Executive summary

The three rounds of election as Nepal transitioned from a unitary to a federal state were the major issue in the political and developmental scene in the country in 2017. Federalism in Nepal entails three levels of government, national, provincial (7 provinces) and local (753 local governments called “rural municipalities” and “urban municipalities”). The change provides more power to local governments to plan, budget and implement development activities to respond to the specific needs of the concerned localities. At the same time, the full realization of this potential is still subject to how the ideas and provisions enshrined in the Constitution and concerned legislation are operationalized.

Achievements

UNICEF Nepal worked in close collaboration with the Government to ensure that the modalities under which programme partnership takes place are adapted to the new federalism. There are two key achievements in this regard, i.e. development of an instrument (a letter of agreement) for continuation of assistance to the sub-national level in the new set-up of federalism and enactment of the local governance.

The letter of agreement serves as the basis for UNICEF to agree with the local governments, which is now an effective planning and executive unit and a “cost centre”, to collaborate with it in agreement with the concerned central government ministries. It was discussed and agreed with the concerned central government ministry in a situation where there is still need for clarification regarding the new modality of collaboration by external development partners to suit the new set-up of federalism, and will ensure the continuation of support to sub-national entities for children without major disruption.

The Local Governance Act grants large powers and responsibilities to the local level. The UNICEF Nepal Country Office advocated for this Act to cover the needs of children in local planning, essential to ensuring that issues related to children are addressed at decentralised levels in the new government structure.

Programmatically, the biggest achievement of 2017 was the finalisation of Phase II of the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan (MSNP II), as UNICEF Nepal and the Government worked closely to finalise it to expand it nationally. The Plan was officially launched in December with a budget of approximately US$ 470 million, 60 per cent funded by the Government (agreed by the Ministry of Finance and approved by the Cabinet) and 40 per cent by external development partners. The Government plans to hold a series of meetings to further disseminate the plan and solicit additional financial support from development partners in 2018.

Partnerships

UNICEF Nepal continued to strengthen existing partnerships with civil society organizations and
all levels of the Government to achieve shared programmatic and humanitarian goals. New partnerships were also formulated.

For instance, Nepal’s ‘creation society’ supported the rolling out of an online safety campaign working with child club members to ensure children are protected in the online world. As part of response to the flood emergency in Terai (southern plain area bordering India) in August, a new partnership was formed between Save the Children, Plan International, UNESCO and UNICEF with support of US$1.8 million from “Education Cannot Wait” fund to support education-related activities as part of overall flood response. Finally, under the joint global programme to accelerate action to end child marriage, UNFPA and UNICEF continued to help strengthen institutions and systems to deliver quality services, expand opportunities for girls and approach this issue holistically. The latter resulted in development of a national action plan to end child marriage with costing and framework for monitoring and evaluation.

Shortfalls
PCR 1 of the Country Programme 2013-2017 aims “national policies, legislation, plans, budgets, coordination and monitoring mechanisms are enabling the survival, development, protection and participation rights of children, adolescents, and women, to be fulfilled with equity in all contexts, including humanitarian situation”. As part of this planned result, UNICEF Nepal agreed to support the Government to expand the District Planning Monitoring and Analysis System (DPMAS) which had been developed and piloted with UNICEF assistance. The system is an intersectoral information management mechanism that combines essential data for planning, monitoring and analysis from sectoral information management systems. Due to the transition to federalism, this is no longer a valid structure in the current form in the new set-up of federalism and could not be implemented as planned. However, the Government is currently adapting the existing guidance of DPMAS to become “Local Planning, Monitoring and Analysis System (LPMAS) in conformity with the new set-up so the system’s fundamental utility is not lost. UNICEF Nepal Country Office will continue to support this process in 2018.

Humanitarian assistance
In 2017, Nepal faced massive floods and landslides triggered by torrential monsoon rains that affected 32 of the 75 districts in the country. A total of 161 people were killed (51 female and 110 male; 25 of them were children) and 46 people were injured, and more than 102,524 (21,391 families) were displaced. Initial findings of the Post Flood Recovery Need Assessment by the Government concluded that approximately US$ 706 million is required to rebuild infrastructure and restore livelihoods affected by the floods. This emergency hit the country at a time when Nepal was struggling to recover from the 2015 Nepal earthquake with reconstruction and recovery work still ongoing in the 14 most severely affected districts.

While the impact of the 2017 flood emergency was not as much as the 2015 earthquake emergency, it still left huge repercussions on the lives of people and local governments in the Terai region (southern plain areas of Nepal). UNICEF provided lifesaving assistance to the population affected by floods and landslides and reached 55,000 families (368,272 people including 179,521 children) with emergency supplies in WASH, education, health, and child protection worth more than US$ 562,082. Of the 10,257 children aged 6 to 59 months rapidly screened for malnutrition within two weeks in the flood affected area, 6 per cent were identified with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 17.1 per cent with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). Treatment is currently ongoing for 4,500 children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition with additional funding of US$ 1,500,000 in coordination with WFP which provides
support for the prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).

In 2017, UNICEF Nepal concluded the major components of earthquake recovery and reconstruction work which started in 2015 and achieved the following results:

- 650 transitional learning centres were constructed benefiting 27,518 children with access to safe learning environment.
- 148 water supply schemes were reconstructed serving 38,776 people. 13,979 people benefited from sustained sanitation with 2,736 household toilet facilities.
- Twenty-two prefabricated health facilities were completed and 50 facilities are under construction in ten districts.
- 2,278 children received comprehensive case management services provided by 83 social workers across 14 districts.
- 573,703 children under five years of age and women who were pregnant or lactating women received essential nutrition services to prevent and manage severe acute and moderate acute malnutrition.
- 317,000 children under five years of age received cash support in 11 districts for recovery from the impact of earthquakes.
- Community-based communication and social mobilization interventions reached over 32,000 adolescents and youth, helping them become more resilient to future disasters.

Nepal continues to be a hotspot for various natural hazards. It ranks 32nd in the world in terms of multi-hazard risk as per the 2017 Global Risk Index report. The history of disasters in the country shows that floods and landslides occur annually whereas an earthquake is a less frequent but high impact event. As Nepal sits just above the active seismic fault lines, the risk of a high magnitude earthquake is always high.

UNICEF Nepal has been working closely with the Government of Nepal and other national and international development and humanitarian partners to help improve the state the disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction in the country. It engaged in (1) development of the multi-hazard scenario-based contingency plan for the humanitarian clusters which UNICEF co-leads (WASH, education, nutrition and child protection); (2) support for capacity strengthening of the concerned Government and NGO partners in disaster risk reduction; and (3) stockpiling and upkeep of essential lifesaving supplies and equipment for 5,000 families pertaining to the four clusters of UNICEF’s responsibility for immediate initial response soon after the onset of disasters.

The Government of Nepal endorsed the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2017 and Ministry of Home Affairs is finalizing the National Strategic Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction: 2017-2030. The actual operationalization of the new act and strategy will be crucial in providing strategic direction for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into the national development process and enhancing resilience in Nepal.

**Emerging areas of importance**

**Accelerate integrated early childhood development (ECD).** In 2017, UNICEF Nepal Country Office revised the District Integrated Early Childhood Development (ECD) Plan into Local Level Integrated ECD Plan in line with the new federal government structure. This was done to ensure that the country programme supports the strengthening of capacity of local governments to handle the concerned responsibilities newly assigned to them. The Local Level Integrated ECD Plan ensures basic service provision for children in early childhood (0 to 5 years of age) at the urban and rural municipality level. The checklist for needs identification included in the plan...
covers basic services related to health, nutrition, protection, education, WASH, HIV and DRR as per UNICEF’s global ECD guideline. The first workshop was held to help develop Local Level Integrated ECD Plan with participation of mayors and other related officials and functionaries.

In 2018, UNICEF Nepal will continue to support the development and implementation of Local Level Integrated ECD Plan in all the municipalities it partners with. Furthermore, UNICEF Nepal will support capacity building of the concerned the government partners and NGOs for management of integrated ECD interventions.

**Climate change and children.** As part of continuous effort to integrate climate change issue into sectoral interventions, UNICEF Nepal conducted a WASH climate change impact study in nine districts selected from the country’s diverse geo-ecological settings. This study aimed at generating evidence on the impact of climate change and adaptation measures being practiced by communities to provide further guidance to the WASH sector on climate change-sensitive programming. At the implementation level, UNICEF Nepal continued to help strengthen capacity of water user committees and communities by increasing their knowledge and skills in climate change-resilient water safety planning. About 20 technicians and user committee members of four water supply schemes in three districts were oriented in development of climate-resilient water safety plan. Similarly, various actors (300) including Village and District WASH Coordination Committees, concerned government officials and members of 155 Water Supply Users’ Committees received training on climate change and disaster risk management (DRM) with particular focus on WASH.

Under its child-centred disaster risk reduction programme, UNICEF Nepal helped train its key implementing partners on the broad concepts of climate changes, impacts on children and adaptation to them. After this training, the implementing partners are expected to assist the newly elected members in the concerned urban and rural municipality in development of the local disaster and climate change resilience plans.

**Support “movements” to accelerate change for children.** UNICEF Nepal has been working with the Government to help implement the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Programme (MSNP) Phase I for the period of 2013 to 2017. As part of this process, district nutrition plans were finalized and implemented in the 28 target districts. So far, 708,151 children have been reached through various activities. 210,986 children aged between 6 and 23 months received multiple micronutrient powders and 233,870 mothers and caregivers were trained. A further 44,880 people benefited from training or capacity development facilitated through UNICEF supported groups, clubs and individuals. A multi-media campaign was conducted to propagate the importance of “Golden 1000 Days”, and it has become an oft-quoted word by health workers, other functionaries at the community level and government officials.

The momentum generated led to the development MSNP Phase II for the period of 2018 to 2020 with the total budget of US$ 470 million, 60 per cent of which is to be funded by the Government. For comparison, the budget of the MSNP Phase I was approximately US$ 34 million with 54 per cent funded by the Government. In 2018, efforts will be continued to keep this momentum and further strengthen it as a “movement”.

**Summary notes and acronyms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARV</td>
<td>antiretroviral therapy</td>
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<td>C4D</td>
<td>communication for development (UNICEF)</td>
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<td>CCA</td>
<td>climate change adaptation</td>
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CCE    Comprehensive Centre of Excellence
CCDRR  child-centered disaster risk reduction
CFLG   child friendly local governance
CMT    country management team (UNICEF)
CO     country office (UNICEF)
CPAP   country programme action plan
CPCs   child protection committees
CPD    country programme document (UNICEF)
CPIMS+ Child Protection Information Management System
CPMP   country programme management plan (UNICEF)
CSO    civil society organization
DFID   Department for International Development (United Kingdom)
DO     Designated Official (United Nations)
DoCR   Department of Civil Registration
DoWSS  Department of Water Supply and Sewerage
DPMAS  District Planning Monitoring and Analysis System
DRR    Disaster Risk Reduction
DSS    Department Safety and Security
ECD    early childhood development
EDPG   education sector development partner group
EU     European Union
FCHV   female community health volunteer
GAVI   Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations
GBV    gender-based violence
GoN    Government of Nepal
HACT   harmonized approach to cash transfers
HQ     Headquarters (UNICEF)
HRBA   human rights-based approach
I/NGOs international non-governmental organizations
ICT    information communication and technology
IMAM   integrated management of acute malnutrition
IMS    Information Management System
IRV    Interactive Response Voice
IYCF   infant and young child feeding
JJC    Juvenile Justice Coordination Committee
JFPs   Joint Financing Partner
LGA    Local Governance Act
LGAs   local government authorities
LPMAS  District Planning Monitoring and Analysis System
LTAs   long-term agreements
MAM    moderate acute malnutrition
MNCH   maternal, newborn and child health
MNP    multiple micronutrient powder
MOSS   Minimum Operating Security Standards
MOWCSW Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare
MSNP   Multi-sectoral Nutrition Plan
MICS   Multiple Indicator Clusters Survey
MIS    management information system
NatComs National Committees (UNICEF)
NCO    Nepal Country Office (UNICEF)
NDHS   Nepal Demographic Health Survey
Examples of the concerned activities in this regard in 2017 include the following;

- Risk-informed programming in 69 local governments across eight districts was conducted through systematic capacity building of 1,100 local government officials and local representatives, 250 child club graduates and 20,279 people including children.
- Under the WASH programme, 9,052 community members and government officials (4,856 females and 4,196 males) were trained in sanitation and hygiene, WASH in Schools, planning and governance, disaster risk reduction and climate changes though various training activities. The target group included user committees, caretakers, member of the WASH coordination committees, and teachers.
- Capacity building of 1,468 health workers and 1,359 female community health volunteers (FCHVs) was supported in 12 districts. Capacity strengthening of the concerned health professionals and workers was supported in five hospitals where a pilot project for improvement of quality of care for new-born babies is implemented with UNICEF assistance. Further, 43 health workers and 48 doctors and nursing staff were trained in paediatric antiretroviral therapy services in 22 hospitals and one primary health care centre. 188 health workers received training on Adolescent Friendly Health Survey services from 52 health facilities. 132 doctors and 96 nurses were trained on Level II new-born care from 12 hospitals, and 930 health workers
were trained the protocols related to the integrated management of childhood illness in 11 districts.
- UNICEF continued to support the Government to maintain a database for education sector recovery activities following the 2015 Earthquake Emergency.

**Evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy**

- UNICEF Nepal supported the National Planning Commission of the Government of Nepal in launching a study titled Demographic Changes of Nepal: Trends and Policy Implications prepared by the Population Council. Both the Government and the UNICEF used the analysis to advocate for stronger investments for children including the accelerated universalisation of the child grant programme.
- Integration of children’s perspective was supported to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Action Plan (2017-2030) and Local Disaster and Climate Risk Management Plan and Local Self Governance Act 2017 in close collaboration with the concerned government counterparts, resulting in specific references to children, their vulnerabilities and potentials with regard to the concerned issues. Allocation of budget for Disaster Risk Management increased from 3 to 18 per cent in local governments in UNICEF priority districts.
- Two major studies on sustainability of Open Defecation Free (ODF) campaign and assessment of climate change impact on WASH were carried out to generate evidence on the concerned issues. The findings will help formulate strategic interventions during the implementation of the new Country Programme. WASH in School Guidelines was finalized and expected to be endorsed by the Government. UNICEF also supported drafting of the Water Act and WASH in Health Care Guidelines. Further, support was provided to establish baseline data for WASH-related SDG indicators.
- A report on pilot initiative for early detection of learning difficulties in 40 schools was produced with assistance from UNICEF, World Education and Handicap International. The report shows that 26 per cent of the students who were screened presented one or more functional limitations, and that 9.4 per cent of children are very likely to have their suspected limitation formally diagnosed as a disability. The findings from this report will help the concerned counterparts and partners improve support to children with disabilities.

**Partnerships**

**Empowering local governments**

Nepal is devolving much of decision-making power and other government functions to decentralized levels in its new federal set-up. The 753 elected local governments called “rural municipalities” and “urban municipalities” are authorized to plan and implement development programmes and provide public services. So far, UNICEF signed a letter of agreement with 68 local governments. The agreement covers the implementation of education, wash, child protection, child-centered disaster risk reduction programmes and awareness raising and capacity building of the local governments including newly elected representatives. A thorough review will be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of this partnership.

**Inclusive education**

UNICEF Nepal partnered with Handicap International and World Education to pilot development and use of disabled-friendly learning materials in schools. The partnership aims to find solutions for inclusive education. A tool for early detection of functional learning difficulties was developed and introduced in 40 schools. The tool identified 787 children that exhibit potential functional learning limitations/difficulties, 28 per cent of the 2,804 children screened. A more detailed analysis will be conducted to assess the results and implications of this screening.
Communication campaign through private sector
in collaboration with the microsoft innovation centre (mic), unicef developed information
communication technology (ict) innovations to promote behaviors for child survival, development
and protection. they include (1) interactive voice response (ivr) service to provide information on
maternal and child health; (2) mobile applications to help parents obtain vital information and
reminders about pregnancy and child development milestones; (3) an interactive community
portal on golden 1000 days for parents; (4) mechanisms to send and receive messages and
applications to track and monitor key campaign outputs. an ict hub in the form of a ‘data centre’
for these initiatives has been established at the national health education information and
communication centre of the government of Nepal.

External communication and public advocacy
Following the floods and landslides in August 2017 affecting half of Nepal, UNICEF Nepal
utilized multi-media communication channels, media missions and situation reports to highlight
the needs of the affected children and women and assist efforts for resource mobilization.

UNICEF Nepal facilitated fundraising and advocacy efforts of UNICEF national committees for
earthquake and flood emergency responses as well as regular programming by hosting trips
and providing multi-media products. In 2017, UNICEF Nepal also started internal staff training in
digital communication techniques.

UNICEF Nepal advocated the important roles fathers play in ECD. The #EatPlayLove photo
contest celebrated “super dads” who feed, play with and care for children. The Avivawak Mela,
- parental education fair - reached more than 4,000 parents and caregivers of under-five children
on maternal and child health, nutrition, safety and protection, early learning, gender and equity,
importance of play and early detection of disabilities.

UNICEF Nepal worked with Facebook, Nepal Telecommunications Authority and other partners
to launch #Net4Good, an online safety campaign for children and adolescents, a day-long
edutainment event in Kathmandu aired live on Facebook. The lessons learnt will guide the
expansion of the campaign in the next country programme.

UNICEF Nepal supported the National Planning Commission to launch a study titled
Demographic Changes of Nepal: Trends and Policy Implications which proved Nepali society's
very rapid speed of aging in the next few decades and need to invest in children now to be
prepared for that. Based on these findings, the country office has taken every opportunity to
advocate for the urgent need to invest in children – through ECD, health and nutrition, and
universalization of the child grant programme - to ensure that the children of today become
more productive than today’s adults by the time they become adults themselves.

