesion (LESC) Initiative

### Lessons learned

Document type/category	Title
Lesson Learned	Formative Evaluation of UNICEF's Strategy and Approach to Child Protection Systems Building in Myanmar
Innovation	U-Report in Myanmar

### Programme documents

Document type	Title	Name
Country Programme Document	Myanmar HACT Assurance Plan 2016	Myanmar_HACT Assurance Plan_2016.xlsx
Country Programme Document	Myanmar Annual Management Plan 2016	Myanmar_AMP_2016.pdf
Country Programme Document	Myanmar Result Matrix 2016–2017	Myanmar_Result Matrix_2016-2017.xlsx
Annual Workplan/Rolling Workplan	Myanmar Multi-Year Workplan 2016–2017	Myanmar_MYWP_2016-2017.zip
UN strategic framework	Strategic Framework	UN_Strategic_Framework_for_Myanmar_2012-2015.pdf
Country Programme Document Results Matrix	Results Matrix	Myanmar-Annex_CPD-DRAF_ResultsMatrixSept05.Final.pdf
Country Programme Document	Country Programme Document	Myanmar_final_approved_CPD_9_Sept_2010.pdf