Executive Summary

In 2016, UNICEF Pacific provided seamless support to Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) through emergency response, recovery and ongoing development programmes. While the region was still recovering from the devastating effects of tropical cyclone Pam, UNICEF mounted a large-scale emergency response in Fiji in the wake of the February landfall of tropical cyclone Winston, a category 5 storm. In 2016, UNICEF Pacific also responded to the El Niño induced drought in Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Marshal Islands and a diarrhoea epidemic in Solomon Islands.

In response to tropical storm Winston, UNICEF Pacific’s support reached 68,967 people with access to safe water and 29,456 people with hygiene and sanitation supplies. Some 41,900 school children benefitted from the distribution of psychosocial materials (including early childhood development kits) and the creation of temporary learning spaces, and 10,867 children participated in the ‘Just Play’ programme designed to promote the well-being of children through participation in sports and team play.

Expanded immunizations as well as other essential health and nutrition services were extended to health facilities in the most affected areas. To strengthen the vaccine cold chain, reliant and environmentally-friendly solar fridges were installed in 26 of the targeted 74 facilities without access to power. The remaining solar fridges will be installed in early 2017.

In WASH, a new community-based programme to ensure safe and secure drinking water was piloted as a systematic, scalable and build-back-better approach for cyclone recovery programmes in Vanuatu and Fiji. UNICEF supported Pacific governments with the design of programmes that will enable communities, schools and health care facilities to assess and manage risks to water and sanitation systems, improve overall preparedness and facilitate the access to building resilient communities at scale.

UNICEF continued to advocate for laws, policies and standards to create conducive, enabling environments for progressive realization of child rights in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). In education, UNICEF successfully lobbied for the development of national minimum quality service standards in four PICTs. In protection, UNICEF advocacy led to the passing of the 2016 Child Protection and Welfare act in Nauru. In Fiji, the Adoption Bill and the Rights of Persons with Disability Bill were finalized and submitted to Parliament for discussion. The child protection policy in Vanuatu was also finalized in 2016. UNICEF also supported the Vanuatu National Nutrition Policy (2016-2020) to address the double burden of malnutrition, stunting and obesity. In Kiribati, UNICEF worked with the government to ensure that a WASH in school policy was in place.

Service delivery was further strengthened in 2016. In health, UNICEF support contributed to the successful polio vaccine switch activities for 10 PICTs. UNICEF supported the Solomon Islands Ministry of Health (MoH) to roll out the competency-based emergency essential newborn care (EENC) training to staff from 73 health facilities as well as to procure newborn intensive care equipment for selected hospitals. Though the vaccine independence initiative (VII), 13 PICTs are better equipped to procure and deliver vaccines in a timely manner. No
country reported stock outs of DTP vaccine.

In Kiribati, UNICEF worked with government and civil society partners to raise awareness at the community level of child protection issues such as cyber safety, bullying, violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. This brings to four the number of PICTs using the package designed to address high rates of acceptance of violence against children and women.

More than a year after TC Pam, field monitoring revealed that young children were still in need of psychosocial support (PSS) for trauma recovery. In response, the Vanuatu Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) was supported to take the PSS interventions to scale as part of its national strategy for preparedness.

Significant achievements were also registered in addressing the lack of reliable data of critical importance to programming. UNICEF worked with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to support capacity development of national statistics offices. Support to Solomon Islands was rendered to finalize the 2015 Demographic Health Survey. Support was also extended to Tonga 2016 Census to reduce, by up to 50 per cent, report turnaround time by using tablets for data collection. Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu were provided with technical support for baseline surveys on WASH in schools and healthcare facilities, utilizing innovative mobile phone data collection platforms. The mobile platform was further used for TC Winston humanitarian performance monitoring.

In 2016, UNICEF Pacific also started development of the new Multi-Country Programme (2018-2022). All 14 countries were consulted on their priorities as part of United Nations Pacific Strategy (2018-22).

### Humanitarian Assistance

UNICEF Pacific was involved in multiple humanitarian operations in 2016, including emergency response following the category 5 tropical cyclone Winton that struck Fiji in February 2016 and activities related to the category 5 tropical cyclone Pam that hit Vanuatu in March 2015. UNICEF Pacific carried out localized operations in response to a drought caused by a strong El Niño Southern Oscillation in the Pacific and a diarrhoea outbreak in Solomon Islands (SI).

Winston was the strongest cyclone to make landfall in Fiji and the South Pacific Basin in recorded history. It wrought havoc in all four divisions of Fiji. The storm affected approximately 540,400 people (62 per cent of Fiji’s population), including 120,000 children, and damaged or destroyed 30,369 houses, 495 schools and 88 health clinics and medical facilities. The value of damage and losses was estimated at US$0.9 billion, or about one-fifth of Fiji’s gross domestic product.

UNICEF Pacific mounted a response to Winston with the same level of urgency and streamlined emergency procedures as a Level 2 emergency, even though it was not classified as such. An appeal for US$7.07 million raised US$8.13 million in contributions (115 per cent of the appeal) from the Central Emergency Response Fund, Governments and national committees.

The strong leadership of the Fiji Government and UNICEF’s pre-existing relationship with key Ministries facilitated the immediate activation of clusters in response to the disaster. Regular development projects, such as WASH in schools (WinS), the ‘Just Play’ programme, and the integrated management of acute malnutrition, were refocused for the emergency. Innovations such as U-Report, psychosocial materials, and cold chain rehabilitation using solar power were initiated. By the end of October 2016, 68,967 people were provided with access to safe water and 29,456 were provided with hygiene and sanitation supplies. Some
41,912 school children benefited from learning materials and temporary learning spaces and 10,867 children participated in the ‘Just Play’ programme designed to support the well-being of children through sports.

An independent consultant conducted an after-action review of UNICEF Pacific’s response to tropical cyclone Winston, concluding that “overall, both internal and external stakeholders provided positive reviews.” Furthermore, “donors felt that UNICEF’s TC Winston response was appropriate, timely and effective, which has helped strengthen good relationships between UNICEF and the donor community.” It was still further noted that UNICEF Pacific had effectively applied lessons learned from its response to tropical cyclone Pam, although cluster coordination in emergency response preparedness was identified as an area for improvement.

UNICEF’s response to Pam supported the Vanuatu Government’s National Recovery Plan in addressing needs created by El Niño drought conditions. Water deliveries were carried out in the Shepherd and Efate Offshore islands, where the water crisis was most acute, through a partnership between UNICEF, the Kaleva Yachting Services and the Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources. By the first anniversary of TC Pam, 51,234 persons were provided access to safe drinking water. UNICEF continued to provide temporary learning spaces for school children due to delays in the reconstruction of schools. Worn out tents were replaced and more than 34,000 school children received learning materials.

The El Niño resulted in less than average rainfall in much of the Pacific Islands, triggering a drought and humanitarian challenges in some countries. The Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) and Palau both declared a national state of emergency following consecutive months of drought.

UNICEF Pacific deployed a humanitarian specialist to the North Pacific in April to assess the scale of the drought and its impact on children and women and to guide UNICEF assistance prior to the delivery of a calibrated response that focused on systemic sectoral concerns. A nutrition specialist and nutrition supplies were delivered to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to support national and state governments in strengthening prevention, screening, referrals and treatment of moderate and acute malnutrition and to address micronutrient deficiency among children and women.

In the Marshall Islands and Solomon Islands (SI), training on child protection in emergencies was delivered to Government and other partners to strengthen the capacity of child protection systems to manage the negative social impact of drought in communities. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and nutrition supplies were delivered to the Palau Ministry of Health following the Government’s declaration of a state of emergency. A community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approach was introduced in Kiribati, with a high level political endorsement, to end open defecation and to promote handwashing in schools, health clinics and homes.

**Emerging Areas of Importance**

**Climate change and children.** Pacific Island Countries continued to be exposed to an increased incidence and intensity of tropical storms and other natural disasters, and were threatened by the impacts of climate change. To meet these interconnected challenges, PICs and development partners, including UNICEF, are prioritizing the integration of climate and disaster risk into service delivery programmes for children.

As part of the WASH resilience programme, child-centred risk assessments were undertaken for Fiji, Kiribati, SI and Vanuatu to assist Governments in prioritizing support to communities. A policy review of climate, disaster risk, and WASH policies was completed in these countries with an aim to strengthening the resilience of WASH systems and services.
The build-back-better approach was utilized in recovery programmes in Vanuatu and Fiji following tropical cyclones Pam and Winston and risk assessment and management was incorporated into reconstruction efforts in communities and at schools.

UNICEF continued to work with communities to mitigate the negative effects of climate change through initiatives such as the Three Star Approach for WinS; safety and security planning for community drinking water; and the introduction of solar–powered technologies in schools and for cold storage of vaccines.

UNICEF, together with WHO, UNFPA, UN Women and UNDP, jointly developed a concept note for the Green Climate Fund on building resilience of health systems in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) to climate change to prepare for, respond to, and manage short-term climate variability and long-term climate-sensitive health risks. The concept note focused on particularly vulnerable populations and regions, including women, children and youth.

**Accelerated integrated early childhood development.** With more than 70 per cent of children 3–5 years old and almost all children 0-3 years old at home in the Pacific region, UNICEF Pacific shifted its strategic focus in 2014 to strengthening family support for early childhood development (ECD). UNICEF first conducted two knowledge, attitudes and practices studies in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to identify what parents were doing at home to promote holistic early childhood development and to support school readiness of children.

Using a communication for development approach, both the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu developed culturally-appropriate children’s storybooks and posters that incorporated key messages for parents on holistic ECD through the interconnected themes of protection, nutrition, health, hygiene and early learning. The resources were the first tools of their kind to be introduced to parents and families with young children in SI and Vanuatu.

Following tropical cyclone Pam in Vanuatu, the materials were designed to respond to the psychosocial needs of children and to promote resilience. The storybooks and posters were distributed widely in Vanuatu. In Solomon Islands, they were introduced in targeted communities that registered the lowest educational indicators. Early childhood community facilitators were trained to provide support to parents in using the children’s storybooks and to promote family-child interaction in reading the materials.

In Vanuatu, preparations were made to launch an initiative to integrate WASH into a large-scale early childhood care and education (ECCE) programme for young children in Penama Province, where indicators on WASH, nutritional, school enrolment and literacy and numeracy learning rates are poor.

In partnership with the Vanuatu Society for People with Disability, support was provided to expand early intervention classes for children with disabilities following TC Pam. An early intervention curriculum was developed and introduced.

ECD in emergencies was a prominent theme during the emergency response to TC Winston in Fiji. Storybooks were developed to respond to the psychosocial needs and to promote the resilience of young children, including children with disabilities. On the request of the Ministry of Education (MoE), the materials were distributed to all early childhood centres/kindergartens and early primary grades. Affected early childhood centres also received support through the provision of temporary learning spaces and early learning materials.
As Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Care and Education, UNICEF contributed to and supported the Pacific Education Development Framework’s objectives of enhancing alignment of national priorities and ECCE initiatives. A regional information management platform was developed to integrate and synthesize existing information and to provide guidance for future research and programme activities. Pacific Guidelines for the Development of National Quality Frameworks for ECCE were published to the platform with recommendations on strengthening early childhood subsectors.

With UNICEF support, key messages on exclusive breastfeeding were developed for health care professionals who subsequently delivered them through individual counselling and health promotion sessions in health facilities in six countries (Fiji, SI, Kiribati, Vanuatu, FSM, Samoa). Key data for ECCE indicators was collected and presented at a biennial education ministers meeting.

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women</td>
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<td>CMT</td>
<td>UNICEF Country Management Team</td>
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<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
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<td>ECCE</td>
<td>early childhood care and education</td>
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<td>ECD</td>
<td>early childhood development</td>
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<td>FSM</td>
<td>Federated States of Micronesia</td>
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<td>GSSC</td>
<td>Global Shared Services Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>HACT</td>
<td>harmonized approach to cash transfers</td>
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<td>HIV</td>
<td>human immunodeficiency virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>IB</td>
<td>institutional budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>information and communication technology</td>
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<td>IMERF</td>
<td>integrated monitoring evaluation and research plan</td>
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<td>IP</td>
<td>implementing partner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kmph</td>
<td>kilometres per hour (wind speed)</td>
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<td>LTA</td>
<td>long-term agreement</td>
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<td>MCO</td>
<td>multi-country office</td>
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<td>MoE</td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
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<td>MHMS</td>
<td>Ministry of Health and Medical Services</td>
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<td>NER</td>
<td>net enrolment rate</td>
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<td>NSO</td>
<td>national statistics office</td>
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<td>PICs</td>
<td>Pacific Island Countries</td>
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<td>PICTs</td>
<td>Pacific Island Countries and Territories</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSS</td>
<td>psychosocial support</td>
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<tr>
<td>RES</td>
<td>research, evaluation and studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>RESEC</td>
<td>Research, Evaluation, Studies and Ethics Committee</td>
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<td>RMI</td>
<td>Republic of the Marshall Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>RMNCAH</td>
<td>reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health</td>
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<td>SI</td>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>TC</td>
<td>tropical cyclone</td>
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<tr>
<td>ToR</td>
<td>terms of reference</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>UNJPO</td>
<td>United Nations Joint Presence Office</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
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Capacity Development

Twenty Government Ministries and health, education and WASH partners were trained during a 14-week course on designing, planning and monitoring WASH interventions in schools. The training sessions included topics such as gender and adolescent health, children with disability and emergencies. Participants contributed to evidence generation for 60 schools by completing bottleneck analysis and menstrual hygiene management exercises in preparation for the launch of hygiene promotion campaigns.

To strengthen monitoring and reporting systems, 100 Government staff members were trained on a new, simplified way of reporting from the field using AkvoRSR and data collection using AkvoFlow. The MoE and the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) have incorporated these technological tools into data management systems to support informed decisions on WASH. Fiji’s MoE used AkvoFlow to collect data on affected schools following TC Winston.

Fiji MHMS received training to build capacity on the installation and maintenance of solar-powered direct drive refrigerators and solar-powered refrigerator panels. National immunization officers and health care workers in Kiribati, SI and Vanuatu were trained on vaccine management, cold chain maintenance, supervision and communication for development.

The capacity of four MoEs (Tuvalu, Kiribati, SI, Vanuatu) was developed in emergency response and humanitarian support, which resulted in the development of contingency plans and simulated emergency exercises in the respective countries.

To reduce incidents of violent discipline of children, which is a widely accepted practice in the Pacific Islands, UNICEF supported the Governments of Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Kiribati in developing locally contextualized child protection packages to mobilize communities to address child protection. The capacity of parents and caregivers was developed in more than 500 communities in Fiji and more than 20 communities were reached in Vanuatu.

Technical assistance on HIV/sexually transmitted infections was provided to MHMS and the Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Development in SI.

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

In 2016, evidence generation through studies, reviews and surveys was used to guide the programme to achieve key results across all programmes. UNICEF strengthened its partnership with Pacific Community and National Statistics Offices (NSOs) to improve the availability of data for evidence-based planning, policy dialogue and advocacy.

Vanuatu’s bottleneck analysis of the UN joint programme on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services (RMNCAH) and outcomes in four pilot provinces informed provincial RMNCAH operational and business planning processes.

UNICEF partnered with Tufts University to document lessons learned from water safety planning interventions in communities in Fiji and Vanuatu. Policy reviews and lessons learned supported the development of water and waste water policies in Fiji and Vanuatu.

Child-centred risk assessments were completed in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu to assist Governments in prioritizing their support to communities.

Reviews following TC Winston recommended improved prepositioning of supplies, stronger cluster preparedness and targeted response interventions to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.

Evidence from a Nauru child protection situation analysis supported the enactment of a Child Protection and Welfare Act and the development of an implementation plan for the recently established Child Protection Division.

The Tuvalu education management information system was upgraded with UNICEF support, improving access to data. The data was used by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to develop and implement holistic education policies that include cross-cutting themes such as inclusive education, WASH and child protection in schools, gender and emergency preparedness.

### Partnerships

UNICEF Pacific established close collaborations with regional organizations in the Pacific to address children’s issues. The Pacific Islands Forum is an important partner within the Pacific Plan for Regional Cooperation, where HPV vaccination is becoming a priority. UNICEF continued close partnership with Pacific Community (SPC) on evidence generation, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) reporting. UNICEF also collaborated with the Pacific Disability Forum to conduct a TC Winston disability needs assessment.

UNICEF, as the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Care and Education (PRC4ECCE), continued its efforts in monitoring and documenting the implementation of the regional guidelines for the development of national quality frameworks for ECCE. The Pacific WASH Coalition remained a critical partnership. UNICEF Pacific, the Asian Development Bank, UN-Habitat and the Water and Sanitation Programme of the World Bank worked with the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility to produce the report ‘Unsettled: Water and Sanitation in Urban Settlement Communities of the Pacific.’

UNICEF enhanced its partnerships with civil society to address the vulnerability of children. In Vanuatu, UNICEF worked closely with Vanuatu Society for People with Disabilities to reach children with disabilities and their parents and caregivers to benefit UNICEF-supported early intervention programmes.

Collaborative partnerships continued with the Oceania Football Confederation and ‘Just Play’ to use sport as a medium to promote positive development for children, especially during the TC Winston responses.

WASH continued to strengthen programme delivery with support from academic institutions such as the Institute of Environmental Science and Research Limited, Tufts University, Murdoch Children’s Research Institute and the Coalition Against Typhoid, Emory University and the University of North Carolina. UNICEF also strengthened its partnership with the
Brisbane Accord Group for scaling-up and modernizing birth registration for the countries in the Pacific.

**External Communication and Public Advocacy**

UNICEF Pacific’s extensive and global media relations activity in telling children’s stories following tropical cyclone Winston in Fiji bolstered UNICEF National Committee resource mobilization efforts and helped to promote donor visibility, both in the immediate aftermath and throughout the recovery phase. New platforms such as Medium were adopted to increase the visual quality and range of UNICEF Pacific’s storytelling. A series of follow-up videos were created with children in Vanuatu to mark the one year anniversary of tropical cyclone Pam.

UNICEF Pacific’s social media footprint continued to steadily grow, with Facebook followers reaching 41,740 (approximately a 33 per cent increase from 2015) and continued significant growth on Twitter, Instagram and Medium. This was in part due to additional human resources dedicated to online activity, and to experimentation with new platforms and strategic social media advertising.

The #ENDviolence campaign communicated critical messages on ending violence across the Pacific in nine PICTs. In partnership with ‘Just Play’, a sport development programme, #ENDviolence was the key theme at the FIFA U20 Women’s World Cup, where sports role models from around the region and the world joined in to raise awareness. Stories from the Pacific were also highlighted during the High-Level Meeting on Child Rights in Malaysia where Governments made commitments to #ENDviolence.

UNICEF’s 70th anniversary was used as an anchor to create meaningful child/youth participation as well as an outlet for child rights education and information around the Sustainable Development Goals. More than 3,500 children visited a child rights themed photo exhibition in November and a high-profile evening event was hosted with His Excellency the President of Fiji as the honourable guest.

**South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation**

Building on collaborations between Fiji and Vanuatu Governments during tropical cyclones, Pam and Winston, UNICEF further facilitated South-South cooperation among the two countries through the delivery of training on WASH in emergencies. The training strengthened knowledge and national capacity in emergency response and recovery and resulted in exchange of ideas over experiences and emergency contingency plans in Fiji and Vanuatu as well as the development of a twinning initiative aimed at sustaining these collaborative efforts.

Delegates from MoEs in Fiji and Vanuatu met at a UNICEF-sponsored event designed to enhance WinS programming and collective ownership of the programme to strengthen policy and support for schools.

A UNICEF Pacific health section vaccine independence initiative served as a coordination and communications platform for information sharing on vaccine forecasting, cold chain management and waste disposal required to achieve country targets among all PICTs.

An informal group of representatives from national statistic offices (NSOs) and the Pacific Community and Pacific Disability Forum was formed to support collection and utilization of disability statistics. The initiative reinforced the capacity of the offices to generate reliable statistics, which are required to inform the design of public policies and to facilitate the sharing of best practices in the processing, analysis, implementation and dissemination of
disability data from censuses and surveys. Support was provided to Tonga for a census completed in November 2016 and a national disability survey to be conducted in 2017. The Tonga Department of Statistics has offered to share its experiences with other countries.

Two magistrates and one judge from Vanuatu, Samoa and Nauru shared best practices from their respective legal systems in the South Pacific Council of Youth and Children’s Courts.

Delegates from Fiji, Samoa, Tuvalu and Kiribati attended the 3rd High Level Meeting in Malaysia and committed to strengthen legal and policy frameworks to deliver responsive services for children.

Identification Promotion of Innovation

UNICEF used low-cost, high-impact innovations in advocacy and capacity development in 2016 to deliver results for children.

WASH messages and interactive tools were developed to keep pace with the digital preferences of boys and girls, parents, teachers, and community leaders. A successful outcome of this innovation was ‘#WASHWednesday’, in which gender inclusive WASH stories ranging in focus from tippy taps to toilets were featured on digital platforms every Wednesday.

A low-cost web-based learning platform was used to connect people globally with best practices and lessons learned from the field and Web-based learning opportunities were provided to partners on a wide range of WASH-related topics. The learning platform boosted the number of WASH champions in government ministries in Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Fiji and Vanuatu, who actively pushed for inclusion of WASH in their national plans.

UNICEF strengthened monitoring and reporting systems using Akvo Really Simple Reporting (AkvoRSR) and AkvoFlow. During storm Winston in Fiji, the MoE used these tools to collect data on schools and WASH facilities that subsequently informed decisions and priorities for emergency response and recovery. The ‘Just Play’ emergency programme used AkvoFlow to measure its impact, reaching 10,000 children during Winston. Teachers and community volunteers reported that the programme’s psychosocial sessions helped them to speak to children about their Winston experiences and they noticed positive changes in children. The ‘Just Play’ emergency programme was shortlisted by Beyond Sport as one of the Best Innovations of 2016.

The open source communication platform RapidPro was rolled out in Fiji and Solomon Islands. UReport, a social messaging tool that allows young people to report issues and support child rights, was adopted in Fiji to improve disaster management coordination.

The use of drones to deliver vaccines to children in difficult terrains in Vanuatu will be piloted in 2017.

Support to Integration and Cross-Sectoral Linkages

UNICEF Pacific continued to establish cross-sectoral linkages around the areas of early childhood development, WASH, health, nutrition and child protection wherever feasible. Communication for development also played a key role to reinforce and promote cohesive messages of holistic child development for positive behaviour and social changes among children.

UNICEF’s health, nutrition, protection and education programmes collaborated on the development and review of key messages for an early childhood development
colouring/storybook for young children for distribution in Kiribati. UNICEF advocated with the MoE to support WASH interventions in early childhood education centres and schools. Through integrated management of childhood issues, interventions related to immunization, nutrition and WASH were implemented in health facilities and communication messages shared to address diarrhoea among children in Kiribati. Safe drinking water supply was provided to health facilities in Kiribati and SI.

A pilot on WASH-nutrition linkages in Solomon Islands and Kiribati is being discussed to launch in 2017 in preparation for a new multi-country programme where the two programmes will work closely in the same geographical areas.

UNICEF will support the Government of Solomon Islands in the development of a multisectoral national nutrition policy in 2017 in collaboration with WHO, FAO and other partners.

**Service Delivery**

Healthcare worker capacity related to immunization, maternal and child health and nutrition, and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment among adolescents and youth was strengthened in Fiji, SI, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia.

A strategy for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health was finalized in Vanuatu, and UNICEF Pacific coordinated the development of an implementation plan for 2017–2020 that aligns with global and national indicators such as the Sustainable Development Goals and Vanuatu National Sustainable Development Programme and Health Sector Strategy.

The availability of vaccines and sustainable financing of national immunization programmes was ensured for all Pacific Island Countries through UNICEF’s vaccine independence initiative.

Water and sanitation services and drinking water safety were improved in rural and peri-urban communities in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, using innovative and appropriate technologies such as rainwater harvesting and hydraulic ram pumps. WASH facilities that are attentive to the needs of girls were constructed to improve the menstrual hygiene of girls in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The achievements were monitored through mobile phone technology and web-based dashboards that were established in all relevant government departments.

