Executive Summary

In 2014, Nepal made steadfast progress towards its Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets. The 2014 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) showed gains in infant mortality, now reaching 33 per 1,000 live births against a target of 36; a reduction in the prevalence of underweight among children below five years of age, now at 30.1 per cent against a target of 29 per cent; a reduction in the adolescent birth rate to 71 per 1,000 women against a target of 70; an increase in measles immunisation coverage to 92.6 per cent against a target of greater than 90 per cent; and significant improvements in the use of improved drinking water sources at 93.3 per cent against a target of 73 per cent.

UNICEF’s contribution toward these national results was instrumental in building the necessary institutional and individual capacities required for national development efforts. In 2014, this included 18 districts being declared open defecation free (ODF) with emphasis on reducing disparities in the most difficult and low-coverage districts – particularly the mountain and Terai (plain) areas, which maintain open borders with India. As part of global efforts to eradicate polio, UNICEF played a lead role in the introduction of one dose of inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) at 14 weeks, which made Nepal the first Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI Alliance)-supported country in the world to introduce the vaccine. In the area of nutrition, the 15 most disadvantaged districts targeted by UNICEF achieved 100 per cent Vitamin A coverage and 80 per cent coverage of multiple-micronutrient powder.

UNICEF’s innovative after-school programme is showing positive results in terms of both enrolment and retention rates as well as impact on harmful social norms such as child marriage. In the Mid and Far West, 12,516 adolescents (6,312 girls; 6,204 boys) are now benefiting from the programme, which targets disadvantaged girls and provides life skills, peer-led homework support and sports activities in priority districts.

Sustained advocacy resulted in the establishment of the post of Child Protection Officer by the Government in all 75 districts nation-wide to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation and abuse of children. In addition, a landmark National Strategy to End Child Marriage in Nepal was developed, bringing together concerned stakeholders from civil society organisations (CSOs), Government, technical experts and United Nations (UN) agencies.

In a year characterised by multiple natural disasters, UNICEF provided extensive relief and response through the Nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Education, Protection and Health Clusters reaching 115,000 people (42 per cent children) in line with its Core Commitments for Children. An internal lessons-learned exercise highlighted these achievements as well as the need for strengthening and harmonising national systems for information management, coordination and communications.

UNICEF forged new partnerships with Kathmandu University around its innovations agenda, leading to the mass engagement of children and adolescents in its Child Appathon, a competition targeting young programmers. Further, the Government-led National Framework on
Child-Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) saw the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) allocate US$ 244,000 to scale up CFLG interventions beyond the 15 UNICEF-focused districts with resources at the disposal of the Government.

UNICEF Nepal was successful in mobilising resources and engaging high-visibility national and regional goodwill ambassadors for child protection, signing a new funding agreement with the UK Department for International Development (DFID) for US$ 1.88 million for the child protection programme from 2015 to 2016. The Office is also in the process of finalising US$ 22.6 million funding from the European Union (EU) for the nutrition programme for 2015 to 2017. At the same time, there are still programmes that are substantially underfunded, and UNICEF Nepal will continue to make systematic efforts to mobilise the necessary resources.

**Humanitarian Assistance**

Nepal is highly exposed to multiple hazards, including earthquakes, floods, landslide, droughts, fire, cold waves and disease outbreaks. The country experienced heavy rainfall in August 2014 triggering floods and landslides across the country affecting 37,181 families. In addition, as per official data from the Government of Nepal, the country faced 1,689 episodes of 13 different kinds of incidences/disasters mostly as a result of extreme climactic events, including flash floods, landslide, cold waves and fire resulting in total fatalities of 443. The economic loss totalled approximately US$ 168 million during the reporting year. Out of those affected families, 32,900 families (173,437 people) are from four districts of Mid and Far Western Development Region, i.e. Dang, Banke, Bardiya and Surkhet Districts. As a result of the floods/landslides, many families lost their crops as well as belongings, with serious implications for nutrition, WASH and protection-related issues. They include a decreased access to nutritious food, reduced number of meals, poor hygiene and sanitation, displacement and difficult psycho-social situations. In addition, these incidents caused significant damage to health and educational facilities: five health facilities, eight early childhood development (ECD) centres and nine schools were completely washed away and 278 ECD centres and schools were partially damaged.

Although the Government did not declare this disaster an emergency, all humanitarian clusters were activated by District Disaster Relief Committees in the four affected districts. Within these groups, UNICEF provided extensive relief and response through the Nutrition, WASH, Education, Protection and Health clusters reaching 115,000 people (42 per cent children) in line with its Core Commitments for Children based on the initial joint assessment done by the Government and humanitarian actors. From these initial assessments, nutrition-related needs emerged as a particularly serious issue, especially among children below five years of age. Together with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), UNICEF conducted rapid nutritional and food security assessments in four flood/landslide-affected districts (Surkhet, Banke, Bardiya and Dang), revealing that 25.3 per cent of children aged 6-59 months were found to be wasted (too thin for their height), in excess of the critical threshold (>10%). To respond to this situation, UNICEF supported the treatment of 606 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases by establishing 31 centres to administer Outpatient Therapeutic Programmes in addition to providing support to Nutrition Rehabilitation Homes. As a result of this assistance, 324 out of 606 children recovered and the remainder continue to undergo treatment.

In response to the flood emergency, UNICEF provided response in the equivalent of US$ 1.475 million under WASH, education, child protection, nutrition and health. Of this amount, US$ 96,310 was disbursed through non-governmental organisation (NGO) partners and the rest
through government agencies. This was financed by reprogramming US$ 715,000 from Regular Resources, US$ 260,000 from the existing Other Resources and US$ 500,000 that was made available through the Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA).

Some improvements in Government leadership for humanitarian action were noted in the context of this flood emergency response. At the same time, there remains key gaps in ensuring effective and timely national response capacity, including operational clarity on the roles and responsibilities of the line ministries and departments, national accountability for humanitarian action, and timely and quality needs assessment and information management. UNICEF organised an internal lesson learned workshop on 12 December to review the progress, challenges and opportunities for flood response in 2014 and developed an action plan to address the challenges for effective response in 2015.

Strengthened leadership is noted by the Government toward mainstreaming and budgeting for disaster risk reduction (DRR) into development programmes. In addition, UNICEF together with humanitarian partners provided technical and financial support to build the capacity of government agencies (District Administration Office, District Education Office, Water Supply and Sanitation Division Office, District Public Health, Women and Children Office, District Development Committees) and the Nepal Red Cross Society on disaster risk management (DRM), which includes disaster preparedness for response. At a national level, the Government also gave priority to the implementation of the National Disaster Response Framework for effective response at all levels.

On Ebola preparedness, the Nepal Country Office developed an Ebola preparedness plan and orientation for all UNICEF staff. It also worked with the Government of Nepal and the World Health Organization (WHO) to develop and preposition prevention and treatment communication material targeting the public and travellers and supported the Government on a mass media campaign for the general public.

**Equity Case Study**

Through the leadership and technical support of UNICEF, the first-ever National Education Equity Strategy was developed and signed by the Ministry of Education (MoE) in 2014. Nepal has seen significant achievements within the education sector over the last decade, with sector-wide programmes that have been implemented under the Education for All National Plan of Action and the National Enrolment Rate already reaching over 95 per cent. Despite this overall positive progress, it was not shared by all children equally. Thirty-seven of the 75 districts are below the national average in the Net Enrolment Rate. Disparities remain affecting vulnerable children including those from minority language groups and socially and religiously marginalised groups who have been falling behind in terms of access, participation and learning outcomes.

UNICEF advocated and lobbied for the inclusion of equity issues in the mid-term review of the School Sector Reform Programme in 2012, which adopted Equity Analysis in Education as one of the priority recommendations. The strategy sought to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) through the strengthening of evidence-based analysis of prevalence and severity of existing disparities and hence consolidate and targeting existing strategies and actions for enrolment, retention and learning of children.

In support of policy advocacy, which is crucial for making a greater nation-wide impact, studies with a critical mass of key stakeholders were initiated to produce solid evidence. This includes studies such as the “Mapping of Out-of-School Children” in 2014 as a vital source of information.
for the School Sector Reform Programme with a view to reaching the marginalised children population. The analysis showed that children who are out of school face many barriers and are often the victims of a gender-biased culture, poverty, mental and physical disability and socio-cultural practices.

UNICEF as co-leader under the United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative (UNGEI) network has been supporting the Gender and Girls’ Education Network Group and a Taskforce of the Constituent Assembly members to advocate to policy makers and to work together with network partners to address the above-mentioned barriers by developing joint action plans. This group was consistently engaged with UNICEF in advocacy, and framing and leading the agenda of the Government through Constitutional Assembly taskforce meetings with high-level officials, including the Minister and Secretary of Education.

Drawing upon its convening capacity and utilising a participatory approach, UNICEF supported central-level consultations as well as two regional-level consultations on equity in education – one in Parsa and another in Mid Far Western Region jointly with other member organisations of the Access and Equity Thematic Working Group (AETWG) such as Norway and WFP. The development of the Consolidated Equity Strategy Paper was also given priority within the AETWG, contributing to the School Sector Reform Programme. As a co-leader of the AETWG, UNICEF provided continuing technical leadership to finalise the Equity Strategy Paper until it was endorsed and signed by the Secretary of the MoE.

Since the Strategy’s development, the Joint Quarterly Meeting of the Government and development partners in December 2014 endorsed an Aide Memoire to develop indicators to monitor progress based on the Equity Index and an implementation plan of the Consolidated Equity Strategy Paper to reach un-reached children of marginalised communities. The immediate goals are to prioritise activities in the Annual Strategic Work Plan Budget 2015/2016 of the Government, targeting the neediest groups of children, and to develop an action-based costed implementation plan. The Central Bureau of Statistics has nationally estimated that 1,188,001 children aged five to 16 years are still out of school, of whom 378,246 are in UNICEF’s 15 priority districts.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

ADAP – Adolescent Development and Participation
ASP – After-School Programme for Girls
BSC – Business Support Centre
C4D – Communications for Development
CCWB – Central Child Welfare Board
CFLG – Child-Friendly Local Government
CMT – Country Management Team (UNICEF)
CPAP – Country Programme Action Plan (UNICEF)
CSO – Civil Society Organisation
DCT – Direct Cash Transfer
DHO – District Health Office
DRM – Disaster Risk Management
DRR – Disaster Risk Reduction
ECD – Early Childhood Development
GATE – Girls’ Access to Education
GAVI Alliance – Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

In 2014, 13 of the 37 planned research activities (35 per cent) were completed by the Education, Social Policy, Communications for Development (C4D) and Emergency Sections. Additionally, six activities (16 per cent) carried out by Nutrition and Adolescent Sections were in the final stages of completion at the end of the year. Fifty-four per cent of planned activities were on track, while eight per cent were constrained. Two evaluations planned for 2014 were postponed until 2015. UNICEF Nepal will establish a more realistic and strategic plan of knowledge generation activities for 2015 to ensure a higher rate of implementation.

To help identify potential funding sources for the social sector, UNICEF conducted an analysis of Nepal’s fiscal envelope. The analysis was shared through the working paper series platform and directly with the Ministry of Finance. The Child Grant study found positive impacts in
reducing the prevalence of underweight and severe wasting in children in Karnali Zone. The report entitled "Cost of Inaction of Child Marriage" prepared by the Social Policy Section analysed the national economic cost of child marriage in terms of potential cash flow from the labour market that could have been generated had girls delayed their marriage until the age of 20 years, and estimated it to be 3.87 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). This was also presented in a session of the General Assembly on child marriage in New York in August.

UNICEF Nepal is supporting the Government to formulate a National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage. Formative research to map child marriage hotspots and identify knowledge gaps on its drivers was conducted. Best practices were compiled to inform the strategy to design key interventions. Nepal pledged its commitment to ending child marriage at a high-level Girl Summit in London jointly hosted by the Government of the United Kingdom and UNICEF.

Findings of the Child Protection Mapping and other reviews provided analyses and recommendations to combat discrimination and promote the protection of vulnerable groups.

**Partnerships**

UNICEF Nepal continued to forge a wide range of strategic partnerships at the national, regional and local levels.

1. Health - UNICEF is co-chairing external development partners engaged in a health sector-wide approach (SWAp) and is also a core member drafting the Nepal Health Sector Programme III. UNICEF, WHO, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) jointly supported the MoHP to finalise the Nepal Every Newborn Action Plan, which is expected to be endorsed in January 2015.

2. Nutrition - Together with WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WFP, UNICEF provided technical assistance toward Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) interventions along with UN REACH initiatives. Nepal was represented in key forums, including the SUN Lead Group Meeting, the SUN Global Gathering and the Second International Conference on Nutrition.

3. WASH - UNICEF engaged with the members of the Constituent Assembly to kick off a social movement for sanitation (ODF Campaign) at the highest political level through a series of seminars along with local stakeholders. A private sector partnership with Unilever leveraged technical and financial resources to reach over 100,000 children on hand washing with soap in five districts through Unilever’s “Help the Child Reach Five” initiative.