Identification and promotion of innovation
- In 2017, UNICEF Nepal and the Department of Civil Registration (DoCR) under the Ministry of
Federal Affairs and Local Government agreed on assistance to strengthen monitoring and
evaluation framework of the universal expansion of the child grant programme. The framework
includes the roll-out of real-time monitoring using RapidPro technology including integrated
voice response technology in three districts of Accham, Bajhang and Rautahat to improve
programme delivery.
- UNICEF Nepal Country Office provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Health to
develop an eHealth National Strategy which acts as a guide to create an enabling environment
for the use of ICT-related innovation in the health sector.
UNICEF Nepal supported the development of an android-based application for strengthening the vaccination data management system. Health workers use the application installed in android-compatible devices to manage individual children’s electronic immunization records and vaccine information.

UNICEF Nepal also helped develop a website and online medical consultation programme focused on reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health. This is targeted at migrant workers, mothers and adolescents especially from earthquake-affected mountain areas to help them utilize online health services.

SMS vaccination reminder services for early childhood vaccination have been implemented. Vaccination reminders are sent to parents/caregivers before the due date for the children’s next vaccination to improve the completeness and timeliness of immunization among children.

To enhance adolescents’ participation in the improvement of quality of and access to adolescents sexual and reproductive health services and to increase the accountability of health service providers for adolescent health, UNICEF helped establish an SMS two-way feedback mechanism for adolescents so opinions and reports can be provided on the availability and quality of health services for adolescents in Nepal. Results from the same trial are being compiled.

**Service delivery**

UNICEF Nepal systematically gathers and analyses information on performance and progress of service delivery through extensive partnerships with national groups and committees. For example, planned sectoral work is monitored through a sector wide approach (SWAp). As the focal point of Nepal’s education sector development partner group (EDPG), UNICEF Nepal supports the Ministry of Education in the annual planning and joint reviews. The EDPG jointly reviews progress against annual targets and agrees actions to accelerate progress. These actions serve as a mandate for the technical working groups (TWGs), (part of SWAp) and composed of government development partners, civil society organizations and technical experts in the thematic areas relating to the key result areas of education sector plan. UNICEF co-leads four out of the eight technical working groups (related to equity, early grade reading, comprehensive school safety, and early childhood development).

UNICEF Nepal also supports CSO service delivery monitoring through a newly-developed methodology for the selection of new partnerships based on the capacity demonstrated in the previous partnerships. This methodology looks at critical capacity areas, such as availability, project management, financial, communication, coordination, monitoring, reporting, training and social mobilization. This is based on the latest joint partnership review. The method ranks the partner based on their performance and maintains an impartial, evidence-based selection of partners for projects. This model is highly scalable and can be utilized as per the requirement of the section. The scales are based on five criteria high, medium, low, no information, and has an ongoing partnership with UNICEF. The system also helps to identify potential risks for resource duplication and provides a strong evidence-based incentive for selection of CSOs. This motivates CSO to provide quality service delivery to improve their chances for regular partnership with UNICEF and empowers UNICEF to maintain partnerships based on the quality of service delivery provided.

**Human rights-based approach to cooperation**

- The Government of Nepal, with technical support from UNICEF, is expanding the child grant programme to the entire country with universal approach (i.e. all children under 5 years of age) in a phased manner using its own resources and with technical assistance from UNICEF Nepal. Introduced in 2009, regular cash grants targeted the under-five children in the Karnali region -
the poorest parts of Nepal and to all Dalit children under five years of age in the entire country. UNICEF supported the Government to review the existing evidence on the efficacy and effectiveness of universal approach in a scheme like the child grant programme based on global experiences and helped the Government officially make a decision to expand the programme to cover all under-five children in the country. Based on the previous experiences, this expansion is also expected to increase the coverage of birth registration (which is a prerequisite to be enrolled under the scheme) as well, which in turn will help further promote child rights as their fundamental basis.

- Another example of human rights-based approach to programming is support to the most stigmatized adolescents. UNICEF is implementing a social and financial skills (Rupantaran) programme among the most disadvantaged youth populations such as commercially and sexually exploited children; young drug users; young lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex population, and adolescent infected or affected by HIV identified through the concerned networks and organized into groups. Weekly interactive sessions are held with elements of fun and facilitated by their peers. In 2017, 505 affected adolescents have attended the sessions. The analysis shows an 11 percentile change in the knowledge, attitude and practice in between pre-and post-testing.

**Gender equality**

- UNICEF Nepal advocated that the issue of child marriage be included as part of ending harmful practices under the Local Governance Act to facilitate the 753 newly formed local governments to address this issue. UNICEF Nepal also helped the Government finalize the action plan to implement the National Strategy to End Child Marriage. In terms of specific programme actions on the ground, joint programming between UNFPA and UNICEF on child marriage was continued reaching 7,566 adolescent girls with social and financial skills.
- UNICEF Nepal provided communication for development support to the Government in running the Golden 1000 Days campaign with main emphasis on nutrition other elements of ECD. The campaign also focused on breaking down gender stereotypes and misconceptions. This campaign aired across six public radio stations to achieve national coverage. The campaign reached an estimated 65,134 community members (52,775 female and 12,359 male).
- UNICEF Nepal supported the Government to develop a strategy for engaging men and boys to tackle gender-based violence (GBV). This resulted in 908 community level events in 35 districts to raise awareness on the issue in collaboration with local gender-based violence watch groups. Additionally, the GBV Information Management System is operational and has documented 2,509 cases across the 35 districts.
- 3,343 girls were supported through the girls access to education programme with 99.4 per cent completion rate and 31.4 per cent of enrolled girls returning to formal education.
- UNICEF Nepal facilitated the inclusion of menstrual hygiene management into the WASH in Schools Programme. To date, this has resulted in 132 schools adopting the “three star approach” of hand washing facilities; child, gender and disabled friendly toilets; and incinerators for menstruation hygiene management.
- The budget and expenditure for the concerned programmatic interventions are as follow:
  - End child marriage – budget of US$ 1,206,307 and expenditure of US$ 363,335 in 2017
  - GBV prevention – budget of US$ 2,882,250 and expenditure of US$ 803,478.54 in 2017
  - Golden 1000 Days campaign – budget of US$ 21,547,115 and expenditure of US$888,998 in 2017;
  - WASH in Schools – budget of US$ 3,900,000 and expenditure of US$ 300,000 in 2017

**Environmental sustainability**
In 2017, technical assistance was provided to the Government for formulation of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act and the Local Governance Act, which details the enforcement of local policies and laws on environmental protection amongst others.

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaption (CCA) were mainstreamed into the programme priorities in the new Country Programme 2018-2022.

Under its child-centred disaster risk reduction (CCDRR) programme, UNICEF Nepal helped train its implementing partners on climate change adaption. Together with this training, technical support is provided to the newly established local governments to develop local disaster and climate resilience plans. Child-centred risk mapping has also been used to ensure that sectoral interventions are "sensitive" to risks arising from climate change and disasters.

UNICEF Nepal worked with the Government, WHO and OXFAM to conduct an assessment to review evidence on potential impacts of climate changes on WASH Sector and required adaptation measures. At the implementation level, UNICEF continued to help enhance capacity of communities with special focus on water user committees in the area of climate change-resilient water safety planning.

Both indoor and outdoor air pollution continues to be a problem in Nepal with 87.3 per cent of households still using biomass fuel. UNICEF Nepal started to seek donor funding to support the Government to address this issue.

UNICEF installed 40 solar power generation system in prefabricated health facilities as part of the earthquake recovery and reconstruction programme. The system helps in terms of both environmental and uninterrupted power supply points of view.

As part of the UN Country Team, UNICEF Nepal actively contributed to installing solar power generation system the UN House buildings including a building to be newly constructed in 2018. The Country Office assessed its carbon footprint and developed an eco-efficiency strategy with procurement and use of electrical vehicles and installation of solar power generation systems at field offices.

Effective leadership

The country management team (CMT) played a pivotal role in preparation of the new Country Programme 2018-2022 with staff participation and consultation. Despite the impact of floods and political situations of the country, both the regular country programme and emergency programme (earthquake recovery) were implemented well with utilization levels of 95 per cent of Regular Resources and 99 per cent of Other Resources Emergency and 97 per cent of Other Resources as of January, 12 2018.

The Country Programme Document (CPD) 2018-2022 was developed with full engagement of government counterparts and the concerned development partners. Similarly, preparation of the country programme management plan (CPMP) and the programme budget review (PBR) submission was conducted in transparent and participatory manner including regular consultation with the staff association on ongoing basis. A total of eight special country management team meetings were held to come to a consensus on the country programme document and the country programme management plan. All staff were kept abreast of the development of the document and the plan through five all staff meetings in 2017.

In collaboration with the staff association, a mitigation strategy is developed for staff who are on abolished post to provide support for their recruitment and career development in and outside UNICEF. Additionally, training was organized for all staff on competency based interviews and resume writing. Staff members also received the opportunity for one-on-one career counseling sessions, stress counseling and personal coaching focusing on mock interviews and were
shared materials for career development online. Fourteen staff members were provided with opportunities for stretch assignments within and outside the country.

**Financial resources management**

The country management team established a system of analysis and reviews of the financial, operations KPI (Fund utilization, DCT, donor reporting, HACT, funds due for expiration in the next month to three month…) against the corporate benchmarks at monthly basis; and on the basis of the aforementioned, the country office applied necessary remedies and mitigations to keep the country operations and programme performance up to the standard level. In this regard, SOPs on individual and institutional contracts were revised to reduce the time taken to process transactions, including regular briefing of the contract review committee members and required staff on the relevant policy, standards and procedures. In 2017, 13 contract review committee cases submitted were reviewed and approved by the committee. The country management team also ensures that the PCA committee is well functioning and the table of authority regularly reviewed and updated to ensure consistency with new policy. All the aforementioned actions and systems established and adhered resulted in the improvement of the key performance indicators, and adherence to financial procedures, standards and policies.

In 2017, UNICEF Nepal made an estimate cost saving of around US$ 373,273 mainly through 31 negotiations with vendors during the procurement processes and the use of 29 long-term agreements; including saving through the use of 44 Video Tele Conferences (VTC) and 71 skype instead of physical travel of staff.

As reflected in the audits websites, the Country Office closed all internal and external audit recommendations respectively conducted in 2014 and 2015. As part of the operations procedures simplification processes, the CO retained six statutory committees and made use of travel to Field (T2F) to process field trips. In addition, two trainings on procurement management held for 30 staff contributed to raise awareness of value for money among 40 staff members.

**Fundraising and donor relations**

In 2017, UNICEF Nepal submitted 24 proposal to donors and UNICEF national committees. This included five for humanitarian assistance in response to floods which affected 32 of Nepal’s 75 districts in August 2017. The Nepal Country Office planned to raise US$ 20,056,468 in 2017. The total planned budget for Other Resources for regular country programme (ORR) in 2017 was US$ 46,818,512 and actual allocation was US$ 35,593,102. In terms of Other Resources for emergency programming (ORE), the total planned budget was US$ 37,222,505 and actual allocation was US$ 35,470,172.

Total allotment for 2017 was US$ 66,176,174. To date, US$ 65,110,148 has been utilized. This represents 139 per cent utilization (ORR+ORE) rate against the planned US$ 46,818,512. For ORR, US$ 22,842,233 has been utilized with US$ 18,060,853 expended, 113 per cent against the planned amount. The public sector has contributed US$ 38,449,702, private sector US$ 10,909,495 and the multi-donor thematic funds US$ 34,681,820.

Development programming:
Planned fundraise US$ 20,056,468
Planned budget US$ 46,818,512
Actual allocation US$ 35,593,102
Humanitarian programming:
Emergency programming ORE planned budget US$ 37,222,505
Actual allocation US$ 35,470,172
Total:
Allotment US$ 66,176,174
Utilization US$ 65,110,148

Where possible new and existing grants were negotiated to be as flexible as possible so that the concerned programmes can respond to the evolving needs of Nepal’s children effectively. Reporting requirements were negotiated to align with the standard reporting requirements agreed with the concerned donors at the global level in order to minimize the transaction costs while providing quality feedback.

In 2017, a new report specialist was recruited to ensure consistently good standards in reporting and help effective management of donor relations. The Country Office also received visits by national committees and donors: five were supported in 2017 with three from national committees. Altogether 74 donor reports were submitted on time.

**Evaluation and research**

The integrated monitoring and evaluation plan (IMEP) continued as the primary planning tool for coordination of evaluations, studies, surveys and research. UNICEF Nepal revised its standard operating procedure for research, evaluation and studies to ensure that required information are complete and the concerned activities are correctly categorized.

An independent evaluation of the Government of Nepal-UNICEF Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) 2013-2017 was conducted in 2017 and informed the development of the Country Programme 2018-2022. It was found that the Country Office had achieved 34 per cent of the targets for 79 key performance indicators (KPIs) and 40 to 90 per cent of the targets for another 36 percent of the indicators as of 2016. The evaluation highlighted the importance of resilience due to Nepal’s vulnerability to disasters.

An independent evaluation of the emergency cash transfer programme (ECTP) assessed how the programme met the short-term relief and recovery needs of the five categories of especially vulnerable groups after the devastating earthquakes in 2015. UNICEF supported approximately 730,000 beneficiaries in two rounds of cash transfers together to respond to the impact of the worst earthquake of the country in the last 80 years. The evaluation found that the programme achieved very good coverage despite many challenges (93 and 90 per cent of the intended beneficiaries for the first round and second round respectively) and the money provided was used for intended purposes. The findings from the evaluation have been used to help the Government develop a shock-responsive social protection system in Nepal.

In terms of management response to evaluation, over 70 per cent of the recommended actions have been completed for the CPAP evaluation and 80 per cent for the ECTP evaluation, the remainder will be addressed over 2018.

**Efficiency gains and cost savings**

UNICEF Nepal undertook a major joint construction project with UNFPA and for this year the cost of design and quality assurance will be shared with this UN agency. In addition, the Country Office is using joint LTAs for security and cleaning services which helped not only save cost but also time, although it’s difficult to provide exact monetary saving. It’s worth noting also
that being located at UN house, UNICEF Nepal benefitted from a great lower rental rate (40 per cent of actual market rate). Supply section also made cost saving through different negotiations during the procurement process for a total amount of US$ 238,773. Similarly, in 2017, video conference and Skype for Business (S4B) were heavily used for meetings and conferences compared to 2016, as a result a total cost saving of US$ 134,500 is recorded by ICT unit and this lead to a cumulative total cost saving of US$ 373,273 for the Country Office.

**Supply management**

Following are the statistics of Supply Inputs for 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programme supplies</strong></td>
<td>4,433,020.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Admin supplies</strong></td>
<td>419,764.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Institutional contracts</strong></td>
<td>7,786,801.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Procurement services</strong></td>
<td>4,783,464.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand total</strong></td>
<td>17,423,049.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During 2017, supplies and institutional contracts worth US$ 17,423,049 were procured, 3 per cent of which was undertaken on behalf of the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA). The major cases of supply and procurement include the construction of 250 transitional learning centres (US$ 3,782,297), micronutrient powder, evaluation contracts, ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) and solar power generation systems.

Establishment of long-term agreements (LTAs) was considered as one of the strategies for reducing both financial and transactional costs and 30 LTAs were concluded for 18 products and services in 2017. This led to shorter delivery time and was very helpful particularly in responding to emergencies.

Supplies procured by UNICEF are handled by clearing agents contracted by UNICEF. Supplies against procurement services (health-related supplies in the case of Nepal) are consigned to the Ministry of Health and they take full responsibility for the clearing, warehousing and distribution.

After 2015 earthquake emergency, in-country logistic operations expanded considerably to handle a large volume of supplies and procurement cases. Major cases of supply distribution was channelled through warehouses at the central level. Efforts were made to optimally utilize warehousing facilities by improving stocks turn-out and also keeping over-head costs as low as possible in consultation with programme. Prepositioned supply materials for timely emergency response were re-organized to be placed in strategic geographical locations to facilitate swift response to emergencies.
The total value of programme supplies received was US$953,039, US$2,698,315 worth of programme supplies have been issued and the current inventory stock value is US$ 896,139.

A major part of supply materials were distributed from UNICEF warehouses to implementing partners. This includes US$ 549,721 worth supplies distributed for flood emergency response since August 2017. The capacity of selected Implementing Partners in warehousing management was strengthened through several supply-related trainings conducted at central and regional levels and attended by 60 participants.

Security for staff and premises

In the course of 2017, the business continuity plan (BCP) was updated regularly to respond to changing political and security priorities. UNICEF’s Security Officer worked closely with the Security Cell of the UN DSS, ROSA Security Manager and other concerned stakeholders to ensure that concerned safety and security standards are maintained.

The Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS) continued to be implemented and monitored for full compliance. Exercises and drills were carried out regularly. UNICEF vehicles were maintained properly and equipped with necessary communication equipment and online GPS tracking system. The staff continued to receive TRIP security clearance for the authorization of any field missions.

In addition to the MOSS, several mitigating measures have been put in place to minimize security risks. When security incidences occurred, they were reported, followed up and responded to quickly in accordance with standard procedures.

A new CPMP 2018-2022 has proposed new office locations in correspondence with the new provincial structure of the country. This will necessitate shifting of two out of three field offices in the country. The security dimensions of the new locations and buildings will be studied closely by the Security Officer.

Special attention has been given to mandatory security trainings and orientations. The completion rate of BSITF, ASITF, Basic First Aid Training, SSAFE and warden exercises has been improving but the average completion rate is 63 per cent at the moment. More efforts will be made to achieve 100 per cent in 2018. All 39 drivers and 15 other staff have attended defensive safe driving training course.

Human resources

In 2017, UNICEF Nepal went through the process of the new country programme management plan preparation for the Country Programme 2018-2022. As part of this process, 52 posts were abolished and 41 posts were created as against the total number of posts of 194. To support the staff members who were affected in this process, the Country Office developed comprehensive mitigation strategy in consultation with the staff association and has been implementing it.