Mobile kindergarten services to disadvantaged communities in the greater Suva, Fiji area provided early childhood services to 320 children. Referrals included the following: five families to the Foundation for the Education of Needy Children, 20 families for birth registration, and 11 families to hospital for medical services and specialists. Services also were provided to 26 communities affected by tropical cyclone Winston, reaching 567 children.

The development of inter-agency referral protocols for child protection in Kiribati strengthened the quality and timeliness of key services for child victims of violence and abuse. Safe places for the protection of victims were identified at the community level. The police agreed to assist victims and to safeguard their security by ensuring perpetrators maintain a safe distance from them.
## Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

UNICEF Pacific assisted the Governments of Vanuatu and Solomon Island on reporting on CRC implementation and Vanuatu on two optional protocols. Support to Tonga was provided to draft terms of reference (ToR) for completion of a CRC State Party Report.

UNICEF developed a ToR to revive Tuvalu’s National Coordination Committee and co-facilitated a workshop on the National Human Rights Action Plan, which was endorsed by the Cabinet and outlines treaty body recommendations and identifies responsible Ministries/departments and stakeholders.

In the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Marshall Islands, UNICEF Pacific provided technical support and funding for consultations for completion of overdue Committee on the Rights of the Child periodic reports. In Samoa and Nauru, UNICEF provided technical support to Governments for mock sessions prior to the Committee review. In Kiribati, UNICEF raised awareness on the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the Members of Parliament Induction. Support was provided to awareness raising events in several Pacific Island Countries through the distribution of Convention on the Rights of the Child banners and booklets.

Financial support was provided to Governments in the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Micronesia for International Day of People with Disabilities and Human Rights Day celebrations. UNICEF provided inputs to a regional workshop, organized by the Pacific Community and the European Union, to validate statistical monitoring indicators that are required to implement human rights-related treaties.

UNICEF was a member of an informal working group on disability that supported the development of a regional framework for persons with disabilities, which was endorsed at a Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat meeting.

UNICEF Pacific, in partnership with Vanuatu Society for Persons with Disabilities, launched an early intervention programme that advocated for inclusion of children with disabilities in schools and sports towards implementation of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

UNICEF supported the allocation in Pacific Island Countries of sufficient resources to improve essential health commodity supply chains and enhance service delivery to hard-to-reach communities. UNICEF included child development and positive discipline in the development of parenting resources in Solomon Islands. Primary teachers in Kiribati and Solomon Islands were informed about the Convention on the Rights of the Child through the development of teacher codes of ethics.

## Gender Equality

UNICEF Pacific’s gender-related priorities were to improve gender-responsive adolescent health and reduce gender-based violence. UNICEF ensured gender mainstreaming through active participation and engagement of girls and women during hygiene and immunization promotion campaigns, establishment of school clubs, and operations and maintenance training of WASH facilities.

UNICEF promoted gender-sensitive WASH interventions such as installation of separate toilets for girls and boys that included doors with inside locks for privacy as well as inclusion of sanitary bins and availability of water for girls to manage their menstrual hygiene while at school.
UNICEF partnered with the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development and Training in Vanuatu and a local theatre group to produce a community-based drama that addressed issues of violence, abuse and exploitation of children, with girls the primary victims. A total of 3,949 adults (2,157 female and 1,792 male) and 2,262 children (1,202 girls and 1,060 boys) in 22 communities watched the child protection play on the five islands, after which audiences were encouraged to engage in group discussions.

UNICEF and WHO provided technical advice to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services in Solomon Islands on revising policy and protocols for survivors of gender-based violence to ensure they aligned with new legislation, international best-practice standards, and lessons learned from efforts to end violence against women and girls.

As part of its contribution to the Pacific UN Country Team Gender Group, UNICEF provided technical and layout design input for ‘A Resource about Domestic Violence for UN Staff in the Pacific’ booklet that is to be disseminated in the region.

The UNICEF communication team developed targeted mass media, sports campaigns (#ENDviolence and JustPlay) and information, education and communication materials on safe motherhood. An estimated 55 percent of UNICEF social media followers in 2016 were female.

Gender review and training on gender mainstreaming was deferred from 2016 to 2017 due to the response to tropical cyclone Winston.

**Environmental Sustainability**

The Pacific Islands and Territories were exposed to a wide range of natural hazards and adverse impacts of climate change in 2016. These challenges were most vividly and dramatically illustrated in 2016 during TC Winston and the El Niño drought, which underscored the importance of integrating environmental sustainability and disaster risk resilience into service delivery programmes for children.

Child-centred risk assessments were undertaken to assist Governments of Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in prioritizing support to communities. A policy review of climate, disaster risk, and WASH policies in these countries was undertaken as a step towards strengthening the resilience of WASH systems and services.

Governments were supported with assistance to enable communities, schools and health care facilities to assess and manage risks to their respective water and sanitation systems, improve overall preparedness and facilitate access to building resilient communities at scale. Installation commenced of solar panels to supply electricity to schools in rural areas of Solomon Islands and a Three Star Approach for WASH was introduced in schools to improve preparedness and response.

Support was provided to adopt environmental-friendly technologies to run cold chain systems on remote Pacific islands that previously had relied on gas for vaccine refrigeration.

As part of Winston’s recovery, the cold chain system was revived in Fiji. Solar-powered direct drive refrigerators replaced gas refrigerators at 74 sites. Refrigerator solar panels were specially designed to resist wind damage. Fifteen solar-powered systems were installed to provide electricity in health care facilities. Under UNICEF’s vaccine independence initiative, vaccine quantities and product selections were optimized to reduce wastage and a vaccine wastage study was completed in partnership with the Centre for Disease Control.
UNICEF Pacific launched greening initiatives, completing two energy assessments and investing in solar-powered energy generation infrastructure for the Kiribati field office and a hybrid vehicle for use by the UNICEF Pacific Representative.

**Effective Leadership**

In 2016, two key management priorities of UNICEF Pacific included preparation of a Multi-Country Office (MCO) Programme for 2018–2022 and implementation of Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC) processes.

Management priorities for 2016 were achieved. Strategic moments of reflection were carried out with the participation of all staff. Strategic notes were finalized as scheduled. GSSC targets were met and GSSC processes introduced seamlessly into the UNICEF Pacific country office. A staff retreat was convened as planned with participation from all UNICEF Pacific personnel to reflect on issues highlighted in the staff survey.

The Solomon Island and the Vanuatu field offices were successfully relocated. Assurance activities linked to harmonized approach to cash transfer (HACT) were conducted as scheduled and available tools were reviewed to make them user-friendly and tailored for the dynamic nature of UNICEF Pacific. While improvements to direct cash processes were noted, ongoing effort is required to ensure implementing partners (IPs) complete processes correctly. UNICEF Pacific sent letters from the Representative to the senior management of implementing partners requesting that they accelerate the implementation and liquidation when direct cash transfers reached 3 months.

Greening initiatives were launched, with the completion of two energy assessments and investments in solar-powered energy generation infrastructure for the Kiribati field office and a hybrid vehicle for use by the UNICEF Pacific Representative.

UNICEF Pacific conducted a significant review and assessment of its risk profile, which led to the development of a new enterprise risk management plan. UNICEF Pacific responded to Winston, the category 5 cyclone that hit Fiji in 2016, with staff demonstrating improved proficiency in responding to the cyclone compared to previous emergencies. UNICEF headquarters, regional office and supply division fully supported emergency operations and played important roles in emphasizing UNICEF’s mandate as an emergency response agency.

**Financial Resources Management**

Key financial indicators, defined by the UNICEF Pacific country management team (CMT) in a two-year office management plan (2016-17), were monitored and reviewed during monthly management meetings. With limitations on funding to UNICEF Pacific, spending was monitored judiciously to ensure earmarked funds were used as effectively as possible on required goods and/or services. The number of long-term arrangements (LTAs) with vendors was increased; procurement was carried out with other UN agencies for some services; review bodies functioned well, enabling quality assurance of processes; and electrical consumption decreased.

Total funding available including regular resources (RR), other resources – regular (ORR) and other resources – emergency (ORE) to UNICEF Pacific in 2016 was US$ 29.9 million.

The East Asia Pacific Regional Office reallocated an additional US$279,117 in institutional budget (IB) funds to UNICEF Pacific, which recorded a utilization rate in 2016 of 100 per cent of IB funds.
UNICEF Pacific used 100 per cent of funds for regular resources, representing US$7.7 million, while the utilization rate of other regular resources stood at 98 per cent, or US$11.7 million. Funds received for the emergency response to TC Winston reached US$10.9 million, of which 95 per cent was used.

UNICEF Pacific continued to make HACT implementation a high priority by providing training opportunities via the Agora platform and/or face-to-face training to staff members. UNICEF Pacific carried out 12 financial audits, 11 spot checks, 7 micro assessments and 114 programmatic visits of IPs. UNICEF Pacific also cooperated with the UN Population Fund on micro assessment exercises for six common partners.

Assurance activities and challenges were discussed regularly at monthly HACT committee meetings. However, implementing partners were still having difficulties liquidating cash transfers for a variety of reasons including technical issues. UNICEF Pacific endeavoured to reduce risks through monitoring exercises and direct payment to vendors.

### Fundraising and Donor Relations

UNICEF Pacific Multi-Country Programme Other Resources (ORR) ceiling for 2013-2017 is US$ 50,778,000. As of December, UNICEF Pacific successfully mobilized US$ 47,890,520, accounting for 94 per cent of the ceiling.

In 2016, funds available to UNICEF Pacific totalled US$ 29,929,020 including: regular resources (RR) US$ 7,783,278; other regular resources (ORR) US$ 11,913,137; and other resources for emergency (ORE) for TC Winston and El Niño response, US$ 11,082,558. Overall financial utilization was 97 per cent, with 100 per cent of planned RR and 98 per cent of planned ORR and 95 per cent of planned ORE. Twenty one out of 25 grants that expired in 2016 were 100 per cent used; the other four ranged between 95-99 per cent utilization. Only 9 of the 54 grants managed in 2016 required extensions to be agreed with donors. Forty five of 46 donor reports were submitted on time to donors, despite the additional heavy workload due to cyclone Winston response earlier in the year.

Main funding sources included the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, thematic funds, the European Union, and UNICEF New Zealand National Committee.

The joint visit of the two Executive Directors of UNICEF New Zealand and Australian National Committees to UNICEF Pacific enhanced the collaborative partnerships and efforts in raising funds for children and women in the Pacific.

UNICEF Pacific also worked closely with both the World Bank (WB) and UNICEF Regional Office (RO) and Headquarters (HQ) to leverage an anticipated increase of WB funding to ECCE. Discussions with the Asian Development Bank on a regional proposal for the introduction of Rotavirus, PCV and HPV in selected Pacific countries were underway, with possibility of complementary funding from Australia and New Zealand Rotary. A concept note on Building Resilience of Health Systems in Pacific Countries and Territories to Climate Change was being developed in collaboration with UNFPA, WHO, and UN Women through UNDP for submission to Green Climate Fund in early 2017.

### Evaluation and Research

A research, evaluation, studies and ethics committee (RESEC) was operationalized and subsequently strengthened to improve the coherence, quality and ethical conduct of research, evaluation and studies (RES) and the quality of studies, surveys and evaluations; increase the capacity of UNICEF Pacific to conduct RES; and ensure compliance with all relevant UNICEF procedures, including those for quality assurance in research and ethical
standards in research, evaluation, data collection and analysis.

The RESEC reported to the country management team, which provided overall oversight of the integrated monitoring evaluation and research plan (IMERP). The RESEC supported all UNICEF Pacific studies, surveys and evaluations, from development of ToRs to standard operating procedures for RES. All studies were recorded in IMERP following rigorous review and classification by the RESEC and CMT approval. Routine RES (valued less than US$30,000) were managed through the planning, monitoring and evaluation function. The RESEC managed significant (valued between US$30,000 and US$100,000) and major (exceeding US$100,000 in value and requiring compliance with additional ethical procedures) RES.

UNICEF Pacific utilized a peer review process, which was established through UNICEF Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific advisors, as a second-layer quality assurance of ToRs for all evaluations initiated in 2016.

An evaluation on capacity development for police on child protection in Fiji, Kiribati and Vanuatu was completed and the evaluation report and recommendations shared with relevant Government partners as well as the donor. The findings proved useful in improving UNICEF-supported capacity development initiatives with police forces, including integration of child protection in existing police training curriculum and a strengthened referral pathway for police, Government ministries and agencies.

### Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

Most efficiency gains that were achieved related to financial and human resources tasks that fell under the purview of the Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC), which was implemented in 2016.

UNICEF Pacific prepared for the transition to GSSC by reorganizing the way activities were conducted and responsibilities were shared, and by improving overall understanding of the implications of the shift to GSSC. A complete review of work processes was carried out in line with GSSC implementation, which resulted in a smooth transition to GSSC and few disruptions to activities. This was accomplished through the sharing of detailed information and the provision of training to UNICEF Pacific staff.

UNICEF Pacific staff, including those in field offices, were provided with checklists and a payment tracking tool. These were among several tools developed to make operational processes more effective and efficient, which resulted in a reduction in processing time and improvements in the quality of monitoring activities.

UNICEF Pacific developed 18 LTAs in Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands and benefited from six LTAs that had been put in place by all UN agencies.

The Solomon Islands field office shared common services with UN agencies at the UN Joint Presence Office (UNJPO) and the Vanuatu field office was relocated into a UNJPO. Although the initial investment to establish a UNJPO was high, co-location is expected to pay off over the longer term through improved UN coherence in countries where agencies share facilities.

UNICEF Pacific worked to reduce travel costs through the establishment of a new LTA and by emphasizing the need for personnel to forecast travel as much as possible to reduce costs. A consolidated UNICEF Pacific travel plan was introduced requiring senior manager approval monthly, which facilitated travel arrangements and better coordination.
**Supply Management**

UNICEF Pacific was much involved in the procurement of supplies and distribution related to the emergency response to tropical cyclone Winston. Procurement for regular programmatic areas primarily related to health, nutrition, and WASH. The total value of supplies procured in 2016 was US$5.1 million, of which US$3.1 million was used in procurement of emergency supplies.

UNICEF Pacific also played an instrumental role in supporting the UNICEF supply division’s procurement of vaccine for 13 countries in the Pacific region, which it covers through the vaccine independence initiative. The value of vaccine supplies for 2016 reached US$1.75 million and supplies were distributed to 13 countries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total supplies</th>
<th>US$5,105,772</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme supplies</td>
<td>US$4,628,0398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational supplies</td>
<td>US$477,732.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total institutional contracts</strong></td>
<td><strong>US$3,266,300.15</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme contracts</td>
<td>US$2,495,612.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational contracts</td>
<td>US$770,687.61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eighty-one per cent of supplies for the Pacific region were procured from providers located outside Pacific, and of that sum, 75 per cent were provided through the UNICEF supply division. Total procurement from the region was valued at US$676,476.

The value of institutional contracts reached US$3.2 million in 2016 – a 30 per cent increase over 2015. UNICEF Pacific worked closely with UNICEF supply division to review its supplies and logistics strategy, which is to be considered during implementation of the next Multi-Country Programme.

The consolidation of cold chain facilities in Fiji through the procurement and installation of 74 solar-powered refrigerators, 32 ice-lined refrigerators and various pieces of cold chain equipment represented a significant achievement.

Vaccine independence initiative agreements were renewed with 13 countries. An agreement with Fiji is being processed. The UNICEF Pacific health programme continued to provide support for immunization to ministries of health through the strengthening of supply chains and vaccine forecasting; warehousing; in-country distribution; maintenance of the cold chain to the final delivery point and end-user monitoring and assessment.

**Security for Staff and Premises**

UNICEF Pacific received US$28,500 from the regional security budget to enhance security in Kiribati. The funds were used to install emergency lights and solar-powered lights outside of the compound.

UNICEF Pacific conducted seismic assessments of offices in Fiji and Vanuatu. An engineering consultancy firm carrying out the review of the Multi-Country Office, located in the Fiji Development Bank building in Suva, suggested that the office may not be designed to withstand an earthquake, but couldn’t say for certain due to a lack of structural drawings. A plan to relocate the office was developed for 2017, since the move will require considerable investment and the risk of earthquake is relatively low. In the meantime, an additional assessment of the current Multi-Country Office was launched.
The consultancy firm that carried out a seismic review of the UNICEF Vanuatu field office, which is co-located in a UNJPO, concluded there was a strong probability that the UNJPO building could be seriously affected in the event of an earthquake. Vanuatu is more prone to earthquakes than other PICs, with an average of two earthquakes of a magnitude greater than 5 on the Richter scale occurring per month. Consequently, UNICEF and other UN agencies that occupy the UNJPO agreed to relocate to a one-storey premise that was deemed safer. Cost of the relocation was estimated at approximately US$141,000.

All UN agencies that occupy a UNJPO in Solomon Islands, including the UNICEF field office, relocated to a new building that was constructed to anti-seismic specifications for New Zealand.

Business continuity plan sites for all UNICEF Pacific offices were reviewed. The Vodafone building in Tamavua was selected as a business continuity site for the Fiji office and a competitive process was launched to identify a suitable business continuity site in Vanuatu.

**Human Resources**

UNICEF Pacific transitioned fully to the Global Shared Services Centre following an in-depth review of human resources processes and plans. Information and training was provided to staff about management of human resources files under GSSC.

In terms of recruitment, 2016 was busy compared to other years. UNICEF Pacific filled 7 of 11 vacant full-time appointment posts within an average timeframe of 70 working days and created nine temporary positions, of which five were filled, in addition to engaging 95 consultants. The completion rate of 2015 electronic performance appraisals was 74 per cent (52/70) as of April, which was lower than previous years due to the storm Winston, which hit Fiji in February.

UNICEF Pacific managed to strengthen the timeliness and quality of performance appraisals. UNICEF Pacific provided training to staff on the new performance appraisal system, Achieve, to ensure efficient and effective completion and achieved a 73 per cent (59/81) completion rate by 30 May 2016.

UNICEF Pacific, in collaboration with the staff association, worked to strengthen areas of concern raised in a global staff survey by organizing an all-staff two-day team building retreat, held in October 2016 in Fiji. Areas of focus for the retreat were selected based on results of a staff survey that was administered through Survey Monkey. The retreat was successfully carried out by a professional team building consultant. Most staff provided positive feedback on the retreat.

UNICEF Pacific continued its commitment to meet the UN Cares 10 Minimum Standards to reduce the impact of HIV in the UN workplace by ensuring the standards were visible in common workplace areas and by designating a focal point for the initiative.

To ensure that UNICEF Pacific maintained adequate humanitarian support, a junior professional officer was recruited for P2 post of disaster risk response emergency officer and an additional temporary appointment P3 was also created for this purpose.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

UNICEF Pacific fully implemented Microsoft Office, including Outlook and Exchange, Skype for Business, OneDrive for Business and other software projects. The use of cloud-based storage proved to be advantageous, particularly for staff members traveling among the Pacific Island Countries to implement programmes.
A SharePoint site was created and staff training was developed with a view to increase SharePoint usage. Overall, there was an increase in the frequency of meetings/conferences, training sessions and document sharing with online collaboration tools such as Skype and Blue Jeans.

However, bandwidth costs remained very high and limited or lack of Internet access among many PICs continued to prove challenging. Traditional email with attachments and instant messaging remained the only reliable tools available to communicate with staff and partners on remote islands of the Pacific. A significant upgrade and improvement to VSAT connectivity for UNICEF field offices in Solomon Islands and Kiribati was completed and operationalized in August at the respective UNJPOs. The service was provided by Emerging Market Communications. Upgrades were also made in Vanuatu, allowing video conferencing in the new joint programme office.

In February, TC Winston had a devastating effect on telecommunication systems in Fiji. UNICEF was active on the emergency telecommunications cluster, jointly led by World Food Programme and the Ministry of Telecommunications, which carried out immediate assessments and provided recommendations to the Government.

UNICEF Pacific’s education section took the lead in the use of Akvoflow software for rapid emergency assessments, resource allocation and planning. UNICEF Pacific’s information and communication technology (ICT) unit headed a Joint UN ICT Working Group. UNICEF Pacific took the lead in securing a common UN Internet and mobile service and implementing a hosted PBX (private branch exchange) solution for PICs that aimed to ensure a standard telecommunication conferencing platform and equipment was put in place at UNJPOs in several Pacific countries.

Programme Components from RAM

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 Effective & Efficient Programme and Operations Support for the 2013-2017 Country Programme

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Pacific took several steps in 2016 to effectively and efficiently deliver its multi-country programme.

UNICEF Pacific completed a review of its work processes during the first part of the year to prepare for the transition to the Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC), which was done successfully with few disruptions to activities.

To avoid delays, detailed information was provided to and training sessions carried out for all UNICEF Pacific staff, including in the Fiji office and three field offices. Staff was provided with checklists and tracking information tools on payment requests and direct cash transfers (DCT). These tools enabled UNICEF Pacific to reduce processing time and increased the quality of monitoring activities.

HACT implementation continued to be a high priority in 2016. Key HACT activities in 2016 included the delivery of training via the Agora platform and face-to-face training to staff and implementing partners (IPs) in Fiji and the field offices. Seven micro assessments, 12 financial audits, 11 of 15 planned spot checks, and 114 of 88 planned programmatic visits were carried out. UNICEF cooperated with UNFPA to carry out micro assessment exercises for six common IPs.
Follow-up on pending DCTs with partners in the countries where UNICEF had no presence remained a key challenge. UNICEF Pacific attempted to reduce risks associated with this task by closely monitoring IPs and increasing the frequency of direct payments to vendors.

**OUTPUT 1** Staff cost related to the Management of Overall Country Programme and the UNICEF Pacific Mandate

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The UNICEF Pacific Country Management Team (CMT) met 10 times during 2016, reviewing progress against indicators and overseeing several statutory committees. UNICEF Pacific Annual Management Plan priorities and targets were reviewed during mid-year and annual review meetings.

UNICEF Pacific conducted a significant review and assessment of its risk profile in 2016, which led to the development of a new enterprise risk management plan.

UNICEF Pacific took several steps during 2016 to strengthen operations and programme management performance. These steps included preparation for the new Country Programme (2018-2022) and effective implementation of the processes with the GSSC.

Management priorities for 2016 were fully achieved.

Strategic Moments of Reflection were carried out with the participation of all staff including staff from the field, and strategic notes were finalized as scheduled. GSSC targets were met and GSSC processes introduced seamlessly into the MCO. A staff retreat was convened as planned with participation from all personnel and concluded with satisfactory reviews from staff. Solomon Islands and Vanuatu field offices were relocated.

Based on an assessment of seismic resistance of UN office buildings in the Pacific and the high frequency of earthquakes in the region, the Vanuatu field office was relocated in December to a building that was deemed safer in the event of an earthquake.

Assurance activities linked to HACT were conducted as scheduled and available tools reviewed to make them user friendly and tailored for the dynamic nature of the MCO.

While improvements to DCT processes were noted, ongoing effort is required to ensure IPs complete processes correctly.

Greening initiatives were launched, with two energy assessments completed, investments in solar-powered energy generation infrastructure for the Kiribati field office, and a hybrid vehicle for use by the UNICEF Pacific Representative.

UNICEF Pacific responded to TC Winston, a category 5 cyclone in Fiji, with staff demonstrating improved proficiency in responding to the cyclone compared to previous emergencies. UNICEF headquarters, regional office and supply division fully supported emergency operations and played important roles in emphasizing UNICEF’s mandate as an emergency response agency.

**OUTPUT 2** Staff cost related to the Financial and Administrative management of the Office.
**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Key financial indicators, defined by the UNICEF Pacific CMT in a two-year office management plan (2016–2017), were monitored and reviewed during monthly management meetings. With limitations on funding to UNICEF Pacific, spending was monitored judiciously to ensure earmarked funds were used as effectively as possible on required goods and/or services. The number of long-term agreements (LTAs) with vendors was increased; procurement was carried out with other UN agencies for some services; review bodies functioned well, enabling quality assurance of processes; and electrical consumption decreased.