4. Education - UNICEF made a substantial contribution to the coordination of the Education SWAp in Nepal, liaising very closely with all the concerned partners. Additionally, UNICEF is a coordinating agency between development partners, Government and the Global Partnership for Education. UNICEF and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) are working jointly on the Global Initiative on an Out-of-School Children study.

5. Social Policy - A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kathmandu University facilitated joint gender and child programming, promoting innovation and entrepreneurship among young people, advancing equity-focused public policy research, creating platforms for intellectuals and policymakers and disseminating strategic information on gender- and child-related issues. In addition, UNICEF jointly with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN Women, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Refugee Agency
(UNHCR) advocated for citizenship rights in the new constitution.

6. Child protection - UNICEF, together with UNFPA, strengthened its partnership with inter-faith leaders to focus on negative aspects of child marriage, resulting in religious leaders’ denouncing child marriage through their regular sermons.

External Communication and Public Advocacy

UNICEF Nepal used several un-trodden paths to spread awareness about child rights issues. Two ‘messaging-packed’ concerts were held in 2014. One was organised along with UN Women and UNFPA on 8 March featuring only female singers, and the other commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC@25) and featured children’s bands, including those with disability. A series of One Minute Juniors films were made by children, helping to showcase their views on issues such as education, hazards and child-friendly cities.

UNICEF Nepal partnered with celebrities to highlight children’s issues. These included its first National Ambassador, “singing nun” Ani Choying Drolma. She assisted UNICEF’s advocacy on protection of children against violence. Regional UNICEF Ambassador Indian actor Amir Khan helped UNICEF highlight the “Golden 1,000 Days” campaign jointly launched by the Government and UNICEF and made nutrition a buzzword. Data wiz Professor Hans Rosling’s presentation “Investing for Children” in August highlighted the gains made by Nepal for women and children, as well as areas that needed more focus. Famous Nepali singer Bipul Chhetri also participated in a concert to celebrate CRC@25. The number of new “likes” per week on the Facebook page of UNICEF Nepal stood below 50 before October but jumped to an average of 400 per week in the fortnight following posts on Amir Khan. Similarly, the number of “likes” per week also shot up following the CRC@25 concert in December.

High-level advocacy events on “Alternative Care of Children without Parental Care” as well as on “voluntourism in orphanages” provided critical entry points to reform child care, family support services and social welfare systems in Nepal.

A compilation of SMSs sent by young listeners of the Saathi Sanga Maan ko Kura (SSMK) (Chatting with my Best Friend) radio programme as part of the “Message to my Lawmakers” was handed over to the Chair of the Constituent Assembly as an aide to the Constitution drafting process. UNICEF lobbied with lawmakers to ensure the incorporation of child rights issues in the soon-to-be promulgated Constitution.

Constituent Assembly members from nine political parties agreed to flag ECD in their internal meetings. Likewise, six political parties included ECD in their party manifestos.

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

While it did not materialise in 2014, UNICEF received a request from MoFALD to support a visit by a high-level delegation to Brazil to study the latter’s federal and local governance structures and social protection programmes such as Bolsa Familia. This will continue to be pursued in 2015.

Identification Promotion of Innovation

During the reporting year, UNICEF helped launch “Idea Studio” – a household reality TV show broadcast in prime time to provide a platform for young Nepalese to come forward to share their
ideas on how to overcome difficulties facing their communities. Of more than 600 submissions from all over Nepal, 36 ideas were shortlisted and mentored at the first-ever Innovation Incubator Centre established at Kathmandu University with UNICEF assistance. Funding from the private sector was secured to implement many of the ideas shortlisted. Further, UNICEF partnered with Microsoft and implemented a Child Appathon, where more than 100 young programmers teamed up and competed in an energetic race of programming to develop innovative applications that provide possible low-cost and scalable technologies. Excellent solutions were identified and some are being implemented.

UNICEF used innovative advocacy tools to amplify its call to protect children from violence through, for example, musical concerts. In addition, Hans Rosling from the Gapminder Foundation made a keynote presentation on the progress made by Nepal and issues to be further pursued, and the award-winning Hollywood movie SOLD was screened to raise awareness and mobilise support regarding the issue of child trafficking. As well, UNICEF supported innovative approaches to capture the voices of children, including the one-minute Junior Video initiative seeking to provide video-making skills for children and adolescents on social issues, participatory photography training, and exhibits of photographs taken by children from the Dalit community. These initiatives brought into focus the insights of children and adolescents, and will be used as advocacy tools feeding into planning processes at the local and central levels.

To improve service delivery in immunisation, UNICEF supported “Vial to Child”, a new vaccine management system piloted in collaboration with WHO and the Centre for Disease Control. This management system will improve national immunisation programme performance through mobile vaccine registry.

Support to Integration and cross-sectoral linkages

Convergence is one of the main strategies of the Nepal Country Programme. Some examples from 2014 are described below.

1. Cross-sectoral Project Cooperation Agreement - A Project Cooperation Agreement with the Nepal Red Cross was signed, bringing together the WASH, Emergency, C4D and Adolescent Development and Participation (ADAP) Sections. The new modality provided an opportunity for joint messaging and effective collaboration, and enabled the quick initiation of hygiene promotion activities and the distribution of supplies during the 2014 flood response in Dang, Bardiya, Banke and Surkhet Districts.

2. Golden 1,000 Days - UNICEF’s technical support to the National Health Education Information and Communication Centre contributed to the development of the “Golden 1,000 Days” communications package to address holistic child care needs in the critical early years in partnership with other government ministries, WFP, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank and other development partners.

3. National Strategy of Ending Child Marriage with Multiple Ministries - UNICEF was engaged as coordinator for the preparation of the National Strategy of Ending Child Marriage involving 13 Government Ministries, CSOs and relevant UN agencies. Formative research on child marriage was conducted to generate evidence on child marriage in Nepal to inform this process.

4. Adolescent development package - UNICEF and UNFPA provided technical and financial support for the development of a comprehensive social and financial skills training package to
empower adolescent girls and boys to enable them to become social change agents in their communities. This training package was endorsed by the Government as a national training package on adolescent development with an initial training of trainers having been completed.

5. CFLG - Through UNICEF’s continued technical support, MoFALD, in collaboration with the Local Body Associations, strengthened results-based planning, addressing equity and child rights issues, including children’s consultations for the first time. The lessons learned from the initial implementation in 15 districts led to the prioritisation of child rights and cross-cutting issues in the development of long-term and annual planning processes and is expected to lead to nation-wide expansion. This will also reinforce inter-sectoral convergence at subnational levels.

Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

As a result of continuous advocacy on child rights and citizenship by the concerned actors including UNICEF, the Constituent Assembly and Parliament are committed to including child right issues in the new Constitution. Active engagement with around 100 Constitution Assembly members resulted in clear commitment on nine specific child rights provisions along with other provisions on social security, education and health. One of the major achievements was the consensus that ‘one of the commissioners of the National Human Rights Commission should be a child rights expert’.

Furthermore, the list of issues addressed by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to the Government of Nepal led to the advancement of child rights issues within the Government’s agenda. The most important example is the first steps being taken to review the 2012 Children’s Bill and the National Plan of Action for Children (2004/05-2014/15).

Another success story is the acceptance of a UNICEF recommendation by the Supreme Court, which led to the introduction of a section on justice for children in the overall five-year Judicial Strategic Plan that outlines the rights of child victims and witnesses of crimes.

The UNICEF Education Section provided technical support to the development of the first-ever National Education Equity Strategy, which was approved by the MoE (see the section on the equity study). It emphasises the need for an inclusive education system in Nepal.

In WASH, UNICEF Nepal supported and participated at country-level consultations on the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) in WASH and consultations in Nepal for the production of a global HRBA Guideline for WASH.

Gender Mainstreaming and Equality

Nepal ranks 98 out of 149 countries in the Gender Inequality Index (GII), with a value of 0.479. One of the issues for which this is particularly manifested is with regard to marriage. Almost half of women in Nepal (48.5 per cent) are reported to be married before the age of 18. Child marriage is over four times more likely to affect girls than boys, in many cases without their consent (75 per cent).

Responding to child marriage and its effects was a UNICEF Nepal priority in 2014, with multi-sectoral support to the Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW) contributing toward the formulation of a National Strategy to End Child Marriage in Nepal based on formative research on the issue. The draft strategy proposes a holistic and coordinated approach across six domains: empowering married and unmarried girls (economic empowerment); quality
education for girls (secondary education); mobilising families and communities (awareness and social norms); engaging men and boys; providing services; and implementing laws and policies. Structures supported by the UNICEF programme, including Gender-Based Violence Watch Groups, Child Clubs and partnership with religious leaders, played a key role in raising awareness at the community level. In UNICEF, the child marriage initiative was led by the ADAP Section in collaboration with the Child Protection, CFLG, Education, Health and Social Policy Sections. The UNICEF ADAP Section allocated US$ 250,000 for 2014 up to February 2015. Two dedicated UNICEF staff and the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion team are supporting the implementation of the strategy, with the latter contributing five to 25 per cent of their capacity toward gender-related issues.

**Environmental Sustainability**

With increasing urbanisation and population influx in urban and semi-urban centres, Nepal has become more vulnerable to environmental hazards with every passing year. In 2014, Nepal faced 1,689 episodes of thirteen different kinds of incidences/disasters, mostly as a result of extreme climate events including flash floods, landslide, cold waves and a fire resulting in the loss of 443 people and amounted to an economic loss of US$ 168 million. These disasters affected previous development gains including 56 village development committees (VDCs) and 381 water supply schemes, 250 schools and five health posts that had previously achieved ODF status. In 2014, UNICEF supported Government and non-governmental stakeholders to formulate a policy framework on climate change adaptation and DRR along with local stakeholders’ capacity building and mainstreaming risk-sensitive programming.

UNICEF’s initiation of Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) programming to ensure the sustainability of development efforts was well highlighted and internalised by key sectors including WASH, Education, Protection, Nutrition and Health. It is noteworthy that Child-Centred Risk Mapping initiatives initiated by UNICEF made key contributions toward risk-informed development programming and strengthening the role of children as agents of change. In 2014, 158 children from three districts were involved with Child-Centred Risk Assessment and Mapping. In addition, five municipalities and 539 VDCs developed risk mapping and vulnerability analyses, which were integrated within the annual plans of the concerned VDCs.

Under the Government-led Child and Environment Friendly Local Governance Framework, UNICEF is collaborating with six municipalities (Kathmandu, Pokhara, Sunawal, Bharatpur, Ratnagar and Birgunj) and VDCs to develop clean, green and child-friendly cities, including the creation of children’s parks, green spaces, solar-powered water pumping and the construction of public toilets, with a tentative commitment of US$ 23,000.

**Effective Leadership**

UNICEF Nepal experienced a number of staff changes, including the transfer of both the Representative and Deputy Representative in July and August 2014 respectively. The new Representative took office on 9 August 2014 and the Deputy Representative reported on 19 December 2014.

Renovation of the Country Office that commenced in 2013 was completed successfully in April 2014, bringing a new image and a conducive, safe and motivating environment for staff.

The Country Management Team (CMT) met regularly on a monthly basis and utilised timely and quality data on key management indicators and effectively performed its advisory role to the Representative for informed decision-making. The structure of the CMT meetings was
developed, and key policies, output results, and management indicators were thoroughly
discussed and action points properly addressed and disseminated.

The office budget was efficiently managed and monitored on a monthly basis by the CMT. The
seven statutory office committees functioned effectively according to their terms of reference.
Key decisions from these committee meetings were brought to the attention of CMT on a
monthly basis.

Two new software applications were implemented – Push and Track and Travel2Field – aimed
at improving efficiency and effectiveness in preparation for the Global Shared Service Centre
(GSSC) project. UNICEF Nepal witnessed the positive results that these new applications
brought to bear upon deliverables, especially at the Business Support Centre (BSC). The
VISION BSC functioned well, supporting ROSA, the three Zone Offices and UNICEF Bhutan. In
2015, further financial responsibilities of the Bhutan Office will be taken on board by UNICEF
Nepal. Standard operating procedures were revised to incorporate changed work processes
associated with the introduction of the new applications.

UNICEF Nepal both leads and is an active member of the UN Operations Management Team
(OMT). The OMT in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security
(UNDSS) conducted three simulation exercises that tested the Business Continuity Plan (BCP).
Lessons learnt, such as making ROSA a BCP site and vice versa for the UNICEF Country
Office, were acknowledged and updated accordingly. With the provision of additional funds for
security, the Office is in the process of procuring two large tents for the purpose of business
continuity for both the Regional and the Country Office.

UNICEF Nepal reviewed lessons learnt on the 2014 flood emergency, including the Office’s risk
profile, and decided to review it comprehensively in the coming year, especially during the mid-
term review, expected in the last quarter of 2015.