UNICEF Nepal also continued to make efforts to strengthen the capacity of its staff through learning and development. As of 20 November 2017, 10 out of 11 group trainings were completed, and 14 staff went on stretch assignments and missions. Learning opportunities were provided to staff based on the consideration for better results for children as well as equity. The office’s diversity in workforce guidelines which was developed together with UNICEF ROSA continued to be adhered to in 2017.
The office has continued to monitor timely completion of performance assessment system (PAS), and 100 per cent of 2016 PAS were completed as of November 2017. To enhance the culture of honest and continuing feedback for performance management, the Country Office organized performance management training for all staff members in coordination with the Division of Human Resources and ROSA.

The results of 2017 Global Staff Survey were shared immediately with the staff. An all staff meeting was held to present and discuss the main features of the survey results for UNICEF Nepal Country office, and based on that a follow-up action plan was drafted and will be finalised in January 2018.

The Country Office continued to organize workshops, webinars and other activities on key topics such as respectful workplace, ethics and UN staff code of conduct, individual stress counseling sessions, work-life balance flexible work arrangements amongst others.

**Effective use of information and communication technology**

UNICEF Nepal established a SharePoint site where different working units can store working documents. This helped collaboration and coordination within the office. The ICT team decommissioned ICT system and services in four emergency sites in October and November 2017 as they were closed. All the key documents related to these offices were uploaded in the concerned part of the site page libraries. The office also fully complies with IT security policy.

In 2017, video conference and Skype for Business was used more frequently for meetings and conferences compared with 2016 with cost saving of US$ 134,500. UNICEF Nepal worked closely with UNDP on the selection of vendor for UN House solar power project. Power consumption measuring and monitoring device (PCMM) was installed in the UN House, Operations Section building and three field offices. The Country Office also helped the National Health Information Education and Communication Centre of the Ministry of Health to design a data center for real-time information monitoring system including procurement of equipment required for it. Also, UNICEF Nepal helped disseminate behavioral change messages under the Golden 1000 Days campaign to its intended audience by using RapidPro technology. UNICEF also supported the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) of the Government of Nepal in setting up a DevInfo webserver.

The presence of UNICEF Nepal in social media domains such as Facebook (36,804 likes), Twitter (33,464 followers) and Instagram (4,120 followers) has grown substantial in 2017. Also in 2017, digital media was used to reach programme audience on diverse issue areas such as online safety, breastfeeding and child participation.

**Programme components from RAM**

**ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS**

**OUTCOME 1** By 2017, national policies, legislation, plans, budgets, coordination and monitoring mechanisms are enabling the survival, development, protection and participation rights of children, adolescents, and women, to be fulfilled with equity in all contexts, including humanitarian situations

**Analytical statement of progress**
Nepal has adopted a federal governance system, two years after the promulgation of the Constitution with local elections completed in May and provincial and parliamentary, elections held in November and December 2017. Nepal has been restructured into seven provinces and 753 local governments units. The Local Governance Act 2017 and inter-governmental Fiscal Transfer Act 2017 were passed by the government.

Elected representatives of 753 Local Level Institutions from seven provinces have now taken the responsibility to formulate their own policies, enact legislations, develop plans, and allocate resources.

Across the IRs, good progress has been made. All targets were met in Health and Education and all other IRs have made progress against the indicators. The only constrained IR is 1.8 on the CRC and legislations on child rights, which has not been properly analysed in this Country Programme. There were also challenges in mainstreaming the District Poverty Monitoring Analysis System (DPMAS) due to the transition to federalism.

In the Health sector, all targets have been met. In the evolving context of federalism, the Ministry of Health is in the process of updating the Health Policy (2014) and model laws/national level guidelines which can be adopted by provincial governments. The federal structural reform related to health financing (the Health Insurance Act 2017 was approved, its detail health insurance regulation and SOPs are under development) as a priority area is underway.

With UNICEF technical and financial support, NPC in coordination with sectoral ministries and development partners developed the second phase costed Multi-sectoral Nutrition Plan 2018 to 2022 (MSNP II) equivalent to USD 489 million. This plan has been endorsed by High level Nutrition and Food Security Steering as well as Coordination Committees, and NPC Board. It was then cleared by Ministry of Finance and finally approved by the Council of Ministers/cabinet on 19 November 2017.

With continuous advocacy from UNICEF, the Government of Nepal (GoN) has allocated approx. US$ 189 million (US$ 17 million for nutrition sensitive and US$ 172 million for nutrition specific interventions) in the current fiscal year 2017/2018 nationwide. For 30 priority MSNP districts, UNICEF has supported US$ 7.7 million for MSNP activities (US$ 3.1 million for nutrition sensitive and US$ 4.6 million for nutrition specific) and GoN has allocated US$ 1.6 million for nutrition sensitive activities. Similarly, local government authorities in 30 MSNP districts have allocated additional US$ 2 million (approx.) for MSNP interventions.

The government’s institutional structure/arrangements for WASH sector at Federal, Provincial and Local Government levels is still under discussion which is affecting current upstream work. On sector performance, the WASH sector is on track, moving forward in line with the national commitment for Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011-2017 and the SDGs. According to the DWSS administrative data the access to sanitation and tapped water has reached 93 per cent and 95 per cent respectively, the target for declaring Nepal Open Defecation Free by Dec 2017 remains intact despite the adverse impact of recent floods in the Terai. Issues like water supply quality/functionality and institutional WASH including capacity building at all levels are now becoming important issues in WASH Sector. Capacity building of newly elected local government staff and representatives is underway but will continue requirings substantial support.

UNICEF has taken the role of focal point (for July 2017-June 2018) of the education sector development partners group, the coordinating agency for the Global Partnership for Education.
With this support, the Government has achieved the reduction of 22 per cent (Boys: 9,260, Girls: 14,830) out of school children through targeted interventions in 5 districts (Bara, Parsa, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rautahat) with the highest disparities in education outcomes.

In the child protection sector, several legislative developments have taken place. The National Master Plan (NMP) on Child Labour (2017-2027) is in the final stage of approval by the Council of Ministers. Child protection related provisions have been incorporated in the legislations dealing with labour, local governance, criminal code and civil code. To strengthen the service and referral system, the mapping of government’s services has been carried out. In the area of capacity building for service providers, a handbook on child protection services for the local level has been developed and disseminated.

The child grant programme has been expanded to a further 3 districts for FY 2016/17. As a result, additional 116,840 children under the age of 5 years in Bajhang (Mountain), Achham (Hill) and Rautahat (Terai) are benefiting from the child grant programme.

Disaster risk management (DRM) has been given high priority by Government which is reflected in Local Governance Act 2074 (2017) and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2074 (2017). The dedicated institutional mechanism on DRM is in place at federal, provincial and local government levels, including clear roles and responsibilities.

OUTPUT 1 By 2017, national and subnational health related policies and strategies address equity in maternal newborn, child and adolescent health including HIV outcomes with continuum of care

Analytical statement of progress
Based on the Immunization Act 2016, the legislative framework to implement the Act in the federal context is underway. The collaborative framework to ensure the implementation of the Act as a prime responsibility of local governments has been drafted. The Immunization Act entails implementation of sustainable immunization financing by the central government.

The Safe Motherhood and Newborn health bill has been revised by Ministry of Health and has been sent to Ministry of Law and Justice for review. It envisions the provision for maternity leave during pregnancy and the postpartum period. Women working in public, private sectors or NGOs will have 16 weeks of leave with pay (before or after delivery) and fathers will have paternity leave for 15 days.

To ensure equity for quality newborn care services at all tiers of health system, Ministry of Health has developed the Nepal’s Every Newborn Action Plan and costed implementation plan. The costed implementation plan has been the guiding document to Ministry of Health to allocate resources for improving newborn services.

OUTPUT 2 By 2017, the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan, targeting the most vulnerable newborn, infant and young children, adolescents, especially girls, pregnant and lactating women, HIV affected children and women, and children and women with disabilities, has political commitment and sectoral budget allocation

Analytical statement of progress
Government of Nepal doubled its annual budget allocation for national nutrition programme, equivalent to US$ 2 million for nutrition-sensitive interventions and approx. US$ 4.6 million for nutrition-specific interventions. EU and UNICEF collaboration is also providing 27.7 million Euros financial assistance for Multi-sectoral Nutrition Plan (MSNP) implementation in 28 districts. Starting from the current fiscal year, local government bodies (municipalities and rural municipalities) have allocated funds for MSNP from their own grants. So far approximately US$ 2.5 million have been allocated by the local government in 28 MSNP districts. Out of 28 MSNP districts, Suahaara (USAID funded project) programme is also implemented in 14 districts. In these 14 districts some funding gaps is also filled from Suahaara programme. Despite this, there is substantial funding gaps to implement the MSNP in 28 districts.

UNICEF supported MoFALD to develop the capacity of local governance authorities in MSNP districts. 150 trainers were developed as facilitators from MSNP districts. With their facilitation, out of 308 local government authorities (LGA) in 28 districts, 231 LGAs were capacitated and they declared the commitment to eliminate all forms of malnutrition in their LGAs. The initiative has resulted in the commitment of officials to nutrition-friendly local government and to reduce the level of malnutrition to an acceptable level. The process is ongoing in the remaining LGAs.

From 7 to 9 November 2017, Scale Up Nutrition (SUN) global gathering was organized in Abidjan, Côte de Ivoire. The objective of the gathering was, to share progress and encourage SUN countries towards global collaboration in the fight against malnutrition. The Nepal delegation was, led by a senior member of the National Planning Commission (NPC). In this gathering, the senior member of the NPC, was awarded the SUN Global Champion.

Global SUN coordinator and UN Assistant Secretary General Ms. Gerda Verburg visited Nepal from 5 to 7 April 2017. During this period, she met the Prime Minister of Nepal, High Level officials of NPC as well as concerned stakeholders and development partners relevant to SUN movement. Further, she also visited Kavre district to see MSNP implemented in humanitarian context after the earthquake. From her visit to Nepal, further commitments from different stakeholders and government officials were ensured for MSNP interventions in Nepal.

UNICEF worked with the NPC and key line ministries to develop systematic tools for financial tracking for nutrition, a nutrition budget code for sustained financing, an administrative mechanism for MSNP and monitoring of expenditure for nutrition as well as conducting long-term costing and budget financing needs assessment.

In order to verify the MSNP programme implementation from EU and UNICEF collaboration, EU ROM mission was in Nepal in September 2017. The mission visited Rolpa, one of the MSNP districts, and consulted with different national level stakeholders and UNICEF nutrition professionals. Similarly, financial verification mission was in Nepal in August 2017. The draft report of both missions have been received from EU (the management response on the recommendation and comment adjustment will be made by the end of 2017).

**OUTPUT 3** By 2017, a National WASH programme and finance strategy are formulated, approved and regularly monitored to improve equitable access, gender sensitivity, sustainability, and efficiency of the sector

**Analytical statement of progress**
The government’s institutional structure/arrangements for WASH sector at Federal, Provincial and Local Government levels is still under discussion which is affecting substantial upstream
work for the time being.

On the sector performance part, Nepal WASH sector’s performance is on track, moving forward in line with the national commitment for Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011-2017 and the SDGs. According to the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (DoWSS) administrative data the access to sanitation and tapped water has reached 93 per cent and 95 per cent respectively, the target for declaring ODF Nepal by December 2017 remains intact despite the adverse impact of recent floods in the Terai. Programmes like water quality and institutional WASH including capacity building at all levels are now getting more attention. Capacity building of newly elected local government staff and representatives is underway but will continue requiring substantial support.

Due to changes in the political context and ministries, leadership the WASH Sector Development Plan (SDP) is still in the last stage of endorsement whereas the WASH Act has come to the final-draft stage. The development of SDG #6 national indicators/targets is still under discussion/review at the ministry level. National Planning Commission is going to form a thematic group inclusive of key development partners, including UNICEF for endorsement and rolling out SDG #

With UNICEF support, the Government has finalized WASH in School Guidelines where UNICEF promoted star-approach has been adopted. WASH in Healthcare Facilities Guideline has been drafted and waiting for wider consultation before submitting to the Cabinet. With UNICEF financial and technical support, the Sector Efficiency Improvement Unit has enhanced sector coordination, planning and monitoring. A Sector Stakeholder Group meeting was held in December 2017. The National WASH Training Centre has been progressing in the areas of capacity building, learning and exchange events as well as cross country learnings.

With UNICEF support, the National Management Information Project of DoWSS is continuously updating the routine administrative web based data on coverage of water supply and sanitation. However, there is much to do to identify communities living without access to improved water supply and establish baselines for SDG 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3.

The DoWSS with support from UNICEF had commissioned a gender budget analysis of the WASH sector. The findings stated that while policies and legislations adequately reflect gender issues there is inadequacy in the functioning of the gender focal points at ministries/departments due to inadequate resources for innovation and knowledge. With the further support from UNICEF, the DoWSS has initiated educating its staff of all levels in WASH specific gender mainstreaming.

UNICEF Nepal supported the senior government officers to attend various international forums related to WASH, like Water, Engineering and Development Centre in London, Fund Regional Learning and Reflection Event in Australia, 7th SACOSAN preparatory meeting in Sri Lanka. UNICEF also supported high level officials to attend steering committee meeting of Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) in Mozambique, Dec 4 -7. Nepal is the chair of South Asia for the SWA.

OUTPUT 4 By 2017, national level education policies and strategies demonstrate greater gender and social equity

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF has taken the role of Focal Point of the Education Sector Development Partners Group, a Joint Financing Partner (JFP), the Coordinating Agency for the Global Partnership for Education including development of Nepal’s next Programme Implementation Grant of USD 20 million for 2018-2020. UNICEF is ensuring an equity based inclusive focus through being the Development Partner lead in 4 out of 8 joint technical working groups: (i) Equity and Inclusive Education, (ii) Early Grade Reading, (iii) Comprehensive School Safety (iv) Early Childhood Educational Development. UNICEF, supported the finalization and signing of Joint Financial Arrangement (JFA) between government and JFPs, including a joint Disbursement Linked Indicator (DLI) framework, implementation of Consolidated Equity Strategy for school education, one of 10 DLIs with annual targets.

Following up agreed actions from 2017 March Budget Review Meeting, UNICEF supported respective technical working groups and committees to support achievement of SSDP Program Result Framework, including 2016/17 DLI targets. UNICEF supported the Government in planning and execution of the November 2017 Joint Review Meeting, including activation of technical working groups.

The Education Sector Programme Development Grant (ESPDG) was not available to support the Government to align the SSDP programme with the new federal structure. Therefore, UNICEF supported the Government to include a transition plan for SSDP implementation in the 2016/17 Annual Strategic Implementation Plan, Annual Work Plan and Budget. Ministry of Education is currently working on the transition plan aiming to complete by end of Jan 2018. Smooth transiton helps SSDp implementation that, among other outcomes, aims to address equity.

UNICEF continued to support government for further improvement of Education Management Information System (EMIS). This year recording the reduction of out of school children through implementation of an Equity Index at district level and community, level, in five prioritized districts with lowest education outcomes in access, participation and learning achievements. UNICEF supported government to, establish an EMIS working group, development of an action plan to strengthen EMIS. This will align it with the new federal structure and increase access to disaggregated data.

Based on the targeted interventions informed by unpacking and analysis of dominant drivers of disparity in Bara, Parsa, Rautahat, Sarlahi and Mahottari, districts, government achieved a 22.4% (24,090) reduction in aggregate number of out of school children against the baseline, established through a household census in the 5 districts. UNICEF is supporting development of a time bound action plan for implementation of the analysis and targeted interventions in the next five districts ranked as having highest disparities in education outcomes (Doti, Siraha, Dolpa, Rolpa and Humla).

UNICEF facilitated technical support to the Department of Education. This enabled three regional workshops to analyse the complaint hearing system and suggestion box in schools. The workshops resulted in the revision of suggestion box operational guidelines and guidance on the reporting and referral mechanism for gender-based violence cases.

UNICEF also facilitated the Curriculum Development Centre to finalize its gap analysis of lower secondary level curriculum (6-8) providing recommendations of curriculum revision.
**OUTPUT 5** By 2017, the enabling environment including governance system strengthened to protect, inform and empower adolescent boys and girls to claim their rights and provides opportunities for their participation.

**Analytical statement of progress**
UNICEF continued to support Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare through Girls Not Brides Nepal to finalize the action plan of the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage. Under the leadership of the ministry, technical teams by outcome were formed to develop and finalize the action plan which met four times during this year. The costed implementation plan and M&E framework have been developed with contribution from relevant ministries and civil society partners and are awaiting endorsement from the government.

The costed National Plan of Action (NPA) on Holistic Adolescent Development was endorsed in 2013 which provides a framework for comprehensive adolescent programming. An inter-ministerial committee was established to develop the action plan and to coordinate the plan. The last coordination meeting was held in 2016 where the implementation status of the NPA was discussed. An implementation status report is developed. The status report captures the financial allocation of the government and partners for adolescent related interventions.

Working with the Family Health Division (FHD) under the Ministry of Health, UNICEF enhanced youth engagement and social accountability to promote and improve Adolescent Friendly Health Services (AFHS) using mobile phone technology through Shout Out for Health programme. Over 1,500 adolescents throughout the country have registered to the mobile phone programme and shared their opinions, views and experiences related to health services in their community. Analytics of voices of adolescents are publicly available for viewing in a real time at an online dashboard. Key highlights of voices from adolescents is being compiled in the form of a newsletter and disseminated among health service providers and decision makers. Media will be engaged for spreading the findings back to the adolescents on the response from the stakeholders. Currently responses from the first stream of questions are being analyzed.

The Sixth International Day of the Girl Child was celebrated under the leadership of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare with the theme, Empowerment of Girls: Always. The event which was attended by 166 people from the Government of Nepal and civil society including adolescents and was graced by the Minister of Women, Children and Social Welfare as the Chief Guest. During the event, ten girls from different parts of the country were recognised for their contribution to promoting and protecting rights of adolescent girls in their communities.