Total funding available to UNICEF Pacific in 2016 was US$29.7 million. The East Asia Pacific Regional Office reallocated an additional US$279,117 in institutional budget (IB) funds to UNICEF Pacific, which recorded a utilization rate in 2016 of 100 per cent of IB funds.

UNICEF Pacific used an estimated of 100 per cent of funds for regular resources, representing US$7.7 million, while the utilization rate of other regular resources stood at 98 per cent, or US$11.7 million. Due to the emergency response to TC Winston, funds available reached US$10.9 million, of which 95 per cent was used.

UNICEF Pacific continued to make HACT implementation a high priority by providing training opportunities via the Agora platform and/or in person to staff members. UNICEF Pacific carried out 12 financial audits, 17 spot checks, 7 micro assessments and 88 programmatic visits of IPs. UNICEF Pacific also cooperated with the UN Population Fund on micro assessment exercises.

Assurance activities and challenges were discussed regularly at monthly HACT committee meetings. However, IPs were still having difficulties liquidating cash transfers for a variety of reasons, which included system rigidities and high staff turnover. UNICEF Pacific endeavoured to reduce risks through monitoring exercises and direct payment to vendors. UNICEF Pacific managed to maintain zero DCT over 9 months and less than 3 per cent of DCT over 6 months.

**OUTPUT 3 Human Capacity**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF Pacific transitioned fully to GSSC following an in-depth review of human resources processes and plans. Information and training was provided to staff about management of human resources files under GSSC.

In terms of recruitment, 2016 was busy compared to other years. UNICEF Pacific filled 11 of 25 vacant full-time appointment posts within an average timeframe of 60 working days and created 8 temporary positions, of which 7 were filled, in addition to engaging 95 consultants. Off the 25 full-time posts, 7 remained on hold due to lack of funding. The completion rate of 2015 electronic performance appraisals was 74 per cent (52/70) as of 15 April 2016, which was lower than previous years due to TC Winston, which hit Fiji in February 2016. UNICEF Pacific managed to strengthen the timeliness and quality of performance appraisals. UNICEF Pacific provided training to staff on the new performance appraisal system, Achieve, to ensure efficient and effective completion and achieved a 73 per cent (59/81) completion rate by 30 May 2016.

UNICEF Pacific, in collaboration with the staff association, worked to strengthen areas of concern raised in a global staff survey by organizing an all-staff two-day team building retreat held in October 2016 in Fiji. Areas of focus for the retreat were selected based on results of a poll of staff that was administered through SurveyMonkey. A consultant was engaged to conduct the retreat.
UNICEF Pacific continued its commitment to meet the UN Cares 10 Minimum Standards to reduce the impact of HIV in the UN workplace by ensuring the standards were visible in common workplace areas and by designating a focal point for the initiative. A junior professional officer was recruited for the P2 level post of disaster risk response emergency officer and an additional temporary P3 DRR emergency specialist appointment was created to be based in Suva to ensure adequate human resources support for emergency preparedness and response.

OUTCOME 2 PCR 1 H&S: Health and children equitably benefit from high impact interventions for accelerated improvement of neonatal, child and maternal survival, health and nutrition.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Several PICTs had high child and maternal mortality rates. Vanuatu, Kiribati, Micronesia, and Solomon Islands were not on track to achieve either 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets for maternal mortality or the Western Pacific neonatal mortality target for 2020. Tackling the causes of child mortality remained a priority for most PICTs that demanded a focused strategic approach and an emphasis on neonatal and infant mortality.

While significant gaps in data on malnutrition exist, statistics that were available suggested stunting was highest in Solomon Islands (32 per cent), Vanuatu (29 per cent), and Nauru (24 per cent). Gaps also existed in relation to planning, staffing, budgeting, operational guidance, and health information and supply chain management systems. The strategic approach adopted for 2016 included strengthening health systems and policies; providing technical support for situation analyses; building capacity of health staff; supporting procurement of supplies; and strengthening service delivery of high impact maternal, newborn and child interventions.

In 2016, several programmatic milestones for improving maternal and child survival and health were achieved, enabling the PICTs to make meaningful progress towards achieving the SDGs. For instance, as of the end of 2016, the PICTs were better equipped with enhanced capacity to procure and deliver vaccines in a timely manner with the countries reporting zero months with no stock out of diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus vaccine at the national levels. UNICEF ensured an uninterrupted supply of vaccines for 13 PICTs through the Vaccine Independence Initiative (VII), providing technical guidance for forecasting and stock management. In addition to technical support provided to 10 PICTs for oral polio vaccine switch activities and the validation process, UNICEF provided financial support for the introduction of bOPV in 8 countries and for inactivated poliovirus vaccine supplies in 10 countries. Capacity of national health staff in 13 countries was also strengthened on cold chain and effective vaccine management.

UNICEF supported the adoption of environment-friendly technology in remote areas to replace unreliable and expensive gas-powered solar refrigerators. Following TC Winston, UNICEF supported Fiji and Vanuatu with the procurement of solar refrigerators for health facilities in remote locations that are not linked to national electrical power grids.

Studies on enhancing immunization services were conducted in Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Vanuatu to document best practices and lessons learned. Lessons learned from a pilot study could be used to scale up and expand activities to other provinces in the country.

UNICEF supported the development of relevant policies and strategies on maternal and child health and nutrition in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Fiji, and FSM. UNICEF, in partnership with WHO and UNFPA, supported the Ministries of Health in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Kiribati to develop RMNCAH strategies. UNICEF supported the MoH in Vanuatu to develop a 2017–2020 RMNCAH Implementation Plan and align indicators with national
and global SDG targets.

UNICEF continued to address newborn care issues in the Pacific. With WHO/UNICEF support, the Solomon Islands MoH rolled out competency-based Early Essential Newborn Care (EENC) training to 267 health staff from 73 health facilities. Newborn intensive care equipment was procured and installed in select hospitals in Solomon Islands.

UNICEF supported a partnership with World Vision International in Solomon Islands on community-based maternal, child health and nutrition services. Village Health Committees were set up in 11 rural communities in remote Temotu Province to facilitate behaviour change communication for improved maternal and child health.

UNICEF Pacific worked with Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to integrate Prevention of Parent-to-Child Transmission (PPTCT) services within existing maternal and child health services. Assistance was provided to Vanuatu and Solomon Islands to strengthen HIV testing and counselling for infants to ensure early HIV diagnosis, treatment and care and update guidelines on PPTCT, sexually transmitted illnesses, use of antiretrovirals, and routine surveillance.

To address human resource constraints, UNICEF, jointly with WHO, provided technical assistance to the MoH to develop short- and long-term human resource strategies for Vanuatu. Based on the recommendations from the 2015 Neonatal assessment, UNICEF funded five retired midwives to work with communities and health facilities in two selected communities in Kiribati to improve service delivery and promote early health seeking behaviour.

Lack of nutrition data and the low prioritization of nutrition activities addressing undernutrition continued to be challenges. To address gaps in nutrition data, UNICEF continued to advocate with relevant governments and partners for inclusion of nutrition indicators in upcoming Demographic Health Surveys as well as Health Information Systems in selected countries.

While advocating for the inclusion of key nutrition commodities in the Essential Drug List and national budgets, UNICEF supported select countries (Fiji, RMI, FSM, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Solomon Islands) with procurement of key nutrition supplies and anthropometric materials.

UNICEF provided emergency support to Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, FSM and RMI post-TC Winston, TC Pam, and the El Niño-induced drought. UNICEF prepositioned supplies for emergency response. Solomon Islands and Fiji were supported to improve nutrition emergency preparedness and response and to build resiliency. Following the orientation of health staff in Solomon Islands on nutrition in emergencies, UNICEF supported a MoH task force with the development of Solomon Islands Nutrition in Emergencies Preparedness and Response Plans and capacity building activities to be delivered in 2017.

UNICEF worked with partners to improve maternal and child health and nutrition. Key partners included the CDC, GAVI, UNFPA, WHO, Pacific Community, NGOs and Murdoch Child Institute.

**OUTPUT 1** H&S PCR 1 IR 1.1 Multi-Country T2-T3: Sustained maintenance of polio-free status and enhanced progress towards the achievement of the global twin goals of measles elimination and hepatitis B control. IR: 1.1: By the end of 2017, sustained maintenance of high coverage for immunization and other child survival interventions.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
Uninterrupted vaccine and immunization devices supplies were successfully maintained for 13 PICTs through the VII mechanism, which was expanded in 2016 to cover cold chain equipment.

UNICEF provided technical support to 10 PICTs for OPV switch activities and a validation process completed in April 2016. UNICEF also provided financial support for the introduction of bOPV in 8 countries and for inactivated poliovirus vaccine supplies in 10 countries in 2016.

Following the completion of cold chain technology assessment in PICTs and in response to an environmental sustainability management in health systems initiative launched by UNICEF Pacific in collaboration with the Climate and Environment Team and the Health Section (PD/HQ), UNICEF provided technical, financial and procurement support to PICTs to adopt environmentally-friendly and appropriate technologies to run cold chain systems.

Following TC Winston in Fiji, UNICEF Pacific supported delivery of measles and rubella, tetanus, pentavalent and typhoid vaccines as an immediate response. UNICEF mobilized resources to revive the cold chain system. Approximately 100 vaccine refrigerators, including 75 solar-powered direct drive, were procured for installation in 2016 and early 2017. Solar panels were installed to be disaster resilient.

UNICEF procured 15 solar power packs to provide power for primary health care services at select health facilities that had no access to electrical power grids. In October 2016, UNICEF Pacific facilitated capacity development training for Fiji national officers on installation and maintenance of solar-powered direct drive refrigerators and solar power pack.

UNICEF supported efforts to strengthen capacity of national health staff in 13 countries on quantitative forecasting, stock-management, cold chain and effective vaccine management and temperature monitoring. UNICEF coordinated the Ninth Pacific Immunization Programme Managers Meeting together with WHO and partners.

In partnership with CDC, a pilot study was completed to utilize hepatitis B vaccine outside the cold chain in select provinces of Solomon Islands. An initial evaluation indicated that the coverage rate of hepatitis B birth dose can be improved from 30 per cent to 68 per cent for health facility births. UNICEF initiated a study in Fiji with CDC on analysis of vaccine wastage rates. The beginning of this study included training and data collection with the objective of improving data quality and reducing vaccine wastage in Fiji.

OUTPUT 2 H&S PCR 1 IR 1.1 KIRIBATI: Sustained maintenance of polio-free status and enhanced progress towards the achievement of the global twin goals of measles elimination and hepatitis B control in Kiribati.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF continued to provide technical and financial assistance to the Government of Kiribati to introduce and implement a comprehensive child survival package centred around an expanded programme on immunization (EPI) in 2016.

Rotavirus vaccine, introduced in 2015 as a comprehensive package for child survival, was evaluated and proved to be successful, with high coverage. The comprehensive package continued to enhance integration among different programmes. Children under the age of 5 benefited from immunization, proper management of childhood illnesses, and improved knowledge and practice of better hygiene practices such as handwashing and cleaning of homes.

UNICEF provided technical and financial assistance for planning and implementation of the switch activities as part of global polio eradication efforts. The MHMS successfully completed oral polio vaccine switch activities in April 2016. All public health nurses were
trained on updated information. Decision makers from local governments were mobilized to support the switch activities.

UNICEF provided comprehensive technical assistance on the national EPI policy and cold chain policy documents. Microplans for all health facilities in the national capital of Tarawa were updated. The national cold chain inventory was updated based on key recommendations from the 2014 Effective Vaccine Management (EVM) implementation progress report. Targeted on-site training was provided to Ministry officials and health care workers on EVM, temperature monitoring and data management. Key MHMS representatives participated in the UNICEF-supported Ninth Pacific Immunization Programme Managers meeting held in Fiji in March 2016.

Uninterrupted vaccine supplies were maintained for Kiribati through the Vaccine Independence Initiative mechanism in the Pacific. Maintenance and installation of cold chain equipment continued during 2016. UNICEF also provided technical guidance to Central Pharmacy on stock management of vaccines and its supply chain system.

OUTPUT 3 H&S IR1.3: Sol - EPI Plus maintenance of polio-free status and enhanced progress towards the achievement of the global twin goals of measles elimination and hepatitis B control in Solomon Islands.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
As part of global polio eradication efforts, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) successfully switched from the use of tOPV to bOPV vaccines in April 2016, with technical support provided by UNICEF.

The national 2016–2020 Comprehensive Multi-Year Plan for immunization was finalized and endorsed by MHMS with technical support from UNICEF. Through the GAVI vaccine alliance, UNICEF and other partners supported an HPV demonstration project, including coverage, post-introduction evaluation and costing surveys in two provinces. New health system strengthening, cold chain optimization and measles second dose applications were drafted and submitted to GAVI.

The WHO/UNICEF Joint Reporting Form for 2015 and GAVI Joint Appraisal and Grant Performance Framework were finalized with technical support provided by UNICEF. A national vaccine cold chain policy was finalized with UNICEF support and 500 copies were distributed to health care workers.

To overcome cold chain obstacles, the MHMS piloted the use of hepatitis B vaccine (birth dose) outside the cold chain in the three Provinces of Malaita, Makira and Western Province with support from UNICEF, US CDC and WHO. An evaluation in March 2016 showed significant increases in hepatitis B birth dose coverage, from 30 per cent to 68 per cent for health facility births.

A feasibility study on the use of dispersible amoxicillin for the treatment of childhood pneumonia was conducted in Solomon Islands, which is one of four countries globally under guidance from UNICEF headquarters and other stakeholders. Findings were being analysed as of the end of the year to inform next steps, but preliminary results suggested a strong need for the use of amoxicillin.

UNICEF provided funding support for World Immunization Week activities in April 2016 in the two Provinces of Makira and Western. Activities raised public awareness on the importance of vaccination. UNICEF also provided overall technical support for the development of a new EPI schedule and key health messages, including those broadcast on a call-in radio programme.
Microplanning and vaccine management training sessions were held in the Provinces of Central Islands and Guadalcanal. Key MHMS staff members participated in the UNICEF-supported Ninth Pacific Immunization Programme Managers Meeting held in March in Fiji and solar refrigerator installation training held in October in Fiji.

Uninterrupted vaccine supplies were maintained for Solomon Islands through the Vaccine Independence Initiative mechanism in the Pacific. Cold chain inventory was also updated. UNICEF continued to support immunization as part of implementation of the joint UN (RMNCAH) programme with UNFPA and WHO and engaged in development partners’ coordination as well as the Joint Annual Performance Review with MHMS.

**OUTPUT 4** H&S IR1.1: Van - EPI Plus lus

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In 2016, efforts to improve immunization coverage and to implement the Effective Vaccine Management (EVM) Improvement Plan continued.

The rehabilitation of the national cold store, which was devastated during 2015 TC Pam, was completed by June 2016, including infrastructure work. Rehabilitation work included installation of a prequalified walk-in cold room. Rehabilitation of the Shefa Province vaccine store also was completed. At the service level, 28 new solar refrigerators were installed and existing refrigerators in 8 sites were repaired. Such rehabilitation efforts improved cold chain capacity at the national, provincial and health facility levels, in line with EVM recommendations. By the end of 2016, support had been provided for cold chain capacity in up to 80 per cent of health facilities in Vanuatu, which predominantly use solar technology.

One hundred and one health workers from all health facilities in the country were trained on EVM and interpersonal communication skills. Training included using electronic data loggers to monitor temperatures of cold chain and particularly vaccine refrigerators at the service levels.

During 2016, an EPI coverage survey was completed and revealed 81 per cent DPT3 coverage and 84 per cent MCV1 coverage. These results validated efforts to improve routine immunization coverage through microplanning and support for outreach activities and data management.

Uninterrupted vaccine supplies were maintained in Vanuatu through the Vaccine Independence Initiative mechanism in the Pacific.

Vanuatu successfully switched from tOPV to bOPV following the introduction of IPV six months prior to the switch.

Vanuatu celebrated the World Immunization Week during the last week of April by conducting a routine immunization campaign in Port Vila that included a storytelling campaign carried out in communities around Port Vila and the launch of an incentive-based promotion that provided baby T-shirts as a gift for fully immunized children.

**OUTPUT 5** H&S PCR 1 IR 1.2 MultiCountry T2/T3: Strengthened national capacity to deliver quality and timely Newborn, maternal and Nutrition interventions at health facility and community levels.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
In the aftermath of TC Winston in Fiji in February 2016, UNICEF Pacific provided technical assistance, supplies and financial support for the revitalization of integrated management of acute malnutrition and infant and young child nutrition. Support included updating guidelines, training of health managers and service providers and roll-out at divisional and subdivisonal programme health facilities; provision of essential nutrition supplies; and financial support for coordinated delivery of health and nutrition services through outreach, particularly to the most hard-to-reach areas affected by the cyclone.

Approximately 7,390 children (6–59 months old) received vitamin A and deworming and 326 pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls received iron-folic acid supplementation. A total of 6,970 pregnant and lactating women were counselled on appropriate maternal nutrition, infant and young child feeding and hygiene practices.

UNICEF identified capacity gaps in the implementation of nutrition in emergencies in Solomon Islands and Fiji. UNICEF supported the orientation of 42 health staff and partners on nutrition in emergencies in these countries and arrangements were made to develop Nutrition Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans in 2017.

Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) reported being affected by the prolonged disaster of El Niño. Preliminary assessments conducted for both countries highlighted existing gaps in capacity and systemic functionality to address high levels of malnutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies. UNICEF Pacific supported FSM with ongoing technical assistance and overall guidance on nutrition programming, including updating of vitamin A and deworming guidelines based on the latest global recommendations and by training health staff in the most vulnerable Province of Yap on screening of children under-5 for acute malnutrition and conducting a needs assessment. Training was delivered to 81 health staff on infant and young child feeding and the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative and 110 health staff were trained on vitamin A and deworming.

UNICEF provided nutrition supplies (vitamin A, deworming and therapeutic food – F75, F100 and RUTF) to Fiji, Samoa, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, FSM and RMI.

OUTPUT 6 H&S PCR 1 IR 1.2 KIRIBATI: Strengthened national capacity to deliver quality and timely Newborn, maternal and Nutrition interventions at health facility and community levels in Kiribati.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF provided technical assistance to the MHMS to strengthen linkages with communities to improve child health outcomes. The capacity of 1,200 youth health volunteers in 13 villages of South Tarawa was strengthened to counsel pregnant women and caregivers of sick children to seek timely health services, which subsequently contributed to an increase in attendance of women and children to antenatal and child health clinics. On-site mentoring was provided to health staff for improved reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health services, data recording and reporting.

To improve newborn survival rates, UNICEF distributed 1,000 baby blankets and 12 infrared thermometers to Maternity, Paediatrics and Emergency wards in all four of Kiribati’s maternity facilities. A laptop was provided to the obstetric ward to assist with planning and data entry. The MHMS piloted the use of multiple micronutrient powder along with appropriate complementary feeding among children 6–24 months of age in Beru Island to improve nutritional status of children.
Since Kiribati lacked an EENC policy, one of the first critical steps to meeting EENC standards, UNICEF agreed to support the development of the EENC policy in 2017.

UNICEF provided technical and financial assistance for the implementation of integrated child health services on six islands, namely, Makin, Onotoa, Abaiang, Aranuka, Nonouti, and Abemama, with a focus on assessing child nutritional status. Island leaders were informed of community child health issues in their respective communities to support families and caregivers in improving infant and young child feeding practices.

Data credibility issues continued to be a significant constraint. For instance, vitamin A coverage is included in the Health Information System, but access to data on vitamin A was weak. UNICEF continued to advocate for and work with the MHMS to improve collection and timely access to quality data.

OUTPUT 7  H&S PCR 1 IR 1.2 SOLOMON: Strengthened national capacity to deliver quality and timely Newborn, maternal and Nutrition interventions at health facility and community levels in Solomon Islands.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
MHMS, in collaboration with UNICEF and the Centre for International Child Health (CICH) Melbourne, improved the capacity of 83 health workers in managing EENC in Choiseul, Makira and Western Provinces.

With combined WHO/UNICEF support, MHMS rolled out EENC competency-based training to a total of 267 health workers, including medical doctors and nurses from 73 health facilities. A paediatric hospital reporting system was made functional at the National Referral Hospital, with admissions reported for the previous two years. MHMS finalized the Newborn Care Situational Analysis Report and Roadmap. Equipment for the Newborn Intensive Care Unit was procured and CICH supported the MHMS with installation in selected hospitals. The Paediatric Standard Treatment was finalized and published.

Twenty health care professionals in Central Province were trained on infant and young child feeding, which included skills on growth monitoring. UNICEF continued support to the MHMS on the Mother–Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative and Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition in health facilities.

Eleven rural communities in Temotu Province benefited from an integrated package of maternal child health and nutrition services through a UNICEF-supported partnership with World Vision focusing on behaviour changes by families and communities. All 11 communities developed joint MHMS-community action plans to improve maternal and infant and young child nutrition.

MHMS, with support from UNICEF, made progress on nutrition in emergency initiatives. Twenty-five selected stakeholders from national and provincial levels of government and NGOs were oriented on nutrition in emergencies. The government set up a task force to draft a Nutrition in Emergencies and Preparedness and Response Plan, which is expected to begin in 2017. Efforts to develop the capacity of national and provincial stakeholders also are expected to get under way early in 2017.

UNICEF supported MHMS with essential nutrition supplies, including therapeutic foods (F100, F75, RUTF), vitamin A, and albendazole, as well as anthropometric equipment. In 2017, a National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Policy also will be developed with UNICEF support.
OUTPUT 8 H&S PCR 1 IR 1.2 VANUATU: Strengthened national capacity to deliver quality and timely newborn, maternal and nutrition interventions at health facility and community levels in Vanuatu.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF assisted Vanuatu on a several policies and strategies. The comprehensive RMNCAH Strategy and Implementation Plan for 2017–2020 was finalized in 2016. The Strategy’s maternal and child health (MCH) indicators were aligned with SDGs, the 2017–2030 National Sector Development Plan and the 2017–2020 Health Sector Strategy. The 2016–2020 National Nutrition Policy was adopted. Development of communication strategies for RMNCAH, EPI and interpersonal communication components was initiated.

Considering concerns over quality of maternal, newborn and child health care, particularly in remote communities, UNICEF, in partnership with UNFPA, provided support to develop a national safe motherhood and newborn care policy, including guidelines for maternal, newborn and child death audits. Taking into account Vanuatu’s high adolescent pregnancy rate, which is the highest in the region, UNICEF continued to lead policy dialogue with Government in partnership with UNDP, UNFPA and NGOs, emphasizing prevention of gender-based violence and promoting adolescent participation for their empowerment.

RMNCAH UN Joint Programme contributed to strengthening the health system at all levels by supporting national and provincial coordination efforts and introducing supportive supervision approaches for enhancing quality maternal and child health services. RMNCAH priorities in Malampa, Penama, Shefa and Sanma Provinces were identified based on bottleneck analyses and were integrated into the health sector business plan and budget for 2016–2017. The National RMNCAH Coordination Committee was established with multi-agency participation and held regular meetings.

To address significant workforce gaps in RMNCAH services, UNICEF, jointly with WHO, supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) in developing a human resource plan with short- and long-term solutions for Vanuatu. Local capacity at the facility level was strengthened on the management of severe acute malnutrition in Penama, and Torba Provinces, and EMONC in Sanma Province. Community sensitization and training sessions were conducted focusing on antenatal and postnatal care, HIV, adolescent reproductive health, WASH and nutrition. In North Tanna and Whitesands, areas most severely affected by El Niño, UNICEF assisted with biscuit distribution to approximately 800 children in 21 communities through Save the Children-supported village health workers, to prevent malnutrition among children aged 6–59 months. Children were screened and caregivers were provided health and nutrition education.

Acknowledging the benefits gained in improving the MCH system and services, the MoH issued a policy for nationwide implementation of the RMNCAH approach and requested UNICEF as a UN Joint Programme managing agency, to extend the programme to all six provinces starting in 2017.