The UNICEF Country Office was internally audited by the Office of Internal Audit and
Investigation (OIAI) in April 2014, resulting in 13 audit recommendations, of which four were
listed under High Priority, with the rest listed as Medium. The key areas under High Priority
include programme monitoring, harmonised approach to cash transfers (HACT) implementation,
management of plant, property and equipment, and contract management. Proactive actions
were taken by UNICEF Nepal to address the audit recommendations sustainably within routine
operating processes. As of September 2014, five recommendations were closed by OIAI and
actions taken on the remaining eight were proposed to OIAI for closure by the end of December
2014.

Financial Resources Management

In 2014, UNICEF Nepal continued to monitor the funding status of the Country Programme on a
proactive basis within the CMT. Budget reviews were conducted every month during the CMT
meetings, with a detailed review every four months, and bank reconciliations and accounts
closures significantly improved compared to previous years.

Through the Joint UN HACT initiative, nine of ten micro-assessments, 31 spot checks of 53
planned and one UN joint audit for Governmental implementing partners were completed.
UNICEF Nepal collaborated with the Auditor General’s Office of Nepal to conduct an audit of
seven focus district offices. The Office also strengthened the capacities of 24 partners in
financial management, especially on issues related to HACT. The spot check implementation
rate was 58 per cent. Two positions, GS7 and GS6, were created and approved, in addition to the existing Quality Assurance Officer (NOB) to strengthen internal quality assurance activities. Disbursements of funds to partners with complete documentation were processed within two days compared to five in the past.

Outstanding Direct Cash Transfers (DCTs) were closely monitored with total DCTs as of 6 January 2015 amounting to US$ 8,717,290, out of which US$ 292,861 (three per cent) was more than nine months and US$ 5,439,723 (62 per cent) was less than three months.

UNICEF Nepal efficiently managed its financial resources and maintained its overall liquidity position. Electronic bank transfers in Nepalese Rupees and US dollar bank accounts were properly applied.

As of 31 December 2014, 100 per cent of Regular Resources, 97 per cent of Other Regular Resources and 99 per cent of Other Resources Emergency were utilised. The Integrated Budget (IB) utilisation rate was 72 per cent below the target of 98 per cent, because of additional security budget earmarked for building an Operations wing within UN House.

**Fund-raising and Donor Relations**

In 2014, UNICEF Nepal reached 84 per cent of its Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) financial envelope of US$ 144 million, courting long-time donors such as the European Union (EU), NORAD, the Finnish International Development Agency (Finnida) and USAID, as well as engaging new donors like the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). A total of US$ 10.5 million was received from three donors – the Finnish, Korean and Norwegian Governments – for WASH, maternal and neonatal care and CFLG.

At the same time, this overall average fund fulfilment rate masks substantial disparities in the level of funding among the component programmes. While programmes like Nutrition and WASH are well funded (in the case of Nutrition twice as much as the planned Country Programme budget), others like Child Protection and CFLG are critically under-funded.

UNICEF Nepal supported ten fundraising trips by the National Committee resulting in commitments for Child Protection (US$ 865,936), Education (US$ 752,910) and ADAP (US$ 718,373). The UNICEF Country Office prepared a Resource Mobilisation Strategy and Action Plan and a Resource Mobilisation Committee under the Representative’s leadership.

By the end of 2014, fund utilisation was 100 per cent (US$ 8,149,406) for Regular Resources, 97 per cent (US$ 19,681,758) for Other Resources and 99 per cent (US$ 2,755,837) for Other Resources Emergency. To meet emergency-related response work, UNICEF Nepal received US$ 500,000 from ROSA, mobilised US$ 1,489,049 from its own internal resources and received US$ 275,408 from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

In 2014, of the 34 donor reports sent, all but two were submitted on time. The availability and utilisation rates of Regular Resources and Other Resources were regular features of CMT meetings. Aside from this, the Deputy Representative on a daily, or at least weekly, basis also screened all Records and Archives Management (RAM) alerts on due donor reports as well as funding utilisation status, and, where necessary, followed up with the related section chiefs.
Evaluation

The Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) is institutionalised in UNICEF Nepal to ensure coordination of evaluations, studies, surveys and research, aligned with the Rolling Work Plan 2013-2017. Performance against planned activities was a challenge, with concerted efforts being pursued by the UNICEF Country Office to ensure greater prioritisation and strategic focus for evaluation planning and implementation in 2015. In addition, strengthening governance structures for the management and quality assurance of all research and evaluation activities will be a key priority, including the building of relevant internal capacities for the planning, management and usage of evaluation.

In 2014, Nepal took part in the multi-country Let Us Learn Evaluation focusing on Girls’ Access to Education (GATE) and the After-School Programme for Girls (ASP) in the Terai districts of Saptari and Parsa. This evaluation is expected to provide key lessons learned for the Education Programme on strengthening access to education for girls when it is finalised in early 2015.

Progress was made on evidence-based policy making and government-led evaluations, although there is still room for improvement. UNICEF engaged with the National Planning Commission (NPC) to strengthen evaluation culture and capacity with the organisation of the second evaluation networking meeting on 22 September to assess progress made on the 2013-2016 monitoring and evaluation (M&E) rolling work plan and to brainstorm on activities for the commemoration of the International Year of Evaluation in 2015. Recommendations from the networking meeting fed into the high-level government Policy Forum. A review of the rolling M&E work plan produced recommendations toward developing evaluation quality standards, norms and ethics, finalisation / publication of sectoral results frameworks and updating of costing for implementation of the M&E plan by 2015; capacity building on evaluation; and the development of broader networks of evaluators and sharing of best practices, tools and information.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

UNICEF Nepal achieved a cost savings of $297,676 during the reporting year as outlined below.

1. Supply - Cost saving through using Long-Term Arrangements (LTAs) and negotiations with the suppliers (US$ 171,000): 31 LTAs established out of which 28 were used, resulting in a saving of US$ 100,718; and five negotiations with different agencies that resulted in a cost saving of US$ 71,000.

2. Finance - US dollar exchange gained through a treasury offer from UNICEF Headquarters (HQ) and negotiation with Standard Chartered Bank on the normal rate of exchange (US$ 41,296): cash replenishment of the HQ account (US$ 41,295.98); and 27 negotiations with HQ and local banks were carried out from January to November 2014 for replenishment of US$ 12.5 million.

3. Administration - Cost saving through effective price and services negotiations with travel agents having LTAs (US$ 16,732): corporate discount on international travel (US$ 16,070.84) with three agreements signed with major international airlines involving a five to ten per cent discount provided in economy and business class; corporate discount on domestic travel (US$ 661.69) as a result of an LTA with three travel agents used for domestic and international travel.

4. Information Communication Technology (ICT) - Cost saving through use of information technology (IT) equipment (US$ 70,270): use of conferencing tools for 186 meetings (US$
50,337.00); use of outsourced ICT consultants (US$ 12,430.00) at lower cost than staff; and use of office equipment for external meetings to avoid conference charges (US$ 7,503.45)

In addition, a fund commitment was adopted for local field trips covering several travel authorisations in VISION. The office also adopted Travel2Field, a software application for local travel as a pilot from July 2014. The new application became fully effective from 5 November 2014 for domestic travel for all staff while the issuance of international TAs continues to be performed in VISION.

**Supply Management**

In 2014 total procurement amounted to nearly US$ 14.6 million with 397 purchase orders amounting to US$ 5.57 million issued for UNICEF Nepal and ROSA.

Joint pre-delivery inspection of supplies was maintained to ensure quality assurance.

In 2014, the Supply Section completed a local market survey exercise, and established 30 LTAs, which enhanced Section effectiveness, competitiveness and ability to obtain value for money.

During 2014, national flood emergency response, the Supply Section enhanced the UNICEF response by ensuring timely delivery of supplies from prepositioned stock and placement of orders from LTA vendors to meet urgent needs. Supply also participated in field monitoring and end-use visits to assess market conditions and the use of prepositioned supplies in the field.

The Supply Section facilitated quick turnaround of all procurement services and measles vaccines. It also supported the strengthening of the Government’s Logistics Management Division by facilitating refurbishment of the Division’s office and participating in workshops to improve supply and logistics processes with government stakeholders.

The total value of supplies received in 2014 at the UNICEF Nepal warehouses amounted to US$1,101,324, out of which stock valued at US$934,123 was issued out. The current stock level of US$445,976.45 is maintained with an ongoing effort to replenish emergency prepositioned items.

This stock is monitored regularly, and a monthly report of stock at every location is shared with the programme managers showing expiry status and length of time in the warehouse.

**Security for Staff and Premises**

The political climate in Nepal greatly improved compared to previous years. The risks of threats to domestic security mainly arose from the Constitutional Assembly’s capacity to deliver the new constitution, and it could not be done by the earlier set date of 22 January. Political uncertainties are expected as a result, posing a challenge to the overall security situation of the country in 2015.

A revised Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS) was approved by the Security Management Team (SMT) on 25 September 2014. The changes had minimal impact on the office. The Security Risk Assessment identified earthquakes as the major safety hazard in Nepal, followed by traffic accidents and aviation safety. While the Country Office and Zone Offices achieved more than 95 per cent in terms of security assessment, staff safety was the major concern for staff not placed within UN premises.
The UN House currently housing UNICEF Programme staff was retrofitted and renovated and is now considered adequate and safe for staff. However, the office premises where Operations staff are located is identified as one of high security and safety risks. Therefore, immediate steps were taken to construct a seismic compliant building within UN House, the approval of which is being sought from HQ. For the three Zone Offices – Bharatpur, Biratnagar and Nepalgunj – the premises were equipped with access control and surveillance systems, including closed-circuit television (CCTV) at main entrances and strategic places, such as IT server rooms.

It is the policy of UNICEF Nepal to ensure that newly recruited staff complete all the mandatory security courses before commencing their duty. This year Safety and Security Awareness in the Field Environment (SSAFE) and first aid training were identified as mandatory for all staff by the SMT. In 2014, 24 staff completed SSAFE training and 27 staff completed first aid training.

Compliance with regular radio checks improved since September 2014, reaching in some instances 100 per cent compared to 50-70 per cent in the past. Some of the measures taken included raising staff awareness on the importance of radio checks and closely following up with staff by the Representative on non-compliance.

A revised Warden System was put in place by the SMT, reducing the number of zones from 63 to 20 in an attempt to improve the effectiveness and monitoring of staff safety and security. Three Joint Concentration Point (JCP) drills were conducted in 2014.

One of the major challenges in terms of aviation safety was the fact that programming is delivered in three remote focus districts, i.e. Humla, Jumla, and Dolpa, where available flight options are dominated by category C airlines. Due to the highly mountainous geography of the region bordering China, regular Category A and B airlines do not operate flights to those locations leaving staff with Category C flight operators as their sole option. UNICEF Nepal granted special approval on a case by case basis for staff to utilise Category C airlines as a means to reduce risks based on programme criticality.

**Human Resources**

UNICEF Nepal implemented a more robust monitoring system on human resources-related management indicators. Apart from performance appraisal system (PAS) completion, data on recruitment timelines, statutory committee meetings, active individual consultant contracts, gender balance and staff diversity were part of regular reporting to the CMT.

1. **Structural Changes** - Additional capacity was added to WASH Programme to increase its field presence. An Integrated Budget Review (IBR) submission proposing structural changes to its operations team in connection with GSSC was approved by IBR. Fourteen posts were filled during the year, with seven vacant posts remaining at 31 December 2014 (including two unfunded JPO positions).

2. **Performance Management** – UNICEF Nepal developed a performance baseline, incorporated Key Performance Indicators and developed standard operating procedures for key business processes. Managing Performance for Results is amongst the UNICEF Country Office’s compulsory learning activities.

3. **Learning and Staff Development** – UNICEF Nepal and ROSA share a common HRDT and jointly organised group learning activities. In 2014, 14 group sessions accounting for 94 per cent
of planned activities were implemented. Training on CBI for 15 managers was delivered. Twenty-five staff participated in training on programme, policy and procedures. A three-day Career Development Series workshop supported by HQ’s Human Resources Division, aimed at supporting staff on abolished posts and promoting staff mobility, was well received by 21 participants. Additionally, 14 in-house briefing sessions were conducted to orient staff on policies and work processes, contributing to improved risk management and efficiency. A one-day new staff orientation was organised and the Orientation Handbook for new staff was updated. A total budget of US$ 76,184 was spent to support staff learning, consisting of US$ 49,395 from IB and US$ 26,789 from other resources and regular resources.