**OUTPUT 6** By 2017, a national system to protect children and adolescents, especially girls, from abuse, neglect and exploitation is incorporated in legislation and policies, planned, resourced, monitored, documented and coordinated across sectors and actors at national and local level.

**Analytical statement of progress**
The Local Government Operation Act, 2017 has defined child protection related roles of local levels including wards. The Labour Act 2017 prohibits the employment of children and has provisions on rescuing child labourers and taking action against the employer. The amendment to Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act has extended the provisions relating to the employment and protection of children up to the age of 18 (previously 16). The National Criminal Procedure (Code) Act, 2017 and the National Civil Procedure (Code) Act, 2017 have...
progressive provisions relating to justice for children and judicial proceedings. The National Criminal (Code) Act, 2017 criminalizes different forms of violence against children. The Criminal Act (Punishment Determination and Enforcement) Act, 2017 prohibits sentencing of children under the age of 16 except in the case of heinous, serious and repeated offences. Likewise, the National Civil (Code) Act, 2017 has been enacted with provisions relating to care of children, appointment of guardians, and adoption that fulfil the current legal gaps. Though several progressive provisions have been enacted, further reforms are necessary to strengthen the child protection system in terms of human resources for child protection and service provisions for addressing child protection violations.

The National Master Plan (NMP) on Child Labour (2017-2027) is in the final stage of approval by the Council of Ministers. It is expected that as soon as the election is completed, the government will endorse the plan.

As an element of the child protection sector information management system, the Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB), with UNICEF’s support, has mapped the services provided by different government agencies to children. The mapping report includes the details of services being provided nationally or in specific areas. The nature of services, the benefit of the service to children, number of services available and terms and conditions for accessing those services are outlined. The mapping report will be useful for strengthening referral to appropriate services and also for promoting the use of such services.

Following the enactment of Local Government Operation Act, 2017, certain child protection related works have been assigned to the local levels. Since there were no clear guidelines on implementation at the local level, the CCWB has developed a handbook for local levels on child protection services with UNICEF’s technical assistance.

The syllabus of undergraduate and post-graduate social work programme run by Tribhuvan University have been revised to include child protection related knowledge and skills. Child protection related subject matters in the areas of Social Work in Child and Family Settings, Law and Social Work and Disaster Management have been incorporated in the curriculum.

The Nepal Country Office worked on the review of Child Protection System in Nepal together with UNICEF’s Regional Office for South Asia. The review analyzed different elements of a child protection system and compared how different elements of the child protection system in Nepal have changed since 2012. The review, upon completion, will identify priority actions that will improve the child protection system.

**OUTPUT 7** By 2017, Government institutions at national and sub-national levels that promote the rights of children, adolescents and women are more able to generate and use evidence to develop, fund and monitor equity-focused, gender-sensitive, multi-sectoral planning, governance and social protection frameworks and related policies

**Analytical statement of progress**
Nepal has speedily progressed into the federal system from the unitarian system within two years after the promulgation of the Constitution with local elections completed in May and provincial and parliamentary elections held in November and December 2017. Nepal has been restructured into seven provinces and 753 local governments units called *Palikas*. The Local Governance Act 2017 and inter-governmental Fiscal Transfer Act 2017 were passed by the government.
Elected representatives of 753 local level institutions from seven provinces have now taken the responsibility to formulate their own policies, enact legislations, develop plans, and allocate resources. The elected representatives have expressed commitment to make their local governments child-friendly and socially inclusive. All local service centres and line agencies will deliver services under the guidance, direct supervision and coordination of local governments in an integrated manner under one door system.

The assessment in Dolakha and Udaypur led by MOFALD has guided in repositioning District Planning Monitoring Analysis System (DPMAS) in the new federal context, aligned with SDG indicators and 14th periodic plan goals. MOFALD in consultation with the National Planning Commission (NPC) is in the process of continuing the DPMAS at Palika level as Local Planning Monitoring and Analysis System (LPMAS).

The draft Social Protection Framework was updated in 2017 in line with the federal context. NPC has expedited the process of revision and expects to finalize by the end of 2017.

The study on Demographic changes in Nepal produced by UNICEF and the National Planning Commission (NPC) has been widely discussed in the development discourse of Nepal.

The child grant programme has been expanded to a further 3 districts for FY 2016/17. As a result, additional 116,840 children under the age of 5 years in Bajhang (Mountain), Achham (Hill) and Rautahat (Tarai) are benefiting from the child grant programme.

**OUTPUT 8**

By 2017, national and provincial legislatures and administrative authorities have improved capacity to draft, reform and implement legislation that complies with international child rights standards and to undertake priority advocacy actions for child rights

**Analytical statement of progress**

This analysis has not been done. No further progress on the CRC since the last reporting period.

The current gaps and structural barriers in birth registration were reviewed by the United Nations Working Group on Citizenship. Based on the review, the reforms required in birth registration have been identified and are being followed-up with the vital registration authorities.

**OUTPUT 9**

By 2017, policies, strategy, guidance and budget of four sectors (WASH, education, child protection, and health and nutrition including HIV and AIDS) integrate DRR and CCA for disaster risk management with special attention to most at risk children, adolescents, especially girls, and women

**Analytical statement of progress**

Disaster Risk Management (DRM) has been given high priority by the Government which is reflected in Local Governance Act 2074 (2017) and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2074 (2017). The dedicated institutional mechanism on DRM is in place at federal, province and local government levels, including clear roles and responsibilities. The Government has made it mandatory for all layers of government to have DRM Fund ensuring resources in DRR and CCA. UNICEF technical support to build the capacity of elected bodies on DRM has been initiated. 1100 local government authorities were capacitated on the importance of CCDRR and
its mainstreaming. The budget allocated for DRM increased from between 3 per cent to 18 per cent across 69 local government units in 8 districts.

UNICEF supported the development of district disaster risk management plans (DDRMPs) in Dolakha and Dhading, reviewing the 5 DDRMPs (Saptari, Parsa, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Rautahat) making sure that the plan at the local level is functional. There is increased resource allocation on risk reduction such as mitigation and prevention measures to address disaster risks.

The sectoral achievements

WASH: UNICEF together with Department of Water Supply and Sewerage, WHO and Oxfam completed a study on climate change impact assessment of WASH services. The study was conducted in 9 districts representing various ecological and geographic regions. It also conducted learning exchange visits to sector stakeholders where adaptations work on WASH have been initiated.

Protection: In accordance to the National Strategic Plan for Protection Cluster, the Government has included a programme on DRR/child protection in emergencies within its regular plan and budget. The inclusion has ensured the ownership by Government, sustainability and continuity of DRR/child protection in emergencies. UNICEF has financial and technically contributed to implement the planned interventions.

Education: DRR and school safety component integrated in the School Sector Development Plan and further elaborated under the Education Regulation reinforcing its integration in the School Improvement Plans. Government has drafted the school safety policy and shared with wider stakeholders for their inputs. UNICEF as a co-lead of the DRR and School Safety Technical group is supporting government and working group members to finalize the School Safety Master Plan and Comprehensive School Safety Implementation guidelines.

Health: UNICEF assisted the development of the National Preparedness and Response Plan for Acute Gastroenteritis/Cholera outbreaks in Nepal. The plan has been endorsed by Epidemiology Disease Control Division on 10 April, 2017. Based on the National Health Sector Strategy 2015-2020, the National Strategy and Guidelines like HIV Strategic Plan 2017-2021, Adolescent Health and Development Strategy 2017 has included disaster risk management. In addition, UNICEF, being a member of technical working group at MOH, ensured DRR health in local, Provincial and Federal level functions.

Nutrition: With UNICEF’s technical and financial assistance, MoH finalized and endorsed National IMAM guidelines that will be applicable to address nutrition issues in emergencies as well as in normal situation. Similarly, with the support from UNICEF, MoH developed nutrition cluster contingency plan and is visioning to reach out to all 753 local authorities.

OUTCOME 2 By 2017, in selected areas (the most disadvantaged districts and municipalities), social sector systems are providing integrated, quality services to fulfil the survival, development, protection and participation rights of children, adolescents and women with equity in all contexts, including humanitarian situations

Analytical statement of progress

2017 was the year of rapid transition from unitary to federal structure through election for three levels of governments. The federal structure transfers accountability to locally elected
governments for planning and budgeting of 753 Local Governments. This provided both opportunities and challenges in the last year of current country programme.

UNICEF advocacy and technical support led to a phased plan for national expansion of the child grant programme using government funds. The first phase included three districts where 117,000 under five children benefitted from the grant. The next phase of additional six additional districts have been approved. UNICEF will support Department of Civil Registration in real time monitoring of the grant through RapidPro.

UNICEF supported strengthening the national child protection system through technical support to the technical and steering committee to revise case management procedures as per the administrative structure and professional standards to child protection. To prevent child labour, especially in urban areas, UNICEF worked closely with the municipalities to provide non-formal education to close to 1,000 children (60 per cent girls), of which 88 per cent of them completed the programme and 41 per cent were enrolled in formal schools. Close to 100 children received vocation training of which close to 30 per cent got either a suitable job or were self-employed. Other initiative includes income generating support to 132 families.

As per the Local Governance Act, the Local Governments are responsible for local plans, budget and allocation of funds, UNICEF advocacy ensured all relevant children’s issue in the act.

This will help in not only implementing programme but also mobilize resources for children from local budget. UNICEF also started working with the local government to sensitize them on children’s issues and support them for local planning.

UNICEF continued its technical support for community based integrated management of childhood illness in 15 priority districts. Similar support was provided to improve maternal and newborn health through conversion of 16 comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care sites, 25 basic emergency obstetric and newborn care sites and 150 birthing centres into comprehensive centre of excellence. The skilled birth attendant coverage in UNICEF priority districts remains at 47. UNICEF supported training on maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response (MPDSR) for 125 staff in seven hospitals. The training helps in reviewing maternal and perinatal deaths to provide appropriate response.

Multi-sectoral nutrition plan was scaled up in all planned 28 districts where 86 per cent of children received Vitamin A supplementation and deworming tablets and 95 per cent of households are utilizing iodized salt with optimum iodine nutrition. UNICEF supported establishing 369 Outpatient Therapeutic Centres and 20 Stabilization centres to provide care and treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) of under-five children in 39 districts. 7,311 under five children with SAM have been treated in 26 districts. Out of total discharged, 85 per cent recovered and 0.1 per cent died &ndash, maintaining rates above the global Sphere Standards.

UNICEF support contributed to both national sanitation coverage (94 per cent) and UNICEF 15 priority districts (94 per cent). A total of 77 VDCs and 7 municipalities have declared ODF constructing 48,102 toilets benefitting about 2.87 million people in 12 UNICEF supported districts where about 3.07 million people are living in ODF environment. As part of convergent support, 327 schools received WASH support, 80 per cent of these schools have separate toilets for boys and girls, with water supply and hand washing facilities benefiting more than 76,000 students in these schools.
The awareness and importance on early childhood education was disseminated through parental education which proved to be effective as a KAP study covering more than 11,000 caregivers shows that 59 per cent have changed in a positive direction, most changes were in knowledge (81 per cent) followed by practice (60 per cent) attitude (23 per cent). UNICEF also focussed in inclusive education through supporting early detection of functional limitation in early grade reading which led to piloting inclusive education in 40 schools across four districts. The other achievement in education was to improve access and retention of girls from marginalized communities in UNICEF priority districts. This resulted in 15 per cent increase of net enrollment rate (NER) from grade 6-8 of girls, 11 per cent for boys, and 12 per cent for 9-10 grade girls and 10 per cent for boys from 2013 to 2017.

Nepal, being one of the countries prone to various kinds of disasters received technical support to develop child-centred and inclusive district disaster management plans (DDRMPs) in two districts. UNICEF also supported child centred risk reduction programme in selected communities and schools. The monsoon floods that affected more than 700,000 children under 18 across the Terai. UNICEF support reached 400,000 affected people with different intervention (nutrition: 2,800 children, health: 41,081 children, WASH: 180,000 people, child protection: 2,186 children and care givers, education: 2,349 children and C4D: 400,000 people)

Challenges: The rapid transition to federal structure resulted in uncertainty in fund flow mechanism to government counterparts which slowed implementation. The role of provincial government is still unclear which may affect developing subnational plans and finally the devastating flood in the Terai significantly affected regular programme implementation.

OUTPUT 1 By 2017, selected district and municipal health systems are able to provide quality, gender-sensitive and equitable maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health and HIV services

Analytical statement of progress

Ninety per cent of the children under the age of five with diarrhoea were treated with Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) and zinc in 15 priority districts. During this period, UNICEF successfully completed and handed over (to Child Health Division (CHD) the implementation of Community Based Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness (CBIMNCI) programme in 3 districts. UNICEF is continuing to provide support to improve the quality of integrated management of neonatal and childhood illness (IMCNI) services in the remaining 9 districts.

UNICEF supported the training of 403 service providers on new-born care at birth in 15 districts and procuring new-born equipment in 12 hospitals. UNICEF has started the implementation of perinatal care quality improvement process in these 12 hospitals. Similarly, 132 doctors and 96 nurses were trained on level II newborn care services which has contributed to enhance the quality of new-born care services in district and zonal hospitals.

47 per cent of deliveries were conducted by skilled birth attendants in 15 priority districts. A total of 16 comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care sites, 25 basic emergency obstetric and newborn care sites and 150 birthing centres were developed into comprehensive centre of excellence.

UNICEF has supported the expansion of community based Maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response in Baitadi district. The training was provided to 237 heath works and
831 female community health workers in the district. Similarly, UNICEF supported this approaches expansion into 7 district hospitals where 125 health workers were capacitated to conduct the review of maternal and perinatal deaths and provide appropriate response.

UNICEF provided support to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV by building the capacity of 43 service providers, 48 doctors and nursing staff on paediatric HIV. In addition, community level 1,468 health workers and 1,359 FCHVs were trained on the prevention of mother to child transmission and Misoprostol. In addition, community level awareness through local FMs, World AIDS day has increased awareness on HIV testing and also contributed to decrease social stigma and discrimination. At national level, a total 51 per cent of pregnant women were tested for HIV, and 64 per cent of pregnant women living with HIV received ARV drugs to reduce the risk of mother to child transmission.

Challenges
Difficult to monitor the quality of services in the health facilities where the comprehensive centres of excellence sites were supported.

Actions to overcome challenges
The quality improvement project included maternal, newborn and child health services, which effectively track quality of service indicators. The tools such as self-assessment checklist and progress reporting mechanism were developed and are currently implemented in 12 hospitals. The effectiveness of these tools need to be assessed, adopted for the use in peripheral health facilities and expanded to other CCE sites. This will help institutionalise regular mechanism of tracking/monitoring quality indicators in CCE sites.

OUTPUT 2 By 2017, access to and utilization of essential nutrition services increased targeting newborn, infant, young children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, HIV affected children and women, and children and women with disabilities.

Analytical statement of progress
In 28 MSNP districts, 86 per cent of the 555,505 targeted boys and girls aged 6-59 months received Vitamin A supplementation and deworming tablets. 95 per cent of households are utilizing iodized salt with optimum iodine nutrition (> = 15 ppm). Similarly, 41.5 per cent pregnant women (out of 156,340) received Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) 180+ tablets. Besides, 26 per cent of 1,081,761 targeted adolescent girls age 10-19 years received weekly iron folic acid supplementation and nutrition counselling through the mobilisation of 666 Health Workers. In 15 focus districts, 61 per cent boys and girls (out of 231,994) aged 6-23 months consistently received micronutrient powder. Further, UNICEF jointly with MoH finalized the reports of Nepal National Micronutrient Status Survey and follow up MNP/IYCF survey with the aim to disseminate it in March 2018.

Integrated management of acute malnutrition has been scaled up to 39 districts for the management of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). In these districts, 369 Outpatient Therapeutic Centres and 20 Stabilization centres have been established to provide care and treatment of severe acute malnutrition for under-five children. Approx. 19,000 FCHVs and 8,000 health workers in 30 Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) programme districts have strengthened their capacity on IMAM through basic and refresher training. Additionally, 32 chiefs of District Public Health Office, medical officers and Nutrition focal persons were provided Master training of trainers (MTOT). Similarly, 52 medical doctors and nurses from the different 16 hospitals were provided the MTOT for the management of complications of malnourished
children.

As of September 2017, 12,244 (girls: 7,054) under five children with SAM have been treated in 26 IMAM districts. Out of total discharged, 85 per cent recovered and 0.1 per cent died, which is above the global Sphere Standards.

National Comprehensive IMAM guideline developed with UNICEF’s technical and financial assistance have been endorsed by Ministry of Health. Based on the guideline the training manual and information, education and communication/behaviour change communication (IEC/BCC) materials have been updated and finalized. The training manuals and IEC materials of IMAM programme has been implemented in all IMAM districts. Similarly, with UNICEF’s technical and financial assistance, Ministry of Health finalized the national guideline to manage malnutrition with medical complications which will be endorsed by November 2017.

**Challenges:** Due to the political transition, the service delivery responsibility shifted from the District Public Health Office to the local government. Therefore, cash transfer to scale up and strengthen of IFA adolescent, MNP/IYCF and IMAM programme has been a challenge. In order to implement these programme in the GoN fiscal year, UNICEF will work with CSO partners to implement these programme.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2017, people living in selected districts, VDCs and municipalities (including schools and vulnerable communities) increasingly stop open defecation and utilize and participate in managing safe and sustainable, gender- and disability-friendly sanitation facilities and functional water supply facilities

**Analytical statement of progress**
UNICEF supported Department of Water Supply and Sewerage to organise special session on gaps in ODF targets across the Mid-West, Western and Eastern regions during their regular review and planning process. Dolpa, Doti and Manang districts have declared ODF while Humla has fixed the date for ODF declaration as the 4 December. In total, 77 VDCs and 7 municipalities have declared ODF constructing 48,742 toilets benefitting about 293,000 people in 12 UNICEF supported districts where about 3.22 million people are living in ODF environment. Efforts have been made to scale up sanitation in eight Terai districts by organising learning and sharing meeting among them and turning them into concrete action plans.