OUTCOME 3 H&S PCR 2: Children and families benefit from equitable and sustainable access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation and hygiene within communities that are increasingly resilient to the impact of climate change and natural disasters.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
A synthesis report on the Joint Monitoring Programme by WHO, UNICEF, SPC and UNHABITAT indicated that the countries with the highest number of people without access to improved sanitation and drinking water in the Pacific region were the Solomon Islands (52
29

per cent), Fiji (15 per cent), Vanuatu (14 per cent) and Kiribati (8 per cent), with inequities observed between urban and peri-urban/rural areas and income quintiles. These countries also ranked higher than others on diarrheal and water-borne disease incidence rates, thus validating a programmatic focus on Kiribati, Vanuatu, and Solomon Islands.

As data on water, sanitation and hygiene was still generally weak, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu were provided with technical support in carrying out baseline surveys on WASH in schools and healthcare facilities, utilizing innovative mobile phone data collection platforms such as AkvoFlow, and support in doing data analysis. This support was possible through partnerships with academia, specifically the University of North Carolina. Knowledge and skill on application of this technology was also transferred to education and health sector partners, which enabled them to collect data in a timely manner for efficient responses during TC Winston in Fiji.

UNICEF Pacific provided emergency support to Fiji, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to ensure children and women had protected and reliable access to sufficient, safe water and sanitation and hygiene facilities post Cyclone Pam, Cyclone Winston and the El Niño Drought. UNICEF support reached 68,967 people with access to safe water and 29,456 with hygiene and sanitation supplies during TC Winston responses. Lessons learned, best practices and associated knowledge products were continuously shared through the Pacific WASH Coalition and Cluster.

The WASH programme grew substantially in scope and volume. It has demonstrated the added value UNICEF provides to donors and partner organizations in the Pacific on sector coordination, emergency response and recovery, integration of resilience and child centred programming with best practices and models for upscaling and replication of WASH in communities and schools in rural and peri-urban areas.

Community-based Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning was trialed as a systematic, scalable and build-back-better approach for cyclone recovery programmes in Vanuatu and Fiji. Governments were supported with the design of capital and technical assistance programmes that will enable communities, schools and health care facilities to assess and manage risks to their own water and sanitation systems, improve overall preparedness and facilitate the access to building resilient communities at scale.

Surveys in Solomon Islands and Kiribati highlighted the high rate of open defecation, with 80 per cent and 50 per cent of their respective rural populations defecating in the open. Community-based sanitation approaches were introduced. Behaviour change was fostered through participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation methods. These approaches require island, provincial and national upscaling for which national approaches, toolkits and campaigns were developed. They also included studies on knowledge, attitudes and practices with NGOs/CSOs, triggering for hand washing in schools and raising community awareness through targeted hand washing campaigns with involvement of the private sector.

Based on findings from a baseline study in Vanuatu there was growing recognition of the need to address gender in the WASH sector, including the need for women’s engagement in water resources management. The Vanuatu Minister responsible for water tabled gender equality as a milestone for water management through the revision of the Water Resource Management Act, providing for a minimum of 40 per cent women’s representation in water committees based on the UNICEF baseline analysis.

Technical assistance was provided for the development and implementation of WASH sector policies in Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. This included influencing national policy making, budgeting, development of minimum standards and offering a supporting role in sector-wide approaches.
The evidence base for WASH interventions was strengthened through collaboration with regional and international science and research institutes, including the University of the South Pacific, the International Water Centre, the University of North Carolina, Tufts University, the Environmental Science and Research Institute and the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute.

UNICEF Pacific fostered a partnership with the Water and Sanitation Programme under the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and UNHABITAT for a regional study to assess the status of water and sanitation in peri-urban areas.

WASH in school programmes, including training for teachers, hygiene promotion (including hand washing and menstrual hygiene management), development of minimum standards, and construction of WASH facilities were supported through the Three Star Approach and government-led Calls to Action.

Governments and development partners were consulted on the new Multi Country Programme (2018-2022) and that followed training on strengthening the WASH enabling environment. In line with UNICEF’s new global WASH strategy and building on achievements in the Pacific region, UNICEF’s future WASH programme will enhance further work on emerging intervention areas such as WASH in informal settlements, improving accountabilities for WASH services and addressing resilience.

As was vividly illustrated by the devastation of Pacific islands from the intense cyclones and the El Niño drought, the exposure to a wide range of natural hazards and climate change requires integration of climate and disaster risk into service delivery programmes for children. Child Centred Risk Assessments and a policy review of climate, disaster risk, and WASH policies were undertaken to facilitate the strengthening of resilience of WASH systems and services in Fiji, Kiribati, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands.

**OUTPUT 1** Output 2.7: Multi Country - WASH Communities, schools and health centres use improved water and sanitation facilities with a focus on outer islands, rural and peri-urban villages

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Field surveys on drinking water safety and security planning were carried out in Fiji and Vanuatu with academic partners. The results of these trials led to guiding concepts for integrating resilience, so that communities can make affordable and progressive improvements in water and sanitation systems and services while addressing everyday risks, including those from disasters and climate change.

Following typhoid outbreaks after Tropical Cyclone Winston, an integrated drinking water quality, sanitation and waterborne disease surveillance program was established through mobile phone data collection platforms, AkvoFlow. Akvo provided support to Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands Governments and WASH sector partners to establish systems and capacity to collect, manage, analyse and report on geo-referenced WASH data in support of sector performance management and decision making. In partnership with the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute and the Coalition Against Typhoid, analysis of environmental determinants of typhoid incidence and recurrence at a sub-catchment scale from 134 case control studies was done, and laboratory technicians were trained in polymer chain reaction methods of extracting typhoid DNA from filtered water and soil samples.

Fifty participants from governments and NGO partners were trained through a distance learning course on WASH in Schools. The course increased the understanding of
governments and NGO partners on WASH benefits and approaches of implementation. As a result, participants carried out bottleneck analysis. The WinS Three Star programme was piloted in 67 schools in Fiji and in 36 schools in Kiribati. Thirty-five cyclone-affected schools in Fiji received support in construction/rehabilitation of toilets, water sources and advocacy support for handwashing. Twenty-two partners were trained on formative research, ethics and child protection.

One hundred twenty six of 214 healthcare facilities were surveyed to assess the status of WASH facilities. The surveys and data analysis will be completed in 2017. Ministry of Health and Medical Services Staff were trained to carry out these surveys. UNICEF provided technical guidance to governments on updating/aligning their national and local policies to ensure cohesiveness between water, sanitation and hygiene. Support was provided to the Government of Fiji to ensure that WASH in the Healthy Schools Policy covers facilities and hygiene promotion and education to leverage usage. In Vanuatu, data on women’s involvement in water committees led to a policy change whereby the government wants 40 per cent of the water committees to be made up of women.

**OUTPUT 2**

**OUTPUT 2.1** By 2017, communities, schools and health centres use improved water and sanitation facilities with a focus on outer islands, rural and peri-urban villages in Kiribati

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016, UNICEF supported the implementation of Kiribati’s first-ever national WASH in Schools Policy that focused WASH interventions on affordable and appropriate sanitation technology, drinking water safety and security planning, and capacity building of communities, covering schools, health care facilities and households.

Guidelines were developed and localized on WASH safety and security planning applicable in communities and in schools.

Rehabilitation of 355 rainwater harvesting systems – the primary source of water in Kiribati – benefited 36 schools in four outer islands and more than 90 of 142 communities on 16 outer islands.

Local contractors installed 211 rainwater harvesting tanks on outer islands through the Ministry of Public Works and Utilities.

Localized guidelines, toolkits and training on operations and maintenance of these water supply systems were delivered to communities and government staff.

UNICEF worked with Environmental Science and Research to develop guidelines for WASH safety planning for management of WASH facilities in schools that were used to provide communities with options to minimize the threat of contamination to ground water lens. School Improvement Planning Committees and school committee members developed school WASH action plans and constructed tippy taps handwashing stations in 36 targeted schools on four outer islands. The use of school toilets focused on adolescent girls and children with specific disability needs, resulting in approximately 2,000 children gaining access to sanitation and handwashing facilities.

Lack of demand for the use of sanitation continued to be a significant constraint, which in part was due to lack of awareness about affordability and maintenance of the facilities. To address this constraint, UNICEF and partners developed a menu of toilet options demonstrating how they were environmentally-friendly, as well as affordability and maintenance of toilets and handwashing stations, which was integrated into the Community
Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) triggering process. Advocacy and targeted campaign activities were carried out. The school curriculum and other materials were developed or revised to maintain hygiene practices of handwashing, toilet use and cleaning of facilities.

Partners included the Ministry of Public Works and Utilities (MPWU), Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, the Island Councils, NGOs, Live and Learn Environmental Education, Kiribati Children Campaigners Network and Kiribati Local Government Association, The European Union and the New Zealand Partnership for International Development Fund.

**OUTPUT 3**
Output 2.3: SOL - WASH and health centres use improved water and sanitation facilities with a focus on outer islands, rural and peri-urban villages in the Solomon Islands.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF contributed to water supply restoration and construction of toilet facilities in schools and in communities resulting in access to safe drinking water for 11,592 people in communities in Makira, Temotu and Isabel Provinces and declaration of six communities in two villages in these provinces as open defecation free. UNICEF also trained MHMS staff and local partners in community-led total sanitation in Makira, Isabel, Western, and Guadalcanal Provinces.

The rate of open defecation was high, at 80 per cent in rural areas, and even higher in many project areas. Demand was low for improved sanitation systems as use of the ocean, beach and bush had widespread acceptance and, consequently, extensive effort was put in targeted social norms campaigns and information, education materials.

Solomon Islands recorded successful school competitions, radio shows, and talk back sessions with community members and government partners as panellists to create better understanding and eliminate taboos related to discussing WASH and menstrual hygiene management. Informational educational campaign materials were developed and distributed to schools and communities, reaching 5,000 children. Radio broadcasts were aired nearly 4,000 times on local radio stations.

Following capacity building training on WinS by UNICEF, the Ministry of Education and Human Resources completed a bottleneck analysis on WASH facilities in schools that provided valuable information on critical areas for interventions by the government and NGO partners. Through a European Union-funded project, sanitation and water system facilities were constructed and rehabilitated in 10 schools in Guadalcanal, Malaita, and Honiara City.

Together with the NSO and WASH unit at MHMS, UNICEF, WaterAid and the University of North Carolina carried out a baseline survey on rural WASH, covering 81 households, 76 schools from 67 communities, and 28 healthcare facilities. Local enumerators from government partners were trained to do the data collection and analysis. Baseline data indicated that the greatest WASH challenge in rural areas of Solomon Islands was open defecation, which was practiced by 79 per cent of the rural population. The Government and partners had thought the number was much lower and this information was used to design targeted interventions.

**OUTPUT 4**
Output 2.5 By 2017, communities, schools and health centres in the Pacific use improved water and sanitation facilities in rural and peri-urban villages
Analytical Statement of Progress:
The impact of TC Pam and El Niño on access to water supply, sanitation and hygiene services of ni-Vanuatu communities presented opportunities for WASH facilities to build back better and strengthen overall sector coordination and oversight.

In response to El Niño, water projects were rehabilitated to serve offshore island populations in the Province of Malampa and an extension to the Luganville water system. The Shepherds and Efate offshore group received emergency water from Kaleva Yachting Services. Thirty water systems were completed in Tanna. With UNICEF support, 30,295 people received clean water supply.

The community drinking water safety and security planning (DWSSP) approach was incorporated into Vanuatu 2030: The People’s Plan. NGO partners were trained on DWSSP and the approach was widely adopted by the sector as of the end of the year. Formal standardization of the approach and the development of a scalable DWSSP programme is to be completed in 2017.

Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation, a community based tool used for sanitation and hygiene promotion, was piloted in communities and in schools in Epi, Lamen Island, Emau, Erromango, Tanna and Aniwa.

A comprehensive set of information, education and communication materials on WASH in emergencies, including use of safe drinking water, handwashing practices and menstrual hygiene management was developed and disseminated through radio spots, songs and TV clips. Hard copies of those materials were also distributed to health care facilities throughout the country.

Handwashing facilities were constructed in 21 schools and toilets for girls, which included a tap and facility to manage their menses.

Department of Geology, Mines & Water Resources (DGMWR) senior staff members were trained to gain a better understanding of bottleneck analysis and tools required to enhance WASH programmes. A financial analysis of the Government’s recurring budget showed limited sector investments for hardware construction or rehabilitation.

Technical assistance was provided for coordination, oversight and guidance of the sector for recovery and rehabilitation with NGOs and the private sector. Support was also provided to DGMWR on drafting contract agreements with local partners for implementation of the recovery programme.

Support was provided to establish a project management unit (PMU) in the DGMWR. To address DGMWR human resource capacity issues, five provincial water managers, a monitoring and evaluation officer and an information management officer were recruited to fill positions in the new DGMWR organogram.

OUTPUT 5
Output 2.8 Multi Country: Communities and Government have the capacity in coping with disasters and adapting to the climate change in relation to WASH Sector

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Pacific leveraged partnerships within the sector and cross-sectorally to mobilize financial resources, supplies and surge capacity to support governments’ response and recovery efforts in Tropical Cyclone Winston in Fiji and the El Niño drought in Pacific in 2016.
UNICEF support reached 68,967 people with access to safe water and 29,456 with hygiene and sanitation supplies. Emergency supplies were made available for rehabilitation of drinking water supplies and water trucking at communities, provision of hygiene and sanitation supplies, provision of drinking water and sanitation in temporary learning spaces and establishing hygiene awareness programmes for children.

As a regional lead and national co-lead of WASH Cluster, UNICEF Pacific provided technical support in building capacity and response of local partners through formulation of adequate preparedness and response plans and impact assessment of El Niño and the pre-positioned supplies. The Fiji WASH Cluster developed a drought contingency plan, water conservation materials, and WASH awareness and advocacy materials and messages. Technical support was also provided to source an information management for the 4Ws and monitoring of response efforts.

UNICEF facilitated a training of local government in Tonga to take over the role of cluster secretariat. Two other trainings were carried out in Fiji and in Vanuatu that included regional government partners.

Technical support and training provided resulted in a strong cluster coordination mechanism that meets international standards and resulted in heightened government engagement as leads and inclusion of other sectors such as health, nutrition, education and shelters as part of the cluster mechanism group.

UNICEF undertook consultations with Government counterparts in Fiji, Vanuatu and Kiribati and other partners to review the current national and regional legal and policy frameworks for WASH Promotion, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and make recommendations that will strengthen resilience of water, sanitation and hygiene services during ordinary and emergency times.

A child-centred vulnerability and risk assessment was undertaken to inform the prioritization and design of investments and activities. A concept on WASH Resilience was established based on outcomes of the child-centred risk assessments, the DWSSP pilots and the climate change, disaster risk and WASH policy review. The concept was used to strengthen the WASH programme design for the new Pacific Multi Country Programme Document (2018-2022).

**OUTPUT 6** Output 2.2: Communities and Government have the capacity in coping up with disasters and adapting to the climate change in relation to WASH Sector in Kiribati.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Strengthening the capacity of government and local partners to respond to and prepare for emergencies and to increase their resilience to manage WASH facilities in ordinary and emergency situations continued to be the main thrust of UNICEF support in 2016. The WASH sector remained fragmented and stakeholders in Kiribati had no adequate mechanism in place to exchange information on emergency preparedness and to coordinate responses during emergencies. Due to limited human resources capacity, there were delays in defining coordination mechanisms. During the first quarter of 2016, the Office of the President, with UNICEF and other partners, developed a ToR for the coordination group. Technical assistance to ensure deliverables are met is scheduled to begin in 2017.

A lack of understanding and capacity in planning and knowledge of effective safe management of WASH facilities was identified as a bottleneck in emergency preparedness and response. UNICEF responded by delivering training to all of Kiribati’s mayors and clerks (50 participants, 33 men and 17 women), representing the 16 outer islands and Line and Phoenix Islands.
The training increased understanding about risk-informed preparedness and the contingency planning process and 16 village councils strengthened their engagement with communities, leading to the subsequent training of 1,935 community members on maintenance and operation of WASH facilities and the activation of 136 village committees on WASH.

The rainwater harvesting programme, implemented on outer islands, provided alternative and additional storage opportunities that can be used in times of drought. In collaboration with other projects addressing water security, efforts were made to enhance overall resilience of islands with the island councils, such as in Abaiaing, under a whole-of-island approach for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

**OUTPUT 7** Output 2.4: SOL - CCA-DRR have the capacity in coping up with disasters and adapting to the climate change in relation to WASH Sector in the Solomon Islands.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Constraints to UNICEF support for interventions remained due to a lack of comprehensive policies covering climate change, community drinking water safety and security planning (DWSSP). Communities lacked knowledge and training about water resources management, which resulted in over-pumping of water and salination intrusion.

UNICEF provided support to the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) on drought analysis and a child-centred risk assessment, and a review of the National Disaster Management Plan. The analysis contributed to planning of the National Drought Committee during the El Niño drought, and showed that the main drought hot spots for the country were the areas around Honiara and west, towards Guadalcanal Plains. UNICEF worked with the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRCS) and MHMS to respond to a diarrhoea outbreak across the country at the beginning of the year. UNICEF provided water purification supplies, soap and handwashing stations, and hygiene messages in Guadalcanal, Malaita, Temotu, and Western Provinces. Through SIRCS, 50 health promoters were mobilized and trained in key hygiene massages, including promotion of handwashing, household drinking water safety, safe faecal disposal and food safety for target beneficiaries in 50 communities, 50 health facilities, 20 schools and 10 public places.

**OUTPUT 8** Output 2.6 By 2017, communities and government have the capacity in preparing and responding to disasters and adapting to climate change in Vanuatu

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The WASH Cluster coordination role continued following disaster responses related to TC Pam and the El Niño to ensure all WASH projects were coordinated well. Small island communities that were severely affected by the El Niño drought were provided with water. The Shepherds and Efate offshore group of islands had water produced and delivered, while water systems rehabilitation and/or creations were delivered for affected populations of the Malakula offshore islands of Atchin, Vao, Rano, Norsup, Uripiv, Uri and Akham. The Luganville water supply system was extended into Banban community just outside Luganville town.

Through the recruitment of a WASH coordinator and an information manager, the capacity for WASH coordination was strengthened within DGMWR for overall development as well as emergency preparedness and response. Other key positions within the DGMWR also were filled during the year, including a project manager for a new PMU in the DGMWR, an M&E officer and five provincial water managers, who led WASH coordination at the provincial level.
TC Pam and El Niño presented an opportunity for DWSSP to be rolled out to communities. DWSSP was central to the WASH recovery programme and the sector-strengthening programme. The extension of the Water for Life project emphasized DWSSP roll-out. WASH sector partners were trained in DWSSP and a DWSSP training guide was developed to support its roll-out throughout Vanuatu. Technical assistance was provided to ensure DWSSP was mainstreamed into the national water policy and strategy development. A WASH in emergencies training was completed for 50 government and NGO partners from the national and provincial levels to increase the effectiveness of WASH coordination and to build capacity of WASH sector members to prepare for, respond to and recover from an emergency.

A policy review of WASH, DRR and CCA policies, strategies and legislation was carried out, which will be used as background information in mainstreaming risk resilience during the development and updating of Vanuatu’s National WASH Policy and revised National Water Strategy.

Based on DWSSP trials in Vanuatu, a comprehensive model for WASH resilience was established as well as a UNICEF field note.

OUTCOME 4 ED PCR 3: An increased percentage of children aged 3 to 5 benefit from quality early learning and development opportunities.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Though interest among Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) in ECCE is increasing, most Governments do not allocate financial resources for ECCE, possibly due to lack of funding and competing demands. UNICEF, as the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Care and Education (PRC4ECCE), continued monitoring and documenting the implementation of regional guidelines for the development of national quality frameworks for ECCE. A survey was sent to 13 PICTs to obtain updates on the implementation of regional guidelines at the country level and progress made on core ECCE indicators established in a Pacific Education Development Framework monitoring plan. As of the end of the year, 69 per cent of countries had responded to the survey. Once all surveys are received, an analytical report will be prepared for presentation to an Education Ministers meeting in 2017. Data on gross enrolment indicated 78 per cent of children in the Pacific were enrolled in ECCE programmes, but enrolment rates vary greatly at the country level. To date, Tuvalu, Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu have developed and endorsed quality standards using the regional framework.

PRC4ECCE continued to engage with social networks and partners. Regular information was posted on the PRC4ECCE Facebook page as well as in its quarterly newsletter. The Facebook page had 774 followers as of the end of the year, compared with 653 in 2015 and 246 Facebook group members. On average, 200 people are reached per posting on the Facebook page.

During the response to TC Winston, UNICEF ensured that ECCE centres were included in the damage assessment process and their needs were met. In total, 332 ECD kits were distributed to early childhood centres and Kindergartens in affected areas, reaching 13,280 young children. A group of more than 70 people from Government (inter-ministerial), non-governmental organizations (including organizations supporting disability, women and higher education), UNICEF and professionals from the creative and design industry produced six children’s books, eight posters and a teacher/adult caregiver guide to help young children age 3 to 8 years build resiliency and heal from the trauma caused by TC Winston. The psycho-social support materials produced promoted resiliency and diversity and assisted children in managing difficult emotions in healthy ways.
Initially, 2,000 sets of the early childhood resources were distributed to all affected ECCE centres and primary schools (Grades 1 to 3) benefiting 62,493 children. Following the launch of these storybooks and posters, the Minister of Education in Fiji asked UNICEF to distribute the psychosocial support materials to all primary and ECCE centres in Fiji. An additional 5,000 sets of these resources are to be printed and distributed to schools and ECCE centres, benefiting approximately 157,000 children in Fiji.

Mobile Kindy services continued to reach disadvantaged communities in greater Suva, the capital city of Fiji, covering 320 children and increasing access of poor families to referral services such as the Foundation for the Education of Needy Children, birth registration and medical services and specialists. UNICEF also supported Mobile Kindy to provide outreach to 26 cyclone-affected communities, reaching 567 children.

UNICEF provided technical expertise to the Ministry of Education in Kiribati in drafting its ECCE Bill to be submitted to Parliament in 2017. Once approved, the Bill will allow the Ministry to carry out its ECCE subsector reform process based on its newly developed sector plan, which includes revision of the existing policy and development of regulations for provision of quality services to young children.

UNICEF continued to support Communication for Development activities for parents on early childhood development in Solomon Islands. Twenty-one early childhood community facilitators were trained to support parents in using resources and materials in targeted communities and promoting holistic development of young children in Guadalcanal Province.

While Vanuatu developed and delivered a National ECD Communication Strategy in 2015, it was not able to fully implement it in 2016 due to a lack of human capacity.

In Vanuatu, after TC Pam, the Ministry of Education rolled out training to teachers on psychosocial support for early childhood and primary children nationwide as part of its intervention to build resilience, building the capacity of 513 early childhood teachers and reaching 10,260 children as of the end of the year.

Tuvalu continued to demonstrate significant commitment to the ECCE subsector. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports increased its share of education expenditure on ECCE by nearly 5 per cent from 2014 to 2015. The percentage of education expenditure spent on ECCE teacher salaries increased to 8.6 per cent in 2015 from 1.3 per cent in 2014. Approximately 93 stakeholders were trained on the implementation of Early Learning and Development Standards and Minimum Quality Service Standards in ECCE centres as of July 2016. Follow-up monitoring on the implementation of school-based management activities showed that 100 per cent of centres had jointly developed annual school improvement plans with their respective school management committees.

UNICEF and the World Bank jointly supported a high-level conference called Moving Forward with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Early Childhood that brought together key government officials and stakeholders across all countries in the Pacific to further their understanding of and commitment toward high quality, equitable, and inclusive ECD.

**OUTPUT 1 ED PCR 3 IR3.1:** By 2017 young children in targeted areas in the Pacific benefit from increased access to quality ECD programmes through regional and country interventions including during emergency.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF, as the Secretariat of the PRC4ECCE, continued monitoring and documenting the implementation of regional guidelines for the development of national quality frameworks for ECCE. A survey was sent to 13 PICTs to obtain updates on the implementation of the regional guidelines at the country level and progress achieved on core ECCE indicators established in a Pacific Education Development Framework monitoring plan. As of the end of the year, 69 per cent of countries had responded to the survey. Once all surveys are received, an analytical report will be prepared for presentation at an Education Ministers meeting in 2017. As of the end of the year, Tuvalu, Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu had developed and endorsed quality standards using the regional framework. In partnership with the World Bank, UNICEF Pacific initiated the planning process for a high-level conference on ECD to be held in 2017.