4. Staff Welfare – The UNICEF Country Office reviewed the findings of the Global Staff Survey. Prior to that survey, a Staff Survey specific to UNICEF Nepal was conducted and an All Staff Retreat was organised in May 2014. The outcome revealed four main areas of staff concern, including work-life balance, effective convergence and coordination in programme management, a systematic feedback mechanism, and issues related to mutual respect, trust, transparency and access to information. Management and the staff association have since worked collaboratively to address the concerns. To foster work-life balance, several in-house briefing sessions were held on flexible work arrangements at Country and Zonal Offices. Special work arrangements were introduced to support staff serving at hardship locations in the Mid and Far West Region.

5. Emergency Preparedness and Response – Two briefing sessions were held and related materials shared to raise staff awareness on Ebola. To strengthen emergency preparedness, a consultant roster was developed and widely shared for enhanced capacity to rapidly deploy and mobilise experts in times of crisis and emergencies.

6. Inter-Agency Collaboration – A key highlight is the continuous expansion of the UN Traineeship Programme, where UNICEF recruited a total of ten UN trainees in 2014, representing an increase of 67 per cent from 2013. UNICEF took part in the joint UN Cares training activities; two sessions were held in 2014.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

1. Office move and renovation - High standard ICT services were provided in support of the office renovation, and the office is now equipped with a meeting room in its main building where staff can use video conferencing with high quality sound, video streaming and centralised control systems. A modest and yet fully functional meeting room is also available in the office space dedicated to the Operations section.

2. LAN backbone upgrade - The Office embarked on the upgrade of the LAN backbones through the installation of 10GB network modules. The link between the Office and the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) site at the UNESCO office was also upgraded to 10GB with the installation of a high-speed fibre optic cable increasing the LAN speed significantly and improving recovery resilience.

3. Implementation of Push & Track, Travel2Field and Global ICT projects - The Office was one of the first to successfully implement the Push & Track system. The system has been fully embraced by users, especially those without VISION access who can now undertake transaction monitoring in the system. More recently, Travel2Field was introduced in the office for processing domestic travel requests. The office successfully implemented the global ICT projects, such as Office365, Dynamic Host Control Protocol (DHCP) and Universal WIFI,
ensuring compliance with business continuity requirements. Outlook was also installed on most users’ mobile phones for enhanced convenience in mobility.

4. Inter-agency collaboration - UNICEF continues to play an important role in the Inter-Agency ICT Task Force and Telecommunications Working Group. UNICEF Nepal continued using the Joint LTAs established with vendors for the procurement of ICT equipment and maintenance services for equipment, such as printers, laptops and desktops. Outsourced help desk support was used to provide staff members with prompt and high quality ICT services.

**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:** This outcome reflects intensive policy reform work in the context of preparations for a new Constitution, and supports legislation and multi-sector policies that meet international human rights standards.

UNICEF’s continuous engagement and advocacy on child rights and citizenship issues with Constituent Assembly members strengthened their commitment to discuss child rights issues in the Constitutional Assembly and Parliament. As a result, major achievements were made in 2014, including reaching a consensus on the appointment of one commissioner within the National Human Rights Commission with child rights expertise. As well, the Legislative Committee on Women, Children, Senior Citizens and Social Welfare formed a sub-committee on Child Rights.

Child protection was prioritised within broader advocacy initiatives relating to human rights and justice, particularly in the process of reviewing criminal and civil laws where issues related to birth registration, adoption, minimum age of employment and minimum age of criminal responsibility are highlighted. In addition, UNICEF efforts and support to the constitutional drafting process was promising in terms of seeking better legal protection of children, particularly with regard to citizenship, and children affected prior, during and after elections, as well as independent monitoring.

The Supreme Court and the MoWCSW initiated further discussions on the Children’s Bill, the main legislative framework document on children in the country, and revision of the Bill is included in the Government's plan for the current fiscal year (July 2014-July 2015).

Rules and Regulations on Alternative Care of Children without Parental Care in Nepal were developed and finalised with inputs and the direct support of UNICEF. The document will inform multi-sectoral interventions in preventing family separation through support services and using residential institutions as a last resort by introducing foster care and supporting kinship. The costed implementation plan is expected to be completed by mid-2015.

In the health sector, UNICEF and other development partners provided support to the Government of Nepal to coordinate the development of the National Health Policy 2014, which was subsequently endorsed by the Cabinet of Ministers. Further, UNICEF supported the
drafting and review process of the Immunisation Act to achieve universal coverage of immunisation against vaccine-preventable diseases. The draft Act was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in December 2014 and forwarded to Parliament for approval.

As part of global efforts to eradicate polio from Nepal and the world, UNICEF played a lead role in the introduction of one dose of IPV at 14 weeks as part of the routine immunisation schedule. Nepal became the first GAVI-supported country in the world to introduce the vaccine.

Supporting decentralised, evidence-based approaches to district-level planning and the budgeting process, UNICEF assisted District Health Offices (DHOs) in 15 target districts out of a total 75 districts in developing action plans to improve women and children’s health involving a wide variety of district stakeholders. District stakeholders gave their commitment to ensuring the effective implementation of these action plans. UNICEF will continue to support the 15 districts in the implementation of action plans and monitoring in 2015 to the end of the Country Programme.

With data scarce or absent, some districts used the first round of UNICEF-supported bottleneck analysis and monitoring findings to serve as baseline data to prepare district profiles and situation analyses towards preparation of their respective District Periodic Plans. The second round of bottleneck analyses and monitoring was initiated to facilitate 15 focus districts to monitor and track progress on key barriers identified during the first round and provide evidence to influence subsequent district planning processes. In addition, the fifth round of the Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014 (MICS-5) is in the process of finalisation, providing data for about 18 MDG indicators for Nepal.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress: In 2014, the National Health Policy was officially endorsed by the Cabinet of Ministers. This policy ensures that every woman and child is able to obtain quality health services by providing strategic directions for maternal, newborn and child health and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) programmes. It articulates a clear vision for accountable health systems in Nepal, ensuring equitable access for every citizen to quality health services. Furthermore, the policy sets out a forward-looking agenda for improving the health and well-being of all citizens of Nepal, including the old, disabled, poor, and marginalised and at-risk communities.

UNICEF supported the drafting and review process of the Immunisation Act to achieve universal coverage of immunisation against vaccine-preventable diseases. The draft Act was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in December 2014 and forwarded to the Parliament for approval. Furthermore, the Immunisation Fund was established in March 2014 to ensure that the Government has the financial capacity to procure vaccines and implement the programme in the absence of donor support in the future.

Through a decentralised, evidence-based approach to a district-level planning and budgeting process, UNICEF assisted DHOs in all 15 UNICEF target districts, in developing district-level action plans. The action plans ensured stakeholder commitment in improving women and children’s health by removing barriers in service delivery, human resources, infrastructure and equipment.
OUTPUT 2 By 2017, the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan (MSNP), 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: With consistent advocacy from UNICEF and other development partners, the Government of Nepal, for the first time, allocated US$ 0.8 million for the implementation of MSNP in six districts for implementation by district health, education, local governance, agriculture and livestock, water supply and sanitation and women and children development offices. Funding was also leveraged at the national level through the National Nutrition Programme, with the MoHP increasing its commitment by 24 per cent i.e. US$ 1,700,000.

UNICEF’s continued advocacy and technical support led to increased political commitment toward the accelerated reduction of stunting with equity at national, district and community levels. In addition, nutrition was strengthened in the nutrition, communications and information system components of the Nepal Health Sector Programme III with the reduction of stunting as a key goal indicator.

With UNICEF advocacy, Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committees were established in 30 districts and around 1,000 VDCs. MSNP orientation was undertaken in all six districts and selected VDCs with participation by members of the District Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committees, Village Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committees and other district and village stakeholders.

UNICEF played a key role in finalising the MSNP sectoral M&E framework to ensure improved accountability for results. A training manual is in the process of being prepared to enhance the capacity of the Ward Citizen Forum, Citizen Awareness Centres, Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee members and key stakeholders at VDC and district levels in order to assess the nutrition situation of children and women, analyse causes and develop appropriate actions at the local level.

In support of capacity development for nutrition, UNICEF conducted a capacity needs assessment for the MSNP to identify the existing capacity of key ministries and agencies at the national and district level to plan, implement, monitor, review and evaluate the MSNP.

UNICEF supported new strategies on Maternal Nutrition, Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and Nutrition Communication, and evidence reviews and equity analysis studies will further inform the Nepal Health Sector Programme III and the upcoming Health Sector Nutrition Policy and Strategy 2014-2015. The MSNP helped leverage resources for nutrition through USAID’s US$ 72 million Food for Peace initiative.

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: With UNICEF’s continued advocacy and technical support, a single WASH Sector Development Plan including Financing Strategy is in the process of formulation for wider sector harmonisation and alignment.

The One WASH Sector Development Plan outline included a separate chapter related to wider
inequalities in power relations in control over water and other resources at the family, community and institutional levels. The second Joint Sector Review-Joint Resolution was signed by concerned ministries, development partners and civil society organisations, outlining a more concrete direction and action for the coming years across thematic areas. Key findings of the sector review contributed to formulating of Government priorities. The fund will be disbursed either directly through the government and/or through development partners.

UNICEF significantly contributed to achieving ODF status for five districts (Panchthar, Dadeldhura, Dang, Bajura and Rukum) including three municipalities (Ghorahi, Tulasipur, and Amarghadi) and over 214 VDCs, ensuring a hygienic environment for over 1.07 million people, including the most deprived and disadvantaged communities and families.

In addition, UNICEF and other partners (UNHABITAT and Netherlands Development Cooperation (SNV)) came together to develop an action plan to improve sanitation and hygiene in eight Terai districts with below 30 per cent sanitation coverage. A high-level meeting led by the Government Minister was held with the Constituent Assembly members from the eight districts which had the lowest sanitation coverage (Parsa, Bara, Rautahat, Sarlahi, Dhanusa, Mahottari, Siraha and Saptari). This in turn generated further political commitment and an enabling environment for accelerating the sanitation movement in these districts.

In 2014, with support from UNICEF, the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage published a second edition of the Nationwide Coverage and Functionality Status of Water Supply and Sanitation in Nepal, which recorded access to improved sanitation and water supply at 70 per cent and 84 per cent respectively. This is considered to be an inventory only and does not align with the methodologies used by population-based survey data captured in the Joint Monitoring Programme for Water and Sanitation.

In order to break open defecation norms in eight Terai districts, UNICEF in collaboration and partnership with government and development partners developed a joint action plan that includes a communication strategy / awareness-raising campaign and capacity building especially targeting most-disadvantaged and deprived communities. The joint Action Plan has been implemented by UNICEF, UNHABITAT and SNV under government (central and local bodies) leadership and coordination since mid-2014. Intensive and continued triggering, social mobilisation and sanitation marketing resulted in increased awareness and demand for latrines. Over 10 VDCs were declared ODF. In addition, over 1,300 sets of improved toilets were sold by private ring producers in these districts.

Key constraints affecting progress included: a lack of clarity from Government on the timing for the adoption and implementation of the SWAp; a lack of clarity with regard to how external partners, local bodies and sectoral line agencies will be able to initiate joint planning and review processes from the bottom up and define a specific set of indicators; as well as continued capacity gaps in financial planning and reporting.

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

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** With UNICEF leadership and technical support, the first-ever National Education Equity Strategy was signed by the MoE. The strategy is based on the earlier approved strategic action plans to enrol out-of-school children, and the special initiatives to strengthen girls' education, including a specific focus on mainstreaming children with disabilities, orphans and street children and multilingual/mother tongue education.
During the reporting year, the re-organised Access and Equity Thematic Working Group set up as part of the School Sector Reform Plan was prioritised to develop and support the implementation plan of the Equity Strategy Paper, including an equity index within the education sector as the basis for tracking access for girls and marginalised children.

UNICEF’s support to the Government in hosting the high-level visit from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) under the SWAp resulted in the Government including an equity indicator in its application for the GPE fund. This will lessen the gap in education funding for the implementation of the Equity Strategy Paper, which will benefit girls and marginalised children in line with MDG education targets.

With UNICEF’s advocacy and lobbying, the Government is integrating a Child Finance and Social Education component in the curriculum of grades nine and ten and in Open Schools by 2015, which will enrich adolescent education, providing financial literacy and life skills for adolescent girls/boys and marginalised children. Open Schools are a non-formal modality for providing lower secondary and secondary educational opportunities to children who have dropped out of formal school, through the provision of tailored education sessions.

Gender-based violence, especially against girls, and discrimination against marginalised children in 35 districts was addressed through capacity strengthening of Gender Focal Points on counselling and by including counselling training in the district-based service teacher training. A district-level action plan for 2014, developed through the Gender and Girls’ Education Network, will strengthen measures to protect girls in school.

Equity issues, such as gender equality and social inclusion, were recognised as the main issues during the stakeholders’ regional consultations and were given greater focus in the national Education For All Review and Post-2015 Education Agenda Report.