UNICEF supported ODF sustainability study which was fully owned by the government and was shared among the national sanitation and hygiene steering and coordination committees.

180 water safety plan projects benefiting about 84,240 households have been completed and about 421,200 people have access to safe water from source.

UNICEF has supported 400 schools in implementing WASH in School programme through partners to improve the school WASH facilities and promote sanitation and hygiene awareness program in communities. 84.5 per cent schools (338 schools) have separate toilets for girls and boys with hand washing facilities and water supply facilities benefitting to about 90,000 students. 173 schools (43 per cent) have met the one star and 114 schools (28 per cent) have met the two star criteria while 7 schools (1.8 per cent) have met three star criteria.

During the reporting period, a total of about 264,000 people gained knowledge and skill on WASH including hand washing to mothers and care taker of which 45 per cent were women. It
is estimated that 991,000 people have directly benefitted from WASH services including capacity building measures.

ODF sanitation movement has been speeding up at local level with the joint effort of all sector stakeholders through WASH coordination committees, community networks and school structures. UNICEF has supported government to facilitate and organise cluster level sanitation workshop of eight Terai districts to accelerate sanitation movement to achieve the goal of whole Nepal ODF by 2017. In addition, IEC materials with prominent Nepali artist have been aired through TV and pamphlet produced in local languages (Awadhi, Hindi and Maithili) have been widely circulated. As a result of it the sanitation coverage in eight Terai districts has increased from 62 to 81 per cent in 2017.

The achievement of the national ODF target by 2017 has been challenged by relatively poor functioning of WASH coordination structures due to state restructuring (merging previous VDCs into municipalities) where executive officers are new and their focus is on establishing office and running the offices, frequent political disturbances appealing protest and closures demanding the amendment of constitution as well as series of elections where all political leaders who were supporting ODF in past could not support as they have to engage in their own affair.

OUTPUT 4 By 2017, in selected districts and municipalities, young children (up to 5 years), especially the most vulnerable, have increased access to holistic developmental opportunities for improved school readiness

Analytical statement of progress
In the federal context, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) is developing pre-primary education guidelines for Local Governments. UNICEF provided input on draft pre-primary education guideline to make it more holistic and integrating basic health, nutrition and protection needs of children. The draft is under discussion with Ministry of Education.

The National Planning Commission is leading an Early Childhood Development (ECD) evaluation through technical support from UNICEF. The inception report of the evaluation was submitted by the external evaluation institution. The findings of the evaluation will support the formulation of next ECD strategy for Nepal.

UNICEF has revised district integrated early childhood development (ECD) plan into local level integrated ECD plan as per the federalized structure. The local level integrated ECD plan ensures basic services required to children in their early childhood at the municipality or rural municipality level.

During the reporting period, Alliance for Early Childhood Development Network, an independent network of early childhood organizations and professionals involved in the development of early childcare and education services, was established with support from UNICEF. The network aims to: (i) minimize duplication of programmes, activities and materials, significantly saving costs, (ii) provide opportunities to share ideas, opinions and experiences, (iii) develop a common understanding of the principles, programmes and issues related to early childhood, (iv) provide access to latest information, knowledge and resources to the interested organization and individuals, and (v) establish partnership and initiate coordinated actions. So far, there are ten organizational and 99 individual members.
Parental education was demonstrated to be effective through a formative knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) study. As per the formative study, 11,593 (73.3 per cent) caregivers have attended more than 50 per cent of the 20 sessions provided. The KAP study has confirmed that of the 227 household and caregiver indicators examined, nearly 59 per cent have changed in desirable direction. Most changes were in knowledge (81.3 per cent), followed by practice (60 per cent) and attitude (23.3 per cent). Some challenges confirmed in terms of low/no positive change in violent discipline and stimulation practices are planned to be addressed through revision of the package, additional mentoring and communication campaigns.

Following the global ECD campaign and as a wrap up event for parental education, a parental fair (Avivawak mela) was organized in Mahottari district. There were 4,346 caregivers (2,017 female, 2,329 male) and 2,392 children (1,114 girls, 1,278 boys) as participants. During the parental fair, participants were sensitized in various topics of parental education (health, nutrition, protection, WASH, stimulation and education).

The achievements were challenged by lack of clear policies in the transition to federal structure. However, all the packages are matched with latest policies and regulations available, which will be updated further with development of new policies and regulations.

OUTPUT 5 By 2017, in selected districts and municipalities, children particularly girls and marginalized children, have increased access to and complete uninterrupted child-friendly basic and secondary education

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF succeeded in improving access and retention of girls and children from marginalized communities in the 15 priority districts. This led to 15 per cent increase of net enrollment rate (NER) of 6-8 grade girls and 11 per cent of boys, and 12 per cent for 9-10 grade girls and 10 per cent for boys between 2013 and 2017.

Early grade learning (EGL) and afterschool programmes were expanded, along with adoption of child friendly school frameworks leading to increased access and retention. Under the EGL programme, 982 teachers were trained and subsequently supported EGL programme in 400 schools with involvement of 13,000 parents in school level planning. Because of EGL interventions, the early grade reading assessment (EGRA 2016/17 academic year) shows that 1st grade completers who read fluently increased from 11 per cent (2015/2016) to 22 per cent in intervention schools, 2nd grade completers from 14 to 27 per cent, and 3rd grade completers from 13 to 34 per cent.

Initial screening of 2,804 students from 40 schools of four districts (Achham, Bajura, Kalikot, and Mugu) revealed that 26 per cent students had some form of impairment. Grade wise prevalence ranged from 19 per cent in pre-primary, 24 per cent in Grade 1, 25 per cent in Grade 2 and 31 per cent in Grade 3. To address this issue, UNICEF with government and partners have initiated inclusive education interventions focused on children with disabilities which will continue through 2018.

The afterschool programme was expanded in 400 schools reaching a total of 51,590 students (26,892 girls /24,698 boys) from grade 5 to 9 in 10 districts. Activities included peer-led homework sessions, life-skills sessions led by young champions, life-skills camps, learning camps, strengthening of child clubs, set up of suggestion box and sports activities.
A study on menstrual hygiene management in schools was undertaken. The study revealed that only 22 per cent of girls had knowledge about menstruation before onset of menarche and girls missed about a week of school days during first menstruation. Findings are helping UNICEF refine the adolescent interventions in the next CPD.

Eighteen districts have mainstreamed school as zone of peace (SZOP) in their annual strategic implementation plan reinforcing their commitment to safeguard children’s right to education. UNICEF supported election based campaign to monitor SZOP principals. A social media campaign reached more than 2.5 million people. Nationwide, public service announcements aired from 135 radio stations, raising awareness and reinforcing messages about not disturbing schools or using children in political campaigns. Compared to the last Constitution Assembly election (2070BS), use of children decreased by 47 per cent. Local level monitoring of SZOP was strengthened in 5 Terai districts covering 175 schools, 151 (86 per cent) schools developed SOPs that included SZOP and 175 schools have developed code of conduct.

OUTPUT 6 By 2017, in selected districts and municipalities, children and adolescents at risk or victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation, children affected by conflict and by AIDS, and children with disabilities benefit from quality social welfare services which address the specific needs of boys and girls

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF supported 505 service providers with training on child protection case management to promote a professional and unified national approach to child protection services. The trainings covered the criteria for identifying children who require services.

The Central Child Welfare Board and the Central Bureau of Statistics commissioned research on children without parental care in Nepal. The research is based on the data from MICS 2014. The research analyzes the situation of children without parental care in terms of their nutrition, health, WASH, early childhood development, education and protection. The study is part of the government’s initiative to design interventions targeted at children without parental care. The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare has established a technical committee to revise the national case management guidelines. The revision seeks to align guidance with Nepal’s federal structure and align it with international child protection standards. UNICEF collaborates with other development partners to support this committee. The tools and resources developed for the management of child protection cases in the context of emergency have contributed to strengthening professional response to children.

UNICEF, working with Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, continued to prevent, identify and respond to child labour across 14 municipalities. A total of 1,114 working children (513 girls and 601 boys) were identified and case management plans were developed for 640 working children (320 girls and 320 boys).

A total of 945 working children (622 girls and 323 boys) were enrolled into the Urban Out of School Children (UOSP) classes, of which 840 (605 girls and 235 boys) completed the class. Of these, 369 graduates (195 girls and 174 boys) were mainstreamed into formal schooling, while 117 children (54 girls and 63 boys), who were school dropouts, were directly mainstreamed into formal schools. In total 486 children (249 girls and 237 boys) from UOSP are now in formal education.
Vocational training was provided to 94 children (67 girls and 27 boys) of which 71 (50 girls and 21 boys) completed the training courses. Out of these children, 18 (8 girls and 10 boys) became employed while 11 (8 girls and 3 boys) became self-employed using the training they received. A total of 132 families were supported with income generation activities, facilitating their children to return to school.

UNICEF facilitated 32 (10 female and 22 male) staff from 15 municipalities to undergo 4 days Master Training of Trainers, on child protection and child labour. Resulting in 410 (242 female and 168 male) representatives from various municipality level stakeholders receiving 3 days training of trainers (ToT). Similarly, 83 staff (46 male and 37 female) from municipalities, Women and Children Service Centers of Nepal Police and NGOs from 14 municipalities received 4 days ToT on case management.

To further support prevention of child labour in the supply chain, UNICEF partnered with GoodWeave International to support 412 weaving sites (factory and home looms) of carpet industry and 19 brick kilns industries to support the compliance with the GoodWeave standards of child labour free certification.

OUTPUT 7 By 2017, in selected districts and municipalities, children and adolescents who are victims, witnesses, offenders or who are in contact with the law for any other reason, have access to child and gender sensitive formal justice.

Analytical statement of progress
With UNICEF technical support, JJCC finalized guidelines on providing psychosocial support for psychosocial counsellors working in juvenile bench and correctional setting.

Four hundred and fifteen children in conflict with law in Juvenile Correction Homes (Bhaktapur, Morang and Kaski) benefited from legal, psychosocial and social work services In addition, advocacy with the Government on alternative to detention and diversion is ongoing. Provisions on restorative, justice and diversion have been incorporated in the new Children’s Act yet to be endorsed by the Parliament.

Twenty-five staffs (15 male and 10 female) from three correction homes were trained on gender based violence (GBV), child protection, juvenile justice, sexual reproductive health, adolescent sexuality and psychosocial support.

UNICEF supported the Women and Children Service Directorate (WCSD) of Nepal Police Headquarters for capacity building of Nepal Police on gender sensitive and child friendly services. 129 (101 male and 28 female) police personnel from WCSD and 45 districts were provided training on GBV and juvenile justice, psychosocial support and care for care givers.

Challenges: Some activities were delayed due to the current federal restructuring process including elections. However, the partner organizations completed the agreed activities within the given timeframe by deploying additional human resources.

OUTPUT 8 By 2017, Government institutional capacity strengthened for effective registration, delivery and monitoring of social protection benefits

Analytical statement of progress
117,000 children under the age of five years, in 3 districts (Achham, Bajhang and Rautahat are identified, registered and benefitted from the child grant programme. District Officials were oriented and a management information system (MIS) rolled out and digitization of information on the beneficiaries is on-going.

The proposal for expanding the child grant programme in six additional districts submitted by the Department of Civil Registration (DoCR) is approved by the Ministry of Federal Affairs and local Development and awaiting fund commitment from the Ministry of Finance.

An agreement has been reached with the DoCR to establish the child grant programme monitoring system, digitization and entry of information on the programme beneficiaries in the MIS system, real time monitoring by adopting Rapid-pro and capacity development of local government in registering, MIS and payment of social protection benefits.

The upcoming challenge is that the agreed child grant programme expansion strategy needs to be put into legislation.

**OUTPUT 9** By 2017, in selected districts and municipalities, local bodies maintain a child- and gender-friendly governance system for integrated planning, monitoring and investment in accordance with their child profile, investment plan, status report and minimum indicators on child survival, development, protection and participation.

**Analytical statement of progress**

The Local Government Act 2017 has provisions for making every political entity child-friendly. This legislates for participation in local level planning and implementation, mobilizing child clubs/network, management of parks, ending discriminatory practices and managing nutrition programmes among others. The Act also includes dedicated section on basic and secondary education, health services, water supply and sanitation and disaster management among others.

UNICEF Nepal ensured that the training content for government officials across the 753 newly created local bodies, incorporated child-friendly local governance and child right issues. Declaration of child friendly wards, promotion of the child-friendly local governance programme, has been explicitly mentioned in the Local Governance Act 2017. Capacity building packages were facilitated for more than 3000 newly elected mayors and deputy mayors.

Moreover, UNICEF Nepal successfully advocated for the inclusion of child-friendly indicators, resulting in 40 indicators of the 140 indicators relating directly to the needs of children. By December 14 local governments have achieved all the 16 steps of the child-friendly process, and fulfilled 80 per cent - 100 per cent of 39 CFLG indicators. The indicator status has been verified by the line agencies and endorsed by national level inter-ministerial technical committee before they are declared as child friendly local governments. Joint monitoring verification visits of inter-ministerial committee have been completed in nine local bodies to ensure post declaration achievements.

After the formation of elected local governments, in order to fill the gap in programme implementation for the remaining year’s planned activities at the newly structured new
government's changed geographic territory, discussions held with the Ministry of Federal Affairs and local government and a letter of agreement (LOA) framework was agreed by MoFALD to allow implementation of remaining UNICEF activities in the rolling work plan until December 2017. Thus, 70 local governments have signed the integrated LOA that included education, WASH, CFLG, disaster risk reduction and protection programmes that facilitated implementation of remaining activities and utilisation of funds by the newly elected governments.

MoFALD, through local governance community development programme, planned to establish and strengthen child-friendly learning centres in four locations in the annual strategic implementation plan. Basic standards to operate child-friendly learning centres were developed. The child-friendly learning centre of Biratnagar, fully functional since 14 September, was visited by local government representatives in order to replicate in four other proposed local government levels where they aim to develop child friendly learning centres in other provinces in Nepal.

Nine local bodies declared the allocation and utilization of more than 15 per cent of their resources in children sector, including capacity building of child clubs, material support for early child development centres, CFLG committee meeting and orientation programme. In Jumla, Mugu, Saptari, capacity built of 1,227 elected representatives, Citizen Awareness Centres, citizen forum members on CFLG declaration, health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation. More than 120 participants from 3 provinces (1, 3 and 4) capacitated on child rights, CFLG and CCDRR, organized by Local Development Training Academy.

**OUTPUT 10** By 2017, selected hazard prone districts and municipalities have strengthened capacity and systems for disaster preparedness and emergency response in line with National Guidelines for Disaster Preparedness and Response Planning and UNICEF core commitments for children in Humanitarian Action

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF Nepal, as either co-lead or cluster member for emergency response in each area, has been supporting the Government to restructure its operating procedures in anticipation of the new federal structure. It also supported pre-positioning and supply management. As such, when 32 of Nepal’s 75 districts where hit by flooding, UNICEF was well positioned to support the Government’s response.

UNICEF reached 400,000 flood affected people with different interventions (nutrition: 2,800 children; health: 41,081 children; WASH: 180,000 people; child protection: 2,186 children and care givers; education: 2,349 children and communication for development: 400,000 people).

**WASH**: UNICEF strengthened local capacity of 24 technical officers from four districts on WASH disaster risk management/climate change adaptation and water safety plans. 40 water users committee members were orientated on climate risk assessment and an improved government. A WASH warehouse was established in four districts. UNICEF as co-lead, supported the Government’s food response through cluster coordination and direct live saving support to more than 180,000 people in 15 worst affected district. UNICEF provided critical training on hygiene promotion, chlorination, cleaning of WASH facilities to 390 WASH volunteers.
**Education:** UNICEF Nepal, as co-lead, supported the government and coordinated flood response at the national level and 14 district education offices for immediate education response including provision of 132 ECD kits, 650 school kits, 3,319 individual kits for primary students and 2,523 adolescent kits enabling 29,300 children to return to education across 12 districts. UNICEF coordinated a joint response plan now funded by Education Cannot Wait to provide US$ 1.8 Million, benefiting 90,865 children in 12 districts.

**Health:** UNICEF responded immediately in flood-affected districts focusing on women, newborns, children and adolescents, providing zinc, ORS, medicated mosquito nets, newborn incentive kits, tents, reactivating and intensifying immunization services and mobilizing human resources.

**Child protection:** UNICEF, as a co-lead, supported to update the monsoon preparedness plan including the pre-positioning supplies. Government endorsed SOPs on unaccompanied and separated children, and child-friendly spaces. Flood affected districts responded effectively as per the district contingency plans; 44 child friendly spaces (CFS) were established in 10 districts reaching 3,117 children and 5,235 individuals provided with psychosocial support services. 128 awareness raising events conducted in 4 districts reaching 16,719 people. Airing of child protection messages to 156 F.M. stations covering 22 districts in 4 languages. Emergency cash and in-kind support provided to the affected children in accordance with guidelines. Surveillance increased at the border areas to prevent trafficking of women and children.

**Nutrition:** Nutrition in emergency preparedness and response plan were updated in 36 districts (flood and drought prone). The Ministry of Health trained 75 staff on nutrition in emergency preparedness and response with support from UNICEF. Ministry of Health procured 4,600 cartoons Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), 500 cartoons MNPs, 200 cartons F100 and 200m Cartoons F75 from the government budget in running fiscal year for prepositioning as a result of advocacy.

**Challenges:** The transition to federalism created some confusion among stakeholders around implementation and channelling budget at the local level.

**OUTPUT 11 Emergency Flood Response (2017)**

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF Nepal, as co-lead, provided technical assistance to activate cluster at the district level in eight districts and ensured effective coordination for timely and effective response.