PRC4ECCE continued to engage with social networks and its partners. Regular information was posted on the PRC4ECCE Facebook page as well as in its quarterly newsletter. The Facebook page had 774 followers as of the end of the year, an increase compared with 653 in 2015, and 246 Facebook group members.

During the emergency response to TC Winston in Fiji, UNICEF ensured that ECCE centres were included in the damage assessment process and their needs were met. In total, 332 ECD kits were distributed to early childhood centres and kindergartens in affected areas, reaching 13,280 young children. A group of more than 70 people from Government (inter-ministerial) and non-governmental organizations (including organizations supporting disability, women and higher education), UNICEF and professionals from the creative and design industry produced six children’s books, eight posters and a teacher/adult caregiver guide to help young children ages 3 to 8 years build resiliency and heal from the trauma caused by TC Winston.

Initially, 2,000 sets of the early childhood resources were distributed to all affected ECCE centres and primary schools (Grades 1 to 3), benefiting 62,613 children. Following the launch of the storybooks and posters with the MoE in Fiji, the Minister requested that UNICEF expand distribution of the psychosocial support materials to include all primary and ECCE centres in Fiji. An additional 5,000 sets of the resources are to be printed and distributed to schools and ECCE centres, benefiting approximately 157,000 children in Fiji. Mobile Kindy services continued to provide early childhood services to disadvantaged communities in greater Suva, Fiji, benefiting 320 children. Referrals included: five families to the Foundation for the Education of Needy Children, 20 families for birth registration, and 11 families to medical services and specialists. Following TC Winston, the partner organization provided services to 26 affected communities, reaching 567 children.

OUTPUT 2 ED PCR 3 IR3.2: By 2017 young children in targeted areas in the Kiribati benefit from increased access to quality ECD programmes through regional and in-country interventions, including during emergencies

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Kiribati continued to have the lowest net enrolment rate in early childhood education in the Pacific region. Bottleneck analysis showed a weak enabling environment as well as an absence of legislation and policy support. In 2016, UNICEF continued focusing on upstream work with the Ministry of Education and on finalizing the first-ever legislation for ECCE. Following several years of advocacy from UNICEF, the Kiribati Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP 2016-2019) includes a dedicated goal related to ECCE. UNICEF also directed its advocacy efforts towards persuading the new president of Kiribati to champion for ECCE. But a lack of legislative authority poses a significant challenge to achieving the goal of implementing ECCE nationally.
UNICEF worked with a Ministry-appointed ECCE Technical Working Group (TWG) to develop the ECCE bill.

UNICEF provided technical assistance to MoE and recruited an expert to help the MoE draft the ECCE bill based on international standards and national parameters. A technical adviser held consultations and discussions with key ECCE stakeholders to solicit final feedback and endorsement on the draft ECCE bill. In the capital of South Tarawa, the draft ECCE bill was well received and fully endorsed by approximately 100 key stakeholders who attended consultations. The technical expert incorporated feedback from consultations into the draft ECCE bill and then presented it to all 10 members of the ECCE TWG, who endorsed the submission of the draft ECCE bill to Parliament. The Ministry of Education subsequently submitted the ECCE bill to the Attorney General's Office for final vetting and to determine the next step for submission to Parliament.

**OUTPUT 3 ED PCR 3 IR3.3:** By 2017 young children in targeted areas in the Solomon Islands benefit from increased access to quality ECD programmes through regional and in-country interventions, including during emergencies

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF Pacific increased its upstream engagement and advocacy in ECCE with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD) and successfully advocated to include one-year pre-primary education for all children 5 years of age in Solomon Islands in the 2016–2020 National Education Action Plan. UNICEF was invited to be part of the ECCE Task Force and, with MEHRD, developed the terms of reference for an ECCE adviser to support MEHRD in operationalizing the National Education Action Plan’s goals for ECCE while also developing a strategic road map for the implementation of the pre-primary education system. UNICEF supported technical assistance to MEHRD and provided input into the ECCE component of the draft Education Act, which was presented to Parliament for endorsement. The MEHRD, which determines priorities for pre-primary education and community-based initiatives for children ages 3–4 years old, is likely to decide in 2017 whether to review and revise the existing ECCE policy.

New partnerships were forged with community members in 2016 to promote ECCE. While the roll-out of parenting support initiatives was delayed at the community level, 21 early childhood community facilitators (ECCF) were selected from targeted communities. Training was delivered to ECCFs on monitoring the utilization of children’s books that had been distributed. The ECCFs supported parents on the use of the children’s books; disseminated key messages; and promoted the holistic development of young children, including health, nutrition, safety and emergent literacy development. Guidebooks, written in easily accessible and simple language, were produced to guide the ECCFs in providing support to parents as well as for parents on how to use the children’s storybooks and posters creatively and effectively with their children. ECCFs introduced the children’s books to targeted families in their neighbourhoods, reaching more than 200 families with children under the age of 5. The World Bank expressed an interest in using the resources that were produced for this initiative in other countries, including Tonga.

While NER for ECCE in Guadalcanal Province was low, at 22.8 per cent, during the year, this represented nearly a 4 per cent increase in NER compared with the 2010 baseline, indicating a steady increase in enrolment in ECCE facilities.

A key challenge faced in 2016 was a major restructuring of the MERHD that resulted in the removal of the ECCE director, who had been the key focal person for ECCE.
OUTPUT 4 ED PCR 3 IR3.4: By 2017 young children in targeted areas in Tuvalu benefit from increased access to quality ECD programmes through regional and in-country interventions, including during emergencies

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Tuvalu continued to demonstrate significant commitment to the ECCE subsector, with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS) increasing its share of education expenditure on ECCE by nearly 5 per cent between 2014 and 2015. The percentage of education expenditure spent on ECCE teacher salaries increased to 8.6 per cent in 2015 from 1.3 per cent in 2014.

Tuvalu invested in several supply-side strengthening initiatives, which targeted upgrading teacher skills, school-based management (SBM), and implementing early learning development standards (ELDS) and minimum quality service standards (MQSS) for 18 ECCE centres. Most of these initiatives were supported and funded by the UNICEF/DFAT programme known as Achieving Education for All in Tuvalu programme (AEfATP), which officially concluded in June 2016.

Approximately 93 stakeholders were trained on the implementation of ELDS and MQSS in ECCE centres. SBM practices were incorporated into all of Tuvalu’s ECCE centres, wherein 100 per cent of the centres jointly developed annual school improvement plans with their respective school management committees. All ECCE centres that received approximately US$75,000 in grants managed to utilize 51 per cent of the grants by the end of the AEfATP. ECCE centres prioritized the procurement of teaching-learning materials, ICT equipment and materials that promote school safety, through maintenance and repairs. Slow liquidation was attributed to procurement difficulties and the need to adhere to financial management practices for SBM. AEfATP partnered with the University of South Pacific to upgrade the qualifications of 22 ECCE teachers and 3 teachers from the Special school; 24 of 25 teachers successfully completed upgrading courses.

Although MEYS was unable to develop an ECCE curriculum by the end of AEfATP, a broad curricular framework was developed with ECCE MEYS staff, with assistance from the UNICEF Pacific ECD specialist.

MEYS continued to face challenges in delivering policy priorities in a timely manner due to limited staff capacity and overcrowding of subsector initiatives. Additionally, the policy reforms have weak institutional backing as none of the reforms had been formalized in relevant policy and legislative instruments as of the end of the year.

OUTPUT 5 ED IR3.5: By 2017 young children in targeted areas in the Vanuatu benefit from increased access to quality ECD programmes through regional and in-country interventions, including during emergencies

Analytical Statement of Progress:
More than a year after TC Pam, field monitoring missions revealed that young children were still in need of psychosocial support (PSS) to recover from the trauma of the disaster. As a result, the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) asked UNICEF Pacific to scale up PSS interventions as part of its national disaster preparedness strategy.

After the roll-out in 2015 of PSS teacher training in the Provinces of Tafea and Shefa, the capacity of 157 ECCE teachers (all females) from all 120 ECCE centres in Tafea Province to provide PSS was further strengthened, benefitting approximately 3,140 children ages 3 to 5 years old (including 1,580 girls).
In the Northern Provinces of Sanma, Penama, Malampa and Torba, 356 ECCE teachers were trained by the MoET team in providing PSS and addressing disaster risk reduction and resilience issues as part of activities to improve preparedness and response to future disasters. Activities included quarterly Kindy safety drills; Kindy emergency preparedness plans; identification of community emergency centres for Kindy children; and capacity building on the effective use of UNICEF ECD kits. As a result of the training of 513 Kindy teachers in all six provinces, more than 10,260 young children across the country had access to PSS, as of the end of the year.

PSS materials, including 16,000 children’s reading books and posters and 2,000 teacher handbooks, were distributed to schools in all six provinces, benefiting more than 20,000 young children, as well as their families, teachers and other community members. The materials were designed to support young children’s emerging literacy development and increase interactions between parents, children and teachers. While NER increased for 3-5 year olds in Vanuatu, access continued to be a key bottleneck. The focus on family participation throughout this effort increased young children’s access to stimulating learning materials at home.

The NER of children ages 3 to 5 years in Vanuatu stabilized between 2013 and 2015 at approximately 43 per cent. To ensure quality ECCE services, MoET agreed to develop ECCE minimum quality service standards that are to be developed in 2017.

A key lesson learned in 2016 was the need to consciously support strengthening the resiliency of families and young children.

The delivery of emergency response activities outlined above necessitated the postponement to 2017 of other activities planned for 2016, such as the dissemination of the ECD knowledge attitude and practices study findings and the development of parenting interventions for caregivers with 0–5 year-old children.

**OUTCOME 5 ED PCR 4:** By 2017, an increased percentage of girls and boys access schools that uphold minimum national quality standards and support student achievement to the end of the primary cycle in at least 4 Pacific Island Countries.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Quality education remained a key challenge for the PICTs in 2016. A Pacific Islands Literacy and Numeracy Assessment published in 2016 revealed improvements in numeracy in Year 4 since 2012, but poor performance for Year 6 students in both literacy and numeracy.

UNICEF, as a member of the regional human resource development committee under the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, was engaged in dialogue and planning of the next Pacific Education Development Framework, which will be developed in 2017 and aligned with the SDGs. Through the Pacific regional education partners group, UNICEF continued its collaboration in early childhood, WinS and learning achievement with development partners such as the World Bank, Australia’s DFAT, Asian Development Bank, UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, University of South Pacific and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

To contribute to the quality of education, UNICEF supported four PICTs to develop national minimum quality service standards and continued its integrated approach to improving quality by supporting the teacher education and development and the continuous professional development (CPD) of primary teachers in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. This included setting up a sustainable cost-effective model for CPD that can be taken to scale.
School-based in-service teacher training in Solomon Islands was expanded to 30 teachers in phase two of the programme in Guadalcanal Province, bringing the total number of teachers using this new CPD modality to 80. A key lesson learned from Solomon Islands was to include some teachers from phase one as resource people to share their experience on using this modality of study with phase two teachers. A remaining challenge is the distance of schools within the school cluster, which does not enable teachers to carry out peer review study as planned. In Vanuatu, the initiative was rolled out to 73 Grade 4–6 teachers on three islands in Penama Province. In Kiribati, UNICEF provided the Ministry with a long-term adviser to support development of a road map for strengthening and operationalizing the multi-grade education system in a phased approach as per the education sector strategic plan. UNICEF also supported the costing exercise of the Kiribati education sector strategic plan, which was endorsed in November.

UNICEF continued to support the strengthening of the Tuvalu Education Management Information System (EMIS) and finalizing of the curriculum reform process for Grades 7 and 8. UNICEF, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, supported the development of the Tuvalu 2015 Statistical Report and improved the scope for the Ministry to use EMIS data to develop and implement holistic education policies that include cross-cutting themes such as inclusive education, WinS, child protection in schools, gender and emergency preparedness.

Learning was disrupted for thousands of children in Fiji because of category 5 TC Winston, which damaged or destroyed 495 early ECCE centres and primary and secondary schools. With support from various donors, immediate response was possible through prepositioned education supplies and capacity building support that was provided to the Ministry of Education two weeks prior to the disaster on the use of a mobile technology (AkvoFlow) to collect data as part of damage assessment. From this capacity building activity, the Ministry of Education managed to rapidly collect an immense amount of data on the damaged and destroyed schools, which was used in an immediate cluster response plan that was developed jointly with all partners.

UNICEF provided 24,233 children (11,631 girls), including ECCE children, with safe learning spaces and facilitated their return to school and ECCE centres. As of the end of the year, 41,912 children (20,118 girls) benefited from school supplies and 10,232 children (6,156 girls) and 827 teachers (380 females) received psychosocial support through direct counselling.

UNICEF also supported the development of psychosocial support materials for primary teachers and for young children, which were distributed to 1,696 ECCE centres and primary schools nationally, benefiting 157,379 children. As part of early recovery activities, 100 photocopiers and 73 generators were distributed to 118 affected schools around the country. This critical equipment enabled schools to speed up recovery and continue to provide quality education to all students. An estimated 13,101 children benefited from the use of photocopiers and approximately 8,869 benefited from the generators. To increase enrolment and reduce stress for parents, UNICEF, with funding from Central Emergency Response Fund and DFAT, initiated a school feeding programme for 5,278 primary school aged children (2,561 girls), and trained 340 teachers to support the programme.

A key challenge was reconciling the distribution plan of the Ministry with actual supplies provided to schools due to a relatively large number of school supply donations and contributions from well-wishers, the private sector and individuals who were not part of the education cluster and did not report their contributions. This resulted initially in a mismatch of supply delivery and reporting. Supporting the Ministry at all levels during the response strengthened the partnership and efficiency in the delivery of support.
In Vanuatu, support was scaled up nationally for psychosocial interventions that strengthened resiliency, reaching 11,220 primary school-aged children and 3,140 early childhood children, with 347 primary school teachers trained on use of the materials.

Inter-sectoral collaboration continued among WASH and Communication sections, especially during delivery of emergency support and child protection activities, particularly for parenting.

**OUTPUT 1**

ED PCR 4 IR 4.1: By 2017 children in Pacific Island Countries including those living with disabilities in targeted areas benefit from increased enrolment and retention rates as well as from improved literacy & numeracy outcomes

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

2016 began with an emergency response to TC Winston, a destructive category 5 cyclone that damaged or destroyed 495 ECCE centres and primary and secondary schools in Fiji. Immediate response was possible through prepositioned education supplies. Capacity building support on the use of a mobile technology (Akvofow) to collect data as part of damage assessment had been provided to the MoE in Fiji just two weeks before the cyclone hit and, consequently, the MoE managed to rapidly collect an immense amount of data on damaged and destroyed schools, which was used to develop an immediate cluster response plan jointly with all partners. As of the end of the year, UNICEF had provided safe learning spaces for 24,233 children (11,631 girls) including ECCE children, and facilitated their return to school and ECCE centres; 41,912 children (20,118 girls) benefited from school supplies and 10,232 children (6,156 girls) and 827 teachers (380 females) received psychosocial support through direct counselling.

To increase enrolment and reduce stress for parents, UNICEF initiated, with funding from CERF and DFAT, a school feeding programme for 5,278 primary and secondary school-aged children (2,561 girls) and 340 teachers, which is to continue until the first quarter of 2017. UNICEF also supported the development of psychosocial support materials for primary teachers and young children, which were distributed to 1,696 affected and unaffected ECCE centres and primary schools, benefiting 157,379 children. As part of early recovery activities, 100 photocopiers and 73 generators were distributed to 118 affected schools around the country. These critical pieces of equipment enabled schools to accelerate recovery efforts and to provide quality education to students. Approximately 13,101 children benefited from the use of the photocopiers and approximately 8,869 benefited from the generators. Training of trainers on basic installation and maintenance of photocopiers was delivered to MoE officers at the Emergency Operation Office and districts and they, in turn, trained head teachers at schools that received photocopiers.

**OUTPUT 2**

ED PCR 4 IR4.2: By 2017 children in Kiribati including those living with disabilities in targeted areas benefit from increased enrolment and retention rates as well as from improved literacy & numeracy outcomes

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

As part of the Global Partnership for Education, UNICEF, as managing entity, and DFAT, as coordinating agency, supported the development of the Kiribati ESSP 2016-2019.

Quality remained a key challenge to improving the Kiribati education system, particularly since 47 per cent of primary schools are multi-grade. Therefore, strengthening the multi-grade education system was a key area of support provided by UNICEF in 2016. UNICEF provided technical assistance to the MoE by attaching an expert to the Kiribati Teachers College (KTC). A three-year road map was developed that outlined methods for the MoE to...
institutionalize multi-grade education and integrate multi-grade teaching (MGT) as a core teaching practice for pre-service education. The implementation of the road map will initially focus on MGT training and policy.

Course materials were developed for KTC lecturers on MGT and the capacity of 21 KTC lecturers and six administration officials was built to deliver these courses to both pre-service and in-service teachers.

The implementation of teachers’ Code of Ethics (CoE) continued in South and North Tarawa and expanded to Tabiteuea North and Abaiang. UNICEF worked closely with the Island Education Coordinator to collect data from and monitor teachers' attendance and punctuality in 15 schools in two targeted areas for Term 1 in 2016. Baseline data indicated a serious issue with teachers’ attendance and punctuality in Tabiteuea North. As of the end of the year, 62 per cent of primary schools in Kiribati had benefited from UNICEF interventions in multi-grade education and establishing codes of ethics.

To improve the teachers’ attendance and punctuality, school-based workshops were conducted by the MoE monitoring team and UNICEF to develop a CoE school improvement plan (SIP). Sixty-five teachers and 60 school board members, including SIP committee members, attended. Seven SIPs subsequently were developed, reviewed and approved by the MoE monitoring team.

Joint monitoring visits to North Tarawa schools on WinS and CoE showed significant transformations in learning environments and WASH improvements due to the efforts of teachers, school committees and school communities. Meanwhile, UNICEF worked with MoE officers to develop school inspection and review templates that would capture the entire school.

Since the launch of the multi-country programme in 2013, UNICEF education interventions have been part of a larger MoE school improvement programme that includes other partners such as the Kiribati Education Facilities Programme.

**OUTPUT 3 ED PCR 4 IR4.3:** By 2017 children in Solomon Islands including those living with disabilities in targeted areas benefit from increased enrolment and retention rates as well as from improved literacy & numeracy outcomes.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
An analysis of learning outcomes revealed some encouraging signs, such as increases in the percentage of Grade 6 children achieving the expected level of literacy and numeracy; however, Solomon Islands continued to grapple with poor overall learning outcomes.

UNICEF support for CPD of primary teachers in Guadalcanal Province continued in 2016 with a focus on setting up a sustainable and cost-effective CPD model that can be taken to scale.

Phase two of a school-based in-service teacher training in Solomon Islands (SITTSI) initiative, launched in 2015, was carried out during the year. Eighty Grade 1 and 2 teachers were engaged in CPD and two rounds of assessments and classroom observations were carried out as part of monitoring as of the end of the year. Assessments found that the SITTSI initiative had succeeded as a mode of professional development for teachers and this was particularly true for experienced and self-motivated teachers. Face-to-face support, which was added to the original implementation plan, was thought to have been a key factor in the success of SITTSI. Approximately 2,551 (1,210 girls) Grade 1 and 2 children benefited from improved teaching practices in 2016.
Monitoring activities following implementation of a teachers’ code of ethics and WinS at five targeted schools in Guadalcanal Province showed teachers’ attendance increased from 85 per cent in Term 1 to 88 per cent in Term 2, corporal punishment cases decreased from 50 per cent in 2015 to 2.2 per cent in 2016, bullying decreased from 94 per cent in 2015 to 33 per cent in 2016, and teachers’ dress code improved 100 per cent. Monitoring found that only 26 per cent of children and teachers wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet, although soap was not available in most schools. The introduction of Akvoflow mobile technology generated considerable interest among provincial inspectorates, which are eager to adopt this technology for monitoring activities across the province. This will be explored further in 2017 as an option to build monitoring capacity.

To build the capacity of the MoE to respond in emergency and disaster risk reduction, two undersecretaries and one director from the MoE attended regional training in Bangkok, and follow-up training in-country. As a result, education in emergencies and DRR was mainstreamed into the 2016–2020 National Education Action Plan. South-South cooperation among Pacific countries was encouraged, which resulted in a key Vanuatu Ministry of Education staff member co-facilitating Solomon Island training workshops at which a contingency plan was developed.

**OUTPUT 4** ED PCR 4 IR4.4: By 2017 children in Tuvalu including those living with disabilities in targeted benefit from increased enrolment and retention rates as well as from improved literacy & numeracy outcomes

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

To improve learning outcomes in Tuvalu, UNICEF Pacific supported interventions to strengthen teacher education, curriculum development, SBM and the national education information management system (TEMIS) in 2016.

Through an SBM initiative, UNICEF strengthened institutional capacities at different stages of decentralization of education governance and administration. Approximately 463 stakeholders were trained on all islands on implementing SBM practices from 2015–2016. Monitoring feedback suggested improved participatory decision-making of school management committees as well as improved planning and budgetary decisions. School grant utilization for primary and secondary schools averaged 55 per cent and 81 per cent of schools submitted school improvement plans wherein they adopted an average of 91 per cent of the minimum quality service standards.

Recent MEYS curriculum reforms, designed to transition to an outcomes-based approach to learning, were supported through the development of new teacher resources in science, math and English for Years 7 and 8. Due to delays in recruitment of English and math consultants, resources had not been used in entirety by the end of the AEfATP. All relevant stakeholders (except teachers on three islands) had been trained in utilizing science resources as of the end of the year.

UNICEF, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, fostered a data-driven culture at all levels of governance to inform planning, monitoring, and decision making through the development and utilization of information from the TEMIS. UNICEF also supported upgrades to the TEMIS system to make it more dynamic to the needs of MEYS. UNICEF improved the scope for MEYS to use EMIS data to develop and implement holistic education policies that included cross-cutting themes such as inclusive education, WinS, child protection in schools, gender and emergency preparedness.
Several administrative bottlenecks related to AEfATP programme implementation were addressed through improved project and financial management practices and implementation of a monitoring plan. However, systemic bottlenecks persisted, with high programme delivery costs in Tuvalu due to logistical and geographic constraints. There was also insufficient human resource capacity to absorb the scale of reforms to the primary and secondary education sectors.

UNICEF’s four-year engagement with Tuvalu ended in June 2016.

OUTPUT 5 ED IR 4.5: By 2017 children in Vanuatu including those living with disabilities in targeted benefit from increased enrolment and retention rates as well as from improved literacy & numeracy outcomes

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Pacific continued to strengthen the instructional leadership (IL) skills of primary school principals as part of its holistic teacher professional development support. Seventy-five principals and education authorities from Penama Province participated in an IL refresher training session to upgrade their skills to provide pedagogical support to classroom teachers in improving children’s literacy and numeracy. The workshop also provided a platform for participants to share their innovative approaches to IL and experiences on how to further strengthen teacher capacity and learning practices. It was noted during monitoring activities that some principals had already conducted professional development sessions at their schools using a school-based in-service teacher training module. Such reinforcement from the principals was precisely the sort of mentoring that teachers needed to strengthen their teaching skills. It is anticipated that improved teaching will ultimately contribute to enhanced student literacy and numeracy outcomes. Principals noted that they found it a challenge to ensure that teachers adhered to the continuous professional learning process and made it a critical part of their professional development. Zone curriculum advisers subsequently responded to this challenge by monitoring and supporting primary school principals and classroom teachers in the roll-out of school-based teacher professional development in Penama Province.

As part of UNICEF support to the continuous professional development of teachers, a school-based in-service teacher training module on teaching effectiveness was developed and introduced to 73 anglophone and francophone Grades 4–6 teachers in Penama Province and 65 principals and 9 zone curriculum advisers.