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: The National Plan of Action on holistic adolescent development was costed and is being implemented by various Ministries under the coordination of the NPC. In the field of adolescent programming, UNICEF is leading advocacy efforts along with other organisations such as UNFPA, Child Workers in Nepal (CWIN), Save the Children and Plan Nepal. The required budget for implementing the National Plan of Action for each year until 2017 along with the current budget allocation by Ministries were calculated and approved by the NPC. In order to make the National Plan of Action accessible and popular among adolescents, an adolescent-friendly version was drafted and is currently under review by Government.

As a result of UNICEF’s advocacy efforts, the MoWCSW signed a Pledge and the Girl Summit Charter on ending child marriage in Nepal at the Girl Summit in July 2014. After the completion of formative research on child marriage in Nepal and a series of consultations with community, district and national stakeholders, the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage was formulated and is in the process of endorsement.

Under the leadership of the MoWCSW, the guideline for participation of children and adolescents was drafted based on consultations with multi-sectoral stakeholders and
adolescents. The objective of the guideline is to ensure meaningful and ethical participation of children and adolescents at various decision-making levels, including national, district, VDC, school management committee, health management committee, child clubs, family etc., so that it becomes an institutionalised guiding principle in all activities involving them, and current malpractices such as tokenism are reduced.

**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:** Child protection was prioritised within broader advocacy initiatives, by UNICEF and the Government, related to human rights and justice, particularly in the process of reviewing criminal and civil laws where issues related to birth registration, adoption, minimum age of employment and minimum age of criminal responsibility are highlighted. In addition, UNICEF efforts and support to the constitutional drafting process was promising in terms of achieving better legal protection of children in the future, particularly with regard to citizenship, misuse of children prior, during and after elections as well as independent monitoring.

The Supreme Court and the MoWCSW initiated further discussions on the Children’s Bill, the main legislative framework document on children in the country, and revision of the Bill is included in the Government's plan for the current fiscal year (July 2014-July 2015). UNICEF regularly advocated with Government and provided technical support to the MoWCSW and other relevant stakeholders toward this effort.

Rules and Regulations on Alternative Care of Children without Parental Care in Nepal were developed and finalised with inputs and direct support from UNICEF. The document will inform multi-sectorial interventions in preventing family separation through support services and using residential institutions as a last resort by introducing foster care and supporting kinship. Its costed implementation plan is expected to be completed by mid-2015.

UNICEF supported the capacity building of 20 district-level Women and Children’s Offices to improve sectoral and local planning to prioritise and effectively utilise state budgetary resources allocated for child protection. New child protection-related indicators were suggested through this process to inform the revision of the CFLG Framework, which is expected to be finalised in 2015.

**OUTPUT 7** By 2017, government institutions at national and subnational 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:** During 2014, UNICEF continued its support to strengthening national monitoring including piloting the web-based District Planning, Monitoring and Analysis System (DPMAS) with MoFALD targeting 75 districts and the Central Bureau of Statistics completing data collection and processing for the national MICS. Even though some UNICEF priority districts are using DPMAS data from the old system for their annual planning, the availability of disaggregated data by ethnicity and gender remains a challenge. Once the new web version of DPMAS is fully implemented in all 75 districts by early 2015, this issue will be addressed.
To strengthen its work in adolescent programming, UNICEF established a baseline on holistic adolescent development; conducted an assessment of adolescent-friendly health service sites to better understand access bottlenecks; and completed formative research to inform the national strategy to end child marriage.

Toward enhancing evidence-based planning, UNICEF provided technical support to ensure that five out of 15 District Periodic Plans (Jumla, Parsa, Bajhang, Dolpa and Humla) were endorsed by district councils.

In accordance with its global mandate of strengthening national evaluation capacities, UNICEF collaborated with the NPC on the second Evaluation Networking Meeting, bringing together evaluation stakeholders from Government, networks of professional evaluators, and academics and development partners. Key recommendations included the need for evaluation quality standards, capacity building for Government staff and enhanced information sharing and collaboration. Continuing issues constrained progress in promoting nationally led evaluations, including a weak institutionalisation of evaluation and capacity gaps within Government institutions.

As input to identifying potential funding sources for the social sector, UNICEF conducted an analysis of Nepal’s fiscal envelope (taxation, reprioritisation of expenditure, deficit financing and increases in aid and transfers) to inform advocacy strategies. In addition, a study on the impact of the Child Grant found positive impacts in reducing the prevalence of underweight children by 19 per cent and severe underweight by 51 per cent in Karnali Zone.

To promote innovative solutions for addressing issues affecting children, UNICEF launched the Idea Studio, a platform to crowdsourc and turn promising ideas into practical social solutions. Of the more than 600 ideas submitted, 37 were mentored at the Idea Studio incubator, and they are being matched with private sector business houses for implementation.

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:** As a result of continuous engagement and advocacy on child rights and citizenship issues, UNICEF was able to strengthen commitment from relevant Constitution Assembly to discuss key child rights issues in the Constitution Assembly and Parliament. This strengthened political capital.

UNICEF’s active engagement with around 100 Constituent Assembly (CA) members and secretaries of various CA committee resulted in receiving commitment on nine specific child rights provisions along with provisions on social security, education and health. These concerns were reflected in consensus issues made by the CA and the Constitution Political Dialogue and Consensus Committee. One of the major achievements was the consensus that one of the commissioners of the National Human Rights Commission should be child rights expert.

UNICEF has revised five bills and registered proposed amendments to legislation, such as the Civil Code, Criminal Code, Civil Procedural Code, Criminal code and sentencing bills through partners such as Central Child Welfare Board and civil society organisations, in order to include a child rights perspective. This will assist in making laws more child friendly and compatible with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
OUTPUT 9 By 2017, policies, strategy, guidance and budget of four sectors (WASH, education, child protection, and health and nutrition including HIV/AIDS, integrate DRR and climate change adaptation for DRM with special attention to most-at-risk children, adolescents, especially girls, and women

Analytical Statement of Progress: In collaboration with MoFALD and the Local Body Association, Disaster Risk Reduction/Climate Change Adaptation (DRR/CCA) was integrated into the district periodic plans in Parsa, Bajhang, Dolpa and Humla with an allocation of five per cent of the total district budget. Similarly, a five per cent budget allocation for DRM was included within the annual plans of Saptari, Parsa, Dhanusha and Accham Districts.

Significant efforts were made to integrate and institutionalise DRR and CCA into Sector Programmes and Plans on WASH, Education and Nutrition to mitigate, prevent and reduce vulnerability focusing on the most marginalised communities, women and children. The Government endorsed a visionary strategy and plan for building disaster resilience in schools in July 2014. The School Safety Thematic Group was revived, and a guideline on mainstreaming DRR and CCA into the education sector was drafted by the MoE with technical support from UNICEF and other partners.

The WASH Joint Sector Review recognised CCA and DRR as core components supporting sector achievement. Six major recommendations related to DRR/CCA were made, including policy review, development of a climate change strategy and DRM guidelines, detailed risk assessment, capacity building of local Coordination Committees and allocation of a minimum ten per cent of the WASH development programme budget to DRR/CCA. A detailed WASH Assessment Tool to guide emergency response was developed.

DRR is mainstreamed into IYCF and Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition Programmes with corresponding budget allocation from the MoHP. A mapping tool to identify hazard-prone districts and nutrition surveillance national guidelines to assess the nutrition issues and vulnerability on a regular basis was finalised and is currently being implemented.

A strategic protection plan based on the National Disaster Response Framework 2012 is in the process of finalisation with support from UNICEF, UNFPA and protection cluster members, and is expected to be completed by mid-2015. Under the leadership of the Department of Women and Children, the plan will include provisions on prevention/mitigation, preparedness and response/early recovery on protection-related issues, such as gender-based violence, separated and unaccompanied children and psychosocial support. The plan will guide protection cluster member organisations to effectively carry out their assigned roles and responsibilities and to help avoid duplication of efforts.

The absence of mechanisms and processes for national budget analysis for DRR/CCA remains a continuing constraint, with partners unable to gauge gaps in needs and compromising the ability of the Government to effectively implement DRR. UNICEF will respond to this situation in 2015, having initiated a sector budget review and analysis process with relevant line ministries.

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: UNICEF aims to improve social service systems across the country with an explicit emphasis on the most disadvantaged districts with an equity focus. The Government-led national framework on CFLG serves as the strategic platform for UNICEF to leverage block grant allocations to the most deprived segments of the population (10-15 per cent for children, ten per cent for women and 15 per cent for disadvantaged) at local levels. Despite commitments, local bodies continue to face constraints in terms of the availability of local resources, human capacity for efficient fund delivery, competing priorities amongst public officials and the availability of a comprehensive financial management system to accurately track resource flows.

In 2014, for the first time, as a result of UNICEF advocacy, MoFALD allocated US$ 244,000 to expand CFLG beyond the 15 districts targeted by UNICEF and implemented annual consultations with children (Bal Bhelas) through the multi-donor Local Governance and Community Development Program (LGCDP). Funds to local bodies – District Development Committees, VDCs and municipalities – were disbursed in November 2014. One VDC in Nawalparasi District was declared child friendly by fulfilling 27 sectoral and 12 institutional indicators outlined in the CFLG document.

During the reporting year, the Government allocated additional human resources to child protection programmes in all 75 districts country-wide; this includes new Child Protection Officers in 22 districts and Child Protection Inspectors posted in another 53 districts. The Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB) finalised case management guidelines and conducted related training of District Women and Children Office staff and Child Protection Officers. Implementation of the case management guidelines is expected to strengthen the process of identification, rescue and reintegration of children at risk and standardise case management processes and documentation, engaging government authorities at appropriate stages.

With UNICEF support, the CCWB identified 747 children affected by armed conflict (39 per cent female) currently residing in child care homes in 27 districts. The CCWB is completing individual assessments for family tracing and to support their deinstitutionalisation. A further 326 young people formerly associated with armed groups (57 per cent female) benefited from reintegration services. In addition, 457 working children (211 girls), including 32 street children, were rescued and reunited with their families, through the municipality coordinated programme in eight urban centres (municipalities).

Landmark judgments passed by the Supreme Court on cases related to children were analysed and published. Training provided by the Office of the Attorney General and the National Judicial Academy provided 150 government attorneys, judicial officials and defence lawyers with a better and common understanding of justice for children, including diversion. Thirty-two child psychologists and 32 social workers from 16 districts acquired knowledge and skills on justice for children through two-month and one-month training activities respectively.

To support improved disaster preparedness, 11 districts out of 20 targeted districts developed District Disaster Risk Management Plans (DDRMP). UNICEF technical assistance resulted in the development of Child-Centred Risk Mapping in four districts and five municipalities. This was one of the fundamental tools for triggering risk-informed planning and programming and ensuring children are at the centre of development and leading as agents of change.

In 2014, Nepal faced natural disasters including floods, landslides, fire and disease outbreaks. UNICEF responded as cluster co-lead and reached 115,000 people (42 per cent children) with timely WASH, nutrition, health, education and child protection services. UNICEF provided US$
1.3 million of support for emergency response for saving and protecting the lives of children, women and the population affected by various disasters in 2014. Although District Disaster Preparedness Plans (DPRP) were in place, implementation was a challenge. Indeed, limited capacity of Government stakeholders was noted during the emergency response in the Mid and Far Western Regions. Based on these experiences, UNICEF organised a lesson learned workshop in December 2014 that identified the major bottlenecks and corrective measures such as information management, emergency preparedness and response, accountability, coordination/communication and supply management.

In 15 focus districts, action plans were prepared by DHOs with multi-stakeholder involvement ensuring equity-based access to health services. The MoHP initiated decentralised planning and budgeting in 14 districts as a pilot for this fiscal year (2014/15).

Nepal continues to demonstrate strong progress on micronutrient supplementation with sustained coverage of Vitamin A, iodised salt and iron folic acid, as well as in the integrated management of acute malnutrition. Extensive training and mobilisation of health workers was carried out to effectively manage and provide support to SAM in children with strong results.

The concept note for the establishment of a nutrition surveillance system was finalised and initiated in two model districts for early detection and tracking of the implementation of the MSSP as per the updated MSNP monitoring and evaluation framework. Implementation of the MSNP in six priority districts (Bajura, Achham, Jumla, Nawalparasi, Kapilbastu and Parsa) is ongoing and expected to achieve promising results in 2015.

Nepal received global acknowledgement and recognition for achieving fast progress on sanitation access during the last decade. In 2014, progress on sanitation continued to make headline news with 19 districts (total of 75) and over 1,750 VDCs (total of 3,915) achieving ODF status, including over 3,300 schools. There is a move towards sustainability through the total sanitation initiative. UNICEF supported the declaration of ODF in five districts (P/thar, Dadeldhura, Dang, Bajura and Rukum) in 2014. Access to improved water supply reached 88.9 per cent of the population. Strong emphasis is being put on functionality and implementation of a Water Safety Plan in order to improve continuity of services and water quality of supplied drinking water to the communities.