WASH: UNICEF as co-lead supported the Government’s flood response through cluster coordination and direct life-saving support to more than 180,000 people in 15 worst affected district. UNICEF provided critical training on hygiene promotion, chlorination, cleaning of WASH facilities to 390 WASH volunteers.

Education: UNICEF as co-lead supported the government and coordinated flood response at the national level and 14 district education offices for immediate education response including provision of 132 ECD kits, 650 school kits, 3,319 individual kits and 2,523 adolescent kits enabling 29,300 children to return to education across 12 districts. UNICEF coordinated a joint proposal now funded by Education Cannot Wait to provide US$1.8 Million, benefiting 90,865 children in 12 districts.
Health: UNICEF responded immediately in flood affected districts focusing on women, newborns, children and adolescents, providing zinc, ORS, medicated mosquito nets, newborn incentive kits, tents, reactivating and intensifying immunization services and mobilizing human resources.

Nutrition: Nutrition cluster members conducted a nutritional assessment of 10,257 children aged 6 to 59 months. Among them, 620 (6 per cent) were identified with SAM and 1,751 (17.1 per cent) were identified with MAM. Distribution of 200 metric ton of fortified super flour to 35,800 children aged 6 to 23 months and 30,900 pregnant and lactating women in 13 flood-affected districts has been completed by sister UN agency. Treatment of children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM in flood-affected districts has been ongoing through existing outpatient therapeutic centres and nutrition rehabilitation homes. Currently, around 4,064 children with severe acute malnutrition are receiving therapeutic treatment and care from outpatient therapeutic centres and inpatient treatment centres.

Child protection: A total of 2,136 individuals (602 children, 1,584 women and men) were provided with psychosocial support services. 24 child-friendly spaces are in operation in seven affected districts benefiting 1,820 children.

Communication for development: Messages on safety during floods and landslides were aired through 162 radio stations across 22 affected districts in Nepali as well as local languages of the affected areas. Feedback from communities is being collected by members of the community engagement working group. The primary concerns and needs include lack of food and shelter, inadequate relief distribution, loss of agriculture and livestock, and the safety of children. Messages to improve breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices have been continuously broadcast by 58 local FM stations in 18 flood-affected districts covering 1 million population. Public service announcements on prevention of trafficking, psychosocial support, gender-based violence and child protection are being aired through 156 FM stations in 22 affected districts in four local languages.

Challenges
Programme implementation was delayed due to absence of local representatives in Province 2 including local level election, federal and provincial elections including code of conduct imposed by the Election Commission. Loss of civil documentation (birth registration, citizenship documents, land certificates, etc.) poses an obstacle, to access relief and recovery support and compensation.

OUTCOME 3
By 2017, in selected areas, children, adolescents, women and men, and all relevant duty-bearers are engaged in social change and action to realize the survival, development, protection and participation rights of children, adolescents and women with equity in all contexts, including humanitarian situations

Analytical statement of progress
With support from UNICEF Nepal, the Government declared seven districts as fully immunized, taking the total to 29. UNICEF contributed towards this through continued advocacy with the government to keep immunization high on the agenda as well as through social mobilisation support at the district level. 51 per cent of women who were pregnant were tested for HIV. This was achieved through a range of initiatives supported by UNICEF.

As a result of strong advocacy efforts by UNICEF, the Ministry of Health committed to revitalize
the maternal and baby-friendly hospitals Initiative, enforce the implementation of the Breastmilk Substitutes (BMS) Act and as well as revise the maternity leave provision and extend it to 6 months.

As part of the Golden 1000 days campaign, 65,134 people (12,359 male and 52,775 female) from various community groups were reached out to with key nutrition specific and sensitive messages by means of direct outreach. Around 560 minutes of television and 38,369 minutes of radio public service announcements were aired from 8 television and 266 radio stations across Nepal, estimated to have reached around 50 per cent of the total population of the country.

With the support of UNICEF, 6462 children (6028 girls and 434 boys) accessed non formal education (NFE) through 295 centres. Out of these, 240 centres were under the Girls Access to Education (GATE) programme and 55 centres were under the Urban Out of School Programme (UOSP). Out of the children enrolled, 85 percent (5,346 girls and 199 boys) completed the full cycle of non-formal classes and 92 per cent were mainstreamed into formal schools.

The Government endorsed the revised GATE curriculum with equivalency of Grade 3 and rolled it out through 500 classes reaching 10,000 girls in five districts: Saptari, Rautahat, Dhanusha, Mahottari and Parsa. The curriculum improved learning outcomes aligning with the formal systems, so that the children who joined from the non-formal system have better learning outcomes, resulting in reduced drop outs.

12,993 adolescents (67 per cent girls, 33 per cent boys and 0.22 per cent third gender) were equipped with social, civic and financial knowledge and skills through a training called Rupantaran (transformation in English) to influence decisions that affect them and to become change agents in their communities.

UNICEF will continue to support the government in including the life-skills modules from Rupantaran, within the formal and non-formal curricula under the new CPD. Another intervention for adolescents called SangSangai, equipped, 21,466 adolescents (54 per cent females, 46 per cent males) with knowledge and skills on topics related to adolescent sexual and reproductive health and financial literacy.

Since parents are primary influencers and decision makers in relation to an adolescents’ life and well-being, 5,011 parents (57 per cent females, 43 per cent males) were equipped with knowledge and skills to address adolescents’ specific needs and issues.

UNICEF Nepal partnered with the National Inter-faith Religious Network Nepal to mobilize religious leaders in spreading awareness about the consequences of harmful social norms such as child marriage, dowry and Chhaupadi. (restrictions during menstruation), 204,855 parents and community stakeholders (estimated 36 per cent females, 64 per cent males) were provided information on harmful social norms during local events conducted by religious leaders who were capacitated under the programme.

UNICEF continued to work with the district women and childrens offices (WCO) to establish and develop the capacity of community-based groups, namely gender-based violence watch groups (GBV WGs) to prevent violence against women and children and facilitate safe referrals.

In 2017, in 300 former VDCs in 35 targeted districts (46 per cent of the country’s districts), 1,153 gender-based violence watch groups were established, organizing 6,115 new members under the integrated women development programme. Communities in 35 districts continued to
benefit from awareness raising activities on gender-based violence organized by women’s cooperatives and gender-based violence watch groups. In 2017, 908 community-level awareness raising activities were conducted by these watch groups. According to GBV IMS updates, 2,509 protection related cases were documented by women’s groups (including GBV WGs) in 35 districts in 2017.

All of the 15 UNICEF focus districts, 7 Municipalities and 800 VDCs have established child club networks. The Status Report on Children prepared by the Central Child Welfare Board, Government of Nepal in 2016, highlighted the existence of 22,628 child clubs (with 200,649 girls and 231,710 boys as members), across 75 districts of Nepal, reflecting UNICEF’s efforts in scaling up child clubs. Further the same report reflected the presence of 1,065 child club networks in 71 districts out of the 75 districts of Nepal. UNICEF provided technical support to form 1,238 child clubs in its 15 focus districts during 2017.

OUTPUT 1 By 2017, in selected districts and municipalities, families, especially the most vulnerable, practice promotive and preventive health behaviours including reduced harmful social practices that affect girls and boys with active involvement of male, family and community members

Analytical statement of progress
Social mobilization initiatives were carried out in 16 flood affected districts and regular programme districts in the form of spots on radio stations, mothers’ group meetings, FCHV orientation and micro-planning at the community level. These initiatives contributed towards helping declare 7 districts as fully immunized, taking the total of fully immunized districts to 29. This also facilitated in reaching 94.3 per cent measles and rubella coverage in the country.

Mothers’ group meetings, mobilization of community watch groups and counseling of women who were pregnant on personal hygiene, regular intake of iron folic acid tablets, institutional delivery and delayed bathing of newborns helped increase institutional delivery and delayed bathing of newborns to 70 per cent (NDHS 2016).

FCHVs were mobilized to refer women who were pregnant to health facilities for HIV testing. Community level awareness generation contributed towards increased awareness on HIV testing and decreased social stigma and discrimination. There is an increasing trend in relation to HIV testing among pregnant women. In 2017, 51 per cent of women who were pregnant were tested for HIV.

National and district level advocacy on safe motherhood day and pneumonia day were carried out to generate awareness among families and communities on antenatal, natal and postnatal care and prevention and care for acute respiratory infections.

OUTPUT 2 By 2017, in selected districts and municipalities, families, especially the most vulnerable, practice essential maternal, adolescent, newborn, infant and young child feeding and early stimulation, hygiene and sanitation, with active involvement of male, family and community members

Analytical statement of progress
As a result of strong advocacy efforts by UNICEF Nepal, the Ministry of Health committed to revitalize the maternal and baby-friendly hospitals Initiative, enforce the implementation of the Breastmilk Substitutes (BMS) Act and as well as revise the maternity leave provision and extend it to 6 months.

UNICEF advocacy initiatives included interactions with media professionals and lawmakers on their role in promoting breastfeeding and a Facebook live session on experiences of UNICEF staff in relation to breastfeeding of their children. The session got more than 22,000 views and many shares, comments and likes.

The advocacy efforts had an effect on the private and public sectors. Standard Chartered Bank Nepal decided to grant a 20-week fully paid maternity leave (against the 90 days earlier) for female employees and two weeks of paternity leave (against one week earlier). Further, the Chief District Officer of Rasuwa district established a breastfeeding corner inside the District Administration Office for female clients and staff.

As part of the Golden 1000 days campaign, 65,134 people (12,359 male and 52,775 female) from various community groups were reached out to with key nutrition specific and sensitive messages by means of direct outreach. 2,496 village level communicators across 75 former village development committees were mobilized to reach out these people through group meetings and household visits. A robust behavior monitoring system was established to monitor the behavior of 1,235 pregnant women from 75 former village development committees. Around 560 minutes of television and 38,369 minutes of radio public service announcements were aired from 8 television and 266 radio stations across Nepal, estimated to have reached around 50% of the population of the country.

OUTPUT 3 By 2017, in selected districts and municipalities, parents' and stakeholders' support quality alternative learning opportunities for out-of-school girls and boys, and improve education attendance and retention of girls and boys, from early childhood to adolescence

Analytical statement of progress
The Global Study on Out-of-School Children, which also included Nepal, was a key instrument in advocating for prioritizing the reduction of the numbers of children not attending school. Government commitment and resulting targeted interventions in line with the enforcement of free and compulsory education brought a focus on the most marginalized and disadvantaged children, helping bring more of them back to school.

With the support of UNICEF, 6462 children (6028 girls and 434 boys) accessed non-formal education through 295 centres. Out of these, 240 centres were under the Girls Access to Education (GATE) programme and 55 centres were under the Urban Out of School Programme (UOSP). Out of the children enrolled, 85 per cent (5346 girls and 199 boys) completed the full cycle of non-formal classes and 92 per cent were mainstreamed into formal education.

Efforts were undertaken to work closely with the formal education system, communities and parents to support the retention of children, especially girls, through homework clubs and community based volunteers called young champions.

The government endorsed the revised GATE curriculum with equivalency of Grade 3 and rolled it out across 500 classes reaching 10,000 girls in five districts: Saptari, Rautahat, Dhanusha, Mahottari and Parsa. The curriculum improved learning outcomes aligning with the formal
systems, so that the children who joined from the non-formal system have better learning outcomes resulting in reduced drop outs.

The non formal equivalency work is in progress. Five learning domains having competencies up to grade 3 have been reviewed and revised after pre-testing. Consultations for finalisation are ongoing, but the process has been a bit delayed due to the transition of the country into a federal structure.

**OUTPUT 4** By 2017, in selected districts and municipalities, adolescent girls and boys are applying age, sex, and issue appropriate life skills to influence decisions that affect their development.

**Analytical statement of progress**

As a part of the adolescent development and participation programme, adolescents from disadvantaged districts and those at risk of HIV were equipped with social, civic and financial knowledge and skills through a training called *Rupantaran* (meaning transformation in English) to influence decisions that affect them and to become change agents in their communities. For the period October 2016 to September 2017, 12,993 adolescents (67 per cent girls, 33 per cent boys and 0.22 per cent third gender) joined the training program which is being implemented by government partners and non-governmental organizations working in the field of adolescent development. Out of them, 3,299 adolescents are graduates from the Girls Access to Education (GATE) programme being implemented by the education section in collaboration with district education offices to build the literacy and numeracy skills of out-of-school adolescent girls. The *Rupantaran* training started from 2014 and has reached 34,254 adolescents cumulatively.

Components of the *Rupantaran* training package are being used by the UNICEF education and child protection sections in their ongoing programmes. It has also been adapted to strengthen the focus on emergency preparedness and resilience and has been rolled out among adolescents in earthquake affected districts.

The adolescent development and participation programme focuses on building the capacity of the government and civil society organizations to enable them to integrate this intervention in their ongoing work. During October 2016 to September 2017, 576 facilitators and peer educators (60 per cent females, 40 per cent males) were capacitated through training-of-trainers for delivering *Rupantaran* sessions and 533 facilitators and peer educators (55 per cent females, 44 per cent males, 1 per cent third gender) were provided refresher training.

The web-based monitoring and reporting system for analyzing the changes in knowledge, attitudes and behavior of adolescents participating in *Rupantaran* training sessions was launched and data entry is ongoing after which the analysis will be available.

Another intervention for adolescents called *SangSangai* is a participatory knowledge-building training. During the period October 2016 to September 2017, 21,466 adolescents (54 per cent females, 46 per cent males) were equipped with knowledge and skills on topics related to adolescent sexual and reproductive health and financial literacy. This intervention has reached 89,554 adolescents cumulatively since 2014.

UNICEF supports the long running radio program for adolescents called *Saathi Sanga Mann Ka Kura* (Chatting with my best friend) which is aired weekly through national and local FM stations. During the reporting period, the radio episodes covered a wide range of issues related to
adolescence such as vocational training, sexual and reproductive health, child labor, gender based violence, local level election, youth’s role in anti-corruption, substance abuse etc. All the episodes were produced based on feedback from adolescents, providing them a platform to express their views on various issues relevant to them. Adolescent listeners’ stories, poems and songs were incorporated into radio episodes, strengthening its position as an adolescent centered radio program.

**OUTPUT 5** By 2017, children, families, communities and society acquire knowledge, attitudes and take action to protect all and adolescents, especially girls, at risk or victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation, in selected districts and municipalities

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF Nepal continued to work with the district women and children's offices to establish and develop the capacity of community based groups, namely gender-based violence watch groups (GBV WGs) to prevent violence against women and children and facilitate safe referrals. In 2017, in 300 former VDCs across 35 targeted districts (46 per cent of the country’s districts), 1,153 GBV WGs were established, organizing 6,115 new members under the integrated women development programme. Communities in 35 districts continued to benefit from awareness raising activities on GBV organized by women’s cooperatives and GBV WGs. In 2017, 908 community-level awareness raising activities were conducted by the GBV WGs. According to GBV IMS updates, 2,509 protection related cases were documented by women’s groups (including GBV WGs) in 35 districts this year.

In order to engage men and boys in violence prevention programmes, UNICEF Nepal and its partners supported the district women’s committees to draft a strategy to engage men and boys to address gender-based violence, after several consultative meetings which involved a wide group of stakeholders at the field and national level.

Under the project, Zero tolerance: Gender-based violence free schools in Nepal, UNICEF supported the Department of Education's initiative on the revision of the suggestion box guidelines to incorporate reporting and referral component of child protection cases.

Capacity building on gender-based violence prevention and referral mechanisms also continued in 2017. About 59,000 students from 200 schools participated in life skill education based on social and financial skill package called "Rupantaran"; 2,800 junior champions (child club members) were trained on gender-based violence prevention, leadership and advocacy. 353 young champions who are community youth volunteers (240 females and 113 males) went through refresher training on gender-based violence, child protection and advocacy.

1,033 teachers, school management committee and parent teacher association members (417 female and 616 males) have been oriented on gender-based violence, its root causes, its impact on children and the roles of schools in addressing it. In addition, 774 teachers (255 female and 519 males) have been trained on child protection, school based violence, gender-based violence prevention, response and referral mechanism including the suggestion box, its management, the existing referral mechanism and confidential principles in reporting GBV cases.

615 stakeholders (309 female and 306 male) including teachers, VDC secretaries, GBV watch group members, local police, social mobilizers, representatives of political parties and health posts and parents participated in community dialogues between school and community actors.
Approximately 70,000 community members and students have been reached with awareness raising activities held in school and communities including rallies, street dramas, and various competitions.

To enhance the capacity of partner organizations involved in the project, UNICEF also conducted a five-day training for 25 staff from Restless Development and their local partners on child protection, GBV and case identification and referral mechanisms. 34 social workers (11 females and 23 males) have been also trained on case management focusing on GBV in school settings.

OUTPUT 6 By 2017, in selected districts and municipalities, public opinion, media, community networks, employers, government institutions, religious organizations, local political leaders and families address harmful social norms and practices affecting the rights of children, adolescents, especially girls, and women

**Analytical statement of progress**

Since parents are primary influencers and decision makers in relation to an adolescent’s life and well-being, the adolescent development and participation programme targets them as duty bearers so that they can provide a protective and enabling environment for adolescents. During the period October 2016 to September 2017, 5,011 parents (57 per cent females, 43 per cent males) were equipped with knowledge and skills to address adolescents’ specific needs and issues through an orientation called *Rupantaran* (meaning transformation in English). 19,217 parents have been reached cumulatively through the *Rupantaran* adult package. A web-based monitoring and reporting system has been developed for analysing the changes in knowledge, attitude and behavior of parents undergoing the *Rupantaran* orientation. The web-based system was launched and data entry is ongoing after which the analysis will be available.