With support from DFID, UNICEF built the capacity of MoET (senior) officers in humanitarian response and disaster risk reduction. A customized capacity building plan was designed along with a simulation exercise.

Training was delivered to build the capacity of 347 primary school teachers from five provinces to provide PSS to children, support resiliency building through disaster risk reduction and school emergency plans and conduct emergency drills. Approximately 11,220 primary school children were better prepared to respond to an emergency as of the end of the year.

A one-off school grant was provided to 160 schools most severely affected by TC Pam and El Niño to assist in repairing buildings and procuring needed school and learning materials. Monitoring plans were jointly designed with zone curriculum advisers (ZCA) to ensure funds were used effectively for recovery of the schools.

Due to delays in the implementation of the MoET school reconstruction programme and the deterioration of canvases of existing temporary learning spaces, 96 new replacement tents
were provided to schools on Tanna as temporary learning spaces (TLSs), benefiting 2,880 children by providing access to TLSs and consequently to learning.

OUTCOME 6 HIV&AIDs PCR 5: PICs have and use sound strategic information/data for effective gender and equity focused HIV advocacy, policy development, planning and programming.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
HIV-related surveillance and data collection mechanisms were generally weak across all countries in the Pacific. While UNAIDS and UNDP supported surveillance of HIV among high risk groups, UNICEF was the only agency supporting the surveillance of PPTCT. To that end, UNICEF provided technical and financial support to 13 PICs in the preparation of the Global Aids Response Progress Reporting (GARPR). As a result, more countries (13) successfully submitted their 2015 annual reports and available information on HIV and PPTCT in the Pacific is globally accessible. The data used for the GARPR report guided PIC annual work planning and generated resources for HIV prevention, treatment and care.

Of the 13 countries reporting, 10 countries reported no data on number of children and pregnant women living with HIV and on treatment. Fiji and Samoa reported 100 per cent (15) of pregnant women and children with known HIV status enrolled into ART. In Solomon Islands, 13 women living with HIV were enrolled into ART. Absolute numbers of women and children living with and under treatment for HIV are low in PICTs. This is in part due to limited access to provider initiated testing during ANC, leading to an under-reporting of the scale of the problem. Mentoring and technical guidance remained a requirement to strengthen PICTs information systems and services for HIV and PPTCT.

UNICEF provided technical input to Vanuatu MHMS in drafting a single online, facility level reporting tool for monitoring, evaluation and reporting against global, regional and national HIV indicators. The same tool was introduced in Fiji in 2015 and in 2016, MoHMS demonstrated better follow up and improved viral load tracking and more accurate planning enabling targeted resource allocation. The tool will form the basis for the proposed Pacific regional facility reporting tool aimed at improving understanding of the burden of HIV in the Pacific, better targeting of resources, and strengthening capacity building through south-south collaboration.

With technical expertise from UNICEF, Solomon Islands MHMS HIV unit developed its national monitoring and evaluation plan for HIV and STIs. As a result, MHMS is targeting HIV interventions based on disaggregated evidence.

UNICEF provided technical and financial assistance to conduct key population studies in 10 PICTs. The researchers mapped estimated population size of at risk populations, and carried out behavioural surveillance of key populations at higher risk. As a result, baseline information on HIV and STI in high risk populations is available and will form the basis for future targeted interventions. UNICEF collaborated with UNDP in achieving this result.

OUTPUT 1 HIV&AIDS PCR 5 IR5.1: National stakeholders` capacity to plan, coordinate, implement and monitor & evaluate studies/ surveys and HIV & AIDS programmes is strengthened by 2017.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF provided technical and financial assistance to carry out studies in 10 PICTs to estimate sizes of at-risk populations; identify demographic and behavioural factors contributing to risk; determine access to services by high-risk populations; document experiences of stigma, discrimination and violence; identify social and structural
determinants influencing risk status; and, map location in relation to HIV services.

Multiple methods were used, including qualitative and quantitative mapping and a capacity assessment to generate the evidence on vulnerability to HIV, with a particular focus on adolescents.

Validation of study results was led by Ministries of Health in 10 PICTs.

As a result, baseline information on HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STI) in high-risk populations will form the basis for future targeted interventions. UNICEF collaborated with UNAIDS, UNDP, WHO, UNFPA, Pacific Community, Ministries of Health in 10 PICTs and national NGOs in achieving this result.

**OUTCOME 7** HIV&AIDS PCR 6: Pregnant women and adolescents aged 15-19 years, particularly those who are at higher risk to HIV exposure, have increased access to relevant information, skills and services to prevent and reduce impact of HIV.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Thirteen countries reported that women and young people in the Pacific confronted gender-based challenges putting them at risk of HIV infection. Common factors increasing women’s vulnerability to HIV infection included reduced access to HIV services, stigma and violence. These factors increase the possibility of eventual transmission of HIV from mother to child.

Policy in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Vanuatu stipulates the full integration of PPTCT into MCH services. In 2016, less than 25 per cent of MCH facilities in each country offered integrated PPTCT services. In Fiji, it was offered in 21 hospitals (10 per cent), in SI 42 (13 per cent), in Kiribati 9 (26 per cent), and Vanuatu 6. The remaining 10 countries did not offer integrated services. The limited availability of PPTCT services is a significant bottleneck in the Pacific. It stems from the low domestic financing and the consequent lack of skilled personnel committed by PICs for HIV in general and PPTCT specifically. HIV remains a low burden of disease in the Pacific and will continue to compete for resources with higher disease burdens.

The Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) was an important actor in the sector in 2016, providing financing and technical assistance. WHO took leadership on HIV-specific guidelines with technical and financial inputs from UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNICEF. The UNAIDS office will be closing in 2017. There were few NGOs in the sector, with those present mainly concentrating on counselling.

UNICEF introduced HIV viral load testing in Fiji and Solomon Islands. As a result, mothers can make earlier and more effective decisions about pregnancy and delivery and health workers have information to inform counselling on effectiveness of treatment. Health information shows an increase in mothers enrolling and retaining treatment.

UNICEF provided financial assistance for community outreach services in eight of the ten provinces in Solomon Islands, with focus on pregnant women and young people. Awareness was created on teenage pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, testing and referral for treatment. More women and young people were tested and enrolled into treatment, and data showed an increased use of condoms. Skills among women and young people on proper condom use and consistent HIV treatment increased.

UNICEF financially supported point of care training to MoH staff in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Fiji, resulting in upgraded HIV treatment and care services to pregnant women and children and increased uptake of PPTCT services.

UNICEF conducted training of MHMS staff in all provinces in the Solomon Islands on the delivery of Youth Friendly Health Services (YFHS). UNICEF technically supported the
development of education material to complement the training and service delivery, resulting in increased condom use among young people.

**OUTPUT 1** HIV&AIDS PCR 6 IR6.1: By 2017, at least six PICs have PPTCT, HIV Testing & Counselling and ART policies/ guidelines and services in line with the international and global recommendations.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF technically led the development of PPTCT policies, furthering high impact evidence-based implementation of HIV and STI services in three PICTs (Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu).

Fiji’s MHMS incorporated the most recent PPTCT global guidelines into an endorsed 2016–2020 HIV/STI National Strategic Plan, which includes ‘test and treat’ for pregnant women and children.

National HIV/AIDS annual workplans featuring PPTCT services were implemented in four PICTs (Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Vanuatu, and Fiji). National HIV annual workplans in Vanuatu and Kiribati were integrated into RMNCAH workplans for better coordination and integration. UNICEF advocated to ensure that the workplans included PPTCT services.

Due to a shortage in human resources, UNICEF provided technical expertise to the Solomon Islands MHMS HIV Unit to develop a national monitoring and evaluation plan for HIV and STIs, thereby ensuring MHMS targets HIV interventions based on evidence.

UNICEF provided technical and financial assistance to 14 PICTs for the completion of the 2015 GARPR, ensuring information on PPTCT is globally accessible.

With technical leadership from UNICEF, two PICTs (Vanuatu and Solomon Islands) developed updated national guidelines on antiretrovirals (ARVs) for preventing and treating HIV infection in children and adolescents; HIV testing services; PPTCT; and comprehensive STI management. Guidelines were aligned to the most recent global standards.

UNICEF provided technical inputs in the development of youth friendly health services (YFHS) guidelines in Solomon Islands.

Three PICTs fully integrated PPTCT into MCH services based on UNICEF’s recommendation and following substantial technical input from UNICEF.

Two PICTs (Fiji and Solomon Islands) introduced early infant diagnosis testing. HIV positive infants were immediately identified and treated, reducing HIV related infant death. Viral load testing was introduced, enabling earlier and more accurate diagnosis of HIV in pregnancy and ensuring that women made informed delivery decision to prevent mother-to-child transmission.

UNICEF procured rapid HIV test kits for two PICTs (Solomon Islands and Fiji) in response to the need to roll out their respective newly adopted policies.

UNICEF funded community outreach services in eight of ten provinces in Solomon Islands, which focused on teenage pregnancy, HIV/AIDS awareness, testing and referral for treatment.
OUTPUT 2 HIV/AIDS PCR 6 IR6.5: By 2017, at least six PICs have strengthened capacities to deliver HIV prevention and services for adolescents (10-19) including adolescents at higher risk to HIV exposure.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF financed the training of MOH in three PICTs (Vanuatu, Fiji, and Solomon Islands) on provision of PPTCT services, thereby ensuring upgraded HIV treatment and care services were provided to children and women.

Staff from 35 health facilities in Solomon Islands and three health facilities in the outer island Province of Tafea in Vanuatu were trained on HIV point-of-care testing and treatment, thereby increasing uptake of PPTCT services.

UNICEF conducted training for staff in all provinces on the delivery of YFHS in Solomon Islands. Information, education and communication materials to complement training and service delivery were produced.

OUTCOME 8 Child Protection Systems (including Justice and Police, child and family social services, health and education and communities) provide improved quality of and access to services for the prevention of and response to violence, abuse and exploitation of children at all times.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
As part of a child protection systems building approach, legal and regulatory frameworks are the foundation for prevention and response to child protection violations. In 2016, several PICTs made significant progress in this area, including Vanuatu, which adopted its first National Child Protection Policy to strengthen institutional and coordination arrangements for prevention and response to violence against children. Nauru succeeded in passing a Child Protection and Welfare Act and in releasing a Review of the Nauru Child Protection System Report. Fiji moved forward with an Adoption Bill after lengthy deliberations and inputs from various development agencies, including UNICEF. Progress on three other bills in Fiji was limited, and will be a priority for advocacy in 2017.

Legal reforms were strengthened in several PICTs. Training was delivered in Kiribati on implementing and increasing understanding of the Children, Young People and Family Welfare Act. An amendment to the Penal Code was approved by the National Parliament of Solomon Islands that introduced offences related to sexual violence against persons with disabilities, sexual abuse perpetrated by a person in a position of trust, commercial child sexual exploitation and child exploitation materials. Tuvalu’s Cabinet endorsed the terms of reference for the Ministry of Education and the Office of the Attorney General to co-chair a National Advisory Committee for Children’s Rights and the technical working group in preparation for the drafting of a child protection bill and a child protection policy for schools. Training was delivered to key stakeholders in Fiji on the Interagency Guidelines on Child Abuse and Neglect and improving coordination of child protection services. Five agencies subsequently endorsed the Guidelines. The number of cases reported to Interagency Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect increased by 37 per cent in 2016 compared with 2015.

A multi-country evaluation on building the capacity of police in Fiji, Kiribati and Vanuatu to manage children in contact with the law as victims, witnesses or offenders was concluded with findings finalized and validated by key stakeholders. The recommendations will continue to inform programme activities in 2017, including integration of child protection in existing police training curriculum and strengthening referral pathways among partners.
Birth registration is a component of civil registration and vital statistics and the Brisbane Accord Group provides a platform for coordination and facilitation in the region. UNICEF supported a stakeholder meeting to review the joint action plan and discuss mutual areas for support and coordination. Participants included the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Pacific Health Information Network, the University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, University of New South Wales, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Pacific Civil Registrars Network and Fiji National University.

A Pacific Civil Registrars’ and Statisticians meeting held in New Caledonia in February focused on strengthening civil registration and vital statistics services in the region by bringing together representatives from Australia, Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, RMI, Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

As co-lead for the Safety and Protection Cluster led by the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, UNICEF provided support to the response mechanism after TC Winston as well as to a review of the effectiveness of the cluster’s response. Technical and financial support also was provided by UNICEF to the Pacific Disability Forum to conduct a disability needs assessment, which included recommendations to improve the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the planning and implementation of disaster management and response plans and accessibility of evacuation centres (ramps, toilets, safety zones, information, distribution points and footpaths). The assessment further recommended that all humanitarian agencies ensure that people with disabilities are prioritized during distributions of aid and support.

Recognizing the important role that sport can play in supporting emotional recovery after an emergency, UNICEF and the Oceania Football Confederation completed a six-month programme in Fiji to disseminate critical messages and support a sense of well-being for children through football. Just Play recovery programme activities reached 10,867 children, including 5,551 boys and 5,316 girls in the 12 most severely cyclone-affected regions in Fiji. A total of 385 teachers and volunteers (172 males and 213 females) participated with 16 trained coordinators in delivering PSS to children. A further 2,800 children and their families received psychosocial support through a more targeted approach delivered by three trained community child protection officers from the Social Welfare Department.

OUTPUT 1 CP PCR 7 IR7.1: By 2017, PICs children are better protected by strengthened legal, regulatory and policy frameworks at national level, including in emergencies.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Following TC Winston in February 2016, the Fiji Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation’s Department of Social Welfare, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health psychosocial support (PSS) sub-cluster and with support from UNICEF, equipped the capacity of social welfare officers on community-based PSS in emergencies; self-care and awareness, stress management and psychological First Aid to respond to children and refer cases of psychological trauma.

Progress was made on legal reforms in several PICTs. Nauru legislated its 2016 Child Protection and Welfare Act. The Family Law Bill awaited enactment in Cook Islands. Implementation of Kiribati's Juvenile Justice Act by police and courts was ongoing. Samoa’s Child Care and Protection Bill awaited endorsement by Parliament. Fiji’s Adoption Bill was under review for compliance with The Hague Convention on Adoption. UNICEF continued to advocate and provide support for enactment of draft Bills on Children in Need of Protection, Children in Conflict with the Law and Community-Based Corrections in Fiji.
Fiji continued to strengthen its child protection system following the training of stakeholders on an interagency protocol that was approved by key Ministries and police. An interagency referral system was being developed in Kiribati and Solomon Islands for improved and timely referrals of women and child victims of abuse.

Samoa’s 2015 Child Care and Protection (CCP) Bill ensures the country has a strong national child protection system that is informed and guided by child-specific legislation. The 2010–2015 National Policy for Children (NPC) and the CCP Bill were being reviewed to ensure they contain required mechanisms that focus on strengths-based, solution-focused, family-led and child-focused approaches. The NPC sought to formalize the interagency referral system, which will promote collaborative partnerships among government and civil society organizations.

The Review of the Nauru Child Protection System Report was approved, published and launched in Cabinet. A 2016 Child Protection and Welfare Act provided the legal mandate for establishment of the Child Protection Division headed by a director and staffed by at least five personnel under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Tuvalu’s Cabinet endorsed the terms of reference for the Ministry of Education and the Office of the Attorney General to co-chair the National Coordinating Committee for Children and the Technical Working Group in contemplation of drafting a Child Protection Bill and Child Protection Policy for schools. These two mechanisms will help address delays in development of a child protection bill and child protection policy in schools.

Tonga continued nationwide community awareness raising on cybersecurity and digital citizenship for children and young people in response to increased incidents of cyberbullying. A national review of Tonga’s legislative framework found 39 articles had met, 5 articles had partially met and 4 articles had not met compliance with the Budapest Convention. Key activities of focus for 2017 will include review and update of legislation to reflect best international practices and capacity building for law enforcement officers.

**OUTPUT 2 CP PCR 7 IR7.2: By 2017 Kiribati, develop and strengthen legal, regulatory and policy frameworks at national and sub-national levels for the protection and participation of children, adolescents and youth including in emergencies.**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF supported the Kiribati Government to develop and strengthen legal, regulatory and policy frameworks for the protection of children, adolescents and youth. Support for the roll-out of the 2013 Child, Young People and Family Welfare (CYFW) Act and 2015 Juvenile Justice Act to several islands was provided. The Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs was supported to implement these two acts and provided training to relevant partners, including church-based organizations and professionals from health, education, police and assistant social welfare officers on the islands of Abaiang, Makin, Abemama, Onotoa, Kiritimati and South Tarawa and Betio. In August 2016, the Community Policing Unit carried out training on these two Acts and new SOPs, roles and responsibilities of police in relation to implementation for police officers in Marakei, Abemama, Kiritimati, and Onotoa including South Tarawa. Approximately 150 police officers, including village wardens, attended the training.

An Interagency Referral Protocol for Child Protection was drafted that will strengthen the quality and timeliness of key services for child victims of violence and abuse. Through the process of drafting the Protocol, safe places for the protection of victims were identified at community level and an agreement was reached with local officials and community members that village halls and the homes of elders and church leaders would be designated as safe
places for child protection. Police agreed to provide assistance and ensure perpetrators maintain a distance for the safety of the child victim. Because the reach of formal services is limited, particularly on outer islands that use informal mechanisms and existing community structures, it was crucial to engage communities in prevention and protection from violence. Finalization of the draft Interagency Referral Protocol will be a priority in 2017 along with a Child Protection Policy for schools.

The new Juvenile Justice Act ensured a specialized court for children, child-friendly spaces, child-sensitive procedures and the separation of children from adults in custodial and court settings. However, operationalization of the Act was challenging due to resource constraints. To strengthen quality of services for child justice, training was provided for magistrates on South Tarawa and Betio on the Children, Young People and Family Welfare (CYFW) Act, Juvenile Justice Act and Family Peace Act to strengthen understanding of the separation of powers between police and courts in implementing and applying the laws to ensure quality services for child victims, witnesses and offenders.

**OUTPUT 3 CP PCR 7 IR7.3:** By 2017 Solomon Islands develop and strengthen legal, regulatory and policy frameworks at national and sub-national levels for the protection of children, including in emergencies.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Following the endorsement of the Government Caucus, the Cabinet approved the Child and Family Welfare Bill in August 2016. The Bills and Legislative Committee of the National Parliament reviewed the Bill, taking into consideration an associated implementation plan. It is expected that the Bill will be debated at the National Parliament during its forthcoming session. UNICEF continued to provide support to the National and Advisory and Action Committee on Children (NAACC), Ministry of Health and Medical Services (Social Welfare Department) and Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (Children’s Development Division) in their ongoing efforts to advocate for the enactment of the Bill and its further dissemination.

The timeframe for the planned revision of the Birth and Death Registration Act changed during the year. The Ministry of Home Affairs and other development partners, particularly the Brisbane Accord Group (BAG), proposed that revision of the Act should be informed by consultations on the role of key fundamental structures, such as magistrates, in birth and death certification and decentralization of civil registration functions. The Civil Registration Office began registering deaths in the system with the delivery of WHO-supported training to medical personnel on identifying causes of deaths. The Ministry of Home Affairs used a UNICEF-supported costed plan to improve national civil registration and vital statistics systems in its five-year budget, ensuring that the service will be more accessible to the public. UNICEF, together with development partners including WHO, Pacific Community and BAG, will continue to provide support in 2017 for a review of the legislative framework and strengthening the registration system and processes.

In collaboration with Save the Children, UNICEF provided technical support to NAACC to facilitate a consultative workshop seeking the endorsement of all NAACC members to support the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Pornography and Child Prostitution. A statement of support for the endorsement was agreed to at the workshop. It is to be attached to a Cabinet paper that seeks approval for ratification of the Protocol.

In response to recognition from the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs, particularly the Magistrate’s Court, that it must progress its Juvenile Justice System, UNICEF provided support for the establishment of a working group with the aim of developing a protocol for handling children involved in the justice system.
OUTPUT 4 CP PCR 7 IR7.4: By 2017 Vanuatu develops and strengthen legal, regulatory and policy frameworks at national and sub-national levels for the protection of children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The first National Child Protection Policy 2016 - 2026 was adopted. It strengthens institutional and coordination arrangements at the national, provincial and community levels for prevention and response to violence against children. It also guides the implementation of child protection systems through standards setting and capacity building of service providers while ensuring monitoring of implementation. The policy and the experience learned from the piloting of community-based child protection systems in three provinces will inform the development of a comprehensive child protection legal framework planned for early 2017, led by the Ministry of Justice and Community Services with the support of UNICEF and the Government of Australia. It is crucial that the development of child protection legislation provide opportunity to address the issue of the minimum age for criminal responsibility remaining too low by internationally accepted standards.

Improvement of the national Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system continued to be on the Government’s agenda, with an active national CRVS committee through which a national CRVS policy is being developed. Strengthened coordination between government agencies for birth registration and the use of birth certificates as a proof of age has significantly increased the rate of birth registration. The State Law Office is currently working on an amendment to the Civil Status Registration Act (CAP61) based on a position paper of the Council of Ministers. The amendment will legally allow other stakeholders (including health workers, teachers, youth representatives and area secretaries) to facilitate civil registration tasks at the sub-national level. It is expected that the draft amendment will be presented to the Parliament in 2017.

Despite the approval by the Public Service Commission of child focused officer positions at national and provincial levels within the Ministry of Justice and Community Service, budget allocations to cover all new positions have not yet been forthcoming.

The evaluation of the police capacity development programme was completed. Fourteen senior police officers participated in validating the findings and recommendations. The evaluation will guide the improvement of the UNICEF-supported capacity development programme with the police force, including integration of child protection in the existing police training curriculum and strengthened referral pathway among the police, Ministry of Health and other agencies planned for 2017.

OUTPUT 5 CP PCR 7 IR7.6: By 2017, governments and civil society have strengthened capacity to provide children and families with improved access to child and family welfare and child justice services to prevent and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation, including in emergencies.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Pacific’s efforts to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) continued in 2016. A Pacific Civil Registrars and Statisticians Network meeting was held in New Caledonia in February and, for the first time, was attended by Australia, Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, RMI, Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Since the network is aligned with the Asia Pacific Regional Action Framework on CRVS, it provided a unique platform for South-South cooperation among civil registrars and statisticians as well as an opportunity for sharing good practices. The meeting showcased innovations available to support Pacific governments in achieving universal birth registration.
Following TC Winston, a National Code of Conduct was signed and launched by the Safety and Protection Cluster. UNICEF Pacific's emergency toolkit on CPiE continued to inform disaster preparedness and strengthen resilience among stakeholders through delivery of training of trainers in Vanuatu, Tonga, Kiribati and RMI. Designed for child protection practitioners, the toolkit was designed to support and strengthen effective mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence against children during emergencies. Intersectoral referral protocols to ensure service provision for victims of violence were on track for Fiji and Kiribati. Draft protocols were being reviewed in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Samoa’s public expenditure for child protection increased by 9 per cent, demonstrating improved government commitment to delivery of child protection services. The enactment of the 2015 Child Care and Protection Bill and an associated guiding child policy aimed to improve the functionality of Samoa’s child protection preventative and response services. At least 75 per cent of Samoa’s population was targeted by outreach programmes and ongoing media campaigns via television, radio and advertisements aimed at increasing children’s capacity to report and prevent sexual violence.

UNICEF Pacific’s partnership with the NGO Samoa Victim Support Group focused on strengthening capacity to respond to child victims of abuse and exploitation and providing safe shelter, including support for victims required to appear in court as witnesses. Such service support motivated improved coordination among key child protection stakeholders, thereby strengthening legal representation and assistance to child victims during court processes.

A multi-country evaluation was concluded on capacity building of police who handle cases involving children in contact with the law as victims, witnesses and/or offenders in Fiji, Kiribati and Vanuatu. Evaluation findings were finalized and validated by key stakeholders, particularly police in Kiribati, Fiji and Vanuatu. There were 15 major recommendations for various partners. UNICEF was tasked with developing a theories of change approach to capacity development on child protection that will be part of 2017 workplans along with other recommendations.