An increasing number of the district Early Childhood Development (ECD) Committee are engaged to prepare their plans on ECD, mobilising sub-district (Ilaka) level government and non-government stakeholders. Eighteen of 25 District ECD Committees prepared multi-sectoral ECD plans to support integrated interventions in learning, health, nutrition, protection, and WASH for holistic child development. A mapping of the 2,780 ECD centres from eight districts was completed. Findings of the survey will support the planning and prioritising of investment by local bodies to improve learning in ECD centres. Forty-eight per cent of the 500 targeted ECD centres applied the six learning cornerstones (science, library, creativity, language, building blocks, and math corners) according to the Government’s minimum standards.

At the primary-school level, UNICEF scaled up support to the Government to roll out an early-grade reading programme that trains teachers and provides learning materials, helping over 30,000 children succeed at a foundational skill level. Work to improve educational access and equity for girls and marginalised children expanded, with after-school peer support, sport and homework activities in over 100 schools. UNICEF continued to lead work to ensure all schools in Nepal are safe spaces that are free of politicisation and promote protection and child rights.
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: Based on key findings from the Nepal MICS 2014, the percentage of children with diarrhoea being treated with zinc and oral rehydration solution rose from six per cent to 18 per cent in 2014. A few factors were considered to have contributed to this result. First, the availability of zinc at health facilities (including private clinics) gradually improved since zinc was added as part of essential drugs in 2011 and UNICEF assisted the MoHP in producing the drug. Second, service providers were trained on treatment of diarrhoea at training on integrated management of childhood illness. Third, awareness-raising and demand-creation activities through community cadres are considered to have boosted the awareness of diarrhoea treatment among caregivers.

UNICEF ramped up its support to scale up the prevention of parent-to-child transmission of HIV (PPTCT) services in its 15 target districts. UNICEF established PPTCT services in 20 birthing centres in Baitadi District and 34 in Bajhang District, which resulted in the expansion of geographical coverage of the programme into two districts. Cascade training on PPTCT (and the use of Misoprostol to prevent postpartum haemorrhage) was delivered to 58 district trainers. Similarly, in Bajhang District, cascade training on PPTCT (joint training with Misoprostol) was delivered to 30 district trainers. This UNICEF support contributed to the improvement of the PPTCT coverage from 8.7 per cent in 2013 to 20.5 per cent in 2014.

In all 15 target districts, UNICEF supported the decentralised health planning process to develop district-specific action plans to promote women and children’s health. Establishing birthing centres in deprived communities, treatment of diarrhoea with oral rehydration solution and zinc, and sanitation were amongst the priority areas included in these action plans. During the planning sessions, bottlenecks to increased coverage of skilled birth attendance and newborn care were discussed and identified. DHOs and district stakeholders committed to implementing action plans developed during the planning process. Many DHOs incorporated the action plans into village and district plans. DHOs mobilised their own and partner resources to establish birthing centres, and UNICEF delivered skilled birth attendance training for service providers. These efforts led to an increase in the number of birthing centres equipped with a newborn corner and staffed with skilled providers.

OUTPUT 2 By 2017, access to and utilisation 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: Nepal continued to demonstrate strong progress on micronutrient supplementation, including strong sustained coverage of Vitamin A, iodised salt and iron folic acid, as well as in the integrated management of acute malnutrition.

UNICEF’s continued advocacy resulted in the confirmation of USAID grant support of US$ 1.6 million and Government funding of US$ 207,576 to develop a protocol for a National Micronutrient Survey in 2015. National capacity building for the Iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) Survey and Iodised Salt Social Mobilisation is being initiated in two Far Western Hill districts (Dadeldhura and Baitadi).

UNICEF supported a periodic review and refresher training in 15 micronutrient powder/IYCF programme districts targeting 9,304 female community health volunteers (FCHVs) and 3,514 health workers to strengthen skills in home fortification of micronutrient powder linked with IYCF.
As of December 2014 the coverage of micronutrient powder reached 90.6 per cent compared to 10 per cent in 2012 through targeted supplementation at community levels by FCHVs and health facility levels in 15 programme districts.

A total of 6,920 FCHVs and 2,833 health workers were supported with skills development, periodic review and refresher training in 11 integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) programme districts to manage SAM in children. As of October 2014, approximately 8,321 children under five years of age (boys: 3,634 and girls: 4,687) with SAM had been admitted into the Outpatient Therapeutic Programme centres in the 11 IMAM districts; of these 7,539 (boys: 3,286 and girls: 4,253) were discharged. Of the total discharged, 99.7 per cent survived and 86.4 per cent recovered (85 per cent among girls), which is well above global SPHERE standards. The national guideline of IMAM was finalised and the MoHP is proceeding to endorse it.

With UNICEF’s technical and financial support, the Ministry’s Health Management Information System (HMIS) was revised and included 27 core nutrition indicators, developed capacity of health workers nationwide and initiated implementation of an updated HMIS beginning in July 2014. The concept note for the establishment of a nutrition surveillance system was finalised and an assessment was initiated in two model districts for early detection and tracking of information in line with the MSNP.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress: Nepal received global acknowledgement and recognition for achieving fast progress on sanitation access during the last decade as reflected in the UNICEF/WHO Progress Report on Drinking Water and Sanitation 2014 Update. Progress on sanitation continued to make headline news with more districts, municipalities and VDCs achieving ODF status. UNICEF significantly contributed along with concerned ministries, local bodies and development partners in achieving ODF status in five districts (Panchthar, Dadeldhura, Dang, Bajura and Rukum) including three municipalities (Ghorahi, Tulasipur, and Amarghadi) and over 214 VDCs. Over 1.07 million people (female: 551,082, male: 518,918 and children: 103,683) including the most deprived and disadvantaged communities and families are living in an ODF environment.

UNICEF in collaboration with Government, UNHABITAT and other development partners, supported ODF triggering in eight low-performing Terai districts adjoining the North Indian border (Bihar state) by enabling the purchase of “Easy Latrines”, which are comprised of a ready-made tiled slab, rings, super structure with options and complete masonry support for installation of the latrine. More than 100 local ring producers are trained on the production of Easy Latrines to improve the supply chain and create increased demand for installation of improved toilets. So far, 1,300 improved toilets were directly sold in 2014 as a result of household visits and triggering of communities and school children on the importance and direct health impact of latrine use.

In 2014, the Government of Nepal drafted the outline of the “Total Sanitation Campaign” for enhanced sanitation and hygiene behaviours. Five ODF districts (Kalikot, Accham, Makwanpur, Dang and Panchthar) developed post-ODF strategies to achieve ‘total sanitation’ status.
managing safe and sustainable, gender- and disability friendly sanitation and functional water supply facilities.

For improved water quality and functionality, more than 40 Water and Sanitation Users Committees enhanced their skills to introduce Water Safety Planning in 100 schemes. During 2014, more than 5,000 WASH stakeholders enhanced their knowledge and skills in sanitation and hygiene promotion in 31 districts. Most of the districts that had declared ODF by 2013 have developed total sanitation plans and undertaken specific actions in order to sustain improved hygiene behaviour.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress: With UNICEF support, 18 out of 25 district ECD Committees prepared multi-sectoral ECD plans to support integrated interventions on learning, health, nutrition, protection, and WASH for holistic child development. The national ECD guideline of the MoE has a provision for a district ECD Committee led by local development officer with representatives from district-based multi-sectoral local authorities. This is a positive result toward ECD system strengthening benefiting approximately 150,000 children aged three to four, with further efforts from local authorities to better target their district ECD plans for the children attending ECD centres.

A mapping of 2,780 ECD centres with qualitative and quantitative information across eight districts was completed in December 2014. Findings will support the planning and prioritisation of UNICEF support in programme districts as well as prioritise MoE’s national budget for all ECD centres throughout the country. The mapping report will provide a strong basis for ECD centres to meet minimum standards set by the MoE.

With UNICEF technical assistance, 48 per cent of the 500 targeted ECD centres applied the six learning cornerstones (science, library, creativity, language, building blocks, and math corners). In addition, UNICEF distributed ECD kit boxes including toys, books, games and puzzles, contributing to the improvement of the quality of learning in the centres.

ECD is also included in the MoE’s latest School Sector Reform Plan (SSRP, 2014-16) as one of the key strategies for supporting school readiness, reducing drop out and increasing retention in primary grades. In this context, UNICEF’s effort showed positive results, with monitoring findings showing that children in grade one with ECD experience in the priority districts increased from 56 per cent (2013) to 57 per cent (2014) with gender parity.

UNICEF supported linkages between education and nutrition in newly introduced training and learning materials targeting Nutrition Rehabilitation Homes serving malnourished children. Through inter-sectoral collaboration, revised parenting education resource material is ready for piloting. The resource material includes cross-sectoral issues such as care during pregnancy, early detection, nutrition and importance of learning by playing (stimulation).

To mobilise multi-sectoral engagement and strengthen inter-sectoral collaboration, a national ECD Steering Committee was established under the leadership of the National Planning Commission. UNICEF is providing technical support to the national institutions promoting South-South collaboration including a study tour for Parliamentarians and government authorities and participation in regional network meetings.
OUTPUT 5 By 2017, in selected districts and municipalities, children, particularly girls and marginalised children, have increased access to and complete uninterrupted child-friendly basic and secondary education

Analytical Statement of Progress: UNICEF’s innovative afterschool programme for disadvantaged girls is showing very positive results in terms of both enrolment and retention rates as well as impact on harmful social norms such as child marriage. The programme, which targets disadvantaged girls and provides life skills, peer-led homework support and sports activities, saw good results and improved enrolment rates for girls and boys in priority districts. In the Mid and Far West, 12,516 adolescents (6,312 girls; 6,204 boys) are now benefiting from the afterschool programme. In six wards in Bajura, Child Clubs led campaigns and successfully worked with local authorities to have the wards declared “Child Marriage Free”. In Parsa, an independent evaluation of the after school programme found that the model had been “highly effective” in improving girls’ attendance and motivation to remain in school.

Work also continued to scale up the Early Grade Reading Programme in the Mid and Far West, with School Management Committees, Parent Teacher Associations and head teachers from 280 schools oriented on the importance of parental support of reading activities, benefiting approximately 30,000 children.

UNICEF continued to lead Child-Friendly School work in Nepal at the policy level, and supported the Department of Education in holding a stakeholders meeting to prioritise next steps to mainstream the initiative nationally based on UNICEF’s Child-Friendly School Initiative Review findings. Constraints experienced in 2013 due to the Review meant that no new components or plans were able to progress. In the second half of 2014, the Review was finalised and a workshop carried out with all national stakeholders to consider ways to move this work forward. UNICEF is on track to continue to support the Government to further institutionalise the key concepts of child-friendly education within its planning, budgeting and training processes.

WASH in schools work progressed well with the number of schools with access to child-, gender- and disability-friendly toilets in the priority districts having increased from 1,737 schools in 2012 to 2,854 in 2014. Three hundred targeted schools in the 24 most-disadvantaged VDCs were supported to adopt basic hygiene practices, including hand washing with soap and menstrual hygiene management. In total, 99,200 students (20,472 adolescent menstrual hygiene management-targeted girls, 41,528 girls and 37,200 boys) and teachers benefited from these software components.

At the policy level, UNICEF and Schools as Zones of Peace coalition partners advocated with the student wings of political parties to respect schools as zones of peace and to demonstrate greater commitment to protect children’s right to education by not disturbing schools for political activities. An assessment showed increased school opening days in targeted districts, with an average 216 days out of 220 days. In 2014, 200 schools developed codes of conduct protecting over 60,000 learners, bringing the total number of schools with codes of conduct to 1,064.

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 that address the specific needs of boys and girls
Analytical Statement of Progress: As a result of consistent advocacy, the MoWCSW established new Child Protection Officers in 22 districts and a Child Protection Inspector post in another 53 districts within District Women and Children’s Offices.

With technical assistance from UNICEF, the CCWB finalised Case Management Guidelines, which establish processes and procedures for identification, rescue and referral of children at risk, while clarifying roles and responsibilities at every step. Following training of social workers and child protection officers, the Guidelines are being piloted in eight municipalities and eight focus districts.

With technical assistance from UNICEF, CCWB identified 747 children affected by armed conflict (39 per cent female) currently residing in child care homes in 27 districts. CCWB is currently conducting individual assessments for family tracing and their deinstitutionalisation. A national-level assessment of child care homes was included in government plans to be commissioned by the first quarter of 2015.

A total of 326 young people (57 per cent female) formerly associated with armed groups benefited from reintegration services. Individual gender response and care plans were developed to address gender-specific issues for 91 females.

In addition, 457 working children (211 girls), including 32 street children, were removed/rescued and reunited with their family following case-managed procedures.