Forum theatre is another component of the programme targeting community members. 120 adolescents and youth (50 per cent females, 50 per cent males) were trained on conducting forum theatre in their communities. 390 performances were conducted by these trained performers, which was able to reach approximately 32,862 adults and children with messages on harmful social norms such as child marriage, dowry and *Chhaupadi* (restrictions during menstruation) affecting adolescents.

UNICEF partnered with the National Inter-faith Religious Network Nepal to mobilize religious leaders in spreading awareness about the consequences of harmful social norms such as child marriage, dowry and *Chhaupadi*. During October 2016 to September 2017, 204,855 parents and community stakeholders (estimated 36 per cent females, 64 per cent males) were provided information on harmful social norms during local events conducted by religious leaders who were capacitated under the program.

Local journalists also have a role in influencing the perceptions towards harmful social norms and practices that may hamper holistic adolescent development. A total of 184 media persons (8 per cent females, 92 per cent males) from implementation districts were oriented on holistic adolescent development, their issues, consequences of harmful social norms and the role of the media.

OUTPUT 7 By 2017, in selected districts and municipalities, children, adolescent girls and boys, women and other disadvantaged groups meaningfully participate in decision-making bodies
Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF Nepal had discussions with the government and consultations with children for their opinion on the draft LGA before it was approved by the Parliament. A guideline on child-friendly park construction was developed and piloted upon request from the government. As specified in LGA each local government will now have one children’s park. This guideline aims at making parks child friendly, inclusive and help ensure children’s rights (including those with disabilities) to play.

Child friendly manuals for Bal Bhela (annual consultation with children), child rights and gender and social inclusion were revised for use by children and child club graduates in the context of the changed federal structure of the country.

All of the 15 UNICEF focus districts, 7 Municipalities and 800 VDCs have established child club networks. The Status Report on Children prepared by the Central Child Welfare Board, Government of Nepal in 2016, highlighted the existence of 22,628 child clubs (with 200,649 girls and 231,710 boys as members) across 75 districts of Nepal reflecting UNICEF’s efforts in scaling up child clubs. Furthermore, the same report reflected the presence of 1,065 child club networks in 71 districts out of the 75 districts of Nepal. Out of the above, UNICEF provided technical support to form 1,238 child clubs in its 15 focus districts during 2017.

Capacities of 1000 child club members across 294 child club networks were built on child rights issues.

68,500 children participated in bal bhelas (47 per cent girls) organized for planning of municipality assemblies by local governments across 15 UNICEF focus districts. Children’s issues from these Bal bhelas were compiled. Among the issues raised by the children, the village and municipal councils accepted 87 per cent of them. The major issues included child marriage, poor sanitation, discrimination at home and schools, child labour and violence.

Seven provincial and 3 national level trainings were carried out to mobilise 280 child club graduates to support the local government to a) form child clubs/networks, b) facilitate engagement of children in local planning processes and organize bal bhelas c) advocate for the resource allocation for children from the local budget.

Graduates from 41 child clubs across 14 districts received skills on creative thinking, facilitation and negotiation skills. 42 child club members were sensitized on gender and social inclusion to integrate these approaches in the functioning of their child clubs. The gender equality and social inclusion and child rights training was the first of its kind in Nepal with specially designed content and curricula. UNICEF also provided technical support to the District Child Welfare Board in the districts of Parsa, Rautahat, Mahottari, Dhanusha, Baitadi and Saptari for the capacity building of 150 child clubs comprising 550 children of which 55 per cent were girls.

OUTCOME 4 Special Purpose

Analytical statement of progress
The building construction project is ongoing. All preparatory work like business case, impact study and greening strategy has been completed. The building design was developed by local contractor with the quality assurance by a consultant from UNICEF New York, administration management. It is two and half story building shared between both agencies with the total
estimated budget of US$ 1.6 million and a total building area is 1,924.14 sq.m. UNICEF and UNFPA will have area of 558sq.m and 672 sq.m respectively.

Office has installed hybrid solar power system in Manbhawan, Nepalgunj and Biratnagar zone offices and working with United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) for a similar solution for UN house. It will be around 200 kilo watt(KW) and providing electricity for all offices within UN house.

Office has a functioning greening team which is chaired by Chief of the Operations (CoO). As per the recommendation of the committee, office has secured US$ 60,000 from Greening and Accessibility Funds (GrAF). UNICEF convinced United Nation House Board (UNHB) for the installation of elevator in UN house and contributed US$ 30,000 for the project. The remaining funds was used for hybrid solar power system in Bharatpur zone office which will be consumed by the end of December 2017. The team is working with the vendor for the assessment of air quality in UNICEF offices and will be implementing air purifies for improving air quality in the workplace. In order to reduce carbon footprint in Nepal, the office has deployed 10 electric vehicles with 50 per cent utilization in country and zone offices.

**OUTPUT 1 Premises and Security**

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF Nepal is in the process of building the operations wing at the UN House compound premises through a common project with UNFPA and International Labour Organization (ILO). A two and half -storey building to accommodate an estimated 150 staff. At this stage, UNICEF and UNFPA have signed the letter of intent. As of 5th December 2017, 0.63 per cent of IB budget has been utilized against the allocation of US$ 886,673.30. So far, the PO for Impact Study has been issued. The balance amount will be rolled over to the 2018 budget with a special request to HQ.

The business case and impact study were conducted for the building of the operations wing. A greening strategy has been developed for the office. The total building areas will be 1923.14 sp.m with the estimated required budget of USD 1.6 million which will be shared between both the participating agencies.

The consulting firm providing architectural and engineering design services, site supervision and quality assurance services was previously engaged by several UN agencies including UNICEF for similar assignments. Floor plans and preliminary design reports were submitted to UNICEF. Hiring of 1 construction officer is on-going. Expression of Interest invited from registered construction companies with proven capacity to undertake high value construction project advertised. Five of the 10 construction companies that expressed their interest to work on this construction project have been pre-qualified for the tendering exercise based on a due diligence visit conducted by the Field Support Engineer, Field Services Unit, UNICEF AMS/DFAM, NYHQ and Supply Section Nepal Country Office. ITB floated to the 5 pre-qualified companies

Review of bid ongoing and expected to be concluded by 11 December, Contract Review Committee planned for 15 December 2017. PO will be issued by end of December. The construction will take 12 months, and the building is expected to be available for occupancy from January 2019.
OUTCOME 5 Office Management Costs

Analytical statement of progress
All SOPs were reviewed as planned and training orientations were conducted on DCT and invoice processing. The statutory committees were updated in March 2016 including country management team (CMT), compliance review board (CRB), programme review committee (PRC), joint consultative committee (JCC), job classification panel (JCP), property survey board (PSB), and human resource development team (HRDT). All audit recommendations were addressed and closed, and the office risk profile has been updated. The Representative exercised overall financial accountability and efficient management of the institutional budget, thus ensuring 99 per cent of the utilization for the intended purpose. The table of authority was reviewed and updated in October 2017. As indicated above the SOPs were revised due to the phase out of Push and Track and the implementation of ezHACT. Similarly, the TOA as well the lists of statutory committees were adjusted with the departure and arrival of new staff. The CO has followed up for the closing of the remaining audit observation regarding the office premise and the issue lies with OIAI.

OUTPUT 1 Office Management Costs

Analytical statement of progress
The Business Support Center (BSC) was established two years ago in the Nepal Country Office and has proven to be key to the smooth transitioning of finance transactions to the Global Shared Service. The BSC unit performed effectively and efficiently using ‘my case’, (online tool for communication of requests and associated documents between BSC and Global Shared Service) to submit requests. At the same time, this unit provided training to relevant staff, allowing the country office to smoothly handle transactions, which contributed to avoid delays. The Office has maintained the BSC unit despite the phase out of Push and Track, and within the new country programme, the BSC will be merged within the finance unit for more efficiency, coherence and best support.

UNICEF Nepal is an active member of the UN Operations Management Team (OMT), and as such the chief of operations or a staff member of the operations unit always attended OMT meetings. This helped reinforce the harmonization of procedures and practices as well as enabled cost savings in some operational areas.

OUTPUT 2 Office Management Costs

Analytical statement of progress
The monthly country management team meetings were conducted and programme implementation rate, PBA expiry, donor reporting, DCT Status and HACT implementation were monitored. As of 5th December 2017, 99 per cent of IB budget has been utilized against the allocation of US$ 668,132.04. The utilization covers operating costs such as rental/maintenance of premises, furniture, equipment, procurement of IT and communication equipment/services, MORSS expenses, contribution of common services, travel of operation staff, etc.

Programme and operations indicators were reported at the monthly CMT meetings, and when necessary, actions taken to ensure that indicators met the Office performance indicators.
Office Management Costs

Analytical statement of progress
The vacancy rate as of December 2017, is 4.4 per cent. During the year 2017, NCO went through CPMP process to meet staffing requirements for new country programme 2018-2022, as a result 52 posts were abolished and 27 staff were impacted. In order to support impacted staff, the office management in collaboration with the staff association developed comprehensive mitigation strategy which is current under implementation.

Considering staffing requirements for the new country programme, the office focused on building capacities of existing staff through learning and development activities. As of 20 November 2017, 10 out of 11 group training were implemented, and 14 staff including staff on abolished posts were permitted to go for stretch assignments and missions opportunities within and outside the country.

The Nepal Country Office has 194 staff members located in its main office in Kathmandu and its three zonal offices. During the year, 17 posts were filled using UNICEF recruitment tools to ensure the right personnel are recruited at all levels with sound skills and competencies to implement programmes.

The office has continued to monitor PER completion, as of 30 November 2017, 100% of 2016 performance appraisals had been completed in ACHIEVE. To ensure quality in performance management, NCO management in consultation with DHR organized performance management training for all Nepal Country Office staff.

Moreover, staff participated in 2017 Global Staff Survey, following results review by staff at all levels the office developed a plan of action focusing on six areas of improvement, such as personal empowerment, work/life balance, career and professional development, office efficiency and effectiveness, diversity, and standards of conduct.

Lastly, the office continued to work in order to improve office working environment and well-being of staff by organizing workshops and webinars on respectful workplace/UN values, individual stress counselling sessions, ensured participation in UN Cares Committee meetings and encouraging flexible work arrangements amongst staff.

Monitoring of HACT Results

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF Nepal prepared a HACT Assessment and Assurance Plan for 2017 and periodically reviewed the status in monthly CMT meetings and quarterly through ROSA KPI report. During the year, 9 (90 per cent) out of a planned 10 micro-assessments were completed. Similarly, 406 (87 per cent) programmatic visits out of planned 469, 126 (92 per cent) spot checks out of planned 137 and 38 (76 per cent) scheduled audits out of planned 50 were carried out as of 30 November 2017. The Office collaborated with the Office of the Auditor General's Office of Nepal (OAG/N) to complete the schedule audit of government offices - 19 district development committees (DDCs) for emergency top up cash grant transfer and other sectoral program at the central level offices (Department of Health Services, Department of Water Supply and Sewerage, Department of Women and Children and Department of Education). UNICEF has also capacitated 36 implementing partners in financial management especially on issues related
to HACT and Funds Authorization and Certification of Expenditures (FACE), civil society organization (CSO) procedures and accrual accounting system.

OUTCOME 6 By Dec 2017, early recovery and reconstruction efforts will enhance the national and local capacities to a quicker transition in achieving more sustainable outcomes for children and women in the 14 highly affected Earthquake districts with a focus on building resilience, strengthening systems, capacity building and increasing local and national ownership.

Analytical statement of progress
In 2017, UNICEF expedited the implementation of early recovery and reconstruction plans in the 14 severely affected districts. As planned, the implementation of sectoral programmes across health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, child protection, and social protection was mostly completed by the end of December 2017.

The overall results achieved by the end of the reporting period include:

- 650 transitional learning centers (TLCs) were completed in 337 schools in 10 districts including a holistic recovery package with supplies, training etc. benefitting 57,731 children (male: 27,723, female: 30,008, and 282 identified as children with disabilities).
- 148 water supply schemes were reconstructed serving 38,776 people. Similarly, 13,979 people benefited from sustained sanitation (2,736 HH toilets) facilities.
- Twenty-two prefab health facilities were handed over to local government, and 50 prefab construction are progressing in ten districts.
- 2,278 children received comprehensive case management services provided by 83 social workers across 14 districts.
- 573,703 children under five and women who were pregnant or lactating received essential nutrition services including infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling, therapeutic feeding for management of SAM and MAM.
- 317,000 children under five received earthquake recovery cash support in 11 severely affected districts.
- Community-based communication and social mobilization interventions to promote disaster risk reduction and issues like safe migration and child participation reached over 32,000 adolescents and youth helping them become resilient to future disasters.
- UNICEF continued to highlight attention to the impact of its response in the earthquake-affected districts through the production of varied multimedia materials as well as hosting high-profile donor visits.

The implementation of recovery and reconstruction plan generally concluded smoothly despite some challenges faced since the beginning of 2017. The Government of Nepal concluded the election to the local level in three phases: on May in Provinces 3, 4 and 6, on June in Provinces 1, 5 and 7 and in September in Province 2). The Provincial and Federal elections took place in November and December 2017.

Despite the national level consensus on the exemption of Election Code of Conduct for recovery and reconstruction activities, the district authorities decided to stop district/community level activities of UNICEF implementing partners citing the Election Code of Conduct. Also, government staff of the district line agencies were occupied by election related priorities, hence, collaborative activities including joint monitoring visits had to be rescheduled.
The uncertainties continued as the country started transitioning to the federal structure. Greater clarity in terms of roles, responsibilities, and authority of the local level elected representative vis-à-vis district level line departments is needed. Roles and responsibilities of the district level mechanism such as District Development Committees including the district line departments changed as per the new Constitution. This transition delayed fund-flow, programme planning and implementation.

Similarly, the unavailability of suitable land for building pre-fabricated health posts and transitional learning classrooms continued to be a challenge. In addition, limited availability of construction materials and high turnover of the labour force impacted the key component of recovery and reconstruction work in the affected districts.

Delays in internal processes for contracting slowed down the programme implementation in various programme sections such as health, education and WASH. Also, most temporary assistant staff hired for recovery and reconstruction work completed their assignment between September and October 2017, which impacted the smooth completion of the planned activities.

As a mitigation measure, UNICEF discussed with District Election Commission and the line department and obtained permission from the Commission to continue the planned activities in selected earthquake-affected districts. UNICEF informed the UNRC about the Code of Conduct issue hampering programme implementation. The UNRC agreed to discuss this with the Election Commission. The response is pending at the time of this report. As such, in areas where the district election commission allows work to continue, implementation is ongoing but where they have requested a halt to the work, delays in implementation will occur.

UNICEF continued to highlight the importance of key programme activities such as construction of health posts and transitional learning centres, timely immunization sessions to the local government officials and continued providing the technical support as required.

To address the human resource gap after staff members completed their contract in September-October, additional roles and responsibilities were given to the remaining staff in each emergency sites as well as at Nepal Country Officer (NCO) to provide necessary support.

Recruitment for one logistics officer to provide oversight for all programmes in all sites was completed and the individual joined the office in November. Recruitment for WASH officers who will work during 2018 for the residual work is in the final stages and for education officers, recruitment is ongoing. All these staff will report to the concerned sections in Nepal Country Office and will be based in Kathmandu.

**OUTPUT 1** School-aged children of 14 earthquake-affected districts are supported to access quality education during the early recovery period, and children and their communities are provided with resources to strengthen DRR, resilience, and school safety.

**Analytical statement of progress**
At the end of the reporting period UNICEF Nepal had successfully completed 650 teaching learning centers (TLC) out of 900 from the total targeted construction in 836 schools with provision of safe environment with WASH facilities, teaching and learning materials for children, and resilience training for teachers, school management committees, and parents teacher.
association in nine districts. This project benefitted 137,769 (male: 66,435, female: 71,334; and 339 identified as children with disabilities). This modality will be expanded in two more earthquakes affected districts (Bhaktapur, and Dolakha) as part of the second phase of construction.

50 out of the remaining 250 TLCs school have been identified and 23 TLCs are under construction. Most of the lessons learned from the previous TLCs have been incorporated in the designs of the TLCs and WASH facilities. These upgrades have been added in the TLC construction contracts for the three contractors, and UNICEF has also contracted a quality assurance company for high level quality assurance and construction monitoring. Additionally, 8 engineers are engaged in supervision and construction monitoring of the 250 TLCs, 3 education officer will be hired by the January 2018 for integration and monitoring of education activities, and 2 consultants (an information management consultant and a communication consultant) will be hired by the January 2018 for proper coordination and communication for the second phase of the recovery project.

Due to the late start of the second phase of the construction, UNICEF has partially achieved construction of TLCs, children beneficiaries by the end year target. Some of the challenges were internal- more than eight months time taken to formalize the construction contracts process initiated at the end of November 2016 and some were external- multiple rounds of initial and physical school site selection including finding new districts as 50 TLCs from Dhading district initially planned were not agreed upon by the District Level Project Planning Unit. All these have led to a delay in the initiation of this second phase construction.

UNICEF’s support in the technical working group for comprehensive school safety (CSS) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) has resulted in the first draft of the CSS master plan and this will help ensure the Ministry of Education (MOE) to achieve the Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs). In addition, the Ministry of Education Central Level Project Implementation Unit has now been able to disseminate data on school reconstruction activities, helping to strengthen coordination among the various actors. This tool will help further strengthen the understanding of needs and gaps in the reconstruction and recovery process. UNICEF continues to support and advocate on the strong coordination, and to help support more actors report to the CLIPU reconstruction tool to show the accurate intervention done, and to advocate on unmet needs for children as per the commitment in the Post Disaster Recovery Framework for Gorkha Earthquake.