OUTPUT 6 CP PCR 7 IR7.7: By 2017 Kiribati government and civil society strengthen quality of and access to child protection services

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Establishing child protection services was challenging due to limited personnel coupled with wide geographic disbursement. With only one assistant social welfare officer and one police officer per island, access to and quality of child protection services remained hindered. Strategies to address these issues included strengthening the roles of existing island council members (police, social welfare, youth representative, church focal point, etc.) and strengthening linkages between community, church-based and family-based services. Support for implementation of these strategies will be a focus in 2017.

With support from UNICEF, the Social Welfare Division began developing a social welfare handbook that will provide more structure and guidance for quality provision of services to women and children. The handbook includes a code of ethics, SOPs and existing laws and policies in relation to child protection.

UNICEF Pacific continued to support the decentralization of civil registration services in Kiribati. In 2016, the birth registration rate increased from 89 per cent to 92 per cent. An upgrade of the database, which was made more secure, made registration easier and more accessible through online and offline systems that connect outer islands to the central civil registration office. The expansion of a mobile registration campaign was a significant factor.
in increasing the birth registration rate as it provided a mechanism to capture every child’s birth – even in low performing islands. This reduced coverage disparities in the outer islands. Maintenance of birth registration service points in two main hospitals in Tarawa continued to boost birth and death registration.

Through a workshop with key partners, the national Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Committee finalized its 10-year strategic plan; however, technical assistance is required to finalize a plan that is to be submitted for Cabinet approval in 2017.

OUTPUT 7 CP PCR 7 IR 7.8: By 2017, in Solomon Islands government, civil society and communities have strengthened capacity to provide children and families with improved access to child and family welfare and child justice services to prevent and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation, including in emergencies.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2016, the Civil Registration Office (CRO) registered 21,089 children, of whom 19,735 (or 93 per cent) were under the age of five. Solomon Islands increased the rate of registration of children under the age of five to 42 per cent. The CRO engaged two additional personnel to reduce registration backlog during the first half of the year and improved registration processes at the National Referral Hospital (NRH) Labour Ward by linking the NRH directly to the database. A similar approach is planned for other provincial hospitals. The rate of registration of all children under the age of 18 years remained low, at 16 per cent. To address this issue, collaboration with the Ministry of Education was strengthened to accelerate the rate of registration of school-aged children, which will be a priority for 2017 and beyond.

In preparation of the enactment of the Child and Welfare Bill, an advocacy package was strengthened to ensure the Bill is passed. The NAACC and Social Welfare Department, with support from UNICEF, developed a plan for piloted systems in the two Provinces of Western and Isabel. Discussions with provincial-based stakeholders took place to gauge interest. More formal workshops are scheduled for early 2017 in the two provinces to map service providers and stakeholders, establish provincial coordination mechanisms in addressing child protection, including in emergencies, and identify targeted communities.

The Social Welfare Division of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services improved its clinical guidelines for the provision of care to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence with support from WHO. UNICEF provided technical assistance in ensuring that protocols for the health care response to child abuse are included in the guidelines.

OUTPUT 8 CP PCR 7 IR7.9: By 2017, in Vanuatu government, civil society and communities have strengthened capacity to provide children and families with improved access to child protection services to prevent and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation, including in emergencies.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Despite constraints regarding human resources faced by the line ministry, Vanuatu has observed improved provision of child protection services by state and non-state actors through the child protection systems piloted in the communities of Tanna, Erromango, and recently Pentecost, supported by UNICEF. In addition to monitoring the situation of children and conducting child protection awareness activities, the community-based child protection committees assisted children and their families in communities and referred 26 cases to services provided by state providers. Coordination for child protection was strengthened through provincial child protection working groups in two provinces, with a plan for one additional province in 2017.

Intersectoral coordination, notably among civil registration, health, education and youth and sport development, significantly increased the rate of birth registration in Vanuatu, especially
through mobile registration campaigns following Cyclone Pam in 2015. All provincial hospitals except one are connected to the birth registration system, enabling them to directly register births in the system and issue birth certificates for newborns and children under the age of five. Civil registration services are available for older children and adults at provincial civil registration offices. Seventy-three per cent of children under the age of five have been registered and 86 per cent of children under the age of 18 years had their birth recorded in the system. The 2017 plan will include documentation of the experience and review of birth registration process with a view to strengthen it.

More than 50 child protection practitioners from Port Vila, Tafea, Sanma and Penama were trained on Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIE). As part of the training, contingency plans were developed by participants for their locality. The UNICEF supported CPIE package sparked a lot of interest and additional CPIE training is planned for Tafea in 2017.

OUTCOME 9 CP PCR 8: 8 Parents, caregivers, and children demonstrate skills, knowledge and behaviour enabling children to grow up in caring homes and communities, including schools that are free from violence, abuse and exploitation

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Families and communities in many PICTs seem to be struggling between traditional and modern methods of rearing and disciplining children. Baseline reports from five countries in the South Pacific (Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) and three countries in the North Pacific (FSM, Palau and RMI) revealed significant protection issues, including corporal punishment in homes and communities and bullying at school. High rates of domestic violence have long been prevalent across the PICTs. An unacceptably high number of children grow up exposed to violence and abuse on a regular basis in places that should be considered safe. Public acceptance of violence as a suitable punishment for children remained high in PICTs. In countries where baseline data exists (Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu), it showed that more than 70 per cent of adults admit to using corporal punishment on children at home. Baseline data from the North Pacific (FSM, Palau and RMI) revealed that more than 20 per cent of parents used physical punishment ‘that hurts a child’ daily and at least 12 per cent of children experienced ‘verbal humiliation’ daily. Children are not only immediate victims themselves but also are victimized by the impact of witnessing violence in the family. In Solomon Islands for example, 69 per cent of women and 65 per cent of men justified violence against women as a form of discipline when the woman is perceived as not living up to her gender role. It is a customary belief that a man owns a woman once he has paid a bride price. Fifty-nine per cent of women who had suffered violence believed that violence had affected the way they parented their children. Twenty-three per cent reported hitting their children and 42 per cent reported ignoring them.

To address these systemic and complicated issues, UNICEF continued to adapt and roll out a community facilitation package aimed at providing clear knowledge on child development and parenting skills as well as mobilizing the community to abandon practices harmful to children, including violent discipline, in Vanuatu, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Kiribati. More than 500 communities completed workshops on a positive parenting package and publicly declared support for the prevention of child abuse and neglect through 2016 International Year for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect activities carried out in all five of Fiji’s divisions. Community-based facilitation packages that promote positive parenting were developed for the country-specific contexts of Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Strategic partnerships with two civil society organizations provided positive examples of inclusive services for children with disabilities in Vanuatu and Samoa. Children with
disabilities who had been victims of abuse or neglect were provided with early intervention and educational activities and support provided to their families and communities. Sport was also used as an entry for information and training. Through football matches, 509 children in Vanuatu received information about several development issues, including messages on child protection. Adolescents who received peer education were involved in psychosocial activities and mentoring. Taking into consideration the high incidence of disasters in the Pacific, Child Protection in Emergencies training was rolled out in Vanuatu and Republic of the Marshall Islands. This training culminated with the development of contingency plans at the community level.

A code of conduct, endorsed by Fiji’s Safety and Protection Cluster during TC Winston, became part an emergency toolkit on Child Protection in Emergencies tailored for the Pacific context. The toolkit subsequently was rolled out in Vanuatu and the RMI during the year, strengthening capacity to respond to child protection in emergencies.

Birth registration is an important protective element for children. Coordination mechanisms were strengthened in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, although limited human resources in areas of child protection continued to be a challenge in all PICTs. Two key areas of continued focus for birth registration will be decentralization of service delivery and strengthening partnerships, especially with health and education authorities. Interagency referral protocols were developed in Kiribati and Solomon Islands for women and children victims of abuse. Safe places were identified in Kiribati to protect victims at the community level through an agreement between local officials and community members and community police agreed to assume responsibility, as and when deemed necessary, for protecting children from alleged perpetrators. In Vanuatu, the provision of services improved due to provincial referral networks and community-based child protection mechanisms.

OUTPUT 1 CP PCR 8 IR8.1: By 2017, parents, families and communities demonstrate strengthened knowledge, attitude and practices creating an environment that protects children from violence, abuse and exploitation in T2 and T3 countries

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Fiji’s Ministry of iTaukei Affairs reviewed its contextualized community facilitation package called ‘Children are a Precious Gift from God’ in collaboration with the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation. The package, which promoted positive parenting and community action for child protection, was adapted into common vernacular to incorporate positive traditional practices and was translated into Fijian.

Community facilitation packages were developed in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Kiribati as resource tools for raising awareness on issues that put children at risk, including cybersafety, bullying, violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. The package was aimed at strengthening parenting approaches and community-based prevention and protection of children against violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, including in emergencies. The facilitation packages were designed for key stakeholders to utilize as a tool across all sectors to mitigate harm against children.

In Nauru, with support from UNICEF, IT equipment and a generator were supplied to the Child Protection Division to support enactment of a child protection law, providing an opportunity for the director and his staff to raise awareness in the community when responding to matters of harm involving children in Nauru due to parental neglect. Training on interagency guidelines for child protection service provisions and case management is scheduled to commence in 2017.

In Fiji, ‘Stop Listen and Look’ messages were rolled out on television, radio and SMS texts to encourage children and young people to be their first line of defence and to better respond
to peers in need of PSS and/or referral as victims of violence abuse, neglect and exploitation. Data from service providers in Fiji showed that sexual abuse was one of the most common forms of abuse of children in the country. The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation took the leadership in promoting individual responsibility to end child sexual abuse through a national multi-media campaign.

Child protection policies in schools were widely integrated in Fiji and Vanuatu schools and a policy was under development for Kiribati. In Fiji, the policy was rolled out as part of early childhood education.

**OUTPUT 2** CP PCR 8 IR8.2: By 2017, in Kiribati parents, families and communities demonstrate strengthened knowledge, attitude and practices creating an enabling environment that protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Following consultations held in 2015 with faith-based organizations and other community-based stakeholders on the development of a community facilitation package to promote positive parenting and community action on child protection, a stakeholder’s workshop to finalize the manual was convened in the beginning of 2016. The workshop was supported by high-level officers from the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs and other key Ministries. The Secretary of Ministry of Women and Social Affairs commented about and strongly supported the manual, noting that he believes the manual could save the lives of many children who suffer abuse.

In partnership with the Youth Division of the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, a disaster management workshop for youth was convened in April 2016 to train and empower youth to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change and ensure youth actively engage in making their communities resilient to disasters. The training built skills to respond effectively to disasters and supported youth to be key resources in their communities. Topics covered in the training included disaster management, the disaster management cycle, disaster preparedness, disaster response, disaster impact on health and child protection and test and evaluation. A total of 20 adolescents and young people (15 females) representing different youth groups and communities from around South Tarawa participated in the workshop.

**OUTPUT 3** CP PCR 8 IR8.3: By 2017, in Solomon Islands parents, families and communities demonstrate strengthened knowledge, attitude and practices creating an enabling environment that protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Children continued to experience violent discipline and two-thirds of children reported experiencing bullying. A child protection community facilitation package tailored to the context of Solomon Islands was developed and field-tested in Honiara and Western Provinces in close consultation with the NAACC’s Child Protection Working Group. The package will be rolled out in early 2017 in communities in the two piloted Provinces of Western and Isabel, targeting parents and community members with knowledge on child development and positive parenting. The package was designed to mobilize communities to address child protection, including reinforcing practices that are conducive to care and protection while fostering changes in practices that are harmful to child development.

**OUTPUT 4** CP PCR 8 IR8.4: By 2017, in Vanuatu children, families and communities demonstrate strengthened knowledge, attitude and practices creating an enabling environment that protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation
Analytical Statement of Progress:
More than 20 selected communities were reached with knowledge on child development and parenting following the finalization of the child protection community facilitation package ‘Children are our Future’ and training of 27 community facilitators in the second half of 2016. Additional communities will be reached in 2017 given the interest, particularly of members of the National Child Protection Working Group, including the Vanuatu Christian Council (VCC).

More than 40 children with disabilities and their parents and caregivers from four communities benefited from the UNICEF-supported early intervention program implemented by the Vanuatu Society for Persons with Disabilities. The programme prepared them for integration in mainstream schools and sport activities while acquainting parents and caregivers with skills in providing care and learning stimulation. Thirteen children were integrated in government and private schools and sport activities. The programme will serve a model for advocacy for inclusion programme for children with disabilities with line Ministries such as Ministry of Justice and Community Services, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Youth and Sport Development.

In 2016, in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development and Training, youth continued to be engaged in developing responses to violence against children in Vanuatu. UNICEF supported the Ministry to reach 509 children (222 girls and 287 boys) in Penama, Sanma and Torba through football-related activities while also addressing a range of development issues, including child protection. The Ministry of Youth and Sports Development and Training continued to support access to safe spaces and orientation for children on psychosocial support, peer education and disaster risk reduction. Peer education training was provided to adolescent boys and girls to enable them to reach out to their peers and expand the scope of psychosocial activities resulting in community initiatives such as the creation of a youth support group ‘Choosing our Future’, formation of a futsal football club and supporting training and mentoring at a youth centre on Santo.

OUTCOME 10 PAPE PCR 9: Social policies, safety nets and budgets progressively address disparities and build resilience for the realization of child rights.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2016, UNICEF Pacific continued to support efforts in PICTs to protect, promote and fulfil the rights of all children in the region, despite multiple challenges to programme operations that included geographic dispersion, natural hazards, and weak and chronically under-resourced administrations.

Identification of the most marginalized and disadvantaged children was critical to providing this support. With UNICEF support, Tonga’s 2016 Census was conducted using tablets, the 2015 DHS survey report was finalized in Solomon Islands and statisticians from nine countries were trained on using internationally recognized tools for disability data collection. UNICEF’s advocacy on evidence generation contributed to the prioritization of children and inclusion of SDGs in national development plans. National development strategies were launched in Solomon Islands (2016–2035) and Kiribati (2016–19). Vanuatu’s draft national development strategy (2016–2030) was validated and awaiting finalization as of the end of the year. Poverty reduction strategies were featured as priorities in Solomon Islands and Kiribati and all the development strategies referenced climate change, disaster risk reduction, the need to ensure inclusive growth and the fact that welfare of future generations ought to be considered in decisions and policies.

UNICEF Pacific contributed to SDG localization as a member of the Regional SDG Working Group and the UN SDG Group, ensuring that children were explicitly reflected in
collaborations related to SDG implementation and relevant indicators for children were included in monitoring frameworks.

UNICEF Pacific expanded social protection support by increasing pressure on governments to introduce formal systems that help prevent deprivation and build resilience among the most vulnerable. Apart from ongoing technical support to Fiji, discussions with the Government of Tonga got underway on the establishment of a child sensitive poverty-based social protection programme.

Fiji doubled budgetary allocations towards implementation of the CRC through child protection programmes, including the operation of a National Child Helpline. Budget allocation for the Care and Protection Allowance Programme increased, reaching 3,398 additional children. The 2016 Adoption Bill’s definition of a child aligned to the CRC definition. The Tuvalu Government approved the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution and a constitutional amendment to raise the age of marriage for both boys and girls to 18 years.

The Government of Samoa ratified all three Optional Protocols to CRC, which related to communications; the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; and the involvement of children in armed conflict. A National Mechanism was launched for CRC reporting and follow-up.

OUTPUT 1 PAPE PCR 9 IR9.1: By 2017, collection, analyses and dissemination of disaggregated data on the situation of children and women strengthened.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF commenced work on the situation analysis of children for all 14 PICTs in the first quarter of 2016. Data inventory for all countries was successfully completed during the first phase of the situation analysis, which is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2017.

UNICEF and its regional partners recognized the need to address a lack of reliable data on persons with disabilities in the Pacific. Work on building comparative disability data across the 14 countries got underway in partnership with the Pacific community (SPC). SPC adopted Washington Group (WG) tools as part of core survey modules available for use. Government statisticians from Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu were trained on using WG questions on disability, including the UNICEF/WG child functioning module, to strengthen national capacities to collect comparable data in upcoming DHS and Census surveys. UNICEF advocated for the use of WG questions on disability and child functioning, particularly in countries that are conducting censuses. Data collection was completed in 2016 for the Tonga Census, which included the WG questions.

Training was delivered by the WG with support from the Leonard Cheshire Disability and Inclusive Development Centre. Two representatives from Tonga, one from the Government Statistics Office and one from Tonga Disabilities Persons Organization, were trained in New York on the UNICEF/WG child functioning module. Skills gained will support Tonga in its preparation of the National Disability Survey. Technical support was ongoing to Palau and Kiribati to analyse 2015 census disability data.

Child Centred Risk Assessments (CCRA) were conducted in nine countries (Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu). The CCRA systematically maps where children at risk are located and data is to be used by governments, UNICEF and partners to appropriately target programmes. A knowledge product outlining the approach was finalized for publication.
UNICEF engaged in dialogue on measuring poverty in the Pacific under SDG target 1.2.2. Almost all Pacific countries progressed towards adopting multidimensional poverty measures for inclusion in DHS and household income and expenditure surveys.

Preparations for data collection and monitoring of key SDG indicators were underway in all 14 Pacific countries. UNICEF Pacific contributed to SDG localization as a member of the Regional SDG Working Group and the UN SDG Group, to ensure relevant indicators for children are included in agreed SDG monitoring frameworks.

**OUTPUT 2 PAPE PCR 9 IR9.2: By 2017, governments’ policies, budgets and social protection systems enhance resilience and reduce disparities for children.**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016 Fiji’s Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation drafted a Cabinet paper based on recommendations from the Assessment of the National Care and Protection Allowance that was completed with UNICEF Pacific. Support to the Ministry was ongoing for the expansion and strengthening of social protection programmes for children.

Discussions were ongoing with Government of Tonga to build a comprehensive social protection system in addition to old age pension scheme and disability cash allowance. Tonga is seeking to establish poverty based social protection program. Technical support will be provided to Tonga for a child sensitive social protection system going forward. Tonga will bring to two the number of Pacific Island countries with comprehensive social protection systems (in addition to Fiji).

UNICEF provided technical input for the evaluation design of one-off emergency cash transfers following the devastating category 5 TC Winston that hit Fiji in February 2016. The TC Winston impact evaluation was led by World Bank to assess the use of one-time top-up of cash transfer beneficiaries of various social protection programmes in Fiji. The evaluation provided critical evidence to be used for advocacy in countries considering disaster-sensitive social protection programmes, particularly in view of the Pacific’s increasing exposure to hazards.

Four countries – Fiji, Samoa, Tuvalu and Kiribati – participated at the 3rd High Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights held in Malaysia 7–8 November 2016. The importance of quality health care, coherent child sensitive social protection systems and urgent measures to prevent violence against children through evidence and experiences was stressed at the meeting. UNICEF Pacific provided analytical support on violence against children and social protection to government delegations in preparation for the meeting. Best practices from Fiji were shared to encourage other countries to build their respective social protection systems.

Studies were completed in Solomon Islands and Fiji that explored ways to establish a fiscal monitoring system for children. The studies were commissioned in 2015 as part of UNICEF’s Public Finance for Children Initiative, in collaboration with UNICEF’s Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific (EAPRO). Results will be used to advocate governments to adopt more systematic approaches to monitoring public expenditure on children. UNICEF will build on the study findings in 2017 and strengthen public expenditure monitoring and advocacy.
OUTPUT 3 PAPE PCR 9 IR9.3: By 2017, national child rights coordination and reporting mechanisms strengthened guided by national child and youth policies, with increased participation of young people.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Ten countries were on track with reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child as of the end of the year. Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Palau and RMI submitted outstanding state party reports in 2016. UNICEF provided technical support in reviewing the reports and general guidance. Support in 2017 will focus on Tonga, FSM and Kiribati, which were 19, 16, and 5 years behind their reporting obligations.

Support for the drafting of Tonga’s initial report progressed in 2016 with the development of a ToR for the recruitment of a national consultant to support the activity.

To streamline coordination of reporting and implementation of child rights, a National Advisory Committee for Children (NACC) was established in Tuvalu. UNICEF supported the drafting of ToRs for the NACC. Approximately 45 government and civil society stakeholders were equipped to develop a National Human Rights Action Plan through training conducted in partnership with SPC and UN Women. The National Human Rights Action Plan was endorsed by the Cabinet and will guide implementation of treaty body and Universal Periodic Review recommendations.

Child rights awareness raising activities were conducted in Tonga, Tuvalu, RMI and FSM to keep issues of children on the respective social, economic and political agendas of each country. In Tonga, a week-long celebration was held with the theme ‘Unite for Children’ to raise awareness of the CRC as well as sustainable development and government priorities for children identified in the national development plan. Tuvalu, RMI and FSM held events to celebrate child rights achievements, including for children with disabilities.

Mock sessions were held in 2016 to prepare delegations from Nauru and Samoa for appearance before the CRC committee. The mock sessions, conducted in the same manner as the actual CRC committee sessions, gave delegations an opportunity to gauge their preparedness for the CRC committee.

New Parliamentarians in Kiribati were trained on the CRC during induction activities. The training, conducted with SPC, raised awareness on the CRC and human rights to ensure children’s issues are given due attention in planning, policy making and budgeting.

A Regional Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted during a 2016 Forum Leaders Meeting. UNICEF contributed to the development of the framework, which outlines priorities for the region and will be used to guide the development of programmes and provision of services to persons with disabilities in the Pacific.

OUTCOME 11 the Pacific Multi-Country Programme is effectively designed, coordinated, managed and supported to meet quality programming standards in achieving results for children

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Pacific managed to sustain programme effectiveness despite several challenges that included TC Winston in Fiji and less severe emergencies in other countries; changes in senior management; and the development of a United Nations Pacific Strategy (UNPS), 2018–2022 and UNICEF MCP 2018–2022. In addition to responding effectively to emergencies in 2016, UNICEF’s regular programming was well coordinated through the Suva office and field offices in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.
An annual review in December 2016 demonstrated the achievement of strong results in all 11 programme outcomes. Three outcomes and six outputs were dropped with the introduction of the Programme effectiveness outcome. In 2016, all nine scorecard standard indicators were fully achieved.

In 2016, UNICEF Pacific mobilized and received a total ORR of approximately US$12 million. Another US$9 million was available and in the pipeline for 2017. The total ORR mobilized as of 2016 was US$ 47.9 million against five year MCP planned ORR of US$50.8 million. The resources funding gap for 2013–2017 MCP stood at 6 per cent as of the end of the year. UNICEF Pacific also received ORE of US$ 11 million for TC Winston and El Niño responses. Fund utilization was strong in 2016, with 100 per cent of planned regular resources and 98 per cent of planned other resources utilized.

UNICEF contributed to aid effectiveness in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Kiribati by aligning with government planning processes and systems. UNICEF 2016 annual plans were aligned with PICT government plans and budgets in three PICTs.

One evaluation was completed in 2016 on Capacity Development for Police on Child Protection in Fiji, Kiribati and Vanuatu and implementation of the management response got underway.

In 2016 UNICEF made a significant contribution to UN functioning, UNDAF delivery, common country analysis, evaluation of the UNDAF and the development of the 2018–2022 UNPS. UNICEF participated in UNPS consultations with Governments in Tonga, Samoa, RMI, FSM, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji, and representatives from regional organizations. Participation in PMERG meeting ensured coherent and harmonized monitoring and reporting on UNDAF outcomes. UNICEF was part of the UN SDGs working group that strove to provide coherent support related to localization of SDGs, prioritization of indicators and planning for data collection.

UNICEF Pacific embarked on the development of the MCP 2018–2022. Strategic notes were drafted for all six outcomes and the Country Programme Management Plan process was initiated.

OUTPUT 1 Programme Coordination - DepRep - BMA only
UNICEF staff and partners are provided guidance, tools and resources to effectively design and manage programmes

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2016 UNICEF Pacific initiated development of the 2018–2022 Multi-County Programme (MCP).