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: In collaboration with the Juvenile Justice Coordination Committee, a comprehensive review and planning workshop was conducted. The recommendations from the workshop are: (i) improve the administration of the juvenile justice system, which includes prevention of juvenile delinquency, investigation, hearing and reintegration of the children into the society; (ii) revise the existing laws and policies and enhance the capacity of the law-enforcement and justice professionals; and (iii) develop child-friendly justice system for juvenile offenders, child victims and witnesses.

Landmark judgments passed by the Supreme Court in favour of children were analysed and a report was published. This document serves a guide for judges to deliver fair judgments upholding the principle of “best interest of children”.

In collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General, a victim protection manual, an information booklet on the rights of victims, a reference book on crime against women and children and monitoring procedures of the human rights situation in detention centres were developed. These materials are used by the law enforcement and judicial authorities during pre-service and in-service training to effectively carry out their roles and responsibilities.

Through intensive advocacy by UNICEF, the Supreme Court incorporated the justice for children section in the overall five-year justice strategic plan for effective planning, coordination, implementation and monitoring to facilitate integrated child-friendly justice service provisions.

In addition, 150 government attorneys, judicial officials, and defence lawyers developed a better and common understanding on justice for children, including diversion, through training provided
by the Office of the Attorney General and the National Judicial Academy. Thirty-two child psychologist and 32 social workers from 16 districts increased their knowledge and skills on justice for children through two-month and one-month training activities respectively.

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

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** UNICEF technical and financial assistance to the Child Grant in five Karnali Districts is contributing towards the achievement of universal birth registration, with coverage reaching 90 per cent in 2014.

In addition, a study on the impact of the child grant found positive outcomes in reducing the prevalence of underweight children by 19 percent and severe wasting by 51 per cent in the same five districts.

UNICEF, jointly with development partners (Asian Development Bank, the UK Department for International Development [DFID], the International Labour Organization [ILO], World Bank, the United Nations Capital Development Fund [UNCDF], the World Food Programme [WFP], the German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation [GIZ]) and the Government of Nepal worked together to improve the national social protection system, providing assistance on a series of institutional capacity development activities (international training, national-level training, workshops, review meetings, assessments, and studies on data management). The Government recently drafted a social protection bill that is currently in the stakeholder consultation phase. UNICEF, the National Planning Commission and MoFALD conducted a five-day training activity on social protection for government officials. Thirty-five key government officials from various ministries participated in the training. The capacity-building initiative at the local level was expanded from the focus nine districts (five Karnali districts, Siraha, Saptari, Bajura and Baitadi) to other districts. Newly recruited VDC secretaries were trained in managing vital event registration and delivery of social protection. It is expected that these officials will be able to better manage delivery of social protection benefits as a result of this support. MoFALD and UNICEF also conducted a Dalit-focused child grant assessment in Bajura and Saptari Districts.

Government, UNICEF and other development partners including UNCDF, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank are collaborating to rollout a comprehensive Management Information System (MIS). In 2014 the MIS was implemented in 12 districts linking social protection with civil registration and vital statistics to better administer the social protection schemes and take corrective actions on time.

**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:** MoFALD demonstrated greater ownership and commitment for the nationwide expansion of CFLG by allocating US$ 244,000 resources from MoFALD through the Local Governance Community Development Programme joint financing agreement.

Sixty District Development Committees out of 75 districts, and 44 municipalities out of 58 Municipalities have decided to adopt CFLG were reported in the Ministry’s national web-based
reporting system.

For the first time, MoFALD signed a "Performance Contract" with Mayors. As a result of UNICEF influence, the contracts include indicators related to children and making cities child friendly. This is the beginning of a process of making individual executives from local bodies accountable to children for their well-being.

Eighteen potential VDCs and three municipalities from Eastern, Central and Western Region committed to being declared child friendly by 2015. Tamsariya VDC and Sunol Municipality from Nawalparasi District have achieved more than 80 per cent of CFLG indicators relating to primary school enrolment, immunisation, maternal health, ODF, birth registration, reduction in child labour and child marriage.

**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:** Nepal was affected by multiple hazards in 2014, including floods, landslides, fire, and disease outbreaks in Saptari, Kapilvastu, Rautahat, Biratnagar, Sarlahi, Mahottari, Dhanusha, Salyan, Banke, Bardia, Dang and Surkhet. Together with the Government of Nepal, UNICEF responded as cluster co-lead and reached 115,000 people (42 per cent children) out of 206,841 people affected by disasters, within the areas of WASH, nutrition, health, education and child protection.

A total of 18,054 families affected by floods/landslides in Banke, Bardiya, Dang and Surkhet were reached with hygiene promotion and lifesaving WASH supplies (water purification, hygiene kits, buckets with mugs). In addition, 1,880 people benefitted from the establishment of 94 temporary toilets and 1,075 women and girls were supported with 43 bathing spaces with basic water facilities.

As well, 12,110 families benefitted from treated bed nets to ensure protection from vector-borne diseases and 575 newborn children were provided with warm clothing.

A total of 246 stakeholders (DRR focal persons of District Administration Offices, District Development Committees, District Education Offices, DHOs, Water Supply and Sanitation Division Offices, Nepal Red Cross Society and local NGOs, amongst others) in five UNICEF-targeted districts enhanced their skills and knowledge on DRR and community resilience. A total of 24,000 children in four districts (Banke, Bardiya, Dang and Surkhet) received educational support through 27 temporary learning centres, one ECD centre, textbooks for 17,000 children and student kits for 24,877 children, to support their continued education needs.

Approximately 606 children affected by SAM had access to the 31 Outpatient Therapeutic Centre and three Nutrition Rehabilitation Homes in four districts, of whom 324 have recovered and the remainder are continuing under treatment. Maternal, Infant and Young Child Feeding) counselling services were provided to caretakers of 19,073 children under five years of age and 4,590 pregnant women in all four affected districts.

A total of 12,860 children benefitted from summer clothing support, and 210 women and children received individual counselling service in the four flood-affected districts in the Mid Western Region. In addition, community psychosocial workers, teachers and health workers
were able to identify and provide support to affected people as a result of training on psychological first aid.

UNICEF also contributed to enhancing the capacity and skills of 90 regional trainers (54 female) on DRR in three development regions (Eastern, Central, Mid-Western Region). These trainers are mobilised for district-level training and to educate sectoral line agencies for the integration of DRR into their annual plans and programmes. Similarly, the capacity of 300 children (60 per cent girls) was built on child-centred risk assessment and mapping. Risk maps were developed by children in Saptari, Dhanusha, Parsa Achham and two municipalities (Pokhara and Biratnagar) to be used as advocacy tools for the integration of DRR into local plans.

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 realise the survival, development, protection and participation rights of children, adolescents and women with equity in all contexts, including humanitarian situations

Analytical Statement of Progress: The year 2014 saw 600 VDCs and five districts in Nepal meeting full immunisation status in which all antigens were provided to children between 12-24 months.

Due to strong support and advocacy from UNICEF, nutrition is high on the Government’s agenda in Nepal. The Maternal Infant and Young Child Nutrition Communication Action Plan (including the 1,000 Golden Days Campaign) was approved by the MoHP and will reach pregnant and breastfeeding mothers nationwide from February 2015. The main objective is to improve the nutritional status of adolescent girls, and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

In 2014, UNICEF supported the Department of Women and Children to establish 2,712 Gender-Based Violence Watch Groups in 75 districts covering 341 VDCs, which contribute to the protection of women and children from violence, exploitation, abuse and discrimination. Regular advocacy with the Government was conducted to continue the allocation of funds for the implementation of the Gender-Based Violence Watch Group programme.

Preliminary findings of an endline survey assessing knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of children and their communities showed discrete but positive improvements, including a decrease in violence experienced by children and women indicating an overall reduction in tolerance for violence. This includes a decrease in the percentage of adults who hit, smacked or pinched their children or pulled or twisted their children’s ears in their households from 69 per cent at baseline to 50 per cent at endline; a reduction in the percentage of teachers who had ever hit, smacked, kicked, pinched, pulled or twisted the ears or hurt a child in any other way at school from 88 to 66 per cent, and within the last 12 months from 31 to 25 per cent; and a decline in the percentage of adult women experiencing physical violence from their husbands from 56 to 24 per cent, and often or sometimes within the last 12 months from 29 to 17 per cent. In addition, there was no significant difference in the reporting of violence against children, but for women positive change was indicated, with the percentage of respondents who perceive that most women in the community who experience physical, sexual or psychological violence report it to someone increasing from 15 to 22 per cent.

Local authorities committed to integrate issues affecting out-of-school children in their Annual Plan, which was made possible with UNICEF advocacy for cross-sectoral collaboration. In addition, the agenda of out-of-school children was reflected in the MoE’s School Sector Reform Plan (2014-16). Eight municipalities with a high incidence of child labour developed plans to
combat it, which included allocation of resources for alternative education to approximately 8,000 children.

A total of 2,670 vulnerable adolescents (representing 8 per cent of vulnerable adolescents) such as those commercially sexually exploited, using drugs, affected with HIV/AIDS, at risk of being trafficked and belonging to sexual and gender minorities, were equipped with knowledge, confidence and life skills to influence and take part in decisions that affect their lives through participation in sports- and dance-based recreational activities such as GOAL and Dance4Life. The GOAL training curriculum encompasses life skills activities in conjunction with the use of sport to encourage young people to be themselves, be healthy, be empowered, and be money-savvy. Dance4life is an international initiative that utilises music and dance to empower and engage young people to challenge the stigma and taboos that surround HIV/AIDS and also learn how they can protect themselves and those around them. The organisations that have implemented the intervention have developed their capacity to scale up to other vulnerable adolescents in their networks.

UNICEF is supporting the MoWCSW to draft a National Strategy to End Child Marriage. This Strategy has holistic and coordinated multi-sectoral interventions in six domains that emerged based on research and consultation. It focuses on empowering girls, and mobilising families and communities to address social norms. A comprehensive social and financial skills package is being implemented to equip adolescents to raise their voice against child marriage, negotiate with parents and families and also to take actions. This training package will reach over 15,000 adolescents in the next nine months. In addition, UNICEF is supporting the mobilisation of religious leaders to conduct discussions in their communities to denounce child marriage. Local youth are also being trained and mobilised to perform in community theatres to foster intergenerational dialogue in the community.

As a result of UNICEF advocacy, MoFALD demonstrated commitment by allocating approximately US$ 244,000 from the Local Governance and Community Development Programme / Joint Financing Agreement Funds to expand CFLG efforts in villages and municipalities and implement annual consultations with children’s Bal Bhelas beyond 15 districts. These consultations were instrumental in enabling children to put forward their demands and advocate directly with local authorities to increase and/or better allocate resources for children at the district level.

OUTPUT 1 By 2017, in selected districts and municipalities, families, especially the most vulnerable, practise promotional 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: To ensure that quality care for newborns is provided immediately after birth, UNICEF supported the MoHP to improve access to skilled birth attendance. With the support of UNICEF and other partners, the number of birthing centres at the health-post and sub-health post levels significantly increased from 940 in 2010/2011 to 1,726 in 2013/2014. Since in-service skilled birth attendance training was initiated in 2007, more than 6,000 skilled birth attendants were trained up to 2013/2014. At the same time, intensified efforts to increase the demand for institutional delivery were made at the community level through female community health volunteers and women’s groups. UNICEF also assisted the MoHP to develop an ‘Operational Guideline for Setting up Newborn Services at Different Levels of Health Facility’ to improve the provision of newborn care. All of these efforts can plausibly be said to have contributed towards the increase in the proxy indicator of delayed bathing of
newborns.

A technical assistance team from UNICEF was formed in January 2014 as an Effective Vaccine Management (EVM) secretariat within the Logistic Management Division of the MoHP. The team played a central role in strengthening the capacity of government staff to adhere to the standard operating procedures for effective vaccine management, scientific delivery and stock management of the vaccines, as well as the capacity transfer for cold chain equipment maintenance and repair. Although there was no measles/rubella campaign launch in 2014, presumably the strengthened routine immunisation programme including measles/rubella contributed to the increase in the measles vaccination coverage. UNICEF also played a lead role in introducing a second dose of measles/rubella into the routine immunisation programme.

In addition, Nepal was declared a polio-free country in March 2014 and was the first country to introduce IPV to boost the immunity of children. UNICEF provided extensive technical support to the Government to carry out communication and social mobilisation activities targeting parents, caregivers, health workers, media, and policy makers. UNICEF assistance enabled communications to be channelled through media, national-level Perinatal and Paediatric Societies, and the National Committee on the Immunisation Programme to promote the successful IPV implementation in Nepal.