### OUTPUT 2 (WASH): Increased country capacity and delivery of services to ensure girls, boys and women have protected and reliable access to sufficient water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in earthquake-affected areas

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF continued with WASH recovery and reconstruction works in 2017 mainly focusing on water supply reconstruction, sanitation reconstruction and WASH in schools and health posts. Altogether 148 water supply schemes were reconstructed serving 38,776 people Similarly, 13,979 people benefited from sustained sanitation (2,736 HH toilets) facilities, further 142 schools (28,400 students) and 101 health facilities (25,250 people benefitted) were provided with WASH facilities. As part of building capacity of government local stakeholder on WASH and DRR, UNICEF conducted trainings to Village and District WASH Coordination Committees (D/VWASHCC)/ 300, Water User Committee members (155) and Plumbers (265 Beneficiaries).
The WASH section engaged with many local partners as per the direction of the government for reconstruction works. However, many of the local partners had limited or minimal capacity and understanding on WASH programmes and financial management which brought about many issues related to UNICEF HACT assurance. Two specific trainings on HACT assurance were provided to all partners of WASH recovery programme to address such weaknesses in coordination with the HACT team.

While reconstruction work is on-going, due to local and upcoming national elections, several of the implementation work activities have been hampered by the Election Code of Conduct. To further improve implementation UNICEF worked with newly assigned local bodies to achieve the target for WASH reconstruction works.

Residual work in the WASH sector will continue in 2018 for water supply reconstruction, sanitation reconstruction and WASH in schools and health posts. Three additional staff are in the final stages of being recruited to support this residual work that will be carried out in 2018.

**OUTPUT 3 Increased country capacity and delivery of services to prevent excess mortality among girls, boys and women in earthquake affected areas**

**Analytical statement of progress**
UNICEF supported disaster resilient cold chain system for vaccines in 22 earthquake-affected districts are functional serving over 125,000 children. In addition, support was provided to improve the onsite supervisory support at the health facilities and outreach session. Community mobilization was increased to improve the utilization of the services in the earthquake affected districts.

Twenty-two prefabricated health facilities have been handed over to local governments. Fifty prefabricated health facilities are still under construction and two more will start in 2018. All prefabricated buildings are planned to be completed by mid 2018. Seventy-four health facility operation management committee from prefabrication sites were oriented on facility management and sustainability. Similarly, nine female community health volunteers per site were trained on the activation of mothers’ groups and educating mothers on MNCAH services.

UNICEF established 12 district level ambulance committees and supported 36 maternity waiting homes in these districts, which were handed over to the health facility management committee and the community. An emergency obstetric fund (ranging from US$ 750-1000) has been established and linked with district ambulance committee.

Challenges: Construction of prefab health facilities faced various challenges: 1) difficulty in identification and clarifying ownership of safe and suitable land for construction, 2) limited road access which has led to difficulty to deliver construction materials, 3) effect of monsoon and related delays, 4) delays in amendment of contracts to accommodate newly emerged requirements to ensure quality and safety of the prefabricated buildings, 4) reluctance of the contracting company to work in difficult locations, 4) the contractor did not deliver complete quantities of maternal health equipment in time, and 5) delays in construction due to national holidays and federal and local elections.

Actions to overcome challenges: In close coordination within UNICEF team (health, emergency, field offices and supply sections) and with DHO and MoH construction team, challenges were regularly discussed internally, with partners and construction companies to reduce bottlenecks.
Field level engineers, with support from field office teams, discussed with the local people and solved many problems locally, such as finding storing place for equipments and identifying local contractors to transport materials.

**OUTPUT 4 Child Protection: Increased country capacity and delivery of services to ensure that children's rights to protection from violence, abuse and exploitation are sustained and promoted in earthquake affected areas**

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF Nepal supported the Government and civil society organizations to strengthen the national case management system including the capacity of service providers to strengthen the referral mechanisms. Total of 154 peer-to-peer sessions were conducted in all the 14 earthquake affected districts enhancing the capacity of social workers, government authorities and service providers. In addition, UNICEF is currently supporting the piloting of CPIMS+ in three districts of Kathmandu valley, the outcome of the piloting will provide strategic direction on the information management system.

With UNICEF support, 83 social workers provided 2,278 children with comprehensive case management services. The social workers closed 922 cases as per the case management standard and currently 1,356 children are receiving case management and the cases will be closed by the first quarter of 2018.

Total of 284 child protection committees (CPCs) were established and/or strengthened and trained on various child protection themes including writing proposals that could enable them to access the government fund allocated for children and women. The CPCs could identify 1,390 cases and referred these to the relevant government authorities for appropriate services. Two consultants will be hired to complete residual recovery work.

With support from UNICEF, 19 PSS centers were established and strengthened, 174 PSS counsellors trained and deployed in the PSS centers. Additionally, 3,904 people were provided with PSS support including individualized counselling services.

UNICEF supported the strengthening of the anti-trafficking measures through partnership with CSOs and capacity building of government authorities. In coordination with Nepal police, a total of 2,447 interception were reported. Total of 669 teachers were trained on anti-human trafficking as a preventive approach against trafficking.

No significant challenge in program implementation was faced during the reporting period. However, due to enforcement of the Code of Conduct for local level elections, some activities were partially affected. This was mitigated through reprogramming of the activities and allowing a longer time for the partner to complete the work assigned.

The floods in the southern part of the country in the month of August also caused slight delay in the activities related to anti-trafficking as staff were deployed from the Earthquake affected areas to support the flood response. These delays were resolved and activities were back up to speed once the situation improved in the flood affected areas and staff resumed their regular work.
OUTPUT 5 Cross Cutting: ADAP, CFLG and C4D: Improved capacity of National and local government systems and other key stakeholders (especially children, adolescents, youth, families, NGOs and media) to promote disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and resilience building in earthquake affected areas.

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF supported the government to develop guidelines on formation, strengthening and mobilisation of child clubs/networks", including in humanitarian settings.

As Nepal adapts to federalism, UNICEF Nepal has positioned itself to support the capacity development of newly elected officials. Ensuring that local policy development is carried out in a child-friendly, equitable manner. This was achieved through 450 government officials, 1,015 elected representatives of and 1,839 frontline workers being provided training on the tracking and monitoring of child friendly local governance (CFLG) initiatives in 10 earthquake-affected districts. Similarly, 1,839 child club members were trained on child rights and participation enabling them to incorporate their voices into local planning processes. 1,084 children from 11 earthquake-affected districts were trained on life-skills and peer education support focusing on stress management thereby reaching another 10,164 children.

A database of child club graduates who could potentially support reconstruction was endorsed by Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development and sent to respective local governments. The graduates are now being mobilised in their communities.

With the aim of empowering adolescents as change agents in their communities especially during humanitarian situations, 10,495 adolescents were equipped with social and financial skills through training called Rupantaran (meaning transformation in English). Similarly, 10,013 parents and 37 district officials from various sectors oriented on adolescent development and how they can provide a protective and enabling environment. A web-based monitoring and reporting system to analyse changes in knowledge, attitude and behaviour of adolescents and parents was launched and data entry is currently ongoing.

Road shows and interaction programmes organised in 43 locations of earthquake-affected districts to raise awareness on resilient planning through screening of a movie named "Jyoti". Outcomes of the CFLG programme in earthquake-affected districts documented and telecasted through national television to generate accountability among service providers.

Communication and social mobilisation initiatives focused on building capacity of communities on issues of safe migration, DRR and human trafficking was implemented in five earthquake-affected districts. 8,000 adolescents and youth and 12,000 community members participated in interactive discussion sessions thereby reaching over 42,000 people through various local-level social mobilisation activities. 1300 teachers and school management committee members were oriented on issues of unsafe migration and human trafficking. They are now increasingly vigilant of long-term absentees.

Four community fairs organised reaching 2,273 people. 173 journalists from national and local media trained to report on issues of children and women focusing on humanitarian situations. Thus, 62 radio contents on DRR, human trafficking and safe migration and 480 radio contents on maternal and child health issues and DRR were developed and aired through community radios in 21 districts. 37 episodes of radio drama series in 5 languages on "Child-centred Disaster Risk Reduction", were aired nationally along with local broadcasting through...
community radios in 42 districts.

Challenges: The transitional elections delayed implementation of programmes. UNICEF advocated with local governments to accelerate implementation of planned activities convincing them that child rights related activities are non-political agenda.

OUTPUT 6 SPEA: The immediate consumption needs of children under five years are protected during the recovery and reconstruction phase and government systems are strengthened to better respond to children’s needs in the long term in 11 districts

Analytical statement of progress
The immediate consumption needs of children were met as a result of UNICEF facilitating the Government to provide the emergency cash transfer programme. The programme was completed and closed in 2017. Evaluation of the emergency cash transfer has been completed. The evaluation states: “The Emergency Cash Transfer Programme in Nepal has proved that the existing social protection system can be used as a tool to respond to Emergencies and shocks.” This demonstrates the effective capacity strengthening that has taken place as a direct result of UNICEF’s support.

The Emergency Cash Transfer Programme has been highlighted as one of the best practices and innovations of the humanitarian response to the Gorkha Earthquake, and commended for its strategic focus and efficiency gains in using and supporting the national social protection system. Furthermore, the successful implementation of the programme using the existing social security system has been a key catalyst for the successive expansion and improvement of the child grant programme. The government recently scaled up the programme to all children under five years of age in 3 new districts for FY2016/17 (Achham, Bajhang, and Rautahat) and is planning to further scale up in an additional 6 districts in FY2017/18. The lessons learned from the programme were discussed and fed into national disaster management and response policy and plan.

OUTPUT 7 PAC: Information on UNICEF response to Nepal earthquake emergency is shared widely through media statements, news notes, press meet and releases, situation reports, multimedia content and social media feeds

Analytical statement of progress
Compared to 2016, in 2017 UNICEF’s involvement in the earthquake-impacted districts was slowed down as the UNICEF supported components of the recovery gained were finalised. Therefore, reporting and documentation were also reduced. Attention was diverted to reporting the floods and landslide in August affecting almost half of the districts in the country. The planned report for the 2nd year anniversary of the earthquake was also dropped due to unfavourable media environment in the country regarding the general slow pace of delivery of earthquake response and recovery activities.

By November UNICEF Nepal had produced 14 human interest stories supplemented by related photographs, some with related video b-roll footage. One press release related to the earlier 2015 earthquakes was produced. During the reporting period, there has been a 135.5 per cent increase in the number of followers to the UNICEF Nepal Twitter account and 35.5 per cent increase in the number of likes on UNICEF Nepal Facebook page as well as 31.5 per cent increase in the number of Instagram followers. As many as 69 communication materials were
produced including write-ups, stories, video b-roll, video package, social media feeds and press releases.

Also by November, UNICEF Nepal had hosted six visits related to earthquakes including those by the Joint UN Executive Board (UNDP, UNOPS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNWOMEN & WFP), UNICEF National Committees/media trips. A planned trip by EasyJet donors from UK and the Hong Kong National Committee were cancelled due to the local elections in the country creating security conditions which would adversely impact the safety of visitors. The Executive Board trip, which was coordinated by UNICEF and led by the UNICEF Board President, included four separate field trips, two of these in the earthquake affected districts. Over two dozen visitors from the boards of the six UN agencies went back with a better understanding of the situation of the country in the post disaster phase. Multimedia coverage of the trips was ensured by daily social media feeds and an all-encompassing 6-minute film. The film was also presented to the annual UNICEF Board Meeting in NYHQ. The trips of the national committees were highlighted in print media as well as social media in UK and Finland. The film footages from these trips were also used for fundraising purposes by the NatComs.

**Challenges:** Lack of LTAs for photographers, videographers and writers to be mobilized on a proactive basis. The LTA process that was stalled in 2017 will be reactivated early 2018. Negative press coverage due to delay in reconstruction activities. Two donor visits cancelled due to election activities.

**OUTPUT 8 Field Operations - Earthquake Response**

**Analytical statement of progress**
Exit strategy/plan was developed in April 2017 for the timely and orderly closure of the emergency sites. An exit team was formed comprising of staff from Emergency Unit, Operation, Supply, HR and ICT. Regular monthly meetings were organised to discuss the key steps and process to be followed. An exit timeline was developed with focal point assigned for each of the exit related action.

Emergency sites initiated dialogue with the district level line department on programmatic aspect of the plan including the handover and sustainability of the initiatives beyond December 2017. In parallel, emergency sites in consultation with Emergency Unit prepared a comprehensive asset list segregated with the list of items available for donation (all low value items such as office furniture, curtains, kitchen utensils etc) and identified potential partners (mainly Government line department, Municipality and/or implementing partners) for donation.

The process followed for the handover of the item included: emergency sites obtained a request letter from respective counterpart for the items and assessed the programmatic requirement and relevance of the items being donated. The sites, then prepared note for record (NFR) on the request for items. Request letter along with NFR were shared with Emergency Unit. Emergency unit then submitted the consolidate list to Admin for PSB submission. PSB recommendations were shared with the emergency sites to execute the donation at the site office level. All the ICT related equipment and cars were taken back to NCO and solar panels and connections were transported to zonal offices for future use. Approval was taken from HQ for the donation of high value items such as generators, office containers etc.
OUTPUT 9 Strengthened field operations to implement early recovery activities in earthquake affected districts with enhanced capacity of the staff and regular monitoring of programme activities

Analytical statement of progress
Stock taking of the implementation status of the recovery and reconstruction work-plan was conducted in early February 2017. The programmatic visits and field monitoring continued to ensure quality and timeliness of programme implementation.

Mid-year review was conducted in June for all emergency sites. Each of the programme sections organised review meeting as part of their transition/exit plan. The sustainability of key initiatives and wrapping up of the ongoing programmes were discussed from the beginning of 2017.

Monitoring visits to the programme districts continued to ensure the quality of implementation. Staff travelled extensively to their assigned districts and provided support and guidance to partners. Similarly, monitoring visits were conducted from NCO to provide supportive supervision to the staff in all emergency sites. A total of 1167 field visits were conducted to monitor programmes in affected districts.

Implementations remained smooth except some delays due to the enforcement of Election Code of Conduct for a prolonged period: in May and June during the election to the local level and November/December during the election to the Provincial and Federal level. Emergency sites engaged the local authorities including the district level election commission to negotiate the unhindered implementation of the recovery and reconstruction activities during the election time.

The documentation of success stories and key lessons learnt during the earthquake recovery and reconstruction work will be completed in the first quarters of 2018.

Document center

Evaluation and research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sequence Number</th>
<th>Type of Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Nepal 2016</td>
<td>2017/018</td>
<td>SitAn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lessons from Cholera Response in Kathmandu Valley, Nepal</td>
<td>2017/017</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH in Health Care Facilities - initiatives, challenges and lessons from Nepal post emergencies</td>
<td>2017/016</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costing the The Child Grant programme Expansion in Nepal: Ten-year expansion strategy 2016-2015</td>
<td>2017/015</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demographic Changes in Nepal: Trends and Policy Implications</td>
<td>2017/014</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value for Money Study, UNICEF one WASH Programme, Nepal</td>
<td>2017/013</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased immunization coverage addresses the equity gap in Nepal</td>
<td>2017/012</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resuscitation practices of low and normal birth weight infants in Nepal: an observational study using video camera recordings</td>
<td>2017/011</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Scaling up quality improvement intervention for perinatal care in Nepal (NePeriQIP); study protocol of a cluster randomised trial
2017/010
Study

### Successful implementation of Helping Babies Survive and Helping Mothers Survive programs - An Utstein formula for newborn and maternal survival
2017/009
Study

### Neonatal resuscitation in global health settings: an examination of the past to prepare for the future
2017/008
Study

### Essential newborn care after home delivery in Nepal
2017/007
Study

### Effects of Delayed Umbilical Cord Clamping vs Early Clamping on Anemia in Infants at 8 and 12 Months
2017/006
Study

### Care seeking for children with fever/cough or diarrhoea in Nepal: equity trends over the last 15 years
2017/005
Study

### Evaluation of Helping Babies Breathe Quality Improvement Cycle (HBB-QIC) on retention of neonatal resuscitation skills six months after training in Nepal
2017/004
Study

### A Study of Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) before and after Implementation of Parental Education Programme in 3 Districts of Nepal
2017/003
Study

### Assessment of Earthquake Recovery Cash transfer Programme for Children under Five Years in Nepal
2017/002
Study

### Evaluation of the Nepal Emergency Cash Transfer Programme through Social Assistance, Final Report
2017/001
Evaluation

### Other publications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#Net4Good Notebook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook live videos (Launching of Report on Demographic Dividend, World Breastfeeding Week and Children Take Over)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#Net4Good flyers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#Net4Good illustrations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#ForEveryChild illustrations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video &quot;Avivawak Mela&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video &quot;Helping communities prepare for and respond to disasters&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovative Sanitation Social Movement: Experiences from Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various posters, pamphlets and stickers against child labour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infographic and other posters/pamphlets on the occasion of WDACL 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information flyers on world day against child labour (WDACL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manosamajik Sahyog Kendra Karya Sanchalan Nirdeshika (SOP on Psychosocial Counseling Center)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection and Publication of District Court Judgments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Justice Bench book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio Jingle on GBV free learning environment (in 3 different local language)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Child Centered Programs by the Government of Nepal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Report on Child Rights Monitoring in the Context of Local Level Elections 2017
Process of Case Management
Analysis of Violation of Children's Rights Published in Mass Media
State of Children in Nepal 2017
Child Protection in Local Level
A booklet for children on "My role in local planning processes" (Nepali)
Handbook on Negotiation and facilitation skills to child club/network members. (Nepali)
Child friendly version of declaration guideline (Nepali)
Child club formation, strengthening and mobilization guideline (Nepali)
Children consultation facilitation handbook (Nepali)
Triggering Factors of Child Friendly Local Governance (English)
Child Friendly Local Governance Best Practices (English)
A report on the Gap Analysis: Nepal's curriculum (Basic education: VI-VIII) and Post primary Level of Global Learning Metrics Framework
Adolescent Iron folic acid supplementation guideline, 2017
Awastha Bishleshan (Situation Analysis) in Nepali language
Sanitation marketing in Nepal in support of open defecation free social movement
Janirakha (Public awareness booklet in Maithili and Bhojpuri languages)

Programme documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Type</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
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