Consolidation of situation analysis got under way; Strategic Moments of Reflection were carried out; and strategic notes were drafted for six outcomes (child protection, development effectiveness, education, health and nutrition, policy evidence and social protection, and WASH). As part of the multi-country programme document (MCPD) development process, draft strategy notes were shared in December 2016 with EAPRO and HQ for comments.

A two-day Strategic Moment of Reflection (SMR) was carried out in October 2016 to collectively reflect on progress achieved for children and lessons learned to date and on evolving global and regional priorities. The SMR helped to determine how the 2018–2022 MCP could best serve children of the Pacific in relevant, meaningful, impactful and sustainable ways.

In recognition of the special challenge of providing effective support to 14 PICT Governments, the previous two MCPs had applied a tier system to identify support to the
countries, but a June 2014 audit and 2015 mid-term review both underscored the need to revisit that approach. In response, UNICEF embarked in 2016 on a process of redefining the approach for the 2018–2022 MCP to emphasize equity and the SDGs principle of Leaving No One Behind and shift away from using gross national income and human development index as key parameters in tier approach to applying individual country data, when available, on key child indicators. In 2017, it is expected that UNICEF Pacific will focus on re-establishing contact in North Pacific countries, particularly FSM and RMI, where child indicators are worse.

Annual and mid-year reviews (MYR) were conducted. Despite considerable challenges faced in 2016, both the mid-year and annual reviews demonstrated significant achievements for children in all sectors evidenced through respective programme results. Key recommendations from the MYR were tracked through monthly programme management team and CMT meetings. Significant achievements in resource utilization were noted in 2016: utilization of regular resources was 100 per cent, other regular resources was 99 per cent and other resources emergency was 99.9 per cent. DCTs over 9 months amounted to 0 per cent and over 6 months stood at less than 3 per cent. Forty-five of 46 donor reports were submitted per agreed timeframes. UNICEF Pacific will work to reduce outstanding DCTs in 2017 and effort will be made to ensure UNICEF programmes are on budget and on plans to improve the flow of funds from PICT Ministries of Finance to respective partner Ministries.

OUTPUT 2 External relations Advocacy / Communication BMA only UNICEF Staff and partners are provided tools, guidance and resources for effective communication on child rights issues with stake holders

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Pacific’s extensive global media relations activity to share children’s stories following TC Winston in Fiji bolstered national committee resource mobilization efforts and helped to promote donor visibility, both in the immediate aftermath to the disaster and throughout the recovery phase. New platforms such as Medium were adopted to increase the visual quality and range of UNICEF Pacific’s storytelling. A series of follow-up videos were developed with children in Vanuatu to mark the one-year anniversary of TC Pam.

Hosting of several high-level individuals (goodwill ambassador and members of the diplomatic corps) and national committee representatives particularly following TC Winston in Fiji led to strengthened relations, additional funding support and further commitment for UNICEF’s work in the region.

Support to UNICEF Pacific’s three field offices continued for key events and campaigns such as the 70th anniversary and #ENDviolence, ensuring children’s voices from across the Pacific were heard.

UNICEF’s 70th anniversary was used as an anchor point to create meaningful child/youth participation as well as an outlet for education on child rights and the SDGs. More than 3,500 children visited a child rights-themed photo exhibition at the Fiji Museum in November and a high-profile evening event was hosted with His Excellency the President of Fiji as the honourable guest.

The #ENDviolence campaign communicated critical messages on ending violence across the Pacific and was undertaken in nine PICTs. In partnership with Just Play, a sport for development programme, ending violence was the key theme at the FIFA U20 Women’s World Cup, where sporting role models from around the region and the world joined in to raise awareness. Stories on #ENDViolence from the Pacific were highlighted during the High-Level Meeting on Child Rights in Malaysia.
UNICEF Pacific’s social media footprint continued to steadily grow, with Facebook followers reaching 41,740 (approximately a 33 percent increase compared with 2015) and significant growth on Twitter, Instagram and Medium. Experiments with new platforms and strategic social media advertising were carried out to further highlight child rights issues through digital platforms and a memorandum of understanding was signed with UNICEF Pacific’s first Digital Child Rights Champion.

**OUTPUT 3** Programme results enhanced through effective planning, monitoring, evaluation, joint UN coordination, and resource mobilization

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF adequately performed its planning, monitoring and evaluation responsibilities while overcoming several challenges in 2016. The departure of key personnel, including the planning, monitoring and evaluation specialist, as well as changes in senior management occurred after UNICEF responded to the TC Winston emergency and launched a new multi-country programme cycle. Humanitarian Performance Monitoring involved high-frequency field monitoring to validate delivery of UNICEF supplies and other assistance in more than 100 communities in Fiji as well as timely situation reporting using the mobile data collection. An ‘After Action’ Review on the TC Winston emergency response was carried out to adequately inform efforts to improve preparedness and future response mechanisms.

UNICEF embarked on the development of a new 2018–2022 Multi-Country Programme (MCP) in 2016. Situational Analysis (SitAn) for all 14 countries was initiated and was underway as of the end of the year. Approximately 70 staff members across the UNICEF Pacific main office and field offices were introduced to and trained on results-based management (RBM) theories and principles. The training provided timely and valuable knowledge and understanding of appropriate thinking processes, particularly on theory of change required for programme strategic planning. A Strategic Moment of Reflection exercise yielded excellent discussion on lessons learned and the referred scope of priorities for the new MCP. Country consultations during UNDAF/UNPS exercises in 14 PICTs underscored as priorities basic services, particularly health, education and WASH. Based on these processes, a design for the new MCP was successfully formulated, leading to the drafting of strategy notes in six programmatic areas.

Programme assurance activities improved as part of HACT assurance actions. A new trip report template, introduced in 2015, was used in 2016 to ensure issues and recommendations were adequately followed up. Synthesis of field monitoring reports and development of issues tracking system will be priorities for 2017.

The Research, Evaluations, Studies and Ethics Committee (RESEC), introduced in 2015 and co-chaired by the social policy and PME specialists (under recruitment), was functional in 2016, fulfilling its role of overseeing the implementation of procedures for quality assurance and ethics.

**OUTPUT 4** UNICEF staff and partners are provided tools, guidance, and resources for effective advocacy and partnerships on child rights issues with stakeholders

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Early in the year, the anniversary of TC Pam in Vanuatu and UNICEF’s response to affected communities after TC Winston in Fiji set the tone for advocacy work and the need to reach out to vulnerable children and families. Documentation of UNICEF’s work in emergencies and highlighting the plight of cyclone-affected communities led to increased funding, promoted donor visibility and boosted national committee relations. An emergency toolkit
was drafted, key lifesaving messages were disseminated and a series of educational materials to assist with the emotional recovery of children after an emergency were produced. A series of follow-up videos were produced with children in Vanuatu, to mark the one-year anniversary of TC Pam. New platforms such as Medium were adopted to increase the visual quality and range of UNICEF Pacific’s storytelling.

Public advocacy around ending violence against children continued through a regional campaign supported by the Sport for Development (S4D) Just Play Programme and highlighted stories from the Pacific as part of a High-Level Meeting in Malaysia. More than 5,000 children took part in the regional #ENDviolence campaign with another 500 participating in activities as part of the FIFA U20 Women’s World Cup in Papua New Guinea. S4D was used to spread key messages on health, education, protection, sanitation and emergencies among children, teachers and communities in Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. More than 16,000 children were engaged in weekly Just Play activities and festivals. A Just Play programme pilot for participants ages 13–16 years was rolled out in Fiji, Samoa and Tonga with 23 schools and 19 communities participating.

The use of social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Medium) as a two-way communication tool for normal programme work and during emergency response boosted visibility in the region. Followers on all platforms increased, particularly on Facebook, which reached 41,740 people (approximately a 33 percent increase compared with 2015).

Social and behaviour change achievements in 2016 included the development of multimedia packages such as children’s books, TV advertisements, radio spots, animations, pocket guides, and posters to promote key messages around psychosocial support for children, safe-motherhood, water sanitation and hygiene and disaster preparedness and response. Social mobilization for nationwide immunization campaigns was conducted in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. A social norms-focused C4D campaign aimed at promoting handwashing among school-aged children in Solomon Islands was initiated in 2016.

UNICEF continued to strengthen its partnership with government partners, faith-based organizations, civil society organizations, and NGOs to address children issues in PICTs. In 2016, UNICEF further fostered partnerships with the Pacific Islands Forums on immunization and Pacific Community on evidence generation, CRC and WASH.

**OUTPUT 5** Cross sectoral support to operations staff salaries; Field based staff; cross sectoral programme staff; Office emergency preparedness and response; Multi-country and Field Offices running costs; Strategies to address cross cutting issues are developed and applied

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In 2016, UNICEF Pacific strengthened emergency preparedness through lessons learned from TC Pam in 2015. An independent consultant who completed the Tropical Cyclone Winston After Action Review cited the early preparedness actions of UNICEF Pacific as contributing to positive reviews of its response. While responding to emergencies such as TC Pam, TC Winston and the El Niño drought in 2016, UNICEF Pacific made arrangements to improve response to future emergencies through several measures, including setting up long-term agreements, maintaining contingency project cooperation agreements (PCA), prepositioning emergency supplies, and updating its business continuity plan and Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) online system.

In 2016, UNICEF Pacific’s main office in the Fijian capital city of Suva and three field offices updated their respective early warning pages in the EWEA system on the UNICEF
intranet. Fiji and Solomon Islands updated all 20 key actions. The Pacific Emergency Response Team met regularly and included preparedness as an agenda item for meetings. Emergency supplies were prepositioned in the following countries: Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Samoa and Palau. Working caseloads for prepositioned supplies and stock needs for WASH, education, health and nutrition and child protection included 10,000 people in Fiji, 7,000 in Solomon Islands, 5,000 in Vanuatu and 2,000 in Kiribati. The caseload numbers were calculated based on immediate assistance to 10 per cent of the affected population in the event of a category 3 cyclone or a major tsunami. Discussions were held with respective governments on prepositioned supplies, which also were available to be mobilized for immediate emergency needs arising in other countries. For example, prepositioned supplies were mobilized from Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in response to emergency needs from TC Winston in Fiji. Storage of supplies improved over the year with UNICEF’s relocation to a larger and more secure warehouse in Suva and the acquisition in Solomon Islands of two additional 20-foot container vans to store prepositioned supplies.

Long-term arrangements (LTAs) for customs clearance and domestic deliveries were secured for Fiji to facilitate quick delivery of supplies as needed in cases of emergency. LTAs were under negotiation in Vanuatu. UNICEF Pacific coordinated with the World Food Programme, which pursued LTAs on behalf of the Logistics Cluster to establish common warehouses in several PICTs to improve regional and domestic transportation and planning. A draft Supply and Logistics Strategy for the Pacific was prepared with technical assistance from the UNICEF Supply Division. A preparedness consultant was contracted to facilitate engagement related to and development of additional contingency PCAs with civil society organizations that have humanitarian response capacity in selected countries. A gender review and training workshop on gender mainstreaming were deferred from 2016 to 2017 due to the TC Winston response.

UNICEF Pacific maintained filed offices in Kiribati, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands and worked through UN joint presence offices in Tonga, Nauru, Palau, RMI and Tuvalu on a costs recovery basis.

**OUTCOME 12** Children affected by emergencies in Pacific Islands receive support as per UNICEF CCCs

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The Pacific is a region that is highly exposed to multiple hazards. Most of the world’s tropical cyclones originate in the Pacific, which is situated in the middle of an area known as the Ring of Fire because it is the most seismically and volcanically active area in the world. The Pacific’s islands and atolls also are extremely vulnerable to seasonal drought and flooding.

While hazardous events are perennial in the region, governments managed to respond to the emergency needs of affected populations of localized and/or small-scale emergencies. Medium-scale events tend to require a multi-sectoral response from international humanitarian actors that rely on regional stockpile and funding. Large-scale disasters like TC Pam in 2015 and TC Winston in 2016 required significant external assistance and resources. The Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) introduced its Emergency Response and Preparedness Plan in 2014 as a guide for inter-agency humanitarian action. UNICEF Pacific complemented the PHT guide through the identification of principles for engagement in its humanitarian strategy.

UNICEF Pacific used these guides and principles in responding to two large-scale emergencies in 2016 – the ongoing response in Vanuatu to the 2015 TC Pam, which incorporated drought response activities, and the response to TC Winston that struck Fiji in
In 2016 UNICEF Pacific also provided small-scale and more focused humanitarian assistance to Palau, the Marshall Islands, the FSM, Kiribati and Solomon Islands in response to drought caused by the El Niño Southern Oscillation and to Solomon Islands in response to a diarrhoea outbreak.

UNICEF Pacific strengthened emergency preparedness in 2016 by incorporating lessons from TC Pam. The TC Winston After Action Review (AAR), completed in 2016 by an independent consultant, cited the early preparedness actions of UNICEF Pacific as contributing to the positive reviews of its response.

Emergency supplies were prepositioned in the following countries: Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Samoa and Palau. Working caseloads for prepositioned supplies and stock needs for WASH, education, health and nutrition and child protection included 10,000 people in Fiji, 7,000 in Solomon Islands, 5,000 in Vanuatu and 2,000 in Kiribati. The caseload numbers were calculated based on approximation of immediate assistance to 10 per cent of the affected population in the event of a category 3 cyclone or a major tsunami. Discussions were held with respective governments on prepositioned supplies, which also were available to be mobilized for immediate emergency needs arising in other countries. For example, prepositioned supplies were mobilized from Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in response to emergency needs from TC Winston in Fiji. Storage of supplies improved over the year with UNICEF’s relocation to a larger and more secure warehouse in Suva and the acquisition in Solomon Islands of two additional 20-foot container vans to store prepositioned supplies.

Pre-positioning of supplies was coordinated across the region through the clusters with the Logistics Cluster maintaining a Pacific emergency stockpile map of humanitarian partners in all 14 PICTs.

In response to TC Winston, UNICEF support provided 68,967 people with access to safe water and 29,456 with hygiene and sanitation supplies. Some 41,912 school children benefited from learning and psychosocial support (PSS) materials (including ECD kits) and temporary learning spaces and 10,867 children participated in the Just Play Programme designed to support the well-being of children through sports. Measles, rubella, tetanus, pentavalent and typhoid vaccines and essential health and nutrition services were extended to health facilities in the most severely-affected areas. To promote resilient services and to strengthen the vaccine cold chain, environmentally-friendly solar fridges were installed in 26 of 74 targeted facilities in remote areas that lacked access to the power.

UNICEF Pacific made an appeal through the Humanitarian Action for Children for US$12 million to support its humanitarian response to the cyclones and drought. It received US$8.1 million for TC Winston and US$500,000 for El Niño response. A US$2.3 million contribution from Global Thematic Humanitarian fund was carried over to 2016 from the 2015 TC Pam response in Vanuatu.

As part of its Humanitarian Performance Monitoring of TC Winston, UNICEF Pacific conducted high-frequency field monitoring by contracting local consultants to validate delivery of UNICEF supplies and other assistance in more than 100 communities, including schools and health centres, in Fiji’s four divisions. Focus group discussions, key informant interviews, desk review and participant observations were conducted in communities that were visited. Results of the data gathering were input by the field monitors through individual computer tablets and consolidated using Akvoflow software. Field monitors provided quick feedback and comprehensive reports to sections.

UNICEF Pacific was involved in the development of Country Preparedness Package (CPP) – a country-specific and government-owned process initiated by the PHT to develop an agreed arrangement for emergency response coordination among government and
humanitarian actors. Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and the Marshall Islands were the pilot countries for the CPP.

WASH in Emergencies training was completed in Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Kiribati and WASH sector coordination mechanisms were established in Tonga and Samoa. Preparedness activities, including contingency planning and simulation, were completed with the Ministries of Education in Tuvalu, Solomon, Vanuatu and Kiribati.

TC Winston response was incorporated into relevant sectoral outputs. Hence, no separate output for Fiji emergency response.

**OUTPUT 1** Vanuatu Emergency Response- Affected children in Vanuatu receive life-saving emergency interventions towards their recovery and return to normality, with strengthened resilience and capacities for mitigating the impact of future natural disasters.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
An independent consultant conducted an AAR and noted overall positive reviews by internal and external stakeholders on UNICEF’s TC Pam response. Some of these valuable lessons helped to strengthen UNICEF Pacific’s response to TC Winston less than a year later.

UNICEF’s TC Pam recovery work integrated response to El Niño drought since it caused significant hardship to many TC Pam-affected communities. Support included deployment of technical specialists to assist the Department of Water in desalination (3 months); hydrogeology (3 months); sectoral coordination (3 months); information management (3 months); and recovery project management (18 months). Resources were provided to the Department’s Project Management Unit as it explored various contracting options in developing institutional ownership of recovery work. UNICEF also provided 1,383 collapsible water containers for distribution through the Provincial Disaster Management Office in Torba Province and delivered ship-based desalinated water to the Shepherd Island communities.

A second round of distribution of high energy biscuits (HEB) for children ages 6–59 months was done in February in North Tanna and Whitesands, which were the areas most affected by the drought. Approximately 800 children in 21 communities received HEB and were screened for malnutrition. Caregivers were provided health and nutrition education during the distribution.

UNICEF supported the development of a National Nutritional Strategy and worked with WHO to support the placement of a qualified nutritionist within the MoH. Support for four retired nurses to provide nutritional care and midwifery services to Lenakal Hospital continued through to mid-2016. Due to significant delays in rebuilding efforts, UNICEF also replaced worn-out tents for temporary learning spaces to ensure continuous education of children. Ninety-six new tents were distributed to schools in Tanna (Tafea Province) and another 18 were made available to the Ministry of Education and Training for use elsewhere in-country. PSS training and materials for children developed during the TC Pam response were adopted for use in primary schools across the country.

Support for mobile birth registration, which started right after TC Pam, continued through 2016 and 155,222 people were registered, including 47,483 children, as of the end of the year.

**OUTPUT 2** Solomon Emergency Response- Affected children in Solomon Islands receive life-saving emergency interventions towards their recovery and return to normality, with strengthened resilience and capacities for mitigating the impact of future natural disasters.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
A diarrhoea outbreak in November 2015 continued through early 2016 in Solomon Islands, causing 27 deaths and a total of 8,699 recorded cases. Cases were first identified in Honiara and Guadalcanal Province and the outbreak subsequently spread to six other provinces due to the movement of large numbers of people between provinces during the year-end holidays. More than 70 percent of the cases nationwide were children under five years of age. The outbreak was attributed to the rotavirus, which can be transmitted through faecal-oral route and contact from person to person and can spread because of poor hygiene and sanitation practices among families and communities. The MHMS declared a diarrhoea outbreak and developed an action plan to control it, which included raising community awareness by promoting key health messages, mobilizing communities to prevent transmission, laboratory and clinical surveillance and procurement of medical supplies.

UNICEF supported the government action plan by conducting rapid assessment in five clinics in Honiara and providing more than 7,000 bars of soap, posters and flip charts for distribution by health workers during handwashing promotion activities in communities. UNICEF also participated in a radio talk show with MHMS health workers to increase community awareness on prevention and management of diarrhoea. UNICEF secured a small scale funding agreement with Solomon Islands Red Cross (SIRC) in January 2016 to undertake health, nutrition and WASH activities, including distribution of hygiene supplies and promotion of proper hygiene behaviours. The five largest provinces of Solomon Islands were targeted, and at least 180,000 people were affected out of a population of 450,000. Fifty health promoters were mobilized and provided a two-day orientation on delivery approaches on key hygiene messages to stop the spread of diarrhoea. Activities such as distribution of soap and IEC materials to targeted beneficiaries were implemented in 50 healthcare facilities, 50 communities, 20 schools and 10 public places, such as market and transit centres. Joint field monitoring was done by UNICEF and SIRC to validate the distribution of supplies, collect evidence on behaviour changes and gather human interest stories from health workers, community members and children. These interventions contributed to a drastic reduction of diarrhoea cases to approximately 300 by March 2016.

The widespread drought brought by El Niño also contributed to the diarrhoea outbreak. UNICEF provided technical support to the National Disaster and Management Office and the WASH cluster to develop a drought management and response plan. Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) training was delivered to partners and stakeholders to strengthen child protection response in the light of effects of the prolonged dry spell.

OUTPUT 3 Tuvalu Emergency Response- Affected children in Tuvalu receive life-saving emergency interventions towards their recovery and return to normality, with strengthened resilience and capacities for mitigating the impact of future natural disasters.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

OUTPUT 4 Kiribati Emergency Response- Solomon Emergency Response- Affected children in Kiribati Islands receive life-saving emergency interventions towards their recovery and return to normality, with strengthened resilience and capacities for mitigating the impact of future natural disasters.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The drought brought by El Niño exacerbated the already dire water and sanitation situation in Kiribati. UNICEF supported the Government and communities to improve access to safe drinking water and improve sanitation practices, through water, health and sanitation safety planning. The Community-Led Total Sanitation approach was pursued with high-level
political involvement to end open defecation and promote handwashing in schools, health clinics and homes. A total of 112 rainwater harvesting tanks with 10,000 litre capacity were shipped to 12 outer islands to help improve water accessibility of 20,000 people in communities hit by the El Niño drought.

The WinS programme was initiated with the Ministry of Education in 36 schools, providing water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and WASH kits, supporting the development of minimum standards and guidelines, and providing teacher training around safe water and improved sanitation and hygiene practices.

**OUTPUT 5** FSM Emergency Response - Affected children in FSM Islands receive life-saving emergency interventions towards their recovery and return to normality, with strengthened resilience and capacities for mitigating the impact of future natural disasters.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In late April, a UNICEF humanitarian and WASH specialist visited the FSM to better understand the impact of El Niño on children and to provide advice on child-sensitive interventions. He reported that drought continued to negatively impact women and children and other vulnerable people who were already isolated due to the hard-to-reach locations of their homes. It was noted that significant challenges around coordination, communications, logistics and transport to isolated islands and atolls were constraining efforts to address needs related to water, sanitation and hygiene, health and nutrition.

Shortly after the assessment, UNICEF deployed a nutrition specialist and provided nutrition-related emergency supplies to support the national and state governments of FSM in strengthening prevention, screening, referrals and treatment of acute malnutrition. UNICEF supported the implementing partner in addressing micronutrient deficiency among women and children through the provision of vitamin A and deworming. Through this technical support, the Ministry of Health’s operational guidelines for vitamin A were updated and training materials and tools for the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) were drafted and tailored for RMI. A total of 81 health staff from the states of Yap, Kosrae and Chuuk were trained on BFHI/ICYF while 110 were trained on vitamin A.

**OUTPUT 6** Palau Emergency Response - Affected children in Palau receive life-saving emergency interventions towards their recovery and return to normality, with strengthened resilience and capacities for mitigating the impact of future natural disasters.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF maintained contingency supplies in Palau through an agreement with the MoH. After the Palau Government declared a state of emergency in March due to the drought, these prepositioned emergency supplies were immediately mobilized for the response, including a comprehensive health kit that could serve 10,000 people for three months; two tents for health clinics; oral rehydration salts; micronutrient powder for children; vitamin A; water purification tablets; household water containers; and soap for handwashing. Water purification tablets were sent to the State of Sonsorol following the failure of the main water tank. Household water containers were also distributed to community health centres to be used for drinking water storage. WASH supplies were replenished by UNICEF through procurement assistance provided by UNICEF Philippines.
OUTPUT 7 RMI emergency response

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The President of the RMI declared a state of disaster due to drought conditions in February. This was followed by a similar declaration by the US President in April, which allowed emergency US federal funding to be provided in the Pacific Island nation. UNICEF deployed a humanitarian and WASH specialist to RMI in April to assess the scale of the drought and its impact on children, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers, with particular attention to WASH, education, health, nutrition and protection. A child protection specialist also was deployed to identify key areas of child protection needs and interventions in response to the adverse impact of El Niño. These visits resulted in the training of trainers on CPiE, especially in the light of the social costs of the prolonged drought; the roll-out of the CPiE in the context of climate change by the Ministry of Internal Affairs to the outer islands; and the finalization of plans for the provision of technical support to the MoH to conduct a nutrition assessment that examined the nutrition status of children and to provide guidance on nutrition strategies and implementation.

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