UNICEF provided technical support to DHOs and Child Health Divisions to develop a community mobilisation strategy on immunisation to ensure wider community participation including local government, non-governmental and community organisations, media and social leaders to reach missing children. During the reporting period, three districts and 300 VDCs were declared to have no children left out from complete immunisation activities.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress: Due to strong support and advocacy from UNICEF, nutrition is high on the Government’s agenda in Nepal. The Maternal Infant and Young Child Nutrition Communication Action Plan for the 1,000 Golden Days Campaign was approved by the MoHP and will reach pregnant and breastfeeding mothers nationwide from November 2014 with the main objective of improving the nutritional status of adolescent girls, and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

The IYCF Strategy is under endorsement from the MoHP. The key indicators on IYCF as well as on growth monitoring with improved counselling are now included in the routine health information system, and nationally rolled out with training to all health workers completed nationwide. The completion of a review and refresher training on IYCF for volunteers and mothers of young children in 15 districts contributed to improving their knowledge on child feeding practices. In addition, more children are receiving nutritious food and care, with an increased role for fathers, mothers-in-law, and community leaders.

As part of the approved national Nutrition Communication Action Plan, the 1,000 Golden Days Nutrition Campaign was jointly launched by the regional goodwill ambassador (Mr. Aamir Khan), the National Champion for hand washing and 1,000 days (Mr. Paras Khadka), and the Secretaries of relevant ministries from the Government of Nepal. WASH and ECD are well integrated within the campaign as well as in the district nutrition programme of the six MSNP districts.
In order to encourage early stimulation, psycho-social and cognitive development of young children, a parenting education manual with strong nutrition and WASH components was developed and is currently being field-tested for future implementation in all six MSNP districts.

**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:** Issues affecting out-of-school children are diverse, including variables such as age, geography, ethnicity, and mother tongue, which require multi-sectoral approaches. Although the MoE’s School Sector Reform Plan refers to learning issues, it is not been effectively implemented to meet the specific needs of Dalits, indigenous peoples or Janajatis, differently-abled children, children affected by conflict or children with HIV/AIDS. In addition, facilitators do not have adequate capacity to facilitate bilingual classes, and there is a dearth of mother-tongue education materials.

With these lessons learned, UNICEF focused its work in 2014 on advocating on issues affecting out-of-school children for cross-sectoral collaboration. This effort assisted in changing the views and attitudes of public officials with regard to out-of-school children, which resulted in the development of a Regional Level Strategic Plan in five Terai districts to better respond to these issues. This also contributed directly to the National Education Equity Strategy.

Further, during the reporting year, UNICEF supported playing, learning and mobile centres focusing on urban areas through a partnership with two municipalities. These initiatives advocate for addressing and removing barriers impeding working children in the urban areas from exploring the fulfilment of children’s rights to education.

In the GATE programme during the year in Saptari, 2,443 girls completed non-formal classes out of whom 47 per cent (1,163) were mainstreamed into formal schools. Of the beneficiaries, 62 per cent (1531) were Dalits. The preliminary findings of the evaluation of the GATE programme to be released in 2015 suggested the need for developing a comprehensive strategy for effectiveness, scalability and sustainability.

Nepal does not have accreditation and equivalency in non-formal education. A study visit was conducted in Philippines with high-level Government officials, and based on the lesson learned, the Government showed commitment to taking forward the programme with the support of UNESCO and UNICEF.

**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:** In 2014, a comprehensive social and financial skills training package for adolescents was endorsed by Government of Nepal.

As a result of training supported by UNICEF, 161 government and civil society personnel at the national and community levels started to train village-level facilitators and peer leaders on a social and financial skills training package for adolescents as per the cascade model (data not yet available).
A total of 2,670 marginalised adolescents such as those commercially sexually exploited, using drugs, affected with HIV/AIDS, at risk of being trafficked and belonging to sexual and gender minorities, were equipped with knowledge, confidence and life skills to influence and take part in decisions that affect their lives through participation in sports- and dance-based recreational activities such as GOAL and Dance4Life. The GOAL training curriculum encompasses life skills activities in conjunction with the use of sport to encourage young people to be themselves, be healthy, be empowered, and be money-savvy. Dance4Life is an international initiative that utilises music and dance to empower and engage young people to challenge the stigma and taboos that surround HIV/AIDS and also learn how they can protect themselves and those around them.

OUTPUT 5

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

Analytical Statement of Progress: During 2014, 5,448 protection-related cases (65 per cent women, 27 per cent children and 8 per cent men) were detected by the Gender-Based Violence Watch Groups. Of the total, 35 per cent were referred to different service providers for further support while 65 per cent were resolved by the Watch Groups themselves. This represents an increase in the number of cases documented by 1,448. In addition there is an increase in referral to service by 19 per cent as compared to 2013.

An endline survey on Knowledge, Attitude and Practice on violence against women and children was completed in 12 districts. The major findings from the endline survey indicate that 54 per cent of children (53 per cent for boys, 54 per cent for girls) have experienced physical violence at home; 19 per cent (20 per cent for boys, 18 per cent for girls) have experienced psychological violence at home; and 9 per cent (12 per cent for boys, 7 per cent for girls) have experienced sexual violence at home or in the community. The findings will contribute to future programming on gender-based violence and provide critical evidence on the situation of women and children with regard to violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination.

Strengthened assistance to children and women was possible with an expansion in the number and capacity of the Gender-Based Violence Watch Groups (2,753 people trained). As a result of regular advocacy, the Government is moving toward allocating its own resources to the Gender-Based Violence Watch Groups programme.

Policy makers are more aware of issues around trafficking in the country, and new data was generated on this issue. NGOs in Nepal estimate that as many as 15,000 Nepali women and girls are trafficked annually to India, while 7,500 are trafficked domestically for commercial sexual exploitation. In addition, an estimated 20,000 to 25,000 Nepali women become involuntary domestic workers each year within Nepal.

Thousands of men, women, children and adolescents received messages on the need to reduce violence against women and children during the high-visibility event "Women in Concert". Activities during the event included a school outreach programme targeting 500 adolescents and an interaction programme with the media in order to brief them on violence issues. The musical concert gathered around 5,000 people (of whom around 1,250 were children).

UNICEF Nepal launched the country’s first National Ambassador to raise awareness on violence against children and incite support and action of policy makers, government officials
and civil society to strengthen protection of children. Thirty-five media personnel from Mid and Far Western Region were oriented on child protection, the role of media and the media code of conduct. Furthermore, a Child Protection Media Group was formed after the training to increase media coverage of the issue.

**OUTPUT 6**

By 2017, in selected districts and municipalities, public opinion, media, community networks, employers, government institutions, religious organisations, 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:** As a result of the training provided with UNICEF support, the capacity of 40 national-level religious leaders was enhanced to train community-level religious leaders on child rights and child marriage issues to generate discussion on these issues in the community. Religious leaders are also using various channels to denounce child marriage. The issue of child marriage was raised in 30 television and radio shows, which resulted in greater understanding of the position that religions hold regarding marriage. This is the first time that UNICEF Nepal has mobilised religious leaders at the community level to denounce and end child marriage as an approach to influence the attitudes and behaviours of parents, especially fathers and other community stakeholders.

UNICEF is influencing increased media reporting on children and adolescents’ issues as a result of various capacity-building efforts. In 2014, 41 media persons and 91 media students gained the capacity to ensure ethical media reporting of children and adolescents as a result of training provided by UNICEF.

UNICEF Nepal developed a training package on adolescent development targeting parents (who will be trained on a comprehensive social and financial skills training package) with a special focus on child marriage. As a result of the training organised by UNICEF, 104 national- and regional-level personnel from government and civil society have the capacity to conduct orientation for parents on adolescent development issues. By orienting parents on adolescent issues, it is expected that they will provide a protective and enabling environment for adolescents to reach their full potential.

With regard to support to adolescent training, there was significant delay in finalising the training packages, which affected the implementation in the field, thereby affecting the overall result. The delay was caused by the engagement of multiple partners, repeated consultations with adolescents and parents and the government endorsement process. Another constraint was the capacity of the religious leaders and other facilitators, which affects the training as it is following a cascade model. UNICEF is working with partners to develop and implement a comprehensive training quality assurance tool to closely monitor the quality of the training.

**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 supported the annual child consultations (*Bal Bhela*), at which children aged 12-18 years (with equal representations of girls, boys and children of various castes, classes, and geography and economic strata in 15 priority districts, 11 municipalities and 740 VDCs) where more than 50 per cent of children’s/adolescents’ demands were endorsed by local councils. MoFALD has an established guideline that contains selection criteria for a child club member’s participation in *Bal Bhela* taking into consideration gender, caste, age and disability. Children’s demands included ECD Centres, libraries, street
drama organisation against child marriage, the establishment of children’s parks, sports materials, available sanitary pads and separate toilets for girls and boys in schools. Children’s representation was also ensured in local committees (e.g. Village CFLG Committee) that are responsible for the review and monitoring of the allocated resources. In addition, child club members participated in annual reviews of local bodies, public hearings and public audit programmes undertaken by local bodies. Provisions for people with disability and women are also included in target allocations using a consultative process to ensure needs are met in accordance with targets.

As a result of UNICEF advocacy, MoFALD demonstrated commitment by allocating approximately $96,000 from the Local Governance and Community Development Programme /Joint Financing Agreement Funds for the implementation of Bal Bhelas beyond 15 districts. Explicit reference to Bal Bhela implementation and Child Club mobilisation in the terms of reference of the Local Governance and Community Development Programme, social mobilisers, and development of the facilitation guide will support the roll out of Bal Bhela nationally. The selection criteria developed by the Ministry is taken into serious consideration while inviting children to participate in Bal Bhela and those who participate in local council meetings. The Local Governance and Community Development Programme thus made a policy decision to earmark 10 per cent of allocated resources for meeting children’s demands in all local bodies of the country.

OUTCOME 4  Office Management Costs

OUTPUT 1 Office Management

Analytical Statement of Progress: The CMT functioned very effectively, provided strategic guidance, and programme and operational inputs in advising the Representative in taking informed decisions.

The office budget was efficiently managed and monitored monthly at CMT. The IB utilisation rate as of 31 December 2014 was 64 per cent against the total funding of US$ 1,190,561 for 2014. The percent utilisation was low because of security budget earmarked for building an operations wing within the UN House pending IB budget utilisation.

Travel2field was fully implemented across the board as of 5 November 2014. There were a few initial challenges, which were resolved with UNICEF Sri Lanka.

OUTPUT 2 Office Management

Analytical Statement of Progress: Improved quality bank reconciliation and monthly accounts were submitted to the Division of Financial and Administrative Management (DFAM) by the 14th of following month consistently.

The Table of Authority was revised and staff signed the relevant extracted portion, making them accountable to the delegated authority assigned to them by the Representative.

A HACT Assessment and Assurance Plan was developed with programme sections and Zone Offices for 2014. An agreement was made with two Chartered Accountant firms to conduct micro-assessments of nine implementing partners (IPs), out of which eight were completed and the reports shared with IPs. Similarly, with regard to assurance activities, spot checks were conducted for 26 IPs and an audit scheduled for one IP.
OUTPUT 3 Office Management Costs

Analytical Statement of Progress: During January-November 2014, the office completed recruitment of seven IP, seven NO and four GS positions with several in the pipeline for posts newly approved by the July 2014 IBR. The average duration of the recruitment processes was 34 days for IP, 62 days for NO and 47 days for GS positions.

The process for hiring consultants and individual contractors (CIC) was streamlined with the revised Contracts Review Committee (CRC) threshold for individual contracts of US$ 25,000 for improved risk mitigation. The CIC process is now centralised with close oversight by Human Resources to ensure compliance with UNICEF policies. The new checklist was mainstreamed and serves as a quality assurance tool in the CIC work process. Two in-house briefing sessions were held to create awareness and clarify issues related to the CIC work process.

Several learning sessions were organised with a 94 per cent learning activity implementation rate.

The updated orientation handbook was approved by CMT and is posted on the office intranet. A one-day orientation for new staff was organised in November 2014 with the participation of staff from Kathmandu and Zone offices.

OUTCOME 5 Cross sectoral

OUTPUT 2 Communications, Emergency and Other Cross-sectoral Programme costs

Analytical Statement of Progress: Supplies and resources to partners were monitored and follow-up action undertaken by the cross-sectoral team. Office management expenses were supplemented by the CS budget which was efficiently utilised for the intended purpose.

OUTPUT 3 Efficient and effective Cross-cutting and Operating costs

Analytical Statement of Progress: Management of the cross-sectoral budget in 2014, including budget planning, monitoring and reviews, were efficiently carried out, resulting in about 82 per cent utilisation as of the end of December 2014. Staff such as Chief of Zone Offices and some operational staff on cross-sectoral budget coordinated programme implementation in the Zone Offices and performed presentational duties. The Cross Sectoral budget for the Office was prepared and submitted and follow-up actions were carried out efficiently. Supplies and resources to partners were monitored and follow-up action undertaken by the CS team. A market survey was conducted in the first quarter of the year and reports were submitted and 22 LTAs were established, which enhanced supply section effectiveness, competitiveness and value for money. The suppliers list was updated on an ongoing basis. Quarterly end-user monitoring will be continued and efficient warehouse management sustained.
### Evaluation

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### Other Publication